

**AGENDA
CITY OF SALEM
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
February 2, 2015
6:00 PM**

- I. **Call to Order**
 - II. **Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance**
 - III. **Presentation of Petitions/Public Comments**
 - IV. **Mayor's Report and Presentations**

 - V. **City Council Action**
 - 1. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approval of Minutes – January 19, 2015
 - 2. Use of Men's Softball Field for Veterans Memorial Tournament/Event – June 26 and 27\
 - 3. Council Resolution Supporting Demolition of Salem Armory
 - 4. Approval of IDOT Local Agency Agreement, Retention of Rhutasel for Engineering and Construction of New Library Sidewalks
 - 5. Authorization to Seek Proposals from Firms Qualified for Refinance of 2006 Wastewater Treatment Bonds

 - VI. **City Manager Report**
 - VII. **City Attorney Report**
 - VIII. **Finance Director Report**
 - IX. **City Council Report**

 - X. **Adjournment**

Bill Gruen
City Manager
-

**MINUTES
CITY OF SALEM
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2015**

I. Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Salem City Council was held on Monday, February 2, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Raymer.

Council members present:

Councilman David Black
Councilman Royce Bringwald
Councilwoman Sue Morgan

Council members absent: Mayor John Raymer and Councilman Jim Baity

Others present:

City Manager Bill Gruen	Code Enforcement Officer Brian Hunt
City Clerk Bev Quinn	Finance Director Ben Stratemeyer
Chief Sean Reynolds	Deputy Chief Susan Miller
Recreation Director Sherry Daniels	Public Works Director John Pruden
Library Director Kim Keller	Economic Development Director Jeanne Gustafson

Also present were members of the media and public.

II. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Opening prayer was led by Mayor Pro Tem David Black, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. Presentation of Petitions/Public Comments – None.

IV. Mayor's Report and Presentations - None.

V. City Council Action

1. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approval of Minutes – January 19, 2015

Motion was made by Councilman Bringwald and seconded by Councilwoman Morgan to approve the minutes of January 19, 2015 as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Morgan, Mayor Pro Tem Black. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

2. Use of Men's Softball Field for Veterans Memorial Tournament/Event – June 26 and 27

City Manager Gruen indicated that Shawn Rasul, who has done fundraisers in the past, has requested the use of the men's softball field for a Veterans' Memorial Tournament and event to raise money for the Kaskaskia Veterans' Tribute Organization. Shawn would also like to provide a DJ and bounce-house for children. ***Motion was made by Councilwoman Morgan and seconded by Councilman Bringwald to approve the use of the men's softball fields for the Veterans Memorial Tournament/Event including the DJ and bounce house on June 26-27. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Bringwald, Mayor Pro Tem Black. NAY: None. Motion carried.***

Mr. Gruen indicated the City Council has not established a set policy on allowing individuals to have bounce houses in the park for private parties, and he has denied these requests in the past. Mr. Gruen asked if Council wanted to take action on this subject. Consensus of Council was for Mr. Gruen to check with risk management and bring information back to them for further discussion and possible action.

3. Council Resolution Supporting Demolition of Salem Armory

City Manager Gruen indicated he has been in contact with Colonel Craig Holan of the Illinois Department of Military Affairs regarding the Salem Armory. Within the past few months, an inspection revealed that the boiler system in the Armory has become cracked and probably unrepairable. Mr. Gruen indicated he approached the Department of Military Affairs last year to advocate for dollars to make repairs to the armory, including the roof. They declined to do so, as their budget is tight and they have active buildings to maintain.

Mr. Gruen indicated he had placed a resolution supporting demolition of the Salem Armory on the agenda, as the most recent prospect interested in the property appeared to have withdrawn interest. Representative Cavaletto has since indicated to Mr. Gruen that there is still interest in the property, and has requested that action not be taken on the resolution at this time. Everything at the State level is in transition to Governor Rohner, and the budget won't be discussed for several weeks. Mr. Gruen added that he does want the public to know that the City will not take possession of the building without an end user. Mayor Pro Tem Black added that he is not interested in the City taking the armory unless there is something going into the armory that will be an economic improvement to the community. Councilman Bringwald indicated he would like to see the City adopt the resolution, as the armory appears to be a money pit. Mr. Gruen requested that this be held over, at the request of Representative Cavaletto, until the time is right. Councilman Bringwald asked that this be considered a first reading.

