

**CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND**

**SPECIAL MEETING via ZOOM**

**JUNE 1, 2020**

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

*Council President John “Jack” R. Heath  
Councilwoman Angela M. Blake  
Councilwoman April Jackson*

*Mayor Jacob R. Day  
Councilwoman Michele Gregory*

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS ABSENT**

*Council Vice-President Muir Boda*

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

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*The City Council convened in a Special Meeting via Zoom on June 1, 2020. President Heath called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. followed by a moment of silent meditation.*

**SPECIAL PRESENTATION**

*Mayor Jacob R. Day expressed understanding and appreciation for those expressing themselves. Earlier in the day at Salisbury University there was a peaceful gathering expressing solidarity with our brothers and sisters who have been victimized.*

*Mayor Day presented the National Gun Violence Awareness Day proclamation, which marked the 6<sup>th</sup> annual observance to remember victims and survivors of gun violence. This memorial was inspired by a group of Hadiya Pendleton’s friends to honor her memory after she was tragically shot and killed two weeks after marching in the January 2013 Presidential Inaugural Parade. Hadiya’s friends asked their classmates to commemorate her life by wearing orange to symbolize the value of human life because hunters wear orange to announce themselves to other hunters when out in the woods, alerting them not to shoot. Wearing orange on June 5, 2020 would help Americans raise gun violence awareness.*

*Mayor Day proclaimed June 5, 2020 as National Gun Violence Awareness Day and urged all citizens to support their communities’ efforts to prevent the tragic effects of gun violence and to honor the lives of gun violence victims and survivors, as human life is valuable and priceless.*

*Mayor Day greeted Nancy Osborne of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense who was present during the Zoom presentation. She thanked Mayor Day for the proclamation and asked everyone to wear orange over the weekend to commemorate National Gun Violence Awareness Day.*

## **ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

*Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous (4-0 vote) to approve the Special Meeting agenda as presented.*

**ORDINANCE** – presented by City Attorney Mark Tilghman

- **Ordinance No. 2599**- 2<sup>nd</sup> reading- to amend Chapter 15.26 Rental Of Residential Premises of the Salisbury City Code by adding Subsection 15.26.035 Rent Increases Barred During States Of Emergency and authorizing the Mayor to issue such executive orders as are necessary to protect tenants from abuse

*Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was 3-1 to approve Ordinance No. 2599 for second reading. President Heath voted “nay.”*

- **Ordinance No. 2600**- 1<sup>st</sup> reading- approving a budget amendment of the FY2020 General Fund to appropriate funds for Frontline Worker Stipend

*Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous (4-0) to approve Ordinance No. 2600 for first reading.*

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

*President Heath thought the only issue was the duration of when the legislation would go into effect and thought a time period should be inserted. Councilwomen Blake, Gregory and Jackson supported the legislation as written and agreed it did not overwrite Maryland law.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Four members of the public provided the following comments:*

- *In reference to Ordinance No. 2599, SAPOA found no truth to illegal evictions and did not know what the City was talking about. Asked who the landlords and tenants were. This all began with a fee, and now we are here. SAPOA should have been asked to be part of the conversation. The City had a duty to justify the emergency legislation.*
- *Commended the City Council on passing the legislation because renters needed someone to speak for them. She thanked Mayor Day for the June 5 Gun Violence Awareness Day proclamation and asked the City to oppose the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary Resolution that Wicomico County was supporting. Gun owner’s rights were currently protected, and her organization was not against legitimate gun owners.*
- *This legislation was unprecedented. Once the State of Emergency has been lifted there will be a 90-day period of time. It should include language stating tenants will be given a payment plan if they are impacted by COVID-19.*
- *Concerned that Ordinance No. 2599 contained no language regarding the COVID-19 emergency.*

*With no further business to discuss, the Special Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.*

*Kimberly R. Nichols*  
*City Clerk*

*John R. Heato*  
*Council President*