

CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND

REGULAR MEETING

JUNE 12, 2023

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

*Council President Muir W. Boda
Council Vice President April Jackson
Councilmember Michele Gregory*

*Mayor John R. Heath
Councilmember Angela M. Blake
Councilmember Megan Outten*

IN ATTENDANCE

*City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Infrastructure and Development Director Rick Baldwin,
Procurement Director Jennifer Miller, Chief Barbara Duncan, City Attorney Heather Konyar,
Assistant City Clerk Julie English, and members of the public*

*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 and acknowledged that one year ago Deputy
Glenn Hilliard was shot and killed in the line of duty. After a moment of silence, President Boda
invited everyone to recite the pledge to the flag.*

CHIEF BARBARA DUNCAN RETIREMENT

Barbara Duncan Day Proclamation

*Mayor Heath presented the proclamation to Chief Barbara Duncan, as she retired after 35 years
in Law Enforcement and 13 years serving the City of Salisbury. She instituted invaluable
practices and changed the department culture. She also volunteered much of her time to various
groups in the community.*

*Council President Boda read and presented a plaque to Chief Duncan from all of the Council
members. The plaque congratulated her on her retirement and expressed their appreciation for
all she had done for the citizens of Salisbury.*

*Chief Duncan thanked the City of Salisbury for the honor to work alongside the best officers she
knew and wished everyone well.*

ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

*Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous (4-0 vote) to approve the
legislative agenda as presented.*

CONSENT AGENDA- *presented by Assistant City Clerk Julie English*

*The Consent Agenda, consisting of the following items, was unanimously approved on a motion
and second by Ms. Jackson and Ms. Gregory, respectively.*

- *April 24, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes*

- *April 24, 2023 Closed Session Minutes*
- *Resolution No. 3261- to approve the re-appointment of Matt Drew to the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee for term ending June 2026*
- *Resolution No. 3262- to approve the appointment of Sandeep Gopalan to the Ethics Commission for term ending May 2027*

Councilmember Outten thanked the committee members for volunteering to serve the City.

Mr. Gopalan expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve and assured the Council he would do his best.

AWARD OF BIDS- presented by Procurement Director Jennifer Miller

The following items were unanimously approved on a motion and seconded by Ms. Jackson and Ms. Gregory, respectfully:

1. *RFP 23-106 Andean Bear Exhibit Design* \$350,500.00
2. *ITB 23-116 Mt. Hermon Road Stormwater Mgmt Retrofit* \$106,120.00

RESOLUTION- presented by City Administrator Andy Kitzrow

- **Resolution No. 3258**- *changing the Resident Agent to accept service of process on a government entity from Julia Glanz to Andrew P. Kitzrow*

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Resolution No. 3258.

BUDGET ORDINANCES- presented by City Attorney Heather Konyar

- **Ordinance No. 2802**- *2nd reading- appropriating the necessary funds for the operation of the Government and Administration of the City of Salisbury, Maryland for the period July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024, 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, Ms. Gregory seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2802 for second reading.

Ms. Blake moved to amend the ordinance as read by City Attorney Konyar. Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote to amend the ordinance was unanimous.

Ordinance No. 2802 for second reading, as amended, was approved on a 5-0 vote.

- **Ordinance No. 2803**- *2nd reading- to amend Water and Sewer rates to increase rates by 10% and making said changes effective for all bills dated October 1, 2023 and thereafter unless and until subsequently revised or changed*

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2803 for second reading.

*Ms. Blake moved to amend the ordinance as read by City Attorney Konyar.
Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote to amend the ordinance was unanimous.*

Ordinance No. 2803 for second reading, as amended, was approved on a 5-0 vote.

- **Ordinance No. 2804**- *2nd reading- to set fees for FY2024 and thereafter unless and until subsequently revised or changed*

Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Jackson seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2804 for second reading.

*Ms. Jackson moved to amend the ordinance as read by City Attorney Konyar.
Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote to amend the ordinance was unanimous.*

Ordinance No. 2804 was approved for second reading, as amended, on a 5-0 vote.

ORDINANCES- *presented by City Attorney Heather Konyar*

- **Ordinance No. 2808**- *2nd reading- authorizing the Mayor to appropriate funds for the Comprehensive Plan Project and the Zoning Code Project*

Ms. Blake moved and Ms. Outten seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2808 for second reading.

*Ms. Jackson moved to amend the ordinance as read by City Attorney Konyar.
Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote to amend the ordinance was unanimous.*

Ordinance No. 2808 was approved for second reading, as amended, on a vote of 5-0.

- **Ordinance No. 2810**- *2nd reading- approving a budget amendment of the City's budget to accept and appropriate donated funds from the Delmarva Zoological Society for the Andean Bear Campaign*

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2810 for second reading.

TRAFFIC LIGHT ON CAMDEN AVE. AND S. BLVD UPDATE- *presented by Infrastructure and Development Director Rick Baldwin*

Mr. Baldwin explained that because of the observations and persistence of the individuals who regularly used that intersection, he performed a deeper investigation into the stop light at Camden Avenue and South Boulevard. He determined the controller was still operational. However, the 12 heads (lights) used were the last of their kind and the replacement bulbs were not available from any manufacturer worldwide. The intersection

continued to function as a four-way stop and it was the intention that it would continue to function as such.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- Speaker #1 advised that Newtown residents were concerned with the reconstruction of some of the homes in the neighborhood. She shared the benefits and history of the district. She expressed concern that the neighborhood had changed with reference to the “new neighbors.”*
- Speaker #2 spoke in favor of preserving the Newtown District.*
- Speaker #3 shared her history in Newtown and reviewed the maintenance and upkeep she had done on her property. Speaker referenced the property at 400 Park Avenue and shared her concern about specific renovations that had been done and the manner in which they were done.*
- Speaker #4 referenced 405 Park Avenue and described some of the construction that had taken place. She advised that some of the work done at 405 Park Avenue had made its way onto her property. She complained that the internal structure of the home had changed. Her husband thanked the Permits division of the City of Salisbury for their response to their call as well as the response of the Salisbury Police Department for their assistance.*
- Speaker #5 spoke about the changes to the Newtown area over the past few years. She complained about the consistent coming and going of cars and people to the property next to hers. She was in favor of protecting the historic appearance of the homes in Newtown.*
- Speaker #6 informed Council that he was a third generation home owner in Newtown. He agreed with the other comments regarding Newtown. He hoped measures would be taken to preserve the history of Newtown.*
- Speaker #7 had lived in Newtown for almost 9 years. She did not like some of things she saw in the neighborhood. She requested the support of the City Council.*
- Speaker #8 spoke against the tax increase, developers getting breaks from taxes, and the Unity Square project. She also spoke in reference to the homes on either side of her in Newtown. The Speaker also referenced a homeless person who lived in a condemned home.*
- Speaker #9 shared her thoughts on the Horizons Program and claimed the City is forcing the public and existing businesses to pay for developers fees and to give them an unfair financial advantage in the business market. She requested the repeal of the Horizons Program.*
- Speaker #10 shared her feelings that the decisions made by the City Council did not encompass the views of the majority of the City residents. She expressed her concern over the parking situation. In addition, she questioned the relevance of the bike lanes and stated how confusing the traffic patterns were. Finally, she shared her disapproval of drag queens in the Pride parade when there would be children attending.*
- Speaker #11 stated that raising taxes and water bills was unconscionable and unnecessary. He questioned the procedure used in the sale of Lot 10. He also shared his theories on why the taxes had to be raised and what contributed to the poor financial situation of the city. He did not support increased property taxes, the elimination of parking downtown, increased water bills, participation in programs such as the Horizon Program, the selling of property at heavily discounted rates to developers, and the City’s ongoing mismanagement of funds.*

- *Speaker #12 acknowledged Chief Duncan for a job well done. He congratulated the Council on passing the fifth tax increase in the last 11 years. He stated that the city would need more money in a year due to inflation and how the city spent money. He mentioned concerns with the Ross and the plans for a hotel. He asked for the status on the money from the County. He recommended that the Council do away with the Horizon Program.*
- *Speaker #13 referenced the stop light at South Boulevard and stated that intersection was still unsafe. She commended Chief Duncan and said she would be missed. She echoed the concerns regarding multi-family homes and over occupancy. Lastly, she felt the disadvantage of those who received the tax break.*
- *Speaker #14 spoke about the changes to Lot 15. She did not agree with the lot changing to pay by the hour. She expressed her interest in purchasing Lot 15 as well as her interest in what would happen to the lot once sold.*

ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow wished everyone had been in attendance months prior to discuss their concerns before the decisions had been made. He stated that the sale of Lot 15 was publicly advertised and that an RFP was put out. The lot had been sold and the permit holders would be transferred to Lot 1. He shared that the Juneteenth festival would be held in the coming weekend. He thanked Council for passing the budget as amended as it had helped retain and recruit talent in the public safety sectors and general government areas.

Mayor Heath announced that Leonora Dillon, Salisbury Zoo Director, would be retiring and thanked her for her service to the Zoo. He added that the animals would definitely miss her. He encouraged those who were healthy enough to donate blood. Lastly he thanked everyone for coming out.

Ms. Gregory thanked the people from Newtown for coming out. She encouraged them to use the Citizen Reporter on the city's website. She mentioned the Pride parade would be the following weekend.

Ms. Jackson spoke on the importance of communicating with constituents and transparency. She encouraged residents to continue to come to the meetings. She spoke how Juneteenth was personal to her and encouraged everyone to come out. Several of the councilmembers would be in the parade.

Ms. Blake thanked the residents for coming out and sharing their concerns. She also thanked Chief Duncan for her service to the City of Salisbury. Ms. Blake reiterated the resource of the Citizen Reporter. She asked that people slow down when driving due to bicyclists and the children outside playing with schools being out. Next she reminded drivers to stop or get out of the way when emergency vehicles were approaching. She then asked that the stop light be turned back on at the intersection of South Boulevard and Camden Avenue. She believed that was the safest for that intersection. She shared her desire to further discuss the Horizon Program and the Bird scooters. In addition, she would like to discuss what the County budgeted for the City with regard to fire service.

Ms. Outten mentioned that she made it through her first budget session. She clarified that she didn't want to continue to see the financial increases fall on the backs of the residents.

President Boda shared that in 2010-2011, against the advice of various people, the water and sewer rates were reduced by 15%. Had those measures not been taken at that time, the city would be in a much more serious situation. He followed up by saying one of our scientists recently discovered a way to reduce the use of chemicals, which helped to reduce costs. He explained how projects quickly add up to cost around 2 million dollars.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Legislative Session was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Kimberly R. Nichol

City Clerk



Council President