

**City of Salem
Regular Council Meeting
March 14, 2006**

Present: James Plaugher, Councilman
Phyllis Plaugher, Councilwoman
Eric Wolford, Mayor
Jackie Ritter, City Recorder
Fredette Leda, Councilwoman
Dave Fisher, Councilman
Frank Robinette, City Manager
Grady Lamb, Councilman
Derika Sutton, Councilwoman

Absent: None

The Salem City Council met on Tuesday March 14, 2006 for its regular council meeting. Mayor Wolford called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer:

Mayor Wolford opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and James Plaugher offered prayer.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings:

The minutes for the February 14, 2006 regular council meeting were reviewed. Typographical and grammatical errors were noted on pages two through five and clarification to the item between H and I of the City Managers report was requested. Clarification was noted to the second item after executive session as well. Councilwoman Sutton made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections. Councilwoman Plaugher seconded the motion. Carried 6/0. The minutes for the February 28, 2006 regular council meeting were reviewed. Typographical and grammatical errors were noted on all four pages. Councilwoman Plaugher made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections. Councilman Fisher seconded the motion. Carried 5/1 with Councilwoman Sutton abstaining.

**Kevin Fluharty of Salem IGA reported on a upcoming community meeting to be held at SIU Brewster Chapel on Monday March 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. Salem Area Chamber of Commerce, SIU and county and state representatives will be present. The focus is to discuss the revitalization of Salem and economic development. All council members were provided invitations to the meeting.

**Jim Pennington, Chad Cobb, Bud McCallister and Bill Keaton from HNTB were present to update on the status of the changes to the water project. A computerized model was presented to simulate the impact on the system of the connection to Sun Valley PSD as well as simulations regarding water capacity in the event of another large fire. These were compared to simulations of the current operating water system. There was discussion of residual by products in the system if connected to Sun Valley PSD and the HNTB engineers provided suggestions to deal with the

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problem. There was discussion of the system water loss and the need to address line repair and replacement to address this issue. There was review of the proposed rate upon connection with Sun Valley PSD. There was discussion of how the system would be effected if there were development and growth between Salem and Sun Valley. The engineers will develop a simulation for this potential problem.

**At 7:30 p.m. Councilman Lamb entered the meeting.

**HNTB representatives reviewed their recommendations for the updated water system project which would connect with Sun Valley PSD. The City needs to establish initial communication with Sun Valley PSD and Harrison County Commission to negotiate the best possible contract to provide the highest quality drinking water to Salem residents. This will involve the use of an accountant and an attorney especially in the negotiation of the rates. These discussions should address the issue of residual by products and stressing the supplier must provide as clean as possible water at a consistent rate to allow city tanks to turn over quickly. An altitude valve at one of the tanks is also recommended as well as moth balling the water plant to deal with CSO problems. Other recommendations include proceeding with the needed impoundment repairs and keep DEP and Dam Safety informed of the progress at all stages. The City should also keep the customers and the PSC and Health Dept. informed of the project status as well. The old Farmers Home (RUS) loan needs to be paid off as soon as possible. A plan needs established to address the water loss in the distribution system to include application to the Infrastructure Council for funding. They state some required sampling being done now might not be required under the new system. Councilman Fisher suggested the use of the lower Dog Run impoundment for fire use only. The HNTB engineers will develop a plan to address the feasibility of this option.

**Sheena Hunt of Region VI reviewed the proper procurement process for the professional services needed for the project including the accountant and attorney. If done properly, it is possible to receive payment for these services through the project funding with the construction line item being the only line item available to deduct these expenses at this time. These professionals should have experience dealing with the issues of small cities and the rates should be negotiated. These professional services can be through direct solicitation but a minimum of three contacts is needed. She also presented Task Order #14 from HNTB for payment of the detailed design plan for the updated water project through construction and inspection not to exceed \$147,622.61 and to include revision to the dam improvements. This is to be paid out of Small City Block Grant funds. There was discussion of the planned revisions to the dam improvements and what effects it will have on the fish and wildlife in the area. Councilman Fisher made a motion to approve the payment of Task Order #14 from SCBG funds and notice to proceed with the design planning. Councilman Lamb seconded the motion. Carried 7/0. Councilman Fisher made a motion requesting a preliminary investigative report to address the water loss to the distribution system including cost proposals and different funding scenarios. Councilman Plaughner seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

**At 8:30 p.m. Councilwoman Sutton made a motion to take a break. Councilman Plaughner seconded the motion. Council took a break and resumed at 8:40 p.m.

