

AGENDA  
CITY OF SALEM  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 7, 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 – November 16, 2015
  2. Presentation from Good Energy and Affordable Gas & Electric Regarding Administration of City Municipal, Residential Electric Aggregation Program
  3. Approval of City Financial Contribution to Community Center for Executive Director Position
  4. Approval of YMCA Shared Service Agreement for Recreational Services, City Appointments to Salem YMCA Board
  5. Approval of Purchase of New Detective Vehicle
  6. First Reading – Approval of Purchase of New Automatic-Read Gas & Water Meters
- VI. City Manager Report
- VII. City Attorney Report
- VIII. Finance Director Report
- IX. City Council Report
- X. Executive Session
  1. 5 ILCA 120/2(c)(5), (6) and (11) – Purchase of Real Estate, Sale of Real Estate, and Litigation
- XI. Adjournment

Bill Gruen  
City Manager

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MINUTES  
CITY OF SALEM  
REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
DECEMBER 7, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of December 7, 2018 of the City Council was convened at 6:00 p.m., and called to order by Mayor Rex Barbee.

**Council members present:**

Councilman Baity  
Councilman Nic Farley  
Councilman Craig Morton  
Councilwoman Sue Morgan  
Mayor Barbee

**Council members absent:** None.

**Others present:**

City Manager Bill Gruen	City Attorney Mike Jones
City Clerk Bev Quinn	Finance Director Ben Stratemeyer
Public Works Director John Pruden	Assistant Public Works Director Annette Brushwitz
Chief of Police Sean Reynolds	Deputy Chief of Police Susan Miller
Code Enforcement Officer Brian Hunt	Library Director Kim Keller
Members of the Media and Public	

I. **PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Opening Prayer was given by Councilwoman Morgan, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

II. **PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.

III. **MAYOR'S REPORT AND PRESENTATIONS**

- Mayor Barbee indicated he is happy to report that Governor Rauner has signed a bill approved by the House and Senate to release critical revenues the state owes to local governments.

IV.

V. **CITY COUNCIL ACTION**

1. **Consent Agenda**

- a. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of November 16, 2015.

***Motion was made by Councilwoman Morgan and seconded by Councilman Farley that the minutes of the meeting of November 16, 2015 be approved as presented. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Baity, Mayor Barbee.***

**2. Presentation from Good Energy and Affordable Gas & Electric Regarding Administration of City Municipal, Residential Electric Aggregation Program.**

Presentations were made by Tom Lay, Director of Midwest Energy for Good Energy and Jeff Haarmann, Managing Partner of Affordable Gas and Electricity regarding their qualifications to administer the City's municipal aggregation program through which residential customers who don't opt out get an aggregated rate for their electrical supply. Consensus of the Council was to act on this at a later meeting.

**3. Approval of City Financial Contribution to Community Center for Executive Director Position**

City Manager Gruen indicated the current Community Center Executive Director has submitted her resignation. As a result, City representatives and Community Center representatives have met to discuss what this position should entail in the future. There is a conceptual agreement that: (a) The Center has room to take on more paid usage of its facilities; (b) an executive director who can take on more time and responsibilities could increase usage and revenues for the Center; and (c) City Financial assistance to hire a more full-time candidate is necessary.

Mr. Gruen indicated the City Council may want to consider:

- a) Contributing \$25,000 on an annual basis to the Community Center Executive Director position;
- b) *Ask the Community Center Board to make the Executive Director available for Special City projects or assistance when appropriate;*
- c) *No specific time limit be given to this contribution, except that the Community Center work towards increasing revenues such that it may wean of this assistance in the future. This contribution would be subject to annual approval by the City Council when it approves the City budget.*

Don Ruston, President of the Community Center Board, indicated they have gone through the interview process, and have made a selection and an offer, contingent upon the City choosing to participate with the salary. City Manager Gruen added that it is not his intent that the City support half of this employee's salary forever – he would just like to see the City help them get started. Mayor Barbee indicated he would like there to be some shared services, whether it be marketing or bringing events to the community that would support the hotels and motels, as this would help justify the City's participation. Councilman Farley asked if the City makes this contribution, is one year of assistance enough. Mr. Ruston indicated he does not feel one year will be adequate. Mayor Barbee indicated that if a full-time person is in place, that person may be able to look for grant opportunities, etc. Mr. Ruston concurred, and indicated they will be doubling the wage paid, and the Center is operating at a deficit now. Their goal is to balance the budget and work with the YMCA so that the building is used more. Mayor Barbee indicated his only hesitancy on approving the partnership is that he is afraid it may open the door to other groups with similar requests. Councilman Morton asked if this is something that will need to be approved on an annual basis. City Manager Gruen indicated it is. Councilman Farley asked where this money will come from, as this is not a budgeted expense. Mr. Gruen responded that the easy answer would be Video Gaming receipts, but he would like to look at other line items within the budget. Councilwoman Morgan indicated the SCAC board needs to know how this will be paid. City Manager Gruen indicated since we are eight months into the current budget, we could commit to 16 months, paid on a monthly basis. ***Motion was made by Councilwoman Morgan and seconded by Councilman Morton to approve contributing to the SCAC Executive Director's salary for the next four months (proportionately at the rate of \$25,000/year) and all of the next fiscal year on a monthly basis (at \$25,000/yr.). Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Morton, Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Baity, Councilman Farley, Mayor Barbee. NAYS: None. Motion carried.***

