

CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND

REGULAR MEETING (VIA ZOOM MEETING)

APRIL 26, 2021

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

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

*Council Vice-President Muir Boda
Councilwoman Michele Gregory*

PUBLIC OFFICIALS ABSENT

Mayor Jacob R. Day

IN ATTENDANCE

City Administrator / Acting Mayor Julia Glanz, Deputy City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Procurement Director Jennifer Miller, Department of Infrastructure & Development Director Amanda Pollack, Water Works Director Cori Cameron, Sustainability Coordinator Alyssa Hastings, Police Chief Barbara Duncan, City Attorney Michael Sullivan, 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 and remembering fallen Delmar Police Corporal Keith Heacock.

PROCLAMATIONS

• **Arbor Day**

City Administrator Julia Glanz presented the Arbor Day proclamation and urged all citizens to plant trees. Arbor Day was first observed with the planting of more than one million trees in Nebraska, and is observed throughout the Nation and the World. The planting of trees develops civic pride and a sense of community. Trees can reduce the erosion of topsoil, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce life-giving oxygen, and provide habitat for wildlife. They increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, and provide community character.

Sustainability Coordinator Alyssa Hastings commended Wicomico Environmental Trust (WET) on the last-minute planting of the Wicomico River Shoreline near Market Street Inn. The 10 Bald Cypress trees would help stabilize the shoreline, collect nutrients from the water, and help reduce flooding for years to come. She hoped to have more plantings in the City in the near future. If anyone wanted to plant trees, reach out to her and she would get it on the calendar.

- **Fair Housing Month**

Ms. Glanz presented the Fair Housing Month proclamation, as April 11, 2021 marked the 53rd anniversary of the passage of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, known as the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968. This prohibits discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing regardless of race, color, religion, sex, disability, family status or national origin. The Shore Housing Resource Board, Inc. is a private non-profit organization of volunteers who represent area government, businesses, non-profit agencies and individuals committed to promoting and educating others about Fair Housing in Somerset, Wicomico and Worcester Counties.

ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA – presented by City Clerk Kimberly Nichols

The Consent Agenda consisting of the following items was unanimously approved on a motion and seconded by Ms. Jackson and Ms. Gregory, respectively:

- *March 22, 2021 Legislative Session Minutes*
- *April 5, 2021 Work Session Minutes*
- **Resolution No. 3103**- *to approve the City’s Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant funds for CDBG Program Year 2021*

ORDINANCES – presented by City Attorney Michael Sullivan

- **Ordinance No.2660** – *1st reading- appropriating the necessary funds for the operation of the Government and Administration of the City of Salisbury, Maryland for the period July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, establishing the levy for the General Fund for the same fiscal period and establishing the appropriation for the Water and Sewer, Parking Authority, City Marina, and Storm Water Funds*

Mr. Boda moved and Ms. Jackson seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2660 for first reading.

Mr. Boda moved to amend Ordinance No. 2660 by striking “in Room 301 of the City /County Government Office Building, 125 N. Division Street, Salisbury, Maryland” and insert “via Zoom Video Conference” on the second to the last line of page one. Ms. Jackson seconded, and the amendment was approved by unanimous vote in favor.

Ordinance No. 2660 for first reading, as amended, was unanimously approved.

- **Ordinance No. 2661**- *1st reading- to amend water and sewer rates to increase rates by 6% and making said changes effective for all bills dated October 1, 2021 and thereafter unless and until subsequently revised or changed*

Ms. Blake moved and Ms. Jackson seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2661 for first reading.

Mr. Sullivan provided an amendment to Ordinance No. 2661, as follows: Insert Section 6 after Section 5, to read, "A public hearing on the proposed ordinance will be held at 6:00 PM on May 10, 2021 via Zoom Video Conference."

Mr. Boda moved to amend Ordinance No. 2661 as read by Mr. Sullivan. Ms. Blake seconded, and the amendment was unanimously approved.

Ordinance No. 2661 for first reading, as amended, was unanimously approved.

- **Ordinance No. 2662**- 1st reading- to set fees for FY 2022 and thereafter unless and until subsequently revised or changed

Ms. Jackson moved and Ms. Blake seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2662.

Mr. Sullivan provided the following amendment to Ordinance No. 2661: Insert Section 6 after Section 5, to read, "A public hearing on the proposed ordinance will be held at 6:00 PM on May 10, 2021 via Zoom Video Conference."

Ms. Blake moved to amend Ordinance No. 2662 as read by Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Boda seconded, and the amendment was unanimously approved.

Ordinance No. 2662 for first reading, as amended, was unanimously approved.

President Heath recognized and thanked Mr. William Hardin, who joined the Zoom meeting. Mr. Hardin requested the Fair Housing Month proclamation.

