

**CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND**

**SPECIAL MEETING via ZOOM**

**MAY 22, 2020**

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

*Council President John “Jack” R. Heath  
Council Vice-President Muir Boda  
Councilwoman Michele Gregory*

*Mayor Jacob R. Day  
Councilwoman Angela M. Blake  
Councilwoman April Jackson*

**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 May 22, 2020. Vice-President Boda called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by a moment of silent meditation.*

**ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

*Ms. Jackson moved, Mr. Heath seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve the Special Meeting agenda as presented.*

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

**Ordinance No. 2599**- 1<sup>st</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. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2599 for first reading.*

*After voting on Ordinance No 2599 for first reading, Council and Mayor Day had further discussion of the legislation. Mayor Day said the tenants were obligated to their full contract they entered into. At the end of their leases, if landlords choose not to renew, then they do not have to. Once a person has stayed with an expired lease, it would allow them to be notified of their rights.*

*Mr. Boda discussed Line 99 at the last part of the sentence. He thought they could find more inclusive language than the term between now and second reading. He also implored everyone to communicate with their electric company, mortgage and other lenders if they could not pay.*

*Ms. Gregory asked if the word “unscrupulous” in the ordinance could be replaced with “dishonest” or “immoral.”*

*Ms. Jackson encouraged renters to pay their rent if they had the money. If not, communicate with*

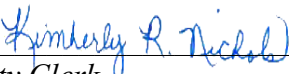
*your landlord. She asked the citizens to do what was right.*

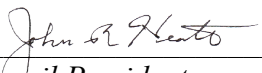
*The following public comments were received by four members of the public:*

- 1. We are all human and the world is difficult right now. If we are going to be the kind community we strive to be, we need to come together. Was not aware there were problems with landlords. We need to keep people in their houses to be safe.*
- 2. Works for a local landlord with rentals and appreciates what was in the ordinance. They are working with all of the ones who needs it. Has not seen the language in the ordinance that they must prove they were being impacted by COVID-19. She and other landlords she knows are not seeking to remove anyone from their home.*
- 3. Speaker spoke on behalf of the Coastal Board of Realtor to represent owners. As Mayor Day discussed, if you have a contract action could still be taken against tenants if the landlord attempts to work with the tenant and the tenant will not work. If a tenant does not follow through with a payment plan, they need to know it is unacceptable.*
- 4. Who will enforce the legislation? Who will handle deciding who is right and who is wrong?*

*Vice-President Boda asked everyone to support local restaurants and businesses.*

*With no further business to discuss, the Special Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.*

  
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*City Clerk*

  
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*Council President*