

**CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND**

**REGULAR MEETING (VIA ZOOM MEETING)**

**MAY 10, 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, Finance Director Keith Cordrey, Water Works Director Cori Cameron, Fire Chief John Tull, Deputy Chief James Gladwell, EMS Captain Chris Truitt, Mayor’s Office Administrative Assistant Julie English, City Attorneys Laura Hay and Michael Sullivan, City Clerk Kimberly Nichols, members of the press and Public*

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**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.*

**PROCLAMATIONS**

- **Huntington’s Disease Awareness Month**  
*City Administrator Julia Glanz presented the proclamation to declare May 2021 as Huntington’s Disease Awareness Month. One out of every 10,000 people (30,000 people) have been diagnosed with Huntington’s Disease, of which there is no cure. The disease causes a decline in physical, mental, and emotional abilities, is passed down in families, and frequently occurs between the ages of 30 to 50. It is described as having amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s Diseases all at once with symptoms including personality changes, involuntary movements, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, depression, anxiety, forgetfulness, and impaired judgment. Trials underway worldwide hope to find a way to slow the progression and find a cure for the disease.*

**Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month**

*Ms. Glanz presented the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month proclamation. AAPI is observed each May to recognize the contributions of AAPI Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States. In 1992, Congress designated each May as AAPI Heritage Month to celebrate the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 7, 1843 and the anniversary of the*

completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. Most of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants. AAPI Americans shaped the Nation's history and enriched its communities, yet are often the target of racism and violence. One in four AAPI Americans have experienced hate crime or violence, with 1 in every 10 in 2021.

The City joins the AAPI community in solidarity and denounces hate directed at all communities. All are welcome and equal, should live free of discrimination and violence, and deserve the ideals of equity and human rights guaranteed in the Constitution.

- **National Police Week**

Ms. Glanz presented the National Police Week proclamation to honor police officers and the sacrifice of those who died in the line of duty. There are more than 800,000 law enforcement officers in the United States. In 2019 there were 56,034 assaults against law enforcement officers resulting in more than 17,188 injuries. More than 22,600 officers in the United States have died in the line of duty since the first recorded death in 1786, and the names of these officers are engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC. New names of 394 fallen heroes would be added to the Memorial this spring, including 295 officers who died in 2020 and 99 who died in previous years. The service and sacrifice of all officers who died in the line of duty were honored during the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Candlelight Vigil on May 13, 2021. National Police Week took place on May 9-15, 2021. May 15, 2021 was designated as Peace Officers Memorial Day in honor of all fallen officers and their families, and all United States flags were flown at half-staff.

Ms. Glanz thought it appropriate that National Police Week was celebrated today after thousands of officers and community members came together to celebrate the life of Corporal Heacock from Delmar. She thanked the Police Department and Fire Department who helped with the funeral and kept things safe and running smoothly.

Police Chief Duncan thanked Ms. Glanz for honoring National Police Week and gave a special thanks to everyone who attended Delmar Police Department Corporal Keith Heacock's funeral services today.

- **Emergency Medical Services Week**

Ms. Glanz presented the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week proclamation. The City of Salisbury is committed to ensuring the safety and security of its citizens by providing the vital service of EMS 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The survival and recovery rate of people with sudden illness or injury improves with quality emergency care. EMS provide important out of hospital care including preventative medicine, follow-up care and access to telemedicine. The EMS System includes first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers. The City's Career and Volunteer EMS receive thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills.

*Ms. Glanz recognized Fire Chief John Tull, Deputy Chief James Gladwell and EMS Captain Chris Truitt on the Zoom call. Chief Tull said Captain Truitt was the person overseeing the Fire Department's very busy EMS service, and he did a phenomenal job with it. Captain Truitt said it was fitting that this year's EMS Week was "Caring for the Community." The Fire and EMS teams did that day in and day out, between the over 10,000 runs last year to the hundreds of SWIFT interactions. There were over 1,000 potential COVID patients and over 250 actual COVID patients transported.*

*President Heath thanked Captain Truitt for going above and beyond in the past year.*