- **Ordinance No. 2663**- 1st reading- to amend Chapter 15.26 Rental Of Residential Premises of the Salisbury City Code by deleting Subsection 15.26.035 Rent Increases Barred During States Of Emergency

Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2663 for first reading.

Council comments included:

- *Mr. Boda was happy the ordinance was being rescinded as things were getting back to normal.*
- *Ms. Jackson asked for everyone to be considerate of what others have gone through, and asked that tenants to do their best to pay or catch up on their rents.*
- *Ms. Blake thought it was necessary at the time to pass the legislation, but now that things were getting back to normal, it was time to move forward.*
- *Ms. Gregory agreed it needed to be done at the time, and she was glad they did it.*

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. William Hardin, President of Shore Housing Resource Board, thanked Council and the City of Salisbury for their ongoing support for their fair housing initiatives. He said it is often taken for granted because we all have nice houses, but there were those who experienced discrimination in housing. He encouraged everyone if aware of discrimination, to report it to the authorities.

Colin Zimmerman, Director of Government Affairs of the Coastal Association of Realtors, and City resident, echoed Mr. Hardin's comments. The Association took pride in April being Fair Housing Month. They had activities related to educating their members. He implored anyone to notify the Association should a violation occur. He thanked Council for repealing the rental restrictions.

ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Glanz remarked that there was funding coming from the Federal Government that should open up next week. The majority of the December stimulus had not been received to tenants yet. Everyone should receive grace until the money finds its way to where it needed to go. She extended her thoughts to the Town of Delmar and Corporal Heacock's family.

Mr. Boda concurred with everyone's prayers and thoughts to Corporal Heacock and the family assaulted. Keep supporting your restaurants, and tip your waitresses and drivers.

Ms. Jackson wished her mother a Happy 84th birthday. She thanked Ms. Glanz for acting quickly on the cars on Delaware Avenue and said she loved the way the Council and Administration worked together. There were housing problems in her district and in the City. She wanted City Council to discuss living conditions in an upcoming Work Session. COVID was real and still here. Maintain safety measures by wearing masks, social distance, sanitize, and stay safe. She visited the Vietnam Moving Wall, which was amazing and humbling, and recommended that everyone visit it.

Ms. Blake reminded the public to stop when school busses stopped. If healthy enough, please donate blood.

Ms. Gregory said that COVID was still here, and vaccination rates were not what they should be. Please get vaccinated.

President Heath asked everyone to wear their masks and support our local businesses. If the City of Salisbury and Wicomico County give millions of dollars out in two weeks to the people who need it, why couldn't our Federal Government get their act together and give the money to the people who need it the most?

Mr. Hardin said he appreciated the sentiments of sympathy to Delmar. He would relay the messages to the Delmar Mayors. Regarding Fair Housing, he could be reached at 410-896-2777, ext. 103.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Legislative Session was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND
CLOSED SESSION
APRIL 12, 2021

TIME & PLACE: 6:42 p.m., Zoom Meeting of City Council
PURPOSE: to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter
VOTE TO CLOSE: Unanimous (5-0)
CITATION: Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305(b)(7)
PRESENT: Council President John “Jack” R. Heath, Council Vice President Muir Boda, Councilwoman April Jackson, Councilwoman Angela M. Blake, Councilwoman Michele Gregory, Deputy City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Department of Infrastructure and Development (DID) Director Amanda Pollack, Procurement Director Jennifer Miller, City Attorneys Michael Sullivan (exited at 6:52 p.m.) and Ashley Bosche, Attorney Dirk Widdowson, City Clerk Kimberly Nichols
ABSENT: Mayor Jacob R. Day

The City Council convened in Legislative Open Session via a Zoom Meeting at 6:00 p.m. on April 12, 2021. At 6:42 p.m. President Heath immediately called for a motion to convene in Closed Session as permitted under the Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305(b)(7). Ms. Jackson moved, Mr. Boda seconded, and the vote was unanimous (5-0) to convene in Closed Session.

City Attorney Michael Sullivan explained why the additional legal counsel was sought. Council reached unanimous consensus to consider the Resolution on April 19, 2021 at a Special Meeting which would appoint the special counsel.

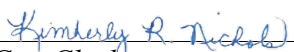
DID Director Amanda Pollack provided an overview of a contract which had the potential of leading into litigation.

Attorney Dirk Widdowson discussed options surrounding the action the City could take regarding the contract.


At 7:24 p.m., Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous (5-0) to adjourn the Closed Session.

Council convened in Open Session via Zoom at 7:26 p.m. and President Heath reported that Council received advice from counsel regarding a contract.

With no further business to discuss, the Open Session was then adjourned.



City Clerk



Council President