




To: Julia Glanz, City Administrator
From: John W. Tull, Fire Chief 
Subject: Public Safety Property Tax Credit
Date: May 13, 2020

Attached you will find an Ordinance that proposes amending the Salisbury Municipal Code by adding a new section concerning a Public Safety Real Property Tax Credit. The purpose of this new section would be to establish a tax credit program that would provide public safety officials who reside within the municipal limits of the City of Salisbury with an annual reduction on their real property tax bills.

To qualify, public safety officials must use the city property as their principal residence, be employed full-time as a member of the Fire/Police Department or serve as an active Volunteer member of the Fire Department. Subject to the conditions in the proposed ordinance, the tax credit may be granted in an amount of up to \$2,500 per dwelling, but not to exceed the amount of the real property tax. The eligible Public Safety Officer may receive:

- In tax year beginning July 1, 2020 and July 1, 2021, the tax credit not to exceed \$1,000.00;
- In tax year beginning July 1, 2022 and July 1, 2023, the tax credit not to exceed \$1,500.00;
- In tax year beginning July 1, 2024 and July 1, 2025, the tax credit not to exceed \$2,000.00;
- In tax year beginning July 1, 2026 and beyond, the tax credit not to exceed \$2,500.00;

This proposed tax credit will serve as an important tool in recognizing all of our First Responders who provide an invaluable service to our citizens and community, and to help with our recruitment and retention efforts by providing an incentive to live in the City they serve.

If you should have any questions or need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

AS AMENDED ON JUNE 8, 2020
ORDINANCE NO. 2598

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY TO AMEND THE SALISBURY MUNICIPAL CODE BY ADDING CHAPTER 3.24 CONCERNING A PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER REAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT.

WHEREAS, the State of Maryland has authorized the governing body of a county or municipal corporation to grant, by law, a property tax credit against the county or municipal corporation property tax imposed on a dwelling that is owned by a public safety officer under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with § 9-260 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, there exists a City of Salisbury property tax on real property that qualifies for consideration of a tax credit pursuant to this section; and

WHEREAS, there does not currently exist a provision in the City Code that establishes a property tax credit for a public safety officer; and

WHEREAS, the credit may not exceed a certain amount per dwelling or the amount of property tax imposed on the dwelling pursuant to the aforementioned section; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salisbury wishes to establish a tax credit against City real property tax for certain real property owned by public safety officers who are full-time employees or volunteers in good standing, reside at the same location and meet the eligibility requirements set out in §9-105 and §9-260 of the Tax-Property Article.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it enacted and ordained by the City of Salisbury, that ~~Chapter~~ **Title 3** - Revenue and Finance of the City of Salisbury Municipal Code is hereby amended by adding Chapter 3.24 as follows:

Chapter 3.24 – Public Safety Officer Real Property Tax Credit

3.24.010 – Definitions.

In this section, the following words have the following meanings indicated.

“Dwelling” has the meaning set forth in § 9-105 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

“Public Safety Officer” has the meaning set forth in § 9-260 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

3.24.020 – Creation.

In accordance with § 9-260 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, there is a City of Salisbury property tax credit against the tax on real property that qualifies under this section.

3.24.030 – Eligibility.

A Public Safety Officer is eligible for a city real property tax credit under this section by meeting the requirements of either 3.24.030 A, B or C and the requirement of 3.24.030 D.

A. 1. Employed full-time by:

- a. The City of Salisbury Fire Department as a Firefighter/EMT or Firefighter/Paramedic; or
- b. The City of Salisbury Police Department as a Police Officer; and

2. Has completed at least one (1) year of full-time employment.

B. Serving as a Volunteer Member that:

1. Is a member in good standing of a Volunteer Corporation in accordance with Chapter 2.16 – Fire Department of the City of Salisbury Municipal Code; and

2. Meets the operational standards for Volunteer Personnel as established by the Standard Operating Procedures of the City of Salisbury Fire Department; and

3. Has qualified as active within the previous year under the guidelines established in the Length of Service Awards Program (LOSAP).

C. Has received a service related disability, retired from the job in good standing or served as a Volunteer member for more than twenty (20) years of active service and has become a Lifetime member in accordance with Chapter 2.16 – Fire Department of the City of Salisbury Municipal Code.

D. The public safety officer is eligible for the credit authorized by § 9-105 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland for the dwelling for which the credit is sought. The ~~property dwelling~~ must also be the primary residence of the public safety officer.

The credit cannot be combined with other optional real property tax credits ~~as~~ permitted under Title 9 of the Tax-Property Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland or this title.

3.24.040 – Amount of Credit:

- A. Subject to the conditions in this Section, the tax credit may be granted in an amount of up to \$2,500 per dwelling, but may not exceed the amount of the real property tax imposed on the dwelling.
- B. The eligible Public Safety Officer shall receive:
1. In tax years beginning July 1, 2020 and July 1, 2021, ~~thea~~ tax credit not to exceed \$1,000.00;
 2. In tax years beginning July 1, 2022 and July 1, 2023, ~~thea~~ tax credit not to exceed \$1,500.00;
 3. In tax years beginning July 1, 2024 and July 1, 2025, ~~thea~~ tax credit not to exceed \$2,000.00;
 4. In tax years beginning July 1, 2026 and beyond, ~~thea~~ tax credit not to exceed \$2,500.00.

3.24.050 – Application.

- A. Application and annual verification. To receive the credit, a Public Safety Officer shall submit an application to the City of Salisbury Director of Finance on the appropriate application. The ~~appropriate~~ application may be obtained from the Department of Finance.
- B. An annual verification form must be submitted each year to be eligible to receive the credit. The annual verification form may be obtained from the Department of Finance.
- C. An application for, or renewal of, the tax credit created by this section shall be filed on or before April 1 immediately before the taxable year for which the tax credit is being sought. If the application or renewal is filed after April 1, the credit shall be disallowed that year but shall be treated as an application or renewal for a tax credit for the following taxable year.

3.24.060 – Termination of Credit.

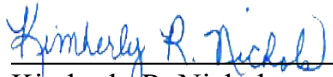
The tax credit created by this section shall terminate if any of the following occurs:

- A. The Public Safety Officer is no longer employed full-time by the public safety agency for a reason other than retirement or service related disability, or is no longer eligible under subsection ~~(C)(3)3.24.030B.~~ for volunteer firefighters; or
- B. The Public Safety Officer no longer resides in the dwelling for which the tax credit was granted.

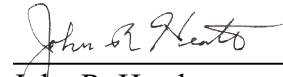
AND BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND, THAT this ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced and read at a meeting of the Council of the City of Salisbury held on this 26th day of May 2020, and thereafter, a statement of the substance of the Ordinance having been published as required by law, was finally passed by the Council on the 8th day of June, 2020.

ATTEST:



Kimberly R. Nichols
CITY CLERK



John R. Heath
PRESIDENT, City Council

APPROVED BY ME THIS 10 day of June, 2020



Julia Glanz, City Administrator