

CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND

ORGANIZATION MEETING

NOVEMBER 20, 2023

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

*President April R. Jackson
Vice President Angela M. Blake
Councilmember D’Shawn M. Doughty*

*Mayor John R. “Jack” Heath
Councilmember Michele Gregory*

PUBLIC OFFICIALS ABSENT

Councilmember Megan Outten

IN ATTENDANCE

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Wicomico County Executive Julie Giordano, MD Secretary of Housing and Community Development Jake Day, Delegate Carl Anderton, Senator Mary Beth Carozza, Wicomico County Council President John Cannon, Wicomico County Director of Administration Bunky Luffman, Wicomico County Councilman James Winn, City of Cambridge Commissioner Sputty Cephas, Delegate Tom Hutchinson, Wicomico County NAACP President Monica Brooks, Clerk of Circuit Court James “Bo” McAllister, Assistant City Clerk Julie English, Executive Administrative Office Manager Donna Haag, Executive Administrative Assistant Jessie Turner, City Clerk Kim Nichols, City Attorney Ashley Bosché, interested citizens, City employees, and members of the press.

WELCOME / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / NATIONAL ANTHEM

The City Council met in Special Session at 6:00 p.m. in the Salisbury Fire Station 16. Council President April R. Jackson invited everyone to recite the pledge to the flag, and then Angela Jenkins came forward to sing the National Anthem.

CITY INVOCATION

Bishop J. Anthony Dickerson provided the City Invocation.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

President Jackson welcomed the following dignitaries: Wicomico County Executive Julie Giordano, MD Secretary Housing and Community Development Jake Day, Delegate Carl Anderton, Senator Mary Beth Carozza, Wicomico County Council President John Cannon, Wicomico County Director of Administration Bunky Luffman, Wicomico County Councilman James Winn, City of Cambridge Commissioner Sputty Cephas, Delegate Tom Hutchinson, WCNAACP President Monica Brooks, and Clerk of Circuit Court James “Bo” McAllister.

ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

At 6:07 p.m. President Jackson called for a motion to adopt the legislative session. Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Gregory second, and the vote was 4-0 vote.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Heath congratulated Mayor-elect Randy Taylor and the new Council. He said it was an honor and privilege to have served the citizens of Salisbury for nine years and thanked the following: council members he served with, Clerks Kim Nichols and Julie English, Mayor's Office employees Donna Haag, Jessie Turner, Shawn Yonker, and Jordan Ray, Tom Stevenson (who came out of retirement to serve as Acting Deputy City Administrator), his "right hand man" City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, his family, and his wife Linda (who rarely missed a meeting).

Vice President Blake thanked the audience for attending and said she was looking forward to Randy Taylor and Sharon Dashiell joining them.

Ms. Gregory thanked everyone for attending and watching at home. She thanked Mayor Heath for his years of service, and told him the City of Salisbury was better for having had him.

Mr. Doughty said it was great to see the support this evening. As the newest Council member until Ms. Dashiell joins them this evening, he thanked Council and Mayor Heath for their guidance.

President Jackson told Mr. Taylor he ran a good race. She was proud of the candidates, the Council members who returned, and the new one that was coming on Council.

PRESENTATION

Council President Jackson and Vice President Blake presented Mayor Heath with a plaque in recognition and appreciation of his years of dedication to the community and the City of Salisbury as Council member from August 2014 to November 2015, Council President from November 2015 to January 2023, and Mayor from January 2023 to November 2023.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

James B. McAllister, Wicomico County Clerk of Circuit Court administered the Oath of Office to the following newly elected Council members: April R. Jackson, Michele Gregory, Angela M. Blake, D'Shawn M. Doughty and Sharon C. Dashiell.

Mr. McAllister then administered the Oath of Office to Mayor-elect Randolph J. Taylor.

ORGANIZATION OF CITY COUNCIL

Mayor Randolph J. Taylor announced he accepted the role of President Pro Tempore to conduct the meeting for election of Council President. He then read the rules to be followed in the election, which required adoption with a motion, second and vote by the Council:

- a. *Any Council member may be nominated for President - no second is required;*
- b. *A Council member may nominate himself or herself – no second is required;*
- c. *After all nominations are received, nominations will be closed;*
- d. *The vote will be called in order of nomination;*
- e. *When voting, the first to receive three (3) votes will be elected Council President. Council members can only vote once per nomination and can vote for themselves.*
- f. *If no Council member receives three votes, I will call for discussion following in which I will call for nominations once more and Council will follow the same process articulated until one Council member receives three votes.*

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to adopt the rules as read.

Mayor Taylor called for nominations for Council President. Ms. Gregory nominated Ms. Jackson and Ms. Dashiell nominated Mr. Doughty. As there were no further nominations, Mayor Taylor closed the nominations and called for the vote for Ms. Jackson, who received two votes (Ms. Gregory and Ms. Jackson both voted “aye.”) Mayor Taylor then called for the vote for Mr. Doughty, who received three votes (Ms. Blake, Ms. Dashiell and Mr. Doughty voted “aye.”)

