

CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND

REGULAR MEETING (ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING)

JANUARY 10, 2022

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, Department of Infrastructure and Development (DID) Director Amanda Pollack, Procurement Director Jennifer Miller, Internal Services Director Bill Garrett, Housing & Community Department Director Ron Strickler, Building Official William Holland, Assistant City Clerk Julie English, Executive Administrative Assistant- Mayor’s Office Jessica Turner, City Attorneys Ashley Bosche and Heather Konyar, City Clerk Kimberly Nichols, members of the public

CITY INVOCATION – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. in a Zoom meeting and Council President John R. “Jack” Heath called the meeting to order. After the recital of the pledge to the flag, he invited Pastor Greg Morris of Parkway Church of God to the podium to provide the invocation.

PROCLAMATION- presented by Mayor Jacob R. Day

Human Trafficking Awareness Month

Mayor Day presented the proclamation to recognize that human trafficking consistently occurs in the United States and to stress the need for the public and private sectors to come together to focus on prevention, prosecution, partnerships and support for survivors. It is a serious problem on the Eastern Shore where traffickers use violence, threats, deception and other manipulative tactics to force individuals to engage in commercial sex acts or to provide labor against their will. Between June 2013 and May 2020 there were reports of child sex trafficking in every Eastern Shore County, and since 2017 throughout Maryland 127 human trafficking victims have been rescued. The increased use of drugs, focus on social-media, and changes brought by Covid-19 have increased the level of Human Trafficking.

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:

- **November 15, 2021** Closed Session Minutes
- **November 22, 2021** Council Meeting Minutes
- **December 6, 2021** Work Session Minutes
- **December 6, 2021** Special Meeting Minutes
- **Resolution No. 3142**- approving the reappointment of Lorraine Bozman to the Salisbury Zoo Commission for term ending December 2024
- **Resolution No. 3143**- approving the appointment of Louis Rimbach to the Elections Board for term ending December 2027

AWARD OF BIDS- presented by Procurement Director Jennifer Miller

The Award of Bids, consisting of the following item, was unanimously approved on a motion and seconded by Mr. Boda and Ms. Jackson, respectively.

- ITB A-22-109 EMS Supplies \$45,000/yr

PUBLIC HEARING- PennTex/Beaver Run Drive Annexation- presented by City Administrator Julia Glanz

- **Resolution No. 3131**- proposing the annexation to the City of Salisbury of a certain area of land contiguous to and binding upon the Corporate Limits of the City of Salisbury to be known as “Beaver Run Drive – PennTex. Annexation”, beginning at a point contiguous to and binding upon the existing Corporate Limits Line of the City of Salisbury, MD, being on the westerly right of way line of Walston Switch Road at its intersection with the northerly right of way line of U.S. Route 50, continuing around the perimeter of the affected property to the point of beginning, being all that real property identified as Map 39, Parcel 264, Block A, Lots 1 & 2, and a portion of the public road right-of-way known as “Walston Switch Road”, containing 3.08 acres more or less

Ms. Jackson moved and Ms. Gregory seconded to approve Resolution No. 3131, and Ms. Glanz presented the resolution.

President Heath asked those wishing to speak in the Public Hearing to make themselves known so that they could be sworn in by the City Clerk. One person was sworn in.

At 6:18 p.m. President Heath opened the Public Hearing. One person provided the following comments:

- Speaker was from PennTex Ventures and said the City staff and elected officials were wonderful to work with. They have completed many projects with the City over the years and look forward to doing much more.
- He thanked everyone for their time and consideration.

At 6:19 p.m. the Public Hearing was closed.

The vote was 5-0 to approve Resolution No. 3131. The annexation would become effective on February 25, 2022.

- **Resolution No. 3132-** proposing the annexation to the City of Salisbury of a certain area of land contiguous to and binding upon the Corporate Limits of the City of Salisbury to be known as “Beaver Run Drive – PennTex Annexation”, beginning at a point contiguous to and binding upon the existing Corporate Limits Line of the City of Salisbury, MD, being on the westerly right of way line of Walston Switch Road at its intersection with the northerly right of way line of U.S. Route 50, continuing around the perimeter of the affected property to the point of beginning, being all that real property identified as Map 39, Parcel 264, Block A, Lots 1 & 2, and a portion of the public road right-of-way known as “Walston Switch Road”, containing 3.08 acres more or less

Mr. Boda moved and Ms. Jackson seconded to approve Resolution No. 3132, and Ms. Glanz presented the resolution.

President Heath asked those wishing to speak in the Public Hearing to make themselves known so that they could be sworn in by the City Clerk. No one was sworn in.

At 6:23 p.m. President Heath opened the Public Hearing, and as there were no requests to speak, immediately closed it.

Resolution No. 3132 was approved by unanimous vote in favor.

Mayor Day said this was the 4th or 5th project PennTex has done in the City, and annexations were part of most of them. The team led by Bill Holland and the attorneys have done a great job of representing the City through the process.

RESOLUTION- presented by City Administrator Julia Glanz

- **Resolution No. 3144-** authorizing execution of a cable franchise agreement between the City of Salisbury and Shenandoah Cable Television, LLC

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Resolution No. 3144.

ORDINANCES- presented by City Attorney Ashley Bosche

- **Ordinance No. 2700-** 2nd reading- to grant a property tax credit against the City Property Tax imposed on certain real property owned by Salisbury Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc.

