

CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND

REGULAR MEETING (VIA ZOOM MEETING)

NOVEMBER 9, 2020

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

President John “Jack” R. Heath

Councilwoman Angela M. Blake

Councilwoman April Jackson (left meeting at 6:14 p.m.)

Council Vice-President Muir Boda

Councilwoman Michele Gregory

PUBLIC OFFICIALS ABSENT

Mayor Jacob R. Day

IN ATTENDANCE

Deputy City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Department of Infrastructure & Development (DID) Director Amanda Pollack, Deputy Chief James Gladwell, Procurement Director Jennifer Miller, Field Operations Director Tom Stevenson, Senior Buyer Michael Lowe, City Attorney Mark Tilghman, City Clerk Kimberly Nichols, members of the press and public.

CITY INVOCATION – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. via a Zoom Meeting. Council President John R. Heath called the meeting to order and called for a moment of silent meditation.

PRESENTATION

Lynching Memorial Task Force

Deputy City Administrator Andy Kitzrow reported the Lynching Memorial Task Force began working in January 2020 on the following three items:

- 1. Identifying the location for the Lynching Memorial*
- 2. Deciding on the signage for the memorial*
- 3. Determining the language for the memorial*

Mr. Kitzrow introduced the three task force members on the Zoom call- Co-Chairs Michaela Moses and Amber Green, and Secretary James Yamakawa. Ms. Moses presented the “Lynching In Wicomico County” PowerPoint. The following is a synopsis of the presentation:

- 20 people served on the Task Force with input received from the community.*
- Black people were enslaved and subjected to Jim Crow laws and domestic terror campaigns.*
- Black people are incarcerated at higher rates and for longer periods than White people.*
- Maryland incarcerates people at a higher rate than many countries. White people make up 55% of the Maryland population and account for 27% of the prison population. Black*

- people only make up 30% of the population, yet comprise 70% of the jail population.*
- *There was no evidence that Black people commit crimes at a higher rate than White people. They are policed more heavily and at higher rates.*
 - *Lynchings were violent and public acts that tortured and traumatized Black people throughout the country, and were largely tolerated by State and Federal officials.*
 - *Lynchings peaked between 1880 and 1940, and killed African American men, women and children. They were used to control the Black population rather than to punish crime.*
 - *There are (46) known lynchings in Maryland, (3) of which were in Wicomico County.*
 - *Known victims in Wicomico County were 18-year-old Garfield King, lynched in 1898; 23-year-old Matthew Williams, lynched in 1931; and an unknown man found following the lynching of Matthew Williams. This man was thought to be 35 to 40 years old and it was suspected he was killed by the same mob that lynched Mr. Williams.*
 - *The media refused to report on the lynchings and witnesses refused to identify mob members. Both Black and White community members were fearful and experienced psychological trauma. Black people were threatened and some communities were burned.*
 - *Reconciliation steps for the community included the following: soil collection & historical marker ceremony, social justice essay contest, and public hearings.*
 - *Ms. Moses recommended the following books: “On the Courthouse Lawn” by Sherrilyn Ifill, “Just Mercy” by Bryan Stevenson, and “Mob Law on Delmarva” by Linda Duyer.*
 - *Ms. Moses shared the task force email address: salisburymemorialtaskforce@gmail.com*

Council thanked the task force for the detailed and informative presentation.

PROCLAMATIONS

National Runaway Prevention Month

Mr. Kitzrow presented the proclamation declaring November 2020 as National Runaway Prevention Month. Runaway youth are often barred from home, abused, involved in the foster care system, and cannot take care of themselves or access proper medical or mental health care. They are at increased danger for falling into high-risk situations, such as human trafficking. Programs supporting them and their families by providing safe homes succeed because of partnerships created among families, youth-based advocacy organizations, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses.

Fenix Youth Project, Inc. in Salisbury, under Executive Director Amber Green, supports marginalized youth through programs and services funded through the Wicomico Partnership for Families and Children, the Local Management Board, and Maryland’s Governor’s Office for Children. It provides safe spaces for marginalized youth to experience and access resources designed to build leadership skills and become engaged in social justice and community issues.

The citizens of the City of Salisbury were urged to support the effort to increase awareness about and advocate on behalf of runaway and homeless youth and their families.

Municipal Government Works Month

Mr. Kitzrow presented the Municipal Government Works Month proclamation. Maryland’s cities and towns have celebrated this month each November since 1993 to promote awareness of and

interest in the government. Maryland is home to 156 Municipalities in addition to the City of Salisbury, which was incorporated in 1854. Municipal Government represents the most responsive level of government, allowing citizens to have direct access to elected officials.

ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Ms. Blake moved, Mr. Boda seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve the legislative agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA – presented by City Clerk Kimberly Nichols

The Consent Agenda consisting of the following items was unanimously approved (4-0 vote) on a motion and seconded by Mr. Boda and Ms. Gregory, respectively:

- *October 19, 2020 Work Session Minutes*
- *October 19, 2020 Closed Session Minutes*
- *October 26, 2020 Legislative Session Minutes*
- **Resolution No. 3072**- *approving the reappointment of Brenden Frederick to the Historic District Commission for the term ending October 2023*
- **Resolution No. 3073**- *approving the reappointment of Dr. Alexander Pope to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee for the term ending November 2023*
- **Resolution No. 3074**- *approving the appointment of Dominique Sessa to the Parks & Recreation Committee for the term ending November 2023*

AWARD OF BIDS – presented by Procurement Director Jennifer Miller

The Award of Bids, consisting of the following, was unanimously approved (4-0 vote) on a motion and seconded by Ms. Gregory and Ms. Blake, respectively:

- *Declaration of Surplus, Department of Field Operations- Misc. Vehicles & Equipment \$0.00*

RESOLUTIONS – presented by City Administrator Julia Glanz

- **Resolution No. 3075**- *to amend the bylaws of the Human Rights Advisory Committee to change the committee's membership requirements and terms*

Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approve Resolution No. 3075.

- **Resolution No. 3065**- *proposing the annexation to the City of Salisbury of certain area of land contiguous to and binding upon the Corporate Limit of the City of Salisbury to be known as the "Hall Drive – Long Property Annexation"*

Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approve Resolution No. 3065.

President Heath announced the Public Hearing would be held on December 14, 2020

- **Resolution No. 3066**- to adopt an annexation plan for a certain area of land contiguous to and binding upon the Corporate Limit of the City of Salisbury to be known as the “Hall Drive – Long Property Annexation”

Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approve Resolution No. 3066.

ORDINANCES – presented by City Attorney Mark Tilghman

- **Ordinance No. 2626**- 2nd reading- to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Wicomico County Health Department for the purpose of accepting grant funds in the amount of \$24,951.28, and to approve a budget amendment to the FY 2021 Grant Fund to appropriate these funds for the purchase of two (2) commercial grade washer/extractors and dryers

Ms. Blake moved, Mr. Boda seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approve Ordinance No. 2626 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2627**- 2nd reading- authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Wicomico County Health Department and approving a budget amendment of the FY 2021 General Fund Budget to appropriate funds received from the Wicomico County Health Department in the amount of \$7,500.00

Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approve Ordinance No. 2627 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2628**- 2nd reading- approving a budget amendment of the Grant Fund to appropriate funds to operate the Salisbury-Wicomico Firstcare Team (SWIFT)

Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approve Ordinance No. 2628 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2629**- 1st reading- to authorize the Mayor to sign the grant agreements, to accept two grants in the total sum of \$155,565.60 from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) Maryland Bikeways Program for the design of the Rail Trail, Phase 1 and West College Avenue Bikeway Projects, and to approve an amendment of the FY21 Budget to allocate said funds for purposes of implementation

Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approve Ordinance No. 2629 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2630**- 1st reading- approving a budget amendment of the FY21 General Fund Budget to appropriate insurance proceeds received in FY21 as part of the payment for vehicle repair

Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approve Ordinance No. 2630 for first reading.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no requests for public comments.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Boda remarked on the ribbon cutting event held to open up Main Street. It looked great and a lot of work was done, and it was under budget and ahead of schedule. He appreciated DID Director Amanda Pollack and her team, George & Lynch, and the others. To see it completed after being approved by Council (5) years ago was a great feeling. He asked the public to continue to support local businesses and tip waitresses well.

Ms. Blake asked everyone to continue to wear their masks and social distance. The COVID-19 numbers nationwide and locally have ticked up. She asked those whom were healthy enough to donate blood.

Ms. Gregory reported November was National Epilepsy Month. She reiterated what was said, to wear masks, use hand sanitizer and wash hands. COVID numbers were increasingly going up.

President Heath commended Ms. Pollack and Infrastructure & Development for their work on Main Street. Looking down the street the other day, President Heath said the establishments that were opened surpassed his expectations. He reminded everyone to wear masks and be safe.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Legislative Session adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

*CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND
CLOSED SESSION
OCTOBER 26, 2020*

TIME & PLACE: 7:09 p.m., Zoom Meeting of City Council
PURPOSE: To discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals;
VOTE TO CLOSE: Unanimous (4-0)
CITATION: Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305(b)(1)
PRESENT: Council President John “Jack” R. Heath, Council Vice-President Muir Boda, Councilwoman Angela M. Blake, Councilwoman Michele Gregory, Deputy City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, City Attorney Mark Tilghman, City Clerk Kimberly Nichols
ABSENT: Mayor Jacob R. Day, Councilwoman April Jackson

The City Council convened in a Legislative Session via Zoom Meeting on October 26, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. At 7:09 p.m., President Heath called for a motion to convene in Closed Session as permitted under the Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305(b)(1). Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous (4-0) to convene in Closed Session.

Council discussed the goals and priorities list from which to evaluate the employee.

At 7:40 p.m., Ms. Gregory moved, Mr. Boda seconded, and the vote was unanimous (4-0) to end the Closed Session.

Council convened in Open Session at 7:46 p.m. and President Heath reported that Council had discussed the evaluation of an employee while in Closed Session.

Thereafter, with no further business to discuss, the Open Session immediately adjourned.

Kimberly R. Nichols

City Clerk

Council President