President Doughty changed seats with Ms. Jackson and took the President’s seat. He then read the same rules as Mayor Taylor did, but this time for the election of Vice President.

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to adopt the rules as read.

President Doughty called for nominations for Council Vice President. Ms. Blake nominated herself and Ms. Jackson nominated Ms. Gregory. There were no more nominations, so President Doughty called for the vote for Ms. Blake for Vice-President, who received two votes (Ms. Blake and President Doughty voted “aye.”) He then called for the vote for Ms. Gregory, who also received two votes (Ms. Gregory and Ms. Jackson voted “aye.”) Since no one received three votes, President Doughty called for Council discussion.

Ms. Blake said she did an outstanding job as Vice President and had a good relationship with Administration, the community and business community. She added that her experience could move the Council forward in a very steady, stable way.

Ms. Gregory said she had served on Council for a little less time than Ms. Blake. In that time, she built relationships in the community and believed communication was key, which was something the role of Vice President should be playing, but was lacking. She wanted to move forward and create a more open dialogue with everybody at the table.

Ms. Jackson said she nominated Ms. Gregory because she communicated with Ms. Jackson when no one else would. She said she texted and called Council after the election and received no response from the other three, only excuses. Ms. Blake went behind her back when she (Ms. Jackson) was President instead of coming to her. Ms. Blake said that was not true.

President Doughty called again for nominations for Council Vice President. Ms. Jackson

nominated Ms. Gregory and Ms. Blake nominated herself. Hearing no further nominations, President Doughty called for the vote for Ms. Gregory for Vice President. Two votes were received (Ms. Gregory and Ms. Jackson both voted “aye.”)

President Doughty called for the vote for Ms. Blake as Vice President and three votes were received. President Doughty, Ms. Blake and Ms. Dashiell all voted “aye.”

CLOSING COMMENTS

Mayor Taylor spoke from the podium and thanked the citizens for the extraordinary opportunity to serve as Mayor. He also thanked his family and the countless volunteers who believed in him. He thanked Megan Outten and Jermichael Mitchell for a fair and competitive race. He shared that he grew up on the streets of Salisbury and experienced first-hand the warmth and strength of our community and chose to return to Salisbury to begin his career and raise his family. He believed in public service, and it was an honor beyond words to now lead this City and give back to the place that gave him so much. The following principles would guide his tenure as Mayor:

- 1. Unwavering commitment to transparency*
- 2. Citizen involvement*
- 3. Keeping taxes low*
- 4. Will work collaboratively with City Council*

He said Salisbury was not just a place to live but a hometown to be proud of and a community where everyone could thrive. They would build a Salisbury that reflected the values we held dear- transparency, inclusiveness, fiscally responsible, and a hometown to be proud of.

Councilwoman Dashiell thanked her wonderful family and friends. Running for Council was not her initial intention, but she stepped up because this is a nice place to live and there were issues that she had opinions on. She liked to think they could work cohesively together and the thing that mattered most to her was what she was promising the citizens- that she would like to bring reason and common sense to the decisions made. The citizens mattered and were being heard.

Councilwoman Blake said it had been a fantastic four years, ten months. She looked forward to another term and working with Councilwoman Dashiell, Mayor Taylor, President Doughty, and Council. They had lots to look forward to in supporting Salisbury’s vision and moving forward.

Councilwoman Jackson congratulated President Doughty and suggested moving forward to do what was needed for the City of Salisbury. She thanked her family and friends for supporting her and said we may not agree on everything, but we had to compromise.

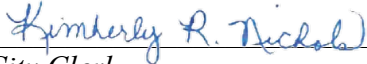
Ms. Gregory thanked everyone for attending. The citizen support and participation was appreciated. She looked forward to working with everyone for the next four years.

President Doughty said he was grateful for this journey. The place he called home for all of his life has overwhelmingly supported him. He thanked everyone, especially his family and friends who supported him. He wanted the citizens to keep holding Council accountable, have fun and


do it in an amicable way. He also thanked his mother and father for making him the person he was today. He shared that his eighteen-month-old nephew in the audience was our future and why we had to work together. Let's put bygones and party affiliations aside and work together for a better Salisbury. Thank you all.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Special Session adjourned at 6:45 p.m.



City Clerk



Council President

OATH OF OFFICE

I, ANGELA M. BLAKE, DO SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT I WILL BE FAITHFUL AND BEAR TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND, AND SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS THEREOF; AND THAT I WILL TO THE BEST OF MY SKILL AND JUDGMENT, DILIGENTLY AND FAITHFULLY, WITHOUT PARTIALITY OR PREJUDICE, EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE CITY OF SALISBURY ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THIS STATE.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Angela M. Blake', written over a horizontal line.

ANGELA M. BLAKE

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND, THIS 20 DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James B. McAllister', written over a horizontal line.

JAMES "BO" MCALLISTER,
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

OATH OF OFFICE

I, SHARON C. DASHIELL, DO SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT I WILL BE FAITHFUL AND BEAR TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND, AND SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS THEREOF; AND THAT I WILL TO THE BEST OF MY SKILL AND JUDGMENT, DILIGENTLY AND FAITHFULLY, WITHOUT PARTIALITY OR PREJUDICE, EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE CITY OF SALISBURY ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THIS STATE.



