

CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND

SPECIAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 19, 2019

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

*Council President John “Jack” R. Heath
Council Vice-President Muir Boda
Councilman James Ireton, Jr.*

*Mayor Jacob R. Day (arrived 4:43 p.m.)
Councilwoman Angela M. Blake
Councilwoman April Jackson*

IN ATTENDANCE

City Administrator Julia Glanz, City Clerk Kimberly Nichols, City Attorney Mark Tilghman, and interested citizens.

The City Council convened in a Special Meeting in Council Chambers on February 19, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. President Heath called the meeting to order, followed by a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Jackson seconded and the vote was unanimous (5-0) to approve the Special Meeting agenda as presented.

ORDINANCE – presented by City Attorney Mark Tilghman

- **Ordinance No. 2508**- 2nd reading – approving an amendment of the FY 2019 General Fund Budget to appropriate funding for costs of billing real property taxes

Ms. Jackson moved and Mr. Ireton seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2508 for second reading.

Comments received from Council included the following:

- *It is unfortunate that this budget amendment has to take place and not to receive a service that, as County taxpayers in the City, pay for. It literally only costs the ink on the paper for the County to provide the billing. It may be more next year to finance as this budget amendment is only to prepare for the City billing, and this will be an on-going cost for City taxpayers.*
- *It has always been forgotten that Salisbury taxpayers are also County taxpayers*
- *Of the \$1.3 to \$1.8 million, that the County owes the City each year for the duplication of services, the City pays taxes to the County for nothing in return.*
- *Until the residents of Salisbury and the other small cities that receive the same bills (Delmar, Willards and Fruitland) rise up and say that we need a County leader who will treat us as one people instead of a people to be pitted against one*

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- another such as City versus County, this is what we will get.*
- *The Chamber of Commerce did not stand up and say this is what they wanted the City and County to do in the 1970's - to combine these things.*

The motion failed with two votes in favor and three against. The "aye" votes were received from President Heath and Vice-President Boda, while those who voted "nay" were Mses. Blake and Jackson, and Mr. Ireton.


Council discussed the following after the above noted vote was taken:

- *The City has no one to do the tax billing now and will not be able to collect taxes. Would anyone like to reconsider the vote?*
- *Respectfully asked Administration to renegotiate the settlement with the County.*
- *This was already approved at Work Session and first reading by City Council, and negotiation already took place with the County.*
- *Finance Director Cordrey and his team have worked with Munis to put this software in place to provide the service. It will be difficult if this does not pass.*
- *It is sad that the City has come to this, but voting "no" will not impact the County, but the City residents.*
- *Asked Mayor Day to speak out against the County about this.*
- *It was clarified that the specifics of Ordinance No. 2508 were agreed upon already between the City and County, and the billing would not take place without this budget ordinance.*
- *City Council has already agreed that this was not acceptable.*
- *The City paid for these billing services, and are now not going to receive the services for no positive reason for the taxpayers.*
- *Salisbury taxpayers are treated badly by County government as the only city in Maryland whose county is unwilling to negotiate on tax differential.*

Following the discussion, President Heath then announced he would take another vote, this time by roll call. The vote was as follows: Councilwoman Jackson – YES; Council Vice-President Boda – YES; Councilwoman Blake – YES; Council President Heath – YES; Councilman Ireton – NO.

Ordinance No. 2508 for second reading passed on a 4-1 vote.

With no further business to discuss, the Special Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m., and the regularly scheduled Work Session immediately followed.



City Clerk



Council President