

**CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**NOVEMBER 27, 2023**

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

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

*Mayor Randolph J. Taylor  
Councilmember April R. Jackson*

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS ABSENT**

*Councilmember Sharon C. Dashiell*

**IN ATTENDANCE**

*City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Deputy City Administrator John Tull, Arts, Business & Culture Department Director Allen Swiger, Assistant City Clerk Julie English, Media Specialist Jordan Ray, Deputy Chiefs Chris O'Barsky and Darrin Scott, Acting Deputy Chief of Operations Rob Frampton, City Attorney Ashley Bosché, Assistant City Clerk Julie English, and members of the public*

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – SILENT MEDITATION**

*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 M. Doughty called the meeting to order and invited everyone to recite the pledge to the flag. He then called for a moment of silent meditation and asked everyone to remember President Rick Gordon of Greenbelt, Maryland, who passed away over the weekend.*

**PROCLAMATION-** presented by Mayor Randolph J. Taylor

**Municipal Government Works Month**

*Mayor Taylor presented the Municipal Government Works Month proclamation. Maryland's cities and towns have celebrated Municipal Government Works Month each November since 1993 in an effort to promote Citizens' awareness of and interest in the government in their communities. Municipalities have enhanced the quality of life for their respective residents by maintaining natural and historic sites and structures local to their cities and towns, making Maryland a great place to live, work, play, and explore.*

**ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA-** presented by City Clerk Kimberly Nichols

Ms. Gregory moved and Ms. Blake seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. , and the following Consent Agenda items were approved by unanimous vote in favor:

- *October 9, 2023 Council Meeting Minutes*
- *October 9, 2023 Closed Session Minutes (separate email)*
- *October 16, 2023 Work Session Minutes*
- **Resolution No. 3306**- *approving the reappointment of Charles “Chip” Dashiell to the Salisbury/Wicomico Planning & Zoning Commission for the term ending December 2028*

*Mrs. Nichols noted the words “and Chairman” were insert today after “Member” in Resolution No. 3306 as required by the Planning Commission. The amendment would require approval prior to voting on the amended Consent Agenda.*

- **Resolution No. 3307**- *approving the appointment of Daniel Moreno-Holt to the Salisbury/Wicomico Planning & Zoning Commission for the term ending March 2027*
- **Resolution No. 3308**- *approving the appointment of Kenisha Le’Cole to the TRUTH Committee for the term ending November 2026*

*President Doughty called for a motion to amend Resolution No. 3306 as read. Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approve the amendment.*

*The Consent Agenda as amended, was approved by unanimous vote in favor.*

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

- **Ordinance No. 2838**- *2<sup>nd</sup> reading- approving a budget amendment to appropriate funds for the Maryland Folk Festival*

*Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2838 for second reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2839**- *2<sup>nd</sup> reading- to accept grant funds from the Maryland Department of General Services in the amount of \$4,000,000 for infrastructure improvements*

*Ms. Blake moved and Ms. Gregory seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2839 for second reading.*

*Ms. Jackson questioned the \$4 million for infrastructure improvements. She said the City’s Sanitation Division was having issues, there were streets needing paving, and many issues in the City that needed addressing. Yet we are using this \$4 million for an event center when we should be taking care of the infrastructure that was already here.*

*President Doughty asked if any studies had been conducted. Mr. Kitzrow said the \$4 million was for the sole purpose of redevelopment including infrastructure for Lot 10. He agreed with Ms. Jackson that the things she mentioned were high priorities. A market study was the decision of the developer. Mayor Taylor said the \$4 million was originally earmarked for Frederick, and when that project did not happen, the funds were transferred to Salisbury specifically for the purposes of infrastructure of a conference center. The*

*monies would be returned should the project not include a conference center. President Doughty asked if we would be hindered from receiving further grants should we refuse this grant, and Mayor Taylor answered in the affirmative.*

*Ms. Blake said this was for second reading, and clarified they discussed it multiple times. Ms. Gregory thought it was important to continue educating the public on what was on the agenda and what they were voting on.*

*President Doughty again called for a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2839, and Ms. Gregory moved and Ms. Blake seconded the motion. The ordinance, for second reading was approved by unanimous vote in favor (4-0).*

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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

- Thanked Mayor Taylor for his comments about citizen participation and transparency at the Swearing-In Ceremony and hoped City Department Heads heard that clearly. He asked Council to be humble and kind, and reminded them they worked for the citizens of Salisbury. This was a new, clean slate and encouraged them to ask the questions.*
- Speaker asked Mayor and Council to continue to prioritize the discussion of recovery home legislation in the City. He was not contacted by anyone recently about further developments and asked Mr. Kitzrow to recuse himself from the conversation given his relationship with the Homes For Hope proprietorship.*
- Speaker read an email she sent to the City Council today that she thought the \$4 million grant should be used to improve City streets and traffic lights, and she objected to the subrecipient agreement. Why should a grant to the City be used to benefit a private developer over a multitude of City infrastructure needs.*
- Speaker worked in infrastructure and with \$4 million going into it she wanted to hear about the lead and copper rule revision and what the City would do about it, and how it would affect the health of City residents. She told what her job entailed with the Town of Delmar about the rule revision. She preferred placing funds into a community center for children rather than building a hotel conference center.*
- Speaker said The Ross's market study turned out bad since only 30% was rented out. Market studies are done by people who are paid to put out good numbers for developers. The Board of Appeals turned down the Special Exception for Salisbury Town Center. There was misinformation published in the Independent. The article stated the developer would pay for the parking garage, which would be owned and operated by the City. This was not the truth. The Planning Commission was misled by a City Official and the developer's attorney about the Commission's ability to opine on downtown parking.*
- Speaker said the parking lot development would happen. He said there used to be a primarily black group of neighborhoods known as Georgetown. Currently it was under Lot 10, Rt. 13 and Rt. 50. Development was good but what about communities?*
- Speaker said in the Council Rules of Order there as a section called Public Input. She read (F) which stated the Council President shall accept public comments from citizens during Council consideration of an item in addition to a general public comment period.*

**ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

*Mr. Kitzrow thanked Council for moving forward with the two second readings and welcomed Mayor Taylor.*

*Mayor Taylor said that people were feeling choked off from information, and the City was about to change that. They would start at the Work Session level, and it would be very visual, very open-book, inclusive and conversational so that we do not get this bottleneck feeling. He said he understood that the \$4 million grant would not exist if the project did not exist, and it was specific to the conference center. It could not be used for general things.*

*Ms. Gregory was looking forward to the tree lighting this weekend. She spent Saturday shopping small businesses downtown, and encouraged everyone to shop small. Make sure everyone supported the small businesses this holiday season.*

*Ms. Jackson asked everyone to lock their vehicles and to not shop alone at night. Be aware of your surroundings and be safe. Do not drink and drive. She thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and speaking out.*

*Ms. Blake agreed with everyone and said to shop small. Please consider donating blood and becoming an organ and plasma donor. The Eastern Shore was critically low.*

*President Doughty thanked everyone for attending and for the public comments. He shared Mayor Taylor’s sentiments that they were striving for transparency. Please continue letting us know your concerns. He said the passing of Council President Gordon hit him hard and he was reminded that life was short. Please make sure you are being kind this holiday season. He was excited for the Holiday Season.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*With no further business to discuss, the Legislative Session adjourned at 6:55 p.m. Council then convened in the Special Work Session.*

  
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City Clerk

  
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Council President