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2700 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2702**- 2nd reading- accepting grant funds from the Governor’s Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services in the amount of \$20,000 under the FY22 Police Recruitment and Retention Program and amending the Grant Fund Budget to appropriate these grant funds to supplement the cost of gym memberships for Salisbury Police Officers

Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2702 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2703**- 1st reading- approving a budget amendment of the City’s Special Revenue Fund Budget and to accept and appropriate donated funds from the Draper Holdings Charitable Fund/Bless Our Children Campaign for the Santa’s Workshop Program

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2703 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2704**- 1st reading- granting three Right-Of-Way and License Agreements to Delmarva Power & Light Company across three City owned properties (Parking Lot 13, Salisbury Parking Garage, and Salisbury City Park) for installation of electric vehicle charging station facilities

Ms. Jackson moved, Mr. Boda seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2704 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2705**- 1st reading- authorizing the Mayor to appropriate funds for the Main Street Masterplan Project

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2705 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2706**- 1st reading- approving an amendment of the FY22 Budget to appropriate funds for street resurfacing and concrete repair

Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2706 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2707**- 1st reading- authorizing the Mayor to appropriate funds in the FY2022 General Fund Budget and amend the authorized positions included in the FY22 General Fund Budget

Ms. Jackson moved, Mr. Boda seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2707 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2708**- 1st reading- reallocation of Main Street Master Plan

Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2708 for first reading.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no requests for public comments.

ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Day reported an economic interest group recently published an article. The City compared the census figures with the voter registration rolls, housing information, water & sewer connections, and other things to see mis-steps made in the census potentially to be noise inserted in the data to try to aggregate people so that certain individuals and their incomes or household size could not be identified. The economic interest group just published in the NY Times an article about population loss. It was interesting to note where Salisbury stands out not only in population growth but work engaged population growth center. As one of the very small percentage of US counties, Wicomico County had more than 3% foreign-born skilled workers in our community.

He applauded the last piece of Here is Home law and everything will be in effect as planned.

Mr. Boda said he would like to see what the tax-based increase would be as a result of Here is Home. It would be good to see the tax generated revenues from these projects because ultimately, with the revenue cap of Wicomico County, it would reduce County property taxes for everybody in the County. He also said that the City fought a couple of years ago to get legislation for the Alcohol Control Board, which was an agreement between the City and County for an expandable board containing some directly appointed City representatives. At this point, there has been no City appointments to the Board. This was law, signed by the General Assembly and Governor, and the City went through great lengths to do it. He requested an update on what was the path forward, and if it was unlikely that the City received an appointment, if Legal could look at the law that was passed and determine the repercussions. He wondered if the City should go back to the original plan and have an Alcohol Control Board for the City of Salisbury and thought it should be discussed at a Work Session in the near future.

Mayor Day said that the analysis required to estimate the value imposed would be a bit difficult, but they would make the analysis. On the Alcohol Control Board, the County Executive has at least one individual who has submitted credentials, and he was working to interview and share the information with him. He would like to send the appointment to City Council and treat it like it was an appointment to a City Board. The City would send the recommendations to the Governor. He shared Mr. Boda's concerns and was a proponent of the original plan, but thought a little more time should be given to the matter.

Ms. Jackson said she came across numerous families with COVID. Please get your vaccines and booster shots. We should have never stopped wearing masks and are back on Zoom for our safety. Please respect other people and yourself. Continue to wear your masks and get your vaccinations.

Ms. Gregory said the Wicomico County Health Department announced today there were 563 new confirmed positive cases in the last three days. Please get your vaccine and booster. She was very disappointed that when the State Health Department opened up new testing sites, not one was put on the Eastern Shore. It was extremely to get a test because there were so many cases. She asked everyone to get their vaccinations and wear their masks.

Ms. Blake asked everyone healthy enough to donate blood. To honor her all time favorite, Betty White, please donate to the Humane Society.

President Heath gave a shout out to all the people working at Tidal Health. After Christmas, he had to be taken by ambulance to Tidal Health and was diagnosed with pneumonia. To give people a sense of what was going on at Tidal Health, he sat in a hallway with 35 or 40 other people waiting to be seen. The nurses and staff were absolutely phenomenal. He knew some were exhausted because one was up for 19.5 hours there. He was taken at 7:30 p.m. and was not placed in a room until 3:30 a.m. He was tired of people saying the numbers were false and that it wasn't for real. Tell the doctors, nurses, custodians, housekeepers, security working all those hours with no end in sight. There were also many children testing positive with COVID.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Legislative Agenda adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND
CLOSED SESSION
JANUARY 3, 2022

TIME & PLACE: 5:12 p.m., Zoom Video Conferencing
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 (5-0)
CITATION: Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305(b)(1)
PRESENT: Council President John “Jack” R. Heath, Mayor Jacob R. Day, Council Vice-President Muir Boda, Councilwoman April Jackson, Councilwoman Michele Gregory, Councilwoman Angela M. Blake, Meg Caton, City Attorney Ashley Bosche, Assistant City Clerk Julie English

The City Council convened in Work Session at 4:30 p.m. At 5:12 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). Ms. Jackson moved, Mr. Boda seconded, and the vote was unanimous to convene in Closed Session.


Council was briefed by City Administrator Julia Glanz on the selection process to hire the new Human Resources Director, and announced the candidate Administration was recommending. The candidate was invited into the Zoom Meeting and interviewed by Council.

Council unanimously accepted Administration’s recommendation for the position of Human Resources Director.


At 5:31 p.m., Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous (5-0) to adjourn the Closed Session.

Council immediately convened in Open Session and President Heath reported that Council had met in Closed Session to discuss the appointment of a position.

The Open Session was then immediately adjourned.



City Clerk



Council President