

CITY OF SALISBURY

ORDINANCE NO. 2179

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY TO AMEND THE FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET TO ADDRESS AN ANTICIPATED SHORTFALL IN THE GRASS CUTTING AND RUBBISH REMOVAL ACCOUNTS.

WHEREAS, the Salisbury Municipal Code requires that every owner of any area, lot or parcel of land shall cut, trim or otherwise remove or cause to be cut or trimmed, all grass, weeds, brush or plant growth thereon in excess of eight inches; and

WHEREAS, the Salisbury Municipal Code also requires that no person shall allow rubbish to remain, to be deposited or to accumulate, either temporarily or permanently, on his property; and

WHEREAS, from time to time, after providing adequate notice the Department of Neighborhood Services and Code Compliance may cause such work to be performed; and

WHEREAS, if the Department of Neighborhood Services and Code Compliance causes such work to be performed and the property owner does not pay the bill for such abatement action, the City files a lien against the property; and

WHEREAS, the average cost per project for abatement by the City has increased dramatically; and

WHEREAS, that increase has severely depleted the funding available for abatement projects; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue to successfully correct such unabated nuisance violations during the remainder of this fiscal year, it is necessary for additional funds to

be added to the Department of Neighborhood Services and Code Compliance budget to offset these costs.

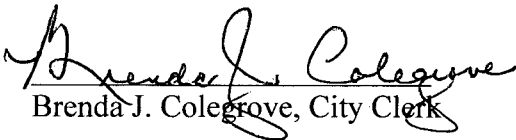
NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the City of Salisbury, Maryland that the City's Fiscal Year 2012 General Fund budget be amended as follows:

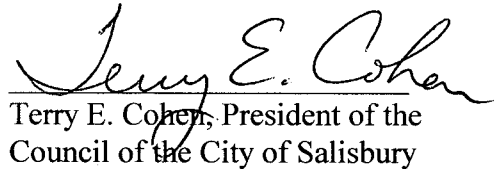
- 1) Increase the Current Surplus Available account (#01000 – 469810) by
\$50,000.00
- 2) Increase the Neighborhood Services and Code Compliance budget by
\$50,000.00;

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND, that the Ordinance shall take effect upon final passage.

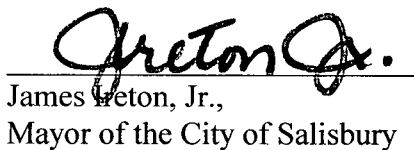
THIS ORDINANCE was introduced and read at a meeting of the Council of the City of Salisbury held on the 14th day of November, 2011 and thereafter, a statement of the substance of the ordinance having been published as required by law, in the meantime, was finally passed by the Council on the 28th day of November, 2011.

ATTEST:


Brenda J. Colegrove, City Clerk


Terry E. Cohen, President of the
Council of the City of Salisbury

Approved by me, this 30th
day of November, 2011.


James Weton, Jr.,
Mayor of the City of Salisbury

Memo

To: John Pick
From: Tom Stevenson *MCS*
Date: October 26, 2011
Re: Grass Cutting and Rubbish Removal (Funding Shortfalls Pending)

Attached please find an ordinance that will have the effect of amending the Fiscal Year 2012 General Fund budget. As of this memorandum, we have nearly exhausted the funds originally appropriated for the purpose of abating grass, weed and rubbish violations that were not corrected by the property owner.

After reviewing the facts surrounding this unusual shortfall, I have determined that while the number of clean-n-liens is comparable to the same time last year, the contractor costs have increased dramatically. For example, on average, grass cutting costs have more than doubled over the past year. It is also important to mention that we performed several larger more expensive projects this year. The ongoing maintenance of the dormant Grande Point project is one such example.

At your direction, I have also researched the collection or recovery success rates for monies spent on clean-n-liens. So far this year, we have only recovered about 10% of the monies spent on grass cutting or rubbish removal. As you know, when funds are successfully recovered, those funds go directly back into the General Fund and do not replenish these accounts.

Going forward I am working with the Internal Services Department to identify potential ways to have better control over the clean-n-lien process.

In my opinion, without sufficient funding to execute future clean-n-liens, the department will be virtually unable to combat one of the most leading nuisance violations we come across.

Unless you have any questions please forward this information to the Mayor and Council for consideration.