

CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 25, 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, Deputy City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Police Chief Barbara Duncan, Procurement Director Jennifer Miller, Fire Chief John Tull, Water Works Director Cori Cameron, Executive Administrative Assistant Jessica Turner, Housing and Homelessness Manager Christine Chestnutt, Media and Events Specialist Allison Foster, City Attorney Ashley Bosche, City Clerk Kimberly Nichols, and members of the public

CITY INVOCATION – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom and in person and Council President John R. “Jack” Heath called the meeting to order. After the recital of the pledge to the flag, the public was invited to join Council in a moment of silent meditation.

PRESENTATIONS- presented by Mayor Jacob R. Day

Mayor’s Award for Citizen’s Service

John Knorr received the Mayor’s Award for Citizen’s Service for his actions on August 27, 2021. He quickly attended to an injured person whose vehicle hit a fire hydrant and landed on its side.

President Jack Heath received the Mayor’s Award for Citizen’s Service for assisting the same injured person in the above accident while waiting for emergency vehicles to arrive.

Mayor’s Award for Exemplary Service recipients

Mayor Day presented the Mayor’s Award for Exemplary Service to the following City of Salisbury individuals:

Transportation Projects Specialist Will White

Mr. White managed the Active Transportation Plan Workshop Grant pursuit of Fitzwater plantings and arranged a planting day for the Bicycle Committee. When COVID worsened, he was deployed with the Army National Guard. In spite of his deployment, and with a newborn baby, he continued to come to work regularly and stayed engaged in meetings.

Code Enforcement Officers Chanita Lewis-Watson and Paul Byington, and Homelessness Manager Christine Chestnutt

On November 11, 2021 the above persons responded to after-hours calls from Pemberton

Manor. They issued an order of condemnation on Buildings 1011, 1013 and 1015 for lack of water. Management had 48 hours to resolve the issue in order to avoid a vacate order. The team met with the residents and stayed into the evening delivering water to each of the 33 residents.

Police Officer Christopher Sipple

On Halloween, PO Sipple discovered a family sleeping in their car since a house fire the previous February. With no luck connecting the family with homelessness resources due to it being the weekend, he paid for three nights at a hotel and purchased a food gift card for them.

Master Police Officer Donna Dubas

On February 1, 2022 MPO Dubas and PFC Anthony Gutierrez met with an elderly female while conducting a welfare check. The residence had trash and waste throughout. Code enforcement officers assisted and the officers spent the next two weeks cleaning and working with the lady to connect her to resources. Once the floors were cleared of trash, they hired Stanley Steamers to come in and clean them. The officers also cleaned cabinets, counters and dishes.

Police Officer Devin Fairman

To reduce the amount of litter in the City, PO Fairman recommended to his supervisor that the brand new COPP Unit could help to pick up litter and simultaneously help build trust among citizens in the neighborhoods. He and his team led by Corporal Foy participated in a community clean up. The residents expressed their appreciation to the City officers for being of assistance.

The employees above, through their commitment to ethical, honorable service beyond their job description, were exemplary of the highest expectations of any employee of the City of Salisbury.

ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous (5-0) 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 (5-0 vote) on a motion and seconded by Ms. Jackson and Ms. Gregory, respectively:

- *April 4, 2022 Work Session Minutes*
- *April 11, 2022 Council Meeting Minutes*
- **Resolution No. 3164-** *to approve the appointment of Mike Angelot to the Sustainability Advisory Committee (Green Team) for the term ending April 2025*
- *Resolution No. 3165- to approve the appointment of Teresa Thaxton to the Human Rights Advisory Committee for the term ending March 2024*

AWARD OF BIDS- *presented by Procurement Director Jennifer Miller*

The following items were unanimously approved on a motion and seconded by Mr. Boda and Ms. Gregory, respectively:

- *ITB 22-130 WWTP Biosolids Dump Truck* \$ 198,930.00
- *RFP 20-103 Laboratory Information Mgmt System C/O #4* \$ 9,800.00
- *RFP A-22-107 Livable Community Design and Consulting* \$ N/A

PUBLIC HEARINGS- CHARTER AMENDMENTS- presented by City Administrator Julia Glanz

- **Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2022-1-** to amend § SC1-20 of the Charter of the City of Salisbury to adjust the City’s Council District boundaries to ensure proper apportionment of the City’s population within the district boundaries

Ms. Jackson moved and Ms. Gregory seconded to approve Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2022-1, and then Ms. Glanz presented the charter amendment.

At 6:22 p.m. President Heath opened the Public Hearing, and as there were no requests to speak, immediately closed the Public Hearing.

Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2022-1 was unanimously approved. President Heath announced that the charter amendment would become effective on June 15, 2022.

- **Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2022-2-** to amend § SC2-1 of the Charter of the City of Salisbury to reflect the City’s contemporary legislative districts

Mr. Boda moved and Ms. Jackson seconded to approve Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2022-2, and then Ms. Glanz presented the charter amendment.

At 6:25 p.m. President Heath opened the Public Hearing, and as there were no requests to speak, immediately closed the Public Hearing.

Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2022-2 was unanimously approved. President Heath announced that the charter amendment would become effective on June 15, 2022.

- **Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2022-3-** to amend § SC6-9 of the Charter of the City of Salisbury to reflect the City’s contemporary election of Mayor and Council

Ms. Blake moved and Ms. Jackson seconded to approve Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2022-3, and then Ms. Glanz presented the charter amendment.

At 6:27 p.m. President Heath opened the Public Hearing, and as there were no requests to speak, immediately closed the Public Hearing.

Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2022-3 was unanimously approved. President Heath announced that the charter amendment would become effective on June 15, 2022.

RESOLUTIONS- presented by City Administrator Julia Glanz

- **Resolution No. 3166-** to expand the number of members on the Mayor’s Disability Advisory Committee

Ms. Gregory moved, Ms. Jackson seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve Resolution No. 3166.

- **Resolution No. 3167-** to authorize the Mayor to enter into, on behalf of the City of Salisbury, an amended and restated land disposition agreement with Green Street Housing, LLC setting forth the terms and conditions governing the sale and redevelopment of Lot 30

Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Resolution No. 3167.

ORDINANCES- presented by City Attorney Ashley Bosche

- **Ordinance No. 2715- 2nd reading-** approving a budget amendment of the FY2022 General Fund Budget to appropriate funds to the Salisbury Fire Department’s Training Account

Ms. Jackson moved, Mr. Boda seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2715 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2716- 1st reading-** amending Section 17.04.040 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled “Method Of Regulation”, to add confirmatory language exempting federal, state and local governments from Title 17 of the Salisbury City Code

Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2716 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2717- 1st reading-** to amend Chapter 5.52 of the City Code, defining the definition of “Food Service Facility” in lieu of “Restaurant,” and granting the City Fire Marshal the authority to enforce the provisions of Chapter 5.52

Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2717 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2718- 1st reading-** amending Chapter 2.32 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled “Purchases And Sales,” to increase the maximum dollar amount for direct purchases and the minimum dollar amount for formal competitive bidding in order to increase Procurement efficiency in a market of increased costs

Mr. Boda moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2718 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2719- 1st reading-** amending Title 8 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled “Health And Safety”, to add Section 08.07 to require a permit to remove certain trees from property within the city and to require replacement of trees or payment into a tree restoration fund

Ms. Jackson moved and Ms. Blake seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2719 for first reading. After discussing the ordinance, Ms. Blake motioned to table Ordinance No. 2719. Ms. Jackson seconded, and the motion was approved on a 3 – 2 vote. President Heath and Vice-President Boda voted “nay.”

- **Ordinance No. 2720- 1st reading-** *amending Section 15.22 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled “Vacant Buildings”, to require registration of vacant lots and payment of annual fees*

Ms. Jackson moved, Mr. Boda seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2720 for first reading.

FY23 PROPOSED BUDGET ORDINANCES- *presented by City Attorney Ashley Bosche*

- **Ordinance No. 2721- 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, 2022 to June 30, 2023, 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*

Ms. Jackson moved, Mr. Boda seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2721 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2722- 1st reading-** *increasing Water and Sewer rates by 6% and making said changes effective for all bills dated October 1, 2022 and thereafter, unless and until subsequently revised or changed*

Mrs. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2722 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2723- 1st reading-** *to set fees for Fiscal Year 2023 and thereafter, unless and until subsequently revised or changed*

Ms. Jackson moved, Mr. Boda seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2723 for first reading.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Four members of the public provided the following comments:

- *Vacant lots were identified as unimproved property in the State Assessments data base, and were already under the guidelines of any ordinance, as Mayor Day indicated.*
- *Whether there was a fee or not this year, speaker said she saw no need for another layer of bureaucracy to identify something that was already identified.*
- *Regarding the tree ordinance, there was no fee to apply for a permit, however the tree companies would be asked to file all of the paperwork and would pass that cost along.*

- *Who determined the kind of tree to plant in place of a removed tree, and what age and how tall would the tree need to be? Could a small sapling replace a large tree? Who would inspect to insure it was still living in five years? Tree removal can cost thousands of dollars.*
- *She did not think the tree ordinance was what the City needed to be considering right now.*
- *Speaker thought that rights to private property should only be infringed upon when there was a compelling need- and he did not think that was the case.*
- *If a person owned a lot, he did not see the need to have to ask permission to remove a tree.*
- *Asked why owners had to pay a vacant lot fee if they were already paying property taxes. Ordinances were already on the books to handle anything happening that was undesirable.*
- *Speaker missed the discussion of what was going on with Lot 30. He said notifying nearby land owners would be helpful to let them know what was going on.*
- *His concerns were traffic, lack of parking and the bad effect on businesses in his building. He asked that in moving forward the City would take his opinions into account.*
- *Speaker was a firefighter (FF) for 34 years and asked Council to consider the COVID funds received from the State. They were on the front lines and risked bringing COVID home to their families. Most of the City employees got to work from home, FF did not get that option.*

ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Day said the identification and registration of vacant lots was not up for discussion as it was already law. The only proposal was to restructure and increase the fees associated with those properties. Vacant lots were shown to increase crime and fires and decrease property values. Currently, the burden was on the City citizens and not the people who own the properties.

Ms. Jackson received a call about a 16-year-old who was severely burned in a house fire on Hanson Street. She said she called the mother and asked everyone to keep Cory Turner in their prayers. He was taken to John Hopkins Burn Center and would spend at least six months there. His family lost everything and he would have perished if the Fire Department had not done their jobs.

Ms. Blake said everyone on the Council was concerned and hoped to close the gaps in pay. If healthy enough, please donate blood.

Ms. Gregory reiterated what Ms. Jackson said. The EMS has always been top notch and Council would work hard to get them what they needed.

President Heath asked that everyone keep the Ukraine in their prayers. This was the most difficult budget he had ever worked on. They would do what they believed was best for everyone.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Kimberly R. Nichols

 City Clerk

John R. Heath

 Council President