

CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 27, 2023

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

*Council President Muir W. Boda
Council Vice President April Jackson (Zoom)
Councilwoman Michele Gregory*

*Mayor John R. “Jack” Heath
Councilwoman Angela M. Blake*

PUBLIC OFFICIALS ABSENT

Councilwoman Megan Outten

IN ATTENDANCE

*City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, City Attorney Ashley Bosché, City Clerk Kimberly Nichols,
and members of the public*

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / CITY INVOCATION

*The City Council met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom and in Council Chambers.
Council President Boda called the meeting to order. After the recital of the pledge to the flag,
Pastor David L. McLendon of St. James A.M.E. Zion Church provided the City Invocation.*

PRESENTATIONS- *presented by Mayor John R. “Jack” Heath*

Samuel Edward Everett Day Proclamation

*Mayor Heath presented the proclamation to the family and friends of Samuel Edward Everett,
also known as “Mr. Wi Middle.” He loved his students and they loved him. He set up a program
where successful men mentored young male students through their love of basketball. He also
volunteered at the Salisbury Zoo for many years and won many trophies for bowling and track
along with many gold medals for competing as a Senior Olympian. He was well-loved and
shared his love for life and his resources with the youth in the community. Most of all, Sam was a
kind, wonderful family man who adored his wife Carolyn and twin daughters Stacy and Tracy.*

Mayor’s Award for Valor to Alphonso Henry Carlos Ortiz and Alphonso Henry

*Mayor Heath presented the Mayor’s Award for Valor to Carlos Ortiz and Alphonso Henry for
their acts of valor to the City of Salisbury. On February 23, 2023 while driving to a lift station,
WWTP employees Ortiz and Henry came upon a motor vehicle rollover on Waverly Drive. They
used their utility truck to block traffic from the accident and used their utility lights to alert other
motorists of the crashed vehicles. They checked on both drivers, ensured both vehicles’ engines
had been turned off, and stayed with the occupants of the vehicles and directed traffic until
Salisbury Fire and EMS arrived and secured the scene. Their quick thinking and compassionate
care went beyond their job description and was deserving of the Mayor’s Award for Valor.*

ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous (4-0 vote) 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 second by Ms. Jackson and Ms. Gregory, respectively.

- February 13, 2023 Closed Session Minutes (B)
- February 21, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes #1
- February 21, 2023 Work Session Minutes
- February 21, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes #2
- Resolution No. 3240- to approve the appointment of D'Shawn Doughty to the Board of Appeals for term ending March 2026
- Resolution No. 3241- to approve the appointment of Charvaye Hutchins-Carter to the Youth Development Advisory Committee for term ending March 2026
- Resolution No. 3242- to approve the appointment of Delores Neal to the Friends of Poplar Hill Board of Directors for term ending March 2026
- Resolution No. 3243- to approve the re-appointment of Brad Phillips to the Historic District Commission for term ending March 2026
- Resolution No. 3244- to approve the to re-appointment of Linda Wainer to the Zoo Commission appointment for term ending March 2026
- Resolution No. 3245- to approve the appointment of James Yamakawa to the TRUTH Committee for term ending March 2026

President Boda thanked the committee members for volunteering to serve the City.

RESOLUTION- presented by City Administrator Andy Kitzrow

- **Resolution No. 3246**- authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement to establish a Housing and Homelessness Non-endowed Fund

Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Gregory second, and the vote was unanimous to approve Resolution No. 3246.

ORDINANCES- presented by City Attorney Ashley Bosché

- **Ordinance No. 2783**- 2nd reading- to set Billboard License fee for FY 2023 and thereafter unless and until subsequently revised or changed

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2783 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2784**-2nd reading- authorizing the Mayor to transfer from the General Fund and appropriate funds for the Government Office Building #1 and #2 Project in the General Capital Project Fund

Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2784 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2786**- 2nd reading- 2nd reading- approving a budget amendment of the FY23 General Fund Budget to appropriate funds for the Fire Department's Vehicle Repair Account

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2786 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2787**- 1st reading- approving a budget amendment of the FY2023 General Fund budget to appropriate funds to purchase and customize Police Department vehicles with proper police equipment

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2787 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2788**- 1st reading- accepting the donation of a police canine ("K-9") to the Salisbury Police Department

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2788 for first reading.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following comments were received from four members of the public:

- *Asked about the ordinance for leaving parked trailers on the streets. President Boda suggested that she meet after the meeting with Housing and Community Development Director Strickler since he was present at the meeting.*
- *Second speaker noted this was his first official act as a new member of the Salisbury TRUTH Advisory Committee.*
- *Several weeks ago he received an email from former City Administrator Julia Glanz requesting the TRUTH Advisory Committee tell the history of the Firehouse that the City was moving operations into.*
- *He met with colleagues, advisors and the Executive Committee of the Wicomico County NAACP, and together decided to contact the City's Communications Team, which Ms. Glanz had passed on this partnership to.*
- *He shared some of the history of the Firehouse. Chief Frederick Grier, Jr. whom was building the Firehouse, was part of the mob which lynched Matthew Williams. When the mob came up to the Firehouse on their way to the Court House from the hospital, they stopped and asked for a rope, and he gave it to them.*
- *They could not stop the City from moving into the building but the City needed to own up.*
- *There were four demands, suggestions, requests or ideas which included:*

- 1) That there be full assurance from the city of Salisbury that former Fire Chief Frederick Grier Jr is not honored in any way/shape/form when the City moves into the firehouse whether through naming of building or any other fashion.
 - 2) That the City of Salisbury ensures their full cooperation, including financial resources, in support of the new TRUTH Advisory Committee.
 - 3) That all city records that may hold pertinent information regarding the lynching of Matthew Williams or dismantling of the Georgetown neighborhood are to be made available to the TRUTH Committee and to partnering organizations.
 - 4) That the City of Salisbury, the Salisbury Fire Department, and the Salisbury Police Department make a public apology, acknowledging the institutional legacy of this racial violence and their historical role in perpetuating it.
- He said that Police Chief Nicholas Holland and former Mayor Kennerly were also involved.
 - This could not have happened without the complacency and participation of City officials.
 - The City needed to start thinking about what it meant to move into the Firehouse. It did not mean they shouldn't, but it meant they needed to "put your money where your mouth is."
 - Another speaker asked what the Building #1 and Building #2 were in the General Fund where the funds for the building would be transferred and what the transferred amount was. (President Boda answered the question)
 - Speaker thanked everyone for coming out for Mr. Everett.

ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Heath announced the Salisbury Marathon was on Saturday, so come out and cheer on your favorite runner. Eight years ago Administration, Council and the citizens met for several days and listened to what the community thought about where we should go in the future. Downtown today was what came out of that meeting. It was time to reevaluate. No date was set yet, but they were looking at a September meeting. The Anne Street Village Ribbon Cutting would be April 21, 2023.

Vice President Jackson announced that on Wednesday, March 29th the VFW Post #10159 would host a Vietnam Veterans Day celebration and former Mayor Day would be present. On April 8th the Salisbury Advisory Council and Youth Activities would host an Easter Egg Hunt at Waterside Park.


Ms. Gregory reminded everyone to get their COVID booster.

Ms. Blake asked when the Anne Street ribbon cutting was and Mr. Kitzrow said it was at 11:00 a.m. Ms. Jackson asked why since many people would be unable to attend at the time, and more could attend later in the day. Mr. Kitzrow said the schedule was based on Secretary Day's availability. Ms. Blake commended the two employees on their acts of valor. Also, please donate blood.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Legislative Session was adjourned at 6:47 p.m.


City Clerk


Council President