

AGENDA
CITY OF SALEM
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 5, 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 – September 21, 2015
 - 2. Discussion: Walton Drive and Main Street Traffic Reports
 - 3. Discussion: Requiring Manure Bags for Horses within City
 - 4. Discussion: Requirement for Reservations for Use of Park Pavilions

- 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
OCTOBER 5, 2015

I. CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Salem City Council was held on Monday, October 25, 2015. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Rex Barbee at 6:00 p.m.

Council members present:

Councilman Nic Farley
Councilman Craig Morton
Mayor Rex Barbee

Council members absent: Councilman Jim Baity and Councilwoman Sue Morgan, both due to health issues.

Others present:

City Manager Bill Gruen	City Clerk Bev Quinn
City Attorney Mike Jones	Finance Director Ben Stratemeyer
Chief of Police Sean Reynolds	Assistant Public Works Director Annette Brushwitz
Code Enforcement Officer Brian Hunt	Economic Development Director Jeanne Gustafson
Deputy Chief of Police Susan Miller	Animal Control Officer Paul Wimberly
Gary Hahn, Rhutasel and Associates	Brent Taylor, Rhutasel and Associates
Mark Rujawitz, Rhutasel and Associates	Jim Wessel, IDOT
Frankie Dalton, Walmart	Members of the Public and Media

II. PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Opening Prayer was given by Mayor Barbee, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

III. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS - None.

IV. MAYOR'S REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS

- Mayor Barbee indicated he had just signed a proclamation, declaring it ADK month in Salem, and expressed gratitude for all the members of the teacher's sorority does for our community.
- Mayor Barbee indicated that the City had recently had two major fires, and indicated he wanted to express the City's appreciation to the Salem Fire Protection District, Salem Fire Department, City of Salem Department of Public Works, Department of Emergency Management, and the Marion County Sheriff's Department. Mayor Barbee also expressed appreciation for the following fire departments which provided mutual aid: Odin Fire Department, Centralia Fire Department, Mt. Vernon City Fire Department, Kinmundy-Alma Fire Protection District, Kell Fire Protection District, Iuka Fire Protection District, and Patoka Fire Protection District. Mayor Barbee commended all involved for the spirit of cooperation they exhibited.
- Mayor Barbee indicated the City will be hosting the PKC Youth Hunt, and expressed his appreciation to the Tourism Board and DOEM for their efforts.

- Mayor Barbee commended the Little Egypt Festival Committee on another successful festival, and expressed his appreciation to the Police Department and DOEM for their assistance with traffic.

V. CITY COUNCIL ACTION

1. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of Minutes – September 21, 2015

Motion was made by Councilman Farley and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve the minutes of September 21, 2015 as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Mayor Barbee. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

2. Discussion: Walton Drive and Main Street Traffic Reports

City Manager Gruen indicated that Mark Rujawitz of Rhutasel and Associates and Jim Wessel of IDOT District 8 were both on hand to discuss findings and observations pertaining to traffic along Main Street and at Walton Drive. Mr. Wessel is available to answer questions on IDOT regulations and processes, although he was not a member of the team that participated in the RSA (*Road Safety Assessment*.)

Mr. Gruen indicated that as a result of a very unfortunate accident at the Walton Dr. exit, questions were raised about the design of the intersection. At that time, he hired Mark Ruzawitz of Rhutasel and Associates to evaluate the intersection. At about the same time he became aware that IDOT offers a Road Safety Assessment, and he contacted them with a request that this be done. The team consists of IDOT representatives and State Police. Members of the RSA team met with City personnel, then did a study of the expanded corridor from Hotze Road to Selmaville Rd. Provided in the Council agenda packet was a copy of the slide presentation given at the end of their assessment. At a later date, the City will receive a complete written report on the RSA, and it will be made available to the general public.

Mark Rujawitz of Rhutasel indicated the State team was looking at the issue from a safety perspective only, and Rhutasel was looking at both safety and efficiency. During Rhutasel's review, they determined that additional signals are not warranted at this time, and has recommended that the City consider other alternatives first.

Mr. Rujawitz indicated the stop bar on Walton was put back 32 ft. from the pavement. If this bar were to be moved 20 feet towards the highway, it would provide for a better line of sight. This would also decrease the time necessary to get across the highway by a full second. Mr. Rujawitz indicated they would also like to see the speed limit reduced along this section of US Rt. 50. Mr. Rujawitz indicated the State's review suggested not allowing access at this entry to trucks. Another suggestion was making the turn lane into a both left and right turn lane.

