

CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND

REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 22, 2024

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

*Council President D'Shawn M. Doughty
Council Vice President Angela M. Blake
Councilmember Michele Gregory (via Zoom)*

*Mayor Randolph J. Taylor
Councilmember April R. Jackson
Councilmember Sharon C. Dashiell*

IN ATTENDANCE

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Executive Administrative Assistant Jessie Turner, City Clerk Kim Nichols, City Attorney Ashley Bosché and members of the public

CITY INVOCATION – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The City Council met in Legislative Session at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Government Office Building and via Zoom. Council President D'Shawn M. Doughty called the meeting to order. He then invited everyone to recite the pledge to the flag. Pastor Greg Carlson of Parks Seventh-day Adventist Church was invited to the podium to provide the City Invocation.

OBSERVANCE OF SILENCE

A special moment of silence was observed in memory of former Wicomico County Councilman and District 37A State Legislator Rudy Cane.

ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

President Doughty called for a motion to adopt the legislative agenda. Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous (5-0) to approve the legislative agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA- *presented by City Clerk Kim Nichols*

The Consent Agenda, consisting of the following items, was unanimously approve on a motion and seconded by Ms. Blake and Ms. Jackson, respectively:

- *December 18, 2023 Work Session Minutes*
- *December 18, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes*
- *January 2, 2024 Work Session Minutes*
- *January 8, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes*
- **Resolution No. 3317-** *approving the appointment of Lynne Bratten to the Historic District Commission for the term ending January 2027*
- **Resolution No. 3318-** *approving the appointment of Lisa Gingrich to the Historic District Commission for the term ending January 2027*
- **Resolution No. 3319-** *approving the re-appointment of Scott Saxman to the Historic District Commission for term ending January 2027*
- **Resolution No. 3320-** *approving the appointment of Noha Yousif to the Sustainability*

- *Speaker said that unaccompanied youth increased 15% over the previous year, and there was a 16% increase of families with children over the past year. If barriers were not removed to existing resources and to prioritize children, youth and families for new resources, homelessness would continue rising. Phoenix Youth Projects Action Board was requesting a City Council member to sponsor a Bill of Rights for those experiencing homelessness. The rights to housing, equal treatment, employment fairness and personal safety was a right every City citizen shared. She invited the elected officials to the call of action and said the Bill of Rights was sent to the Council President for review.*
- *Speaker volunteers by assembling self-care bags for the homeless community not within a shelter. We should not lose anyone in inclement weather with all the open spaces that were in the City. She was aware of four people who lost their lives because they froze to death. People do not choose to be homeless. Until you have personally experienced it, no one knows the trials and tribulations it took for the homeless to get what they needed. There were shelters in the City of Salisbury that were not government funded that refused to take people in between certain times of the day regardless of the weather temperatures. She said she needed to see the Mayor and Council people taking action, and not just talking about it.*

ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Taylor said that not a day went by in the office that he and Andy did not talk about homelessness. When it gets cold, it becomes pronounced. There was not enough Anne Streets. They were aware of it, and doing what we could to do our part.

Ms. Gregory reminded everyone to get a flu shot and wear a mask. The flu was running rampant.

Ms. Dashiell thanked Robert Taylor for sharing a clip of Jamie Dykes speaking before the Legislative. The homelessness piece was huge. She was on the Hands and Hearts Ending Homelessness (HHEH) Board in charge with another person in the kitchen. They ensured they received three meals a day and their cots were filled. The other piece was the juvenile crime issue. What Jamie Dykes shared was just mind boggling and she had heard Sheriff Lewis discuss. These two important issues had to be addressed. She did not have the answers but was willing to work on it. Pastor Greg Carlson was President of the Board for the HHEH, and his church housed 32 men.

Ms. Jackson agreed with the former comments. She worked with the homeless shelters for twelve years through the churches, and it was an excellent program. The City had to come together and not just put it on the churches. We had to do better and move forward.

Ms. Blake concurred with the Council comments and encouraged everyone to donate blood.

President Doughty said we did more as a community and it had a bigger impact. It was time to act. He attended the Junior Achievement Gala last weekend and had a great time. The Prince Street Amazing Shake was being held this week and the Community Open House was next Monday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Legislative Session adjourned at 6:33 p.m.

MOTION TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION

President Doughty called for a motion to convene in Closed Session to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on matters that relate to ongoing collective bargaining negotiations as authorized by the State Government Article, § 3-3-5(b)(7)(9). Council would consult with special legal counsel to consider all matters that related to ongoing collective bargaining negotiations.

