

**CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**JANUARY 8, 2024**

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

*Council President D'Shawn M. Doughty  
Council Vice-President Angela M. Blake*

*Mayor Randolph J. Taylor  
Councilmember Sharon C. Dashiell*

**ABSENT**

*Councilmember April R. Jackson*

*Councilmember Michele Gregory*

**IN ATTENDANCE**

*City Administrator Andy Kitrow, Fire Chief Rob Frampton, Housing & Community Development Director Muir Boda, Assistant City Clerk Julie English, City Attorney Ashley Bosché and members of the public*

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**CITY INVOCATION – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

*The City Council met in Legislative Session at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Salisbury Headquarters Building and via Zoom. Council President D'Shawn Doughty called the meeting to order. He then invited everyone to recite the pledge to the flag. President Doughty called for a moment of silence to acknowledge the loss of Deputy Matthew Medley from Dorchester County. Pastor Greg Morris from the Parkway Church of God was invited to the podium to provide the Invocation. President Doughty noted that anyone interested in providing the invocation for a city council meeting could call the City Clerk's Office at 410-548-3140.*

**ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

*President Doughty called for a motion to adopt the legislative agenda. Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Dashiell seconded, and the vote was 3-0 to approve the legislative agenda.*

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

*President Doughty called for a motion and a second to adopt the Consent Agenda. Ms. Blake moved and Ms. Dashiell seconded, respectively. The vote to approve the Consent Agenda was not taken at this time.*

*After discussion with Assistant City Clerk Julie English, City Attorney Ashley Bosché interjected to discuss the need for an amendment to the legislative agenda since only three members of the Council were present. The second readings on the agenda would require a four-fifths vote.*

*After discussion, it was decided that the legislative agenda would need to be amended by moving Ordinance Nos. 2840, 2848, 2849, 2850 and 2851 for second reading to a future agenda (date to be determined) with the understanding that the Public Hearing for Ordinance No. 2840 would*

remain on the agenda with no vote from the Council.

President Doughty called for a motion to amend the legislative agenda as stated above. Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Dashiell seconded, and the vote was 3-0 to approve the legislative agenda as amended.

Assistant City Clerk Julie English was invited to the podium to provide the Consent Agenda.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following items:

- November 13, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes
- November 20, 2023 Organization Meeting Minutes
- November 27, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes
- November 27, 2023 Special Work Session Minutes
- December 4, 2023 Work Session Minutes
- December 4, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes
- December 11, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes
- December 11, Closed Session Minutes
- **Resolution No. 3312**- approving the appointment of Richard Pollitt to the Youth Development Advisory Committee for term ending January 2027
- **Resolution No. 3313**- approving the appointment of Sophia Oberton to the Youth Development Advisory Committee for the term ending January 2027
- **Resolution No. 3314**- approving the appointment of Jessica Martin to the Youth Development Advisory Committee for the term ending January 2027
- **Resolution No. 3315**- approving the appointment of Tamyra Foreman to the Youth Development Advisory Committee for the term ending January 2027
- **Resolution No. 3316**- approving the re-appointment of Clifton Griffin to the Zoo Commission for the term ending January 2027

President Doughty called for the vote to approve the Consent Agenda, and the vote was unanimous (3-0) to approve the Consent Agenda.

President Doughty asked those individuals mentioned in the Consent Agenda to stand and be recognized.

**PUBLIC HEARING**- presented by City Attorney Ashley Bosché

- **Ordinance No. 2840**- amending Section 17.04.120 of the Salisbury City Code to include definitions for adult use cannabis businesses and amending Sections 17.36.040, 17.36.045, 17.36.060, 17.76.020, 17.76.025, 17.76.050, 17.80.040 and 17.80.060 of the Salisbury City Code to regulate cannabis businesses to include growing, processing and dispensing, and to prohibit on-site consumption establishments

The Public Hearing opened at 6:13 p.m. and there were no comments from the public. The Public Hearing closed at 6:15 p.m.

*There was no vote on Ordinance No. 2840 by the Council during this meeting.*

**ORDINANCES-** *presented by City Attorney Ashley Bosché*

- **Ordinance No. 2852-** *1<sup>st</sup> reading- approving a budget amendment of the City’s Special Revenue Fund Budget and to accept and appropriate donated funds from the Bless Our Children Campaign for the Santa’s Workshop Program*

*Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Dashiell seconded, and the vote was unanimous (3-0) to approve Ordinance No. 2852 for first reading.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*The following comments were provided by members of the public:*

- *Speaker, residing on Onley Road, questioned the status of Lot 10 and the grant money with regard to the hotel and parking garage projects.*
- *Speaker, a Salisbury resident, questioned what the “litigation” referred to in the upcoming Closed Session. He also questioned why the grant money (mentioned by the previous speaker) had to go toward another hotel. Lastly, he questioned the necessity of the Horizon Program.*

**ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

*Mr. Kitzrow shared that the Sub-recipient Agreement listed on the agenda for the January 22<sup>nd</sup> Council Meeting would not be discussed at that meeting. He added that before the agreement would be brought to a council meeting, it would first be discussed at a work session. Mr. Kitzrow ended by asking the public to be careful during the upcoming storm and to visit the City’s social media outlets for updates.*

*Mayor Taylor asked City Attorney Ashley Bosché if it would be appropriate to provide more detail on the topic of discussion for the Closed Session that was scheduled to follow the meeting. Ms. Bosché stated she was not aware that more detail hadn’t been provided. She added that the topic of discussion was regarding litigation filed by four groups of landlords regarding the legislation passed during COVID to limit income. The City of Salisbury was being advised by Local Government Insurance Trust (LGIT) during this litigation. Mayor Taylor added that Administration would meet with the developer regarding Lot 10 and would report back with the details.*

*Ms. Dashiell thanked those who came out for the meeting.*

*Ms. Blake asked those who were healthy to donate blood. She shared that January was National Blood Donor Month and encouraged the public to pick any date on the calendar and donate blood.*

*President Doughty appreciated those serving on the Boards & Committees. He also encouraged anyone needing help or finding themselves in a difficult situation to dial 9-8-8 to reach a suicide and life crisis hotline. He stressed to the public that “you are needed!”*

**ADJOURNMENT / MOTION TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION**

*At 6:31 p.m. Council President D'Shawn Doughty adjourned the Legislative Session and called for a motion and a second to convene in Closed Session in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305(b)(7)(8) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter and to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation. The reason for closing the session was to discuss a settlement agreement. Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Dashiell seconded, and the vote was 3-0 to convene in Closed Session.*

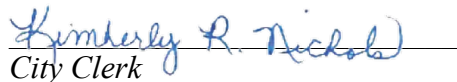
**ADJOURNMENT OF CLOSED SESSION / RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION / REPORT OUT**

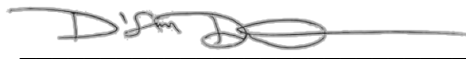
*At 6:40 p.m. Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Dashiell seconded to adjourn the Closed Session. The vote was unanimous (3-0).*

*Council returned to Open Session at 6:41 p.m. at which time President Doughty reported that Council had met in Closed Session to discuss the topic of litigation with four landlords regarding emergency Covid relief funding that was handled by the Local Government Insurance Trust. Council met in Closed Session in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305(b)(7)(8) to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter and to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*With no further business to discuss, the Open Session was adjourned.*

  
City Clerk

  
Council President