

Meeting Minutes - Utility Committee City of Salem, Missouri Date: July 12th

Attendees:

- Chairperson: Kyle Williams
- Members Present:
 - Nathan Kinzy
 - Cathrine Dent
 - Harold Hamilton
 - David Wyse
 - Rick Letchworth

Meeting Proceedings:

6:15 PM: Meeting called to order by Chairperson Kyle Williams.

6:16 PM: Roll call taken.

- Nathan Kinzy: Present
- Cathrine Dent: Present
- Harold Hamilton: Present
- David Wise: Present
- Rick Letchworth: Present

6:17 PM: Stacy Houston, City Finance Director, gave a financial review of the June utility accounts.

6:28 PM: An update was provided regarding the email utility billing system. The city requested 10 test accounts, and volunteers from the citizens came forward.

6:32 PM: MMMPEP committee update was shared by City Administrator Sally Burbridge. MMMPEP voted to increase reserves to improve the credit rating for future large projects. This decision would result in a \$335,209 charge to Salem over the next two years. The committee was asked for recommendations to cover the cost.

6:46 PM: Rick Letchworth made a motion to pull \$335,209 from reserves. The motion did not receive a second and was denied.

6:50 PM: Sally informed the committee about a request for support to build a solar plant through MPUA in Salem. The committee requested prior notification before council meetings, allowing them to make recommendations before council member votes.

6:59 PM: Nathan Kinsey made a motion in support of the letter. Catherine Dent seconded the motion. All present members voted in favor, and the motion was carried.

7:01 PM: Utility operations update was provided by Mark Nash.

7:05 PM: Alderman Williams presented the current data on Missouri Drinking Water Watch for the city of Salem. He mentioned that a group of citizens expressed interest in conducting additional water quality testing beyond the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and Missouri Department of Natural Resources requirements. The committee requested the city to investigate the costs of water quality testing and provide recommendations on what tests should be conducted based on citizen requests.

7:20 PM: Questions and Comments.

- Debbie Murphy inquired about water and sewer rate costs. She requested the city to display the rates on the city website in an easily accessible and readable format.
- Harold Hamilton requested discussion on outside utility rate adjustments in the next scheduled utility meeting. The committee members asked why the council members denied the recommendation and were asked to contact their respective councilperson. The committee sought information from other city administrators on how they address the issue and requested Sally to draft a solution for review and recommendation.
- Lisa French asked for the ordinance number regarding water meter access. She had multiple questions about the water meter inside her house and the one placed in her yard. She mentioned that the old meter had been defaced with spray-paint.

7:53 PM: Adjournment. Nathan Kinsey motioned to adjourn, and Catherine Dent seconded the motion. All present members voted in favor, and the motion was carried. The meeting was adjourned.