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to convene in the Closed Session. The Closed Session convened at 6:36 p.m.

ADJOURN CLOSED SESSION AND RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

While in Closed Session, Council did not discuss City business because the special legal counsel was unable to participate. After this was discovered, at 6:45 p.m. President Doughty called for a motion to end the Closed Session.

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Dashiell seconded, and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the Closed Session.

Thereafter, Council returned to Open Session and President Doughty reported that Council had just returned from Closed Session. Due to special legal counsel having a prior obligation and unable to attend, Council did not fulfill the Closed Session, which was rescheduled to February 12, 2024.

CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND
CLOSED SESSION
DECEMBER 11, 2023

TIME & PLACE: 6:38 p.m., Council Chambers, Salisbury Headquarters Building
PURPOSE: to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; and to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto
VOTE TO CLOSE: Unanimous (5-0)
CITATION: Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305(b)(1)(3)
PRESENT: Council President D'Shawn M. Doughty, Mayor Randolph J. Taylor, Vice President Angela M. Blake, Councilmember April R. Jackson, Councilmember Michele Gregory, Councilmember Sharon C. Dashiell, City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, City Attorney Ashley Bosché, City Clerk Kim Nichols, Rob Frampton

The City Council convened in Legislative Session at 6:00 p.m. on December 11, 2023 in Council Chambers of the Salisbury Headquarters Building and via Zoom Video Conferencing. At 6:36 p.m. President Doughty called for a motion to convene in Closed Session to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals, and to consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related thereto under the authority of the Maryland Open Meetings Law, Annotated Code of Maryland General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(1)(3). The reason for the Closed Session was to consider the acquisition of two parcels of land and to interview the candidate for Fire Chief. Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was 5-0 to convene in the Closed Session, which began at 6:38 p.m.

Acquisition of Property

Mr. Kitzrow presented the information on the parcels of land to consider for purchase, shared an aerial map of the sites, discussed prior and intended use of the property and funding options.

Council reached consensus to acquire the property. A letter of recommendation to the County to use Program Open Space funds would be prepared.

Fire Chief Interview

Mr. Kitzrow explained the process for the month-long public search for the Fire Chief, explained the interview process, ranking of the candidates, and Administration's reasons to select the candidate.

After answering President Doughty's question about qualifications, Ms. Jackson's concerns with diversity, Ms. Dashiell's inquiry as to whether anyone was interviewed from out of the area, and Ms. Gregory's report of receiving feedback concerning the salary, Mr. Kitzrow invited the

candidate into the Closed Session at 6:58 p.m.

The candidate introduced himself and shared his background and vision for the department. The Council unanimously supported Administration's recommendation for Fire Chief.

With nothing further to discuss in Closed Session, at 7:10 p.m. Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the Closed Session.

At 7:12 p.m. Council reconvened in Open Session whereby President Doughty reported that Council just returned to Open Session after convening in Closed Session. While in Closed Session, Council interviewed the candidate for Fire Chief and discussed the acquisition of two parcels of property in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305(b)(1)(3).


CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND
CLOSED SESSION
JANUARY 8, 2024

TIME & PLACE: 6:31 p.m., Council Chambers, Salisbury Headquarters Building
PURPOSE: 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;
VOTE TO CLOSE: Unanimous (3-0)
CITATION: Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305(b)(7)(8)
PRESENT: Council President D'Shawn M. Doughty, Mayor Randolph J. Taylor, Vice-President Angela M. Blake, Councilmember Sharon Dashiell, City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, City Attorney Ashley Bosché, Assistant City Clerk Julie English


The City Council convened in Legislative Session at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers of the Salisbury Headquarters Building and via Zoom Video Conferencing on January 8, 2024. At 6:31 p.m. upon the adjournment of the Legislative Session, Council President Doughty called for a motion to convene in Closed Session 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 as permitted under the authority of the Maryland Open Meetings Law, Annotated Code of Maryland General Provisions Article § 3-305(b)(7)(8). Council 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 (LGIT).

Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Dashiell seconded, and the vote was 3-0 to convene in Closed Session. City Attorney Ashley Bosché relayed the information from LGIT regarding the litigation. Administration and Council asked any questions they had and Ms. Bosché responded as necessary.

Having no further questions and a consensus from Administration and Council to move forward with what had been discussed, President Doughty asked for a motion and a second to adjourn the Closed Session. At 6:31p.m. Ms. Blake moved and Ms. Dashiell seconded to adjourn the Closed Session and reconvene in Open Session. The vote was 3-0. President Doughty reported that City Council had 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.



City Clerk



City Council President