Mr. Rujawitz indicated Rhutasel's recommendation is that the first step be to relocate the stop bar and increase the sight line. Rujawitz indicated this may reduce accidents, and is a good first step. Furthermore, this step does not require IDOT approval. Anything beyond this would have to be approved by IDOT. Councilman Farley asked what will happen if traffic is increased by 10-20%. Mr. Rujawitz responded that we're not there yet, and it would take a large increase in traffic to warrant another signal. Salem is at a level D and it may be some time before we are a level C.

Mayor Barbee asked if the decision not to recommend installation of another signal is impacted by the fact that there is another signal 700 ft. west of the intersection. Mr. Rujawitz responded that if there was another signal put in at Walton, it would be on the same schedule as the one at Baldrige Lane.

Councilman Morton asked about the differences in the volumes reported by Rhutasel and the State Assessment team. Mr. Rujawitz responded that there was some difference, but it was not significant. Councilman Morton asked if Rhutasel had looked at the speed issues. Mr. Rujawitz indicated the average speeds were calculated by IDOT. In their breakdown, 85% of the traffic was going 49 mph, with 10% going 50 mph and the lower limit was 40 mph. The average speed was 49 mph. Chief of Police Sean Reynolds indicated the police thought the average speed was 50 mph. Mayor Barbee asked if reduced speed would have reduced the impact of the accidents. Chief Reynolds indicated that any reduction in speed would reduce the severity of an accident.

City Manager Gruen indicated a letter was received from Ron Ball, suggesting that entrance at Walton be made into an "entrance only". Mr. Gruen asked Walmart Manager Frankie Dalton if she had been authority to comment. Ms. Dalton responded, "Not at this time".

Mr. Jim Wessel of IDOT indicated he is not present to discuss the geometrics of the entrance, or to grant permits for work to be done, but if the entrance was changed to a "right in-right out"

entrance, they would want a raised median, lots of signage, and rumble strips. Councilman Farley asked if trucks are currently required to use Baldrige Lane. Ms. Dalton responded that they are.

Mr. Rujawitz indicated Rhutasel is suggesting the speed limit be reduced to 35 mph past Walmart, and asked Mr. Wessel if this could be done. Mr. Wessel responded that the reduction would not be looked upon favorably by IDOT, as police cannot be available to enforce a 35 mph speed limit 24 hours per day. Councilman Farley asked if opening Baldrige Lane to Mills Cart Road would reduce some of the traffic pressure. Mr. Rujawitz responded that drivers will always take the path of least resistance, and if they live in the north part of town, they would use Mills Cart.

City Manager Gruen indicated IDOT is undertaking a SCAT Study, and the numbers will be turned in to Springfield in the spring. This will synchronize all the traffic signals from the east side of town to Selma Road. Councilman Farley indicated that in some communities, all the traffic signals flicker after 8:00 p.m. Mr. Wessel responded that IDOT does not like those, because drivers from out of town don't know the signals aren't "always stop". Mr. Rujawitz indicated traffic is not an issue later at night – the high traffic times are during the day.

Mr. Larry Craig asked Mr. Wessel, if police are not available to enforce a 35 mph speed limit in this area, what would it cost to have camera enforcement. Mayor Barbee responded that the City Attorney had advised Council that as Salem is a non-home rule community, it cannot install speed cameras. Mr. Craig asked what size median barriers would be needed, if the entrance was turned into a right turn only. Mr. Wessel indicated it would require 6 ft. to 9 ft. barriers, and IDOT would be looking at the entire corridor. Mr. Craig responded that he has been looking for answers since his 2011 wreck, and thanked Mr. Wessel for being the first IDOT representative to answer his questions.

Councilman Farley indicated traffic has changed since this entrance was designed, and that City Council needs some time to digest the studies before coming up with a plan. Mayor Barbee concurred, and indicated this agenda item was intended for discussion only, tonight.

City Manager Gruen indicated his "cliff notes" are online, and available for download.

Councilman Morton asked why Baldrige was not extended to Mills Cart in the first place, and if it was because Mills Cart Road is a Salem Township road. Public Works Director John Pruden responded that that was "very much the reason", as it would mean taking on maintenance of a road not currently the City's. Councilman Farley asked Walmart Manager Frankie Dalton how she feels about the stop bar being moved up. Ms. Dalton responded that she feels it would reduce accidents and added, "Let's get it done". Councilman Morton asked how soon the SCAT will be done. Mr. Wessel responded it will probably be done in March or April.

WJBD Radio Manager Bruce Kropp added that there have been as many serious accidents at Hotze Rd., which is signalized, as at Walton Drive, which is not. Mr. Wessel indicated he did not have the accident information with him, but there will be just as many accidents at signalized intersections, but they may vary in severity and will tend to be more rear-end crashes. Signalization just changes the types of accidents that occur.