*Ms. Glanz then recognized Stephan Feliciano, Chair of the Human Rights Advisory Committee. The committee made recommendations in support of the Asian-American community. Mr. Feliciano said the committee wanted to support other members of the community. He appreciated Council taking the time to listen to the community.*

### **ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

*Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake 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:*

- *April 5, 2021 Closed Session Minutes (emailed separately)*
- *April 12, 2021 Legislative Session Minutes*
- *April 12, 2021 Closed Session Minutes (emailed separately)*
- **Resolution No. 3104**- *to approve the appointment of Hannah Cechini to the Human Rights Advisory Committee for the term ending May 2023*

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS- FY22 BUDGET** – presented by City Attorney Michael Sullivan

- **Ordinance No. 2660** – *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*

*City Attorney Michael Sullivan presented Ordinance No. 2660.*

*President Heath asked that anyone wishing to speak on Ordinance No. 2660 or any of the budget ordinances, or the Constant Yield Tax Rate to identify themselves to be sworn in. One person was sworn in.*

President Heath opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2660 at 6:22 p.m. The following comments were received from one member of the Public:

- Speaker clarified that this hearing was for the FY22 Budget and not the fee schedule. President Heath confirmed this was for the FY22 Budget.
- Speaker challenged budget for Housing and Community Development, as a lot of things had a great deal of support in the community, and will do great things.
- Questioned how the expenses would be covered in the budget.
- Did not question the initiatives were needed, but concerned about where the funds would come from. If funded through grants, how would the City continue to fund them? If a new vehicle, would the old one be out of service as indicated, or would the City end up with two in service?
- There were details needing clarification and speaker said she trusted Council to examine the budget line by line to ensure the dollars were going where they needed to go and spent expeditiously and prudently.

President Heath closed the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2660 at 6:25 p.m.

- **Ordinance No. 2661**- 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

City Attorney Michael Sullivan presented Ordinance No. 2661 and provided an amendment to Ordinance No. 2661, as follows: On Line 82, strike \$16.64 and insert \$17.63.

President Heath opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2661 at 6:33 p.m., and as no one requested to speak, immediately closed it.

Ms. Blake moved and Ms. Jackson seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2661. Mr. Boda moved and Ms. Jackson seconded to amend Ordinance No. 2661 as read by Mr. Sullivan. The amendment passed on a 5-0 vote.

Ordinance No. 2661, as amended, was unanimously approved.

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

City Attorney Michael Sullivan presented Ordinance No. 2662 and provided an amendment to add the following at the end of the Fee Schedule on Page 17, as follows:

<u>Stand alone tent, stand or other commercial space predominately utilized for the sale of consumer fireworks</u>	<u>\$250</u>
<u>Other commercial space predominately utilized for the sale of goods other than consumer fireworks</u>	<u>\$125</u>

*President Heath opened the Public Hearing at 6:39 p.m. The following comments were received from one member of the Public:*

- *Speaker was concerned about the \$15 increase in the fee schedule in Landlord Licenses from \$60 to \$75 per year.*
- *The year was very rough for landlords.*
- *Speaker questioned some of the numbers in the fee schedule explanation from Director of Housing and Community Development.*
- *The Admin Office Manager charge for new rentals for ½ hour of time billed at \$15.85 per hour. The same Admin Office Manager charge for renewals for \$18.25 per hour. It looked like the same person was being charged out differently for renewals and new registrations. They should be the same.*
- *The explanation included an automatic amount for re-inspections, if required. She was unaware that re-inspections of new rental units were done. If a landlord needed a reinspection, the fee should then be charged.*
- *It appeared there was enough money in the budget last year to do what was needed.*
- *Speaker suggested going to a staggered (3) year license to save labor and time.*

*President Heath closed the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2662 at 6:45 p.m.*

*Mr. Boda moved and Ms. Gregory seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2662.*

*Ms. Jackson moved to amend Ordinance No. 2662 as read by Mr. Sullivan and Ms. Gregory seconded the motion. The amendment passed on a 4-1 vote, with Ms. Blake voting “nay.”*

*Ordinance No. 2662, as amended, failed on a 3-2 vote, with Mr. Boda, Ms. Blake and Ms. Gregory voting “nay.”*

