

**City of Salem
Regular Council Meeting
September 27, 2005**

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

Absent: None

The Salem City Council met on Tuesday September 27, 2005 for its regularly scheduled meeting. Mayor Wolford called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer:

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

**Phyllis Plaughner accepted the open council seat and the city recorder completed the swearing in of the new councilperson.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes for Regular Meeting September 13, 2005:

The minutes for the September 13, 2005 regular council meeting were reviewed. Grammatical errors were noted under item 2 on page 2 and item 3 on page 2. Councilman Lamb made a motion to approve the minutes with the noted corrections. Councilman Plaughner seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

OLD BUSINESS

3. Individual from DEP to explain Consent Order:

The DEP representative was unable to come to the meeting. Nov. 15, 2005 is the new deadline to sign the consent order. The DEP representative will be invited to the next council meeting.

4. Inspection of Tank Contract:

Page 2
September 27, 2005

The City Manager reports the estimate for the cleaning of the Ford Street tank was for \$2,595. This was a previously approved expenditure of council and will be done in October.

**Councilman Lamb made a motion to add the report on the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting at this time. Councilwoman Plaughter seconded the motion. Carried 7/0. He reported on the recommendation of the commission to re-zone the property near the sewer plant that was recently purchased by the Salem United Methodist Church from Industrial I to Residential I. Councilwoman Leda made a motion to approve the rezoning as noted. Councilman Fisher seconded the motion. Carried 7/0. He also reported on the recommendation of the commission to change the zoning ordinance regarding the rear yard exception. Councilman Fisher made a motion to approve the recommended zoning ordinance change as noted. Councilwoman Leda seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

**Councilwoman Leda reported the Police Committee Handbook work was complete, just needed reviewed by the police dept. and brought back to council for review. There was no progress on the Safety or Personnel Committees.

**The City Manager reports the legal work on the water plant property annexation is complete and he will work on getting on the agenda at the Harrison County Commission. They are working on a cost estimate for completing the Lower Dog Run Annexation.

**The City Manager reports he is searching for a new City Attorney. He will check to see when the current contract expires. The current contract only allowed for five hours per month of legal work.

**No bids were received for the basketball court or the FEMA grant street repairs for Ross and George Streets. The bid was posted on the Chamber of Commerce website. FEMA recommends and engineering evaluation be done to be better able to accurately advertise the bids.

NEW BUSINESS

5. Patrick Fluharty Eagle Scout Project:

Patrick Fluharty advised he is attempting to become an Eagle Scout and must complete a community project to be able to attain this goal. He would like to build a pavilion at the Salem Park near the pool. He will obtain donations for materials and labor. Councilman Lamb made a motion to accept the offer to build the pavilion at the Salem Park. Councilman Fisher seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

**There was discussion of the condition of the former rental house at the Park beside the Red Barn and the possibility of getting state approval to tear it down. The City Manager will check with the Industrial Home.

6. Fall Cleanup:

Public Works Director, Ronnie Davis, gave an estimate of \$4,995 for the cost of a fall clean up. He does not recommend it due to this cost and because it tears up the garbage truck. He will check on the cost of roll off dumpsters instead of curbside pickup. There was discussion of the availability of special pick ups through the city garbage service as well as other available drop off services. There was discussion of putting an article in the Town Talk to advise of these available services.

7. Appoint Someone to Chamber of Commerce:

Councilman Plaugher offered to be a council representative to the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce. They meet the third Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Depot.

8. Permission to apply for a grant through Benedum Foundation:

The City Manager reports the SIU students have found the availability of a grant through the Benedum Foundation. The City Manager requests permission to apply for a \$30,000 grant to hire a new police officer to include the cost of the police academy, uniforms and salary for one year. He also reports five individuals will be completing a pre-academy test at RCB High School on Oct. 1st to see if they can complete the academy training. The City Manager will check with the City Attorney to see if it is legal to require new police officers to sign a two-year contract upon hire. Councilman Lamb made a motion to give permission to the City Manager and the Mayor to write, sign and submit the grant request. Councilwoman Sutton seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

9. Preparation of Rule of 42 for PSC:

The City Manager reports the PSC has requested an update Rule of 42 for the water upgrade project. The same accountant gave an estimate of \$3,500 to complete the work. Councilman Fisher made a motion to approve the expenditure of up to \$3,500 if no other less expensive account can be found. Councilwoman Sutton seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

10. City Managers Report:

- A.** The City Manager reported on the availability of a grant through the Dept. of Transportation Recreational Trails Program and would like to apply for this grant for downtown re-vitalization. The grant is a 20/80-match grant. A work session was scheduled for Oct. 18, 2005 at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall to complete this grant as the letter of intent is due by Nov. 15, 2005. He will then be working on finding grants for the water and sewer departments as well as the COPS program for police dept. funding.
- B.** There was review of a task order from HNTB engineers for the engineering work necessary for the sewer dept. I & I problems. The PSC certificate of approval was received from Dam Safety for the Lower Dog Run water upgrade project.
- C.** There was review of a letter from the Secretary of State office indicating it is not in any violation of elections law for spouses to hold council seats at the same time.
- D.** There was review of a letter from the city office staff acknowledging the appreciation shown for their re-decorating efforts in city hall.
- E.** There was review of a police dept. report from Chief of Police Meathrell.
- F.** There was discussion of adding a fuel charge on the garbage service as other small municipalities are doing the same. It is an approved charge by PSC.
- G.** The welcome basket system is ready to go.
- H.** The budget reports are unable to be provided yet.
- I.** Water upgrade project information from HNTB was received and is available for council review.
- J.** Public Works Director, Ronnie Davis, reported the trash is picked up every week or 10 days at the parks and the reservoirs. He reported main street cleanup for the Apple Butter festival will be done next week. Parking meters will be covered for the festival and a small ramp is being installed at the Depot to allow wheelchair accessibility.
- K.** It was noted that those who have mattresses and appliances on their porches or yards need to be given notices as soon as possible.

**At 8:25 p.m. Councilman Lamb made a motion to move to executive session to discuss personnel matters. Councilman Plaugher seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

**At 8:26 p.m. Council took a break and resumed at 8:35 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

11. Personnel Matters:

Page 5
September 27, 2005

** At 9:00 p.m. Councilwoman Leda made a motion to return to regular session. Councilwoman Sutton seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

**There was discussion about the Salem Rifle and Pistol Club needing lights at their range. Councilman Fisher made a motion to grant an easement to the Salem Rifle and Pistol Club to allow installation of electric to their gun range. Councilman Lamb seconded the motion. Carried 6/1 with Councilwoman Leda opposing.

**At 9:10 p.m. Councilwoman Sutton made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Plaughter seconded the motion. Carried 7/0.

TABLED BUSINESS

1. Parking Lot Lease Agreement
2. Allegheny Power Street Lighting Agreement
3. Actions on Sponsor Grant Agreements
4. Consideration of Purchasing a Gate and Fencing for Water Dept.
5. Demolition of Condemned Properties
6. Annexation of City Owned Properties
7. Consideration of Purchase of Power Washer
8. Workshop Committee Meeting Safety Committee and Safety Director (Workplace Violence Policy, Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 Emergency Preparedness)
9. Workshop Committee Meeting Personnel Committee (Personnel Handbook and Grievance Procedures)
10. Workshop Committee Meeting Police Committee (Police Dept. Rules and Regulations Operational Manual)

Mayor

Recorder