4. Approval of IDOT Local Agency Agreement, Retention of Rhutasel for Engineering & Construction of New Library Sidewalks

City Manager Gruen indicated that Senator Kyle McCarter has been able to redirect \$70,000 held by IDOT from another state project to a sidewalk project at the Bryan Bennett Library. This is actually a grant to the City of Salem for the benefit of public sidewalks around the library (*in the City ROW*). Mr. Gruen indicated he has been working with Jane Gaston on prioritizing the work they want to complete. Mr. Gruen indicated he is requesting Council authorization to execute a Local Agency Agreement with IDOT and to retain Rhutasel and Associates for this project. The plan would be to allow IDOT to approve the Local Agency Agreement prior to incurring any expenses, including with Rhutasel. Once IDOT approves their agreement, the City would know the dollars for the sidewalks is secure. The \$70,000 will be used for both construction and engineering, and there is no City match for these dollars. We would tell Rhutasel that they will be awarded the engineering on the project, once funding is secure, but the project may not start until the next fiscal year. ***Motion was made by Councilwoman Morgan and seconded by Councilman Bringwald authorizing the City Manager to execute a Local Agency Agreement with IDOT regarding the Bryan Bennett Library sidewalks, and to advise Rhutasel and Associates that they will be retained to do the engineering on the project, once the funds are secured. Roll call vote: AYES:***

**Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Morgan, Mayor Pro Tem Black. NAYS: None.
Motion carried.**

5. Authorization to Seek Proposals from Firms Qualified for Refinance of 2006 Wastewater Treatment Bonds

City Manager Gruen indicated that Bernardi & Associates, the firm that handled the issuance of the 2006 Wastewater Treatment bonds in the amount of \$7.6 million in 2006 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant improvements, has met with him and Ben Stratemeyer to discuss the possibly refinancing of those bonds. Stephen Adams of Bernardi has indicated the environment is currently suitable for refinancing. Given interest rate trends and depending upon the City's future bond rating, Bernardi analysis shows the City could save between \$500,000 and \$950,000 over the remaining life of the bond through 2031.

Mr. Gruen indicated the City will definitely want to refinance these bonds – the question is, does Council want to seek proposals from firms to take the City through the process, or go with Bernardi, due to their history with us on the 2006 bonds.

Finance Director Stratemeyer indicated refinancing would not be an increase or extension of the debt, and given the strength of our bond rating, could save the City a substantial amount of money. The savings could be used for infrastructure projects. The City is not currently rated, but a rating of A would result in a substantial improvement in our rates. The bonds are callable on June 1, 2015. **Motion was made by Councilwoman Morgan and seconded by Councilman Bringwald to authorize the City Manager to seek proposals from firms to guide the City through this process of refinancing the 2006 WWTP bonds. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Bringwald, Mayor Pro Tem Black. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

VI. City Manager Report

Aquatic Center - City Manager Gruen indicated he and Recreation Director Sherry Daniels have been discussing the next Aquatic Center season, and they are not going to request any increase in fees or admission. Mr. Gruen indicated he does want to give the general public access to the pool some evenings during the summer, and while attendance on these nights has not been great, he still wants to allow for it. The "hot dog giveaways" have been fairly popular, and he would like to continue this program. Mr. Gruen also wants to continue the extended season, so that the pool will be open weekends between the start of school and Labor Day.

Meeting Date Change – City Manager Gruen indicated the next Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 17th, due to February 16th being Presidents Day.

Town Meeting – CNG – Ron Ragan – Mr. Gruen indicated he is in the process of setting up a "town hall meeting" at City Hall for the purpose of discussing CNG. Ron Ragan of UGM is an expert in this field, and he would be on hand to discuss the conversion process and answer questions. The purpose of this meeting would be to determine if the community has any interest in converting vehicles to CNG and/or using CNG as a fuel source. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 19th at 6:00 p.m. at Salem City Hall.

VII. City Attorney Report – None.

VIII. Finance Director Report – None.

IX. City Council Report

Councilwoman Morgan – Councilwoman Morgan indicated that any time during the day, the downtown sidewalks are empty. Ms. Morgan indicated there is sushi restaurant, sign business, craft stores, children's clothing store, lawyers' offices, etc. in the downtown area, and it does not appear the Salem citizens are utilizing them. Councilwoman Morgan indicated she wants to see the citizens support local business.

X. Executive Session

5. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) – Personnel

6. 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(6) – Sale of Real Estate

Motion was made by Councilwoman Morgan and seconded by Councilman Bringwald to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Personnel and Sale of Real Estate at 6:30 p.m. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Bringwald, Councilwoman Morgan, Mayor Pro Tem Black. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

City Manager Gruen announced that there will be no action taken after the Executive Session.

Return to Open Session at 7:00 p.m.

XI. City Council Action – None.

XII. Adjournment

As there was no further business to discuss, upon motion by Councilwoman Morgan and second by Councilman Bringwald, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Bringwald, Mayor Pro Tem Black. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Bev Quinn, CMC
City Clerk

Minutes approved: 2/17/15