City Manager Gruen added that there is probably no intersection design that is 100% foolproof, and reminded everyone that we, as drivers, need to take a minute and wait for traffic to clear before pulling out. Gruen added that this discussion will be ongoing. Mayor Barbee thanked the Rhutasel and IDOT representatives for their input.

3. Discussion: Requiring Manure Bags for Horses within City

City Manager Gruen indicated occasionally, City personnel are called to pick up horse manure within the City. After the Little Egypt Festival, festival chairman Jay Henke had additional events scheduled in the park, and had to clean up after the horses before the event. Mr. Gruen added while we don't get many horses in Salem, they are welcome. The problem is the manure. Public Works Director Pruden added that this is a year-round problem, not just at Little Egypt Festival time. Councilman Farley indicated he was surprised that we don't have an ordinance requiring that we clean up after our animals, and requested that something be prepared for Council review at the next meeting.

4. Discussion: Requirement for Reservations for Use of Park Pavilions

City Manager Gruen indicated City staff has requested discussion on a requirement that reservations be placed prior to any use of park pavilions. This could be limited to evening/night-time hours. The intent is to make it simpler for the Police to make suspicious characters in park pavilions move on when they don't otherwise have a good reason for being at a pavilion. The pavilions are frequent targets of vandalism.

Mayor Barbee asked if this would restrict use of the basketball courts and other amenities in the park. Chief Sean Reynolds responded that the problems are not where the amenities are being used – it’s everywhere else. Mayor Barbee indicated he would like to see the proposed language before moving forward, as he is hesitant about restricting use of the park. Mayor Barbee added that his is cognizant of the Parks Department’s issues in having to deal with vandalism. Mayor Barbee asked Public Works Director Pruden if what is proposed will solve the problem. Mr. Pruden responded that it will not solve the problem, but it will be beneficial.

Councilman Farley indicated he struggles with this, as he hates to see the Police Department kicking kids out of the park. Farley added that while he understands that it is necessary, he doesn’t like to see the Police Department have that kind of reputation. Councilman Farley asked if the vandalism is happening late at night. Chief Reynolds responded that much of it happens right after school, between 4-5:00 p.m., with the kids dropping hundreds of Styrofoam cups in the park. Assistant Public Works Director Annette Brushwitz added that they are only hoping to run off the kids that are there for no good purposes, and there is a safety issue, as well.

Mayor Barbee indicated he appreciates the opportunity to hear some of the details, and suggested City Manager Gruen and Attorney Jones work on a draft and have Mr. Pruden and Ms. Brushwitz review it, prior to the next meeting.

VI. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Gruen indicated he was really proud of the response of the Salem Fire Protection District and the Salem Police Department, and he appreciates the support of the other departments that responded with men or equipment. Gruen added that the City has a great Public Works crew, and he noted that immediately upon finding the buildings were burning, crews were on hand to make sure gas was disconnected. Mr. Gruen added that the Community should be proud of its Fire, Police and Public Works Departments, as they provided a great response. Mayor Barbee added that Ameren and Tri-County were also to be commended.

City Manager Gruen indicated the City has incurred a cost for pushing in the Brown Shoe building to Kenneth Hails in the amount of \$10,600 and a cost for pushing in the former Yohe building in the amount of \$1,600.00. Gruen added that the Police Department is working on identifying the owners of these two properties to insure that they take responsibility for the clean-up. Chief Reynolds indicated he would also like to thank Councilmen Farley and Morton for showing up on the scene. Reynolds added that the fires are still under investigation, and there will be a joint meeting of the response entities involved on Thursday, October 29th between 6:00-8:00 p.m.

City Manager Gruen Indicated the Council will soon have the annual property tax levy to approve, and will probably be acting on the building levy for the Bryan Bennett Library ahead of the remainder of the levy.

VII. CITY ATTORNEY REPORT – No report.

VIII. FINANCE DIRECTOR’S REPORT – No report.

IX. CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Councilman Farley indicated he echoed earlier comments about the City’s emergency responders, and indicated they handled the events in a professional manner. Farley added that the Red Cross was also on site for the Sloat family, and that Walmart had stepped up to provide the family with clothes and supplies, and the Greater Salem Area Foundation provided \$500.00 towards the purchase of a travel trailer to be used as temporary housing for the Sloats. Councilman Farley commended all involved.

Councilman Morton indicated Red Roof storage provided a storage unit for the Sloat family, and added that he appreciated the response from the City’s department heads.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Motion was made by Councilman Morton and seconded by Councilman Farley to adjourn the meeting at 7:18 p.m. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilman Farley and Mayor Barbee. NAYS: None. Motion carried.

Bev Quinn, CMC
City Clerk

Minutes approved: _____