**Sheena Hunt presented a requisition #7 for payment of Region VI services for Jan. 2006 of \$3,048,66. Councilman Fisher made a motion to approve requisition #7 for Jan. 2006 Region VI services. Councilwoman Plaughner seconded the motion. Carried 7/0. Ms. Hunt also presented a

budget amendment for payment of Task Order #14 for HNTB engineering services with payment to come from the construction line item. Councilman Fisher made a motion to approve the requested budget amendment for payment of HNTB services no to exceed \$147,622.61. Councilwoman Sutton seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Allegheny Power Tree Cutting:

The City Manager reports he spoke with the Allegheny Power representative and the area proposed to be cleared is in the Upper Dog Run area. The trees to be cut will be left where they are cut. Councilman Plaughter made a motion to accept the offer for the clearing of three trees on city property. Councilwoman Leda seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

**Councilwoman Leda requested update on the status of the demolition of the condemned houses and the letter of response to Mrs. Swiger. The City Manager reports no updated information from the building inspector or city attorney. The letter to Mrs. Swiger will be ready for the next council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

4. Purchasing Garbage Truck:

The Public Works Director, Ronnie Davis, presented information on the purchase of a used garbage truck. The cost is \$42,000 and three loan payment schedules were reviewed. It is a 2000 International with a 2001 packer and it is slightly smaller than the present truck and has @100,000 miles on it. It was checked by a mechanic and given a good rating. A wench will have to be added. The plan would be to keep the old truck for items that might damage the new packer. The City Manager reports the garbage fund is able to afford the 42-month loan schedule. Councilman Lamb made a motion to approve the purchase of the used garbage truck as presented at the 42-month loan schedule with the money to come from the garbage fund. Councilman Fisher seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

5. City Managers Report:

- A.** The City Manager provided a copy of the police schedule and reports the Police Chief has invited all members of council to ride along with a police officer whenever they would like.
- B.** The City Manager reported on a meeting with Joe Audia of the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce, the Fire Dept., the Mayor and a representative from Senator Rockefeller's office. The impression was there was no federal money available for cleanup or revitalization at this time. Regarding the cleanup of the burned buildings on Main Street, the EPA has not reported on the asbestos contamination and then the insurance companies have to settle with the property owners before cleanup can begin. Water is being placed on the debris each day.

- C. The City Manager attend a meeting today with SIU representatives and ideas were discussed for the downtown cleanup and revitalization. All were encouraged to attend the upcoming community meeting on March 20th.

**Councilwoman Leda reported on the passage of a recent county street levy that may provide funding for city street repairs. The City Manager will investigate.

**At 9:20 p.m. Councilwoman Sutton made a motion to move to executive session to complete the city manager evaluation. Councilwoman Plaughter seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

6. Evaluation of City Manager:

**At 9:48 p.m. Councilwoman Sutton made a motion to return to regular session. Councilman Lamb seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

**The City Manager reported a budget approval special meeting is needed to review the new budget. The meeting was scheduled for March 24, 2005 at 5:00 p.m.

**There was discussion of the increase in PEIA insurance costs and proposed plans to address the costs.

**There was review of list of proposed dates for a summer city employee picnic.

**At 9:58 p.m. Councilwoman Leda made a motion to adjourn. Councilwoman Plaughter seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

TABLED BUSINESS

1. Allegheny Power Street Light Agreement
2. Actions of Sponsor Grant Agreements
3. Consideration of Purchasing a Gate and Fencing for Water Dept.
4. Workshop Committee Meeting Safety Director

Mayor

Recorder