**4. Approval of YMCA Shared Service Agreement for Recreational Services, City Appointments to YMCA Board**

*The following was provided to City Council as part of their agenda, and outlined verbally by the City Manager:*

*In your packet is a Shared Service Agreement which would entail Jed Casburn, YMCA Program Director, to operate under direction of the City on a half-time basis to implement City sponsored recreational programming. This includes all of the City's traditional programming including men's softball, youth soccer, Family Day in the Park, etc. This would also include supervision of City pool. This would be a one-year agreement.*

*I have been working with the YMCA on a bigger, more comprehensive agreement which would more formally turn implementation of City recreation programming to the YMCA. During this one-year period during which we'd operate under the Shared Service Agreement, I would*

*continue to work with the YMCA on this bigger agreement which would be presented to the City Council prior to approval.*

*In conjunction with contracting the YMCA to implement City recreation programming, the City Council should consider merging the City Recreation Board with the YMCA board which is forming to oversee programming it offers in Salem. Such a merge would organize oversight of all recreational programming under one board. Having City appointees on the YMCA board would also ensure responsiveness to the public on issues related to City-sponsored programming. The City has an existing Recreation Board (Salem ordinance Section 15-1, <http://tinyurl.com/gnysp44>). I don't recommend the City completely dissolve this board. Alternatively, I recommend the City Council amend Section 15-1 to add language such as the following:*

*During periods of time the City contracts with another organization for the implementation of City-sponsored recreation programming, members of the City recreation board shall be appointed to serve on the board which oversees the organization with which the City has contracted.*

Councilman Farley asked if the same programs that are currently offered would continue to be offered. Mr. Gruen indicated they would be. Councilman Farley asked what the City has been doing in the interim. Mr. Gruen indicated Annette Brushwitz has been overseeing the programs on an interim basis. Councilman Farley asked if the YMCA is going to break even, or be profitable. Dominic Santomassimo, Executive Director, O'Fallon, YMCA, Clinton County YMCA, and Marion County YMCA indicated they are doing a feasibility study for running a non-facility operation. Diana Morrison indicated that when they first checking into having a YMCA in Salem, they did a feasibility study and despite her initial skepticism, Salem did qualify to have a YMCA. Ms. Morrison indicated the recommendation was initially made by Jeff Morgan.

City Manager Gruen indicated there is no intention to reduce programs, but this is being proposed to avoid hiring another employee. Mr. Santomassimo added that change is difficult, and a "shared service agreement" will allow the City and YMCA to work out the quirks, become comfortable with each other, and allow the "Y" to get acquainted with the community. Councilwoman Morgan asked for confirmation that the City would still be involved. Mr. Gruen responded that we would absolutely be involved from a financial standpoint. Councilman Farley indicated he would like to see this laid over, so Council can have a chance to discuss this with citizens. Ms. Rene Gozia, President of the YMCA Board, indicated her appreciation to the Council, and indicated the Board does feel the YMCA will be sustainable in Salem. Ms. Gozia introduced other members of the YMCA Board who were present. Councilman Farley asked how responsive the Recreation Board members were to being merged with the YMCA board. City Manager Gruen indicated they three remaining members had some questions, but walked away feeling good about the YMCA taking over recreation. Mr. Gruen added that he left the meeting feeling like Todd Woodruff was satisfied with his time on the Recreation Board, and would probably not continue to serve; Mark Ferguson would probably be more willing to serve on a soccer committee; and Ed Black would most likely be willing to serve as a City representative on the YMCA board. Mayor Barbee indicated this would be treated as a first reading, and it will be brought back at the next meeting.

##### **5. Approval of Purchase of New Detective Vehicle**

City Manager Gruen indicated he is requesting approval to purchase a 2016 Durango in the amount of \$28,379.00 from Max Dye for use by the Police Department Detective. This is a budgeted item, for which we budgeted \$28,000. The bid from Max Dye is the low bid solicited from Salem dealerships and is only \$169.00 higher than the State of Illinois bid for a Ford Expedition. **Motion was made by Councilwoman Morgan and seconded by Councilman Farley to approve the purchase of the 2016 Durango at the low bid of \$28,379.00 from Max Dye. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Baity, Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Mayor Barbee. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

##### **6. First Reading – Approval of Purchase of New Automatic-Read Gas and Water Meters**

City Manager Gruen indicated the FY16 budget includes a phased transition to automatic-read water and gas meters, with the Water and Gas budgets both including \$100,000 for this budget year. Mr. Gruen asked Public Works Director Pruden to address Council on this subject.

Public Works Director Pruden indicated there are approximately 3,600 water meters and 3,200 gas meters in the city's system, the readings of which are entered into 32 meter books. Currently, the meters are all manually read, entered into books, and keyed into the software. Mr. Pruden indicated the first phase of the upgrade will involve the commercial accounts, and the residential meters will be upgraded over the next four years. The system the City is looking at will provide

for automated meter reading, with a battery life of 20 years. Councilman Farley asked how much the entire upgrade will cost. Mr. Pruden responded approximately \$1 million. Mr. Pruden indicated he sat in on six presentations from reputable companies, which were then reduced to four companies whose products will coordinate with our software system. At that point, the gas and water consulting engineers were brought into the mix. The four companies were unanimously ranked 1 through 4, with #1 and #2 being Schulte Supply and Midwest Meter. Mr. Pruden indicated he is recommending purchasing ITRON products through Midwest Meter. Mr. Pruden indicated once the meters are installed, the City will start off using handheld readers that can drop the information into the computer system. Eventually, the City will work up to a laptop that may be able to read the entire town in one day. Councilman Farley asked if City personnel will be installing the new meters. Mr. Pruden indicated they will be. Mr. Pruden indicated approximately half of the meters are Badger meters, and we will only have to install a transmitter on those, which is much better than replacing all of the meters. Mr. Pruden indicated that five years from now, he hopes to have an entirely automated infrastructure. Councilman Farley asked why we aren't starting with a larger project the first year. Mr. Gruen responded that this is what will work with his allocation of manpower. Councilman Morton asked if this system will help us catch leaks faster. Mr. Pruden indicated it will. Mayor Barbee commended Mr. Pruden for having spent a lot of time on this project, and for having a well thought out proposal. **Motion was made by Councilman Farley and seconded by Councilman Baity to approve the purchase of ITRON metering products from Midwest Meter, not to exceed the budgeted amounts of \$100,000 from the gas budget and \$100,000 from the water budget. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Baity, Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Councilwoman Morgan, Mayor Barbee. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**

**VI. City Manager Report**

**State Funds:** City Manager Gruen reiterated what Mayor Barbee had said, regarding the State's approval to release funds to municipalities.

**Roberts Park:** Mr. Gruen indicated Mr. Pruden had met with Risk Management regarding the damage done to Roberts Park on Ohio, estimated at \$16,000. Mr. Gruen indicated that if the insurance will cover it, the City would like to hire it done. Assistant Public Works Director Brushwitz added that it would be good to see if some of the equipment can be salvaged, as Americana has indicated they can powder coat it. Mayor Barbee responded that it is currently a safety issue, and he would like it to be removed as quickly as possible. Councilman Farley added that this might be an opportunity to purchase larger equipment.

**VII. City Attorney Report – None.**

**VIII. Finance Director Report – None.**

**IX. City Council Report**

**Councilman Farley** congratulated all who worked on the Christmas in My Hometown event, and indicated it went very well.

**X. Executive Session**

1. F ILCS 120/2(c)(5), (6) and (11) – Purchase of Real Estate, Sale of Real Estate and Litigation  
**Motion was made by Councilman Farley and seconded by Councilwoman Morgan to enter into executive session to discuss purchase of real estate, sale of real estate and litigation at 8:25 p.m. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Councilman Morgan, Councilman Baity, Mayor Barbee.**

**Return to open session at 9:32 p.m.**

**IX. Adjournment**

**As there was no further business to discuss, upon motion made by Councilman Farley and second by Councilman Morton, the meeting was adjourned at 9:33 p.m. Roll call vote: AYES: Councilman Farley, Councilman Morton, Councilwoman Morgan, Councilman Baity, Mayor Barbee. NAYS: None. Motion carried.**