

**City of Salem
Regular Council Meeting
April 25, 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 April 25, 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.

**Dr. Carl FriebeI spoke at this time regarding the disposition of the two elementary schools after their closure in 2007. The new Mountaineer Middle School near Liberty High School is slated to be completed in June 2007 and the board would like to have an agreement in place for the Salem buildings by July 1, 2007. The Harrison County Board of Education authorized Dr. FriebeI to offer a lease to the City of Salem of \$1.00 per building to include most of the furniture and equipment. There was discussion of the utility costs and other problems unique to each building. He offered copies of the floor plans as well as tours of the buildings. Any agreement would include a clause for the buildings to revert back to the board if the lease is no longer desired.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings:

The minutes for the April 11, 2006 special council meeting were reviewed. Grammatical errors were noted on page 2, items 6 and 7 and clarification was added to the last paragraph on page 3. Councilwoman Plaugher made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections. Councilwoman Leda seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

**John Clevenger and Sharon Strother of the Halls Run area spoke regarding the proposal to use the land near their property for a class D landfill. The City Manager reported that this would not occur as this type of landfill would have to be at least 500 feet from the nearest residence. Ms. Strother also spoke on the status of the cleanup of the burned buildings.

**Keith Richards spoke regarding the use of city businesses by the City of Salem such as computer repair that is offered by his business. There was discussion of the use of his services in the past. Mr. Richards also spoke about the response time of the police for recent calls he

made. There was discussion of the lack of police officers and how the county covers when no police officers are on duty. The use of on-call was discussed and will be checked.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Discussion of Auctioning Property:

The City Manager asked council to set a minimum bid on the value of the lots on Randolph Street. The Public Works Director advised the next step needs to be a survey of the property and to determine if the lots, parcel # s 142, 143 and 119, are in the flood plain. The City Manager will contact the county surveyor to arrange a survey and will also check the deeds to see if they are in the flood plain.

4. Turbidimeter:

The City Manager reported he received one bid for the needed turbidimeter for \$8,300, however, he has also learned of a possible resource to obtain used meters from a federal naval reserve in the eastern panhandle. The engineers at HNTB state only one meter may be needed. He will check further on this issue.

**Councilwoman Leda requested status of 2nd reading for building code ordinance. The City Manager reported this was missed and he will make sure it gets on the agenda for the next council meeting. Councilman Fisher reminded the City Manager that he needs to contact the state fire Marshall s office regarding this ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

5. First Reading Sewer Surcharge:

There was review of the proposed ordinance. Councilman Lamb made a motion to complete the First Reading by title only. Councilman Fisher seconded the motion. Carried 7/0. The Mayor completed the First Reading of the sewer surcharge by title only. Councilman Fisher made a motion to approve the First Reading of the sewer surcharge ordinance and requested the ordinance be attached to the minutes of this meeting. Councilwoman Sutton seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

6. Human Resource Development Foundation Letter:

There was review of a letter from HRDF regarding renovations to the Hunter Ridge Unity Apts. on New York Avenue. They are requesting a letter of support on this project from the City of Salem. Council agreed this was a worthwhile project and will provide the needed letter if the necessary building permits and code inspections are done. The Building Inspector will also need to review the project. Councilman Fisher made a motion to resolve to provide the necessary non-financial support to the Hunter Ridge Unity Apartments improvement project so long as the appropriate code inspections and building permits are completed and the B & O taxes are rendered. Councilman Lamb seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

7. Eagle Scout Project Contribution:

There was review of a letter from Patrick Fluharty soliciting funding for his pavilion Eagle Scout project at the Park.

8. Review Letter to Citizens on Sewer Surcharge:

There was review of a letter to customers explaining the need for the sewer surcharge. Some grammatical errors were noted. Council gave the City Manager permission to send this letter after the ordinance is passed.

9. Dr. Friebel Harrison County Superintendent of Schools:

This item was discussed immediately after the Pledge of Allegiance.

10. City Managers Report:

- A. The City Manager reported on the recent inspection of the flood control dams. Some additional mowing and restriction of access around the spillways needs to be done but the inspecting agency was overall pleased with the city maintenance of the dams. New easements will also be needed in the future.
- B. There was review of the request for statement of qualifications for legal services for the water project.
- C. There was review of the deed for the city property on Halls Run.
- D. There was review of a letter from the Office of the Governor regarding the 2006 application to the Local Economic Development Assistance Program. They approved the \$10,000 application for the street sign making equipment.
- E. The City Manager reported on the status of the basketball court at the park. The concrete has been poured and the baskets are being installed. A ribbon cutting ceremony was suggested.
- F. The City Manager reported another operator may be needed at the sewer plant. The Public Works Director stated he has two persons on standby to assist with this issue if needed.

**Councilman Lamb requested status of the bidding out of the dam projects. The City Manager reported the bids have not been sent out yet and he will check with the engineers about this.

**At 8:38 p.m. Councilwoman Sutton made a motion to move to executive session to discuss personnel matters. Councilman Plaugher seconded the motion. Carried 7/0. Council took a break and resumed at 8:55 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. Personnel Matters

**At 9:40 p.m. Councilwoman Plaugher made a motion to return to regular session. Councilwoman Sutton seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

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**At 9:41 p.m. Councilman Lamb made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Fisher 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