*Mr. Sullivan clarified that the budget ordinances were scheduled for second reading on May 24, 2021, and to the extent there was any legislative decision made on any of the three ordinances, they were made whether or not to approve the amendments requested by the Finance Department. They are not to approve or disapprove the ordinances themselves, which would require them to be presented again for two readings and another public hearing, which was not the intent of the legislative agenda. The motion made to Ordinance No. 2662 was to approve the amendment to Ordinance No. 2662. He clarified that the amendment failed. President Heath agreed, and Mr. Sullivan reported that Ordinance No. 2662 would be on the legislative agenda for second reading on May 24, 2021 without the passage of the amendments.*

- **Constant Yield Tax Rate**

*Mr. Sullivan presented the Constant Yield Tax Rate information.*

*President Heath opened the Public Hearing at 6:54 p.m. and immediately closed the Public Hearing, as there were no requests to speak.*

## **ORDINANCES**

- **Ordinance No. 2663**- 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

*Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2663 for second reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2664**- 1<sup>st</sup> reading- approving a budget amendment of the FY2021 General Fund to appropriate funds for the purchase of software

*Ms. Jackson moved, Mr. Boda seconded, and the vote was 4-1 to approve Ordinance No. 2664 for first reading. President Heath cast the “nay” vote.*

- **Ordinance No. 2665**- 2<sup>nd</sup> reading- approving a Budget Amendment of the FY2021 General Fund Budget to appropriate funds to the Salisbury Fire Department’s Building Account for HVAC repairs

*Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2665 for second reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2666**- 1<sup>st</sup> reading- to amend Chapter 8.11 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled “The Fire Prevention Code”, for the purpose of adding new permits that are required to be obtained from the Fire Marshal

*Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2666 for first reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2667**- 1<sup>st</sup> reading- to amend Chapter 15.26 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled “Rental Of Residential Premises”, by adding a new section 15.26.045 entitled “Fair Chance Housing”

*Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2667 for first reading.*

*President Heath recalled removing the requirement for advertising. Ms. Glanz confirmed it was discussed, and she said there was a mix-up with not getting the updated version in the packet. At the second reading, the ordinance would be amended.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*One member of the public provided the following comments:*

- *While speaker agreed there was likely a need for a new data management system for the City, there were many comments and questions at one of the budget sessions. She requested further discussion on other systems available to meet the needs of the City. The ongoing*

*expense to maintain the system for the coming years would be more than currently budgeted. How many departments would benefit from the new system and what were the actual savings in cost to time, energy and improved efficiencies?*

- *Requested some clarification on the enforcement of Ordinance No. 2667 and what would be considered an infraction. Asked to include some draft language from the Attorney's office as to what they wanted to see as far as what would be permissible language.*
- *Asked if the City would be willing to absorb some of the additional liability that the landlords would be taking on in Ordinance No. 2667. The legal system was made up of several parts and the judicial part arrests people, and we need that for public safety. Was hesitant to promote having someone rent for him with a history of being arrested or convicted of assault on landlords, for example.*
- *There would be additional liabilities if the person brings harm to the neighbors.*
- *Supported Fair Housing, but who did Council want their neighbors to be? Was it fair to force others to take these people as their neighbors if Council did not want them as theirs.*
- *Ms. Glanz encouraged the speaker to re-read Ordinance No. 2667.*

### **ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

*Ms. Glanz thanked everyone for the support earlier in the day. She hoped to be able to continue supporting the family of Corp. Heacock and the Town of Delmar moving forward. She hoped that vaccine appointments would continue to be made by those not vaccinated.*

*Mr. Boda said prayers were for the Town of Delmar and the family of Corp. Heacock.*

*Ms. Jackson hoped all had a happy Mother's Day. She reported twelve-year old children could receive their vaccine. Be safe, wear masks, sanitize and social distance.*

*Ms. Blake reminded the public to please donate blood, if healthy enough.*

*Ms. Gregory asked everyone to take their children to be vaccinated so that they could have fun with their friends this summer.*

*President Heath said the weather was going to good this week, so get outside and walk, and stay healthy.*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*With no further business to discuss, the Legislative Session was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.*

*Kimberly R. Dickel*  
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City Clerk

*John R. Heath*  
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Council President