SHARON C. DASHIELL


SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND, THIS 20 DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.



JAMES "BO" MCALLISTER,
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT


OATH OF OFFICE

I, D'SHAWN M. DOUGHTY, DO SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT I WILL BE FAITHFUL AND BEAR TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND, AND SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS THEREOF; AND THAT I WILL TO THE BEST OF MY SKILL AND JUDGMENT, DILIGENTLY AND FAITHFULLY, WITHOUT PARTIALITY OR PREJUDICE, EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE CITY OF SALISBURY ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THIS STATE.



D'SHAWN M. DOUGHTY

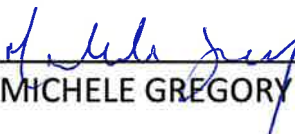
SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND, THIS 20 DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.




JAMES "BO" MCALLISTER,
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

OATH OF OFFICE

I, MICHELE GREGORY, DO SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT I WILL BE FAITHFUL AND BEAR TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND, AND SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS THEREOF; AND THAT I WILL TO THE BEST OF MY SKILL AND JUDGMENT, DILIGENTLY AND FAITHFULLY, WITHOUT PARTIALITY OR PREJUDICE, EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE CITY OF SALISBURY ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THIS STATE.


MICHELE GREGORY

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND, THIS 20 DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.


JAMES "BO" MCALLISTER,
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

OATH OF OFFICE

I, APRIL R. JACKSON, DO SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT I WILL BE FAITHFUL AND BEAR TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND, AND SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS THEREOF; AND THAT I WILL TO THE BEST OF MY SKILL AND JUDGMENT, DILIGENTLY AND FAITHFULLY, WITHOUT PARTIALITY OR PREJUDICE, EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE CITY OF SALISBURY ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THIS STATE.



APRIL R. JACKSON


SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND, THIS 20 DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.



JAMES "BO" MCALLISTER,
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

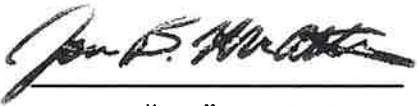
OATH OF OFFICE

I, RANDOLPH J. TAYLOR, DO SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT I WILL BE FAITHFUL AND BEAR TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND, AND SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS THEREOF; AND THAT I WILL TO THE BEST OF MY SKILL AND JUDGMENT, DILIGENTLY AND FAITHFULLY, WITHOUT PARTIALITY OR PREJUDICE, EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR FOR THE CITY OF SALISBURY ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THIS STATE.



RANDOLPH J. TAYLOR

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND, THIS 20 DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.



JAMES "BO" MCALLISTER,
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

OATH OF OFFICE

I, ANGELA M. BLAKE, DO SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT I WILL BE FAITHFUL AND BEAR TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND, AND SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS THEREOF; AND THAT I WILL TO THE BEST OF MY SKILL AND JUDGMENT, DILIGENTLY AND FAITHFULLY, WITHOUT PARTIALITY OR PREJUDICE, EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE CITY OF SALISBURY ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THIS STATE.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Angela M. Blake', written over a horizontal line.

ANGELA M. BLAKE

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JAMES "BO" MCALLISTER,
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

OATH OF OFFICE

I, SHARON C. DASHIELL, DO SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT I WILL BE FAITHFUL AND BEAR TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND, AND SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS THEREOF; AND THAT I WILL TO THE BEST OF MY SKILL AND JUDGMENT, DILIGENTLY AND FAITHFULLY, WITHOUT PARTIALITY OR PREJUDICE, EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE CITY OF SALISBURY ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THIS STATE.



SHARON C. DASHIELL


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JAMES "BO" MCALLISTER,
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT


OATH OF OFFICE

I, D'SHAWN M. DOUGHTY, DO SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT I WILL BE FAITHFUL AND BEAR TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND, AND SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS THEREOF; AND THAT I WILL TO THE BEST OF MY SKILL AND JUDGMENT, DILIGENTLY AND FAITHFULLY, WITHOUT PARTIALITY OR PREJUDICE, EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE CITY OF SALISBURY ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THIS STATE.



D'SHAWN M. DOUGHTY

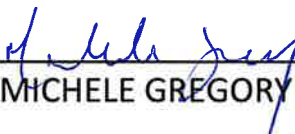
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JAMES "BO" MCALLISTER,
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

OATH OF OFFICE

I, MICHELE GREGORY, DO SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT I WILL BE FAITHFUL AND BEAR TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND, AND SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS THEREOF; AND THAT I WILL TO THE BEST OF MY SKILL AND JUDGMENT, DILIGENTLY AND FAITHFULLY, WITHOUT PARTIALITY OR PREJUDICE, EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE CITY OF SALISBURY ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THIS STATE.


MICHELE GREGORY

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JAMES "BO" MCALLISTER,
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

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JAMES "BO" MCALLISTER,
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT


OATH OF OFFICE

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RANDOLPH J. TAYLOR

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND, THIS 20 DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.



JAMES "BO" MCALLISTER,
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT