

CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND

SPECIAL MEETING

JULY 31, 2023

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

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

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

IN ATTENDANCE

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Wicomico County Executive Julie Giordano, Fire Chief John Tull, Information Services Director Bill Garrett, Acting Police Chief Dave Meienschein, Executive Administrative Assistant Jessie Turner, Media Specialist Jordan Ray, Human Resources (HR) Director Meg Caton, HR Specialist- Benefits Melissa Becker, City Attorney Ashley Bosché, City Clerk Kimberly Nichols, and interested members of the public

The City Council convened in a Special Meeting at 6:00 p.m.in Council Chambers of the Government Office Building. President Boda called the meeting to order, and after the recital of the pledge to the flag, called for a moment of silent meditation. He noted that the agenda at the bottom erroneously called for a Work Session, but no work session was scheduled this evening.

ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Council President Boda called for a motion to adopt the Special Meeting Agenda. Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve the Special Meeting agenda as presented.

CONSENT AGENDA- *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

- *May 1, 2023 Budget Work Session Minutes*
- *May 8, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes*
- *May 15, 2023 Budget Work Session Minutes*
- *May 15, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes*
- *May 15, 2023 Work Session Minutes*
- *May 22, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes*
- *June 5, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes #1*
- *June 5, 2023 Work Session Minutes*
- *June 5, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes #2*
- *June 12, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes*

RESOLUTIONS- *City Administrator Andy Kitzrow*

- **Resolution No. 3266**- accepting a sponsorship of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000.00) from the Maryland Department of Commerce to operate the Maryland Folklife Traditions area within the 2023 Maryland Folk Festival

Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Outten seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Resolution No. 3266.

- **Resolution No. 3267**- making a Declaration Of Official Intent regarding City of Salisbury's reasonable expectation to reimburse from proceeds of a future borrowing project expenditures made in connection with nine separate projects generally identified as: Apparatus Replacement - Rescue 16; Johnson Pond Dam Improvements; Restore Park Well Field; Restore Paleo Well Field; WWTP Electric Upgrades; Park Well Field Raw Water Main & Valve RPLC; Glen Avenue Lift Station; WWTP Outfall Inspection and Repairs; and Southside Pump Station Force Main

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Resolution No. 3267.

ORDINANCE- presented by City Attorney Ashley Bosché

- **Ordinance No. 2811**- 2nd reading- approving a budget amendment of the FY2023 forfeited funds fund budget to appropriate funds to purchase a customizable and expandable storage system for the Salisbury Police Department

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2811 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No.2812**- 2nd reading- to amend Chapter 2.16 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled "Fire Department", for granting the authority to enforce all laws and ordinances of the City of Salisbury and State of Maryland pertaining to fire, to implement fire safety programs, and to issue permits and licenses to the City Fire Marshal

Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2812 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2813**- 2nd reading- to amend Chapter 8.11 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled "The Fire Prevention Code", granting the authority to issue permits for the installation, modification, or removal from service of any private fire service water mains and their appurtenances, and prescribing penalties for specific violations

Ms. Gregory moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2813 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2815**- 1st reading- authorizing the mayor to defund the computer aided dispatch project and to appropriate funds for the purchase of portable radios

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Outten seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2815 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2816**- 1st reading- to authorize the mayor to enter into a contract with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) for the purpose of accepting funds from the digital inclusion grant in the amount of \$18,400 for the Anne Street Village Resident Technology Education Project

Ms. Gregory moved, Ms. Outten seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2816 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2817**- 1st reading – to amend the Salisbury City Code to add Chapter 2.25 entitled “Labor Code” in furtherance of Charter Amendment Resolution 2022-4, which authorized collective bargaining for certain employees of the city

Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2817 for first reading.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

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

- *The speaker lost his business to a fire and moved into the City. He would not charge the ten cents per bag. There were kids on 4-wheelers and motorcycles, and he was run off the road and suffered damage to his truck. He tried calling the City Police but could not reach them. They pulled guns on him at Main and Rt. 13. It was time for the County and City Councils to do something. The same seven street lights have been out on Riverside Drive for over a year. The Citizen Reporter did not work. Over half the lights on Rt. 50 were out. No maintenance was being done on the bike lanes. Fitzwater Street was a mess.*
- *Speaker said Homes for Hope had a recovery home in Newtown. Eighteen men lived there, paying \$1,000 per week per person. In the home in his neighborhood at 313 Middle Blvd. they were charging \$160 per person per week. It seemed like the number cars were over their limit. His concern was that without regulation the addicts were at extreme risk for exploitation. The manager lied to the neighbors and her credibility was very low. She did not have an occupancy permit before moving them into 223 Middle Boulevard nor was it inspected by the Fire Marshal. He asked the City to look into this and regulate those homes.*
- *Speaker said that she shared back yards with the Homes for Recovery. There was no fence or privacy in her back yard. It was not safe for the 16 children on the street. The manager told her they did not know whether the residents had records. There had to be regulations in order to help these men. Ms. Outten was the only Council member who returned her call. She could never sell her house now.*
- *Speaker lived alone and had a couple of break-ins. The City was putting the people in Newtown at risk with an unregulated rehab house which required supervision and background checks. The City should ensure they were properly licensed and inspected.*
- *Speaker on Zoom asked how the City and young people could help with inflation.*

ADMINISTRATION and COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Kitzrow said he would love to reach out to the speaker and his father about inflation. The bag ban fees would be brought back for discussion. Recovery residences would also be discussed in regards to regulations and certifications. He lived across from the recovery house in Newtown since its inception. He had a seven and four-year-old who both grew up across the street from them, and he has never felt safer. The Riverfest was very hot but had a great turnout.

Mayor Heath recognized Bill Garrett for his work on the technology grant. The services did not cost the City a cent. National Night Out would be held on August 1, 2023 from 5:00 pm-8:00 pm. Drive safely and keep the children safe. There was still a real shortage for blood. Please donate if you are able. He commended Mr. Kitzrow on hold the City down while he was on vacation.

Ms. Gregory asked for the public to be mindful of children playing outside.

Ms. Jackson said she attended the prayer vigil and walk on Church Street and was proud of the Minister Alliance, the community, and officials who were present. She wanted to see more work. The children needed things to do and places to go during the day. Some of them never got to do anything. The VFW #10159 was holding a free indoor/outdoor event for Unity Day on Saturday from 12:00 Noon to 5:00 p.m. Dirt bikes were a big problem and we needed to do something.

Ms. Blake said she did not receive a phone call from a previous speaker, but asked her to reach out again. They were discussing the situation and working on it as well as the bag ban ten cents charge. If healthy enough, please donate blood or plasma. The region was still critically low.

Ms. Outten was at Billy Jean Jackson park and Riverfest over the weekend. She encouraged the public to continue coming out to City Council meetings. School supplies were being accepted at the Newton Community Center until August 5, 2023.

President Boda mentioned a funeral he attended for Bunky Miller, a lifelong waterman from Tilghman Island whom he knew his entire life. He built many of the workboats on the Bay.

ADJOURNMENT / CONVENE IN BUDGET WORK SESSION

With no further business to discuss, the Special Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Kimberly R. Nichol
City Clerk

April R. Jackson
Council President