

**CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 12, 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, Department of Infrastructure & Development Director Rick Baldwin, Executive Administrative Assistant Jessie Turner, City Clerk Kim Nichols, City Attorney Ashley Bosché and members of the public*

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**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – CITY INVOCATION**

*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, followed by inviting Pastor Greg Morris of the Parkway Church of God to the podium to provide the City Invocation.*

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

- **Proclamation- Black History Month**

*Mayor Randolph J. Taylor invited the members of the TRUTH Committee present forward to join him at the podium to accept the proclamation. Three members joined him- Chair Amber Green, Kenisha Le’Cole and Joe Venosa. Black History Month is observed each February and helps celebrate the achievements of African Americans in the Arts, Civil Rights, Education, Entertainment, Government, History, Law, Literature, Medicine, Military, Music, Politics, Science, Sports, and other endeavors. Designed to recognize the many contributions of African Americans to our history, society, culture and life in the United States, this year’s theme “African Americans and the Arts” serves to preserve important issues, people and stories in African American history through visual and performing arts, literature, fashion, folklore, language, film, music, architecture, and culinary. Mayor Taylor encouraged all citizens to join the City in honoring the history and contributions of African Americans.*

- **Certificate of Recognition- Amazing Shake Winner**

*Mayor Taylor invited Jocelyn Levan forward to the join him at the podium to recognize her outstanding participation as winner of the Amazing Shake Competition at Prince Street Elementary School and to present to her the Certificate of Recognition. The competition introduced students to the business world by reinforcing and testing their skills in manners, discipline, respect and professional conduct. The competition was*

*designed to give students the tools to effectively present themselves not only on this day but in the future in their professions outside of school.*

*President Doughty remarked that he and Councilwoman Dashiell had the pleasure to meet Jocelyn at the competition and she definitely was a shining star. She not only was the winner out of all of the students at Prince Street Elementary, but she also wowed Superintendent Micah Stauffer. Everyone in the room applauded Jocelyn. Ms. Dashiell told her it was a pleasure to meet her and she outshone everyone else as a wonderful example to all of her classmates. She spent twenty-two years of her life at Prince Street.*

*Jocelyn's mother and Principal Mr. Miller were recognized by Councilwoman Jackson.*

**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. Jackson and Ms. Dashiell, respectively:*

- *January 8, 2024 Closed Session Minutes*
- *January 12, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes*
- *January 16, 2024 Work Session Minutes*
- *January 16, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes*
- *January 22, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes*
- ***Resolution No. 3324-*** *approving the appointment of Catherine Skeeter to the Sustainability Advisory Committee (Green Team) for the term ending February 2027*
- ***Resolution No. 3325-*** *approving the re-appointment of Dave Harris to the Zoo Commission for the term ending February 2027*
- ***Resolution No. 3326-*** *approving the appointment of Mikayla Somers to the Youth Development Advisory Committee for the term ending February 2027*
- ***Resolution No. 3327-*** *approving the appointment of Nanay Paul to the TRUTH Committee for the term ending February 2027*

*Mr. Doughty recognized the committee members' service and commitment to the City of Salisbury. None were present at the meeting.*

**AWARD OF BIDS-** *presented by Procurement Director Jennifer Miller*

*The following Award of Bids were unanimously approved on a motion and seconded by Ms. Blake and Ms. Jackson, respectively:*

**Award of Bid(s)**

- *ITB 24-114 Parking Garage Structural Rehabilitation Phase II* **\$794,773.00**

*Ms. Miller presented ITB 24-114. President Doughty called for questions from Council. Ms. Dashiell asked to confirm the initial issue with the last inspection of the garage was a safety issue and it was recommended that the garage be repaired in 2020. Why was it not done? If this was an additional cost over the \$592,000, shouldn't that have come before the City Council for the new estimate of \$792,773? Why would we put this kind of money into something that is scheduled for demolition sooner rather than later?*

*Ms. Miller deferred to Mr. Kitzrow for the answers to Ms. Dashiell's questions. He said the document was the CIP from last year and it included a replacement of the Circle Parking Garage in FY28. It has now been pushed out several years. The work they were now doing was preventative maintenance to allow them to gain additional life out of the existing parking garage. The \$800,000 investment was needed now, but they did not have an immediate time frame to replace the parking garage.*

*In answering the question about safety, Mr. Kitzrow said a lot of their projects were backlogged and they had been working on trying to get out from underneath. They had a shortage in engineering staff and resources and were finally catching up. This was a higher priority and he recalled the incident at TidalHealth not long ago which made the City move these to the forefront.*

*The final answer to Ms. Dashiell's question was more of a budget question. He said he thought the \$794,773 was a totality of Phase II, so it was three different buckets. It was not an increase, but was being presented as one sum, that was all part of the same phase.*

*Ms. Dashiell asked when the garage would be demolished and replaced. Mr. Kitzrow answered it would be ten to fifteen years. Periodically the City brought structural engineers to do a walk through of the garage to see if there was any additional preventative maintenance that could be done to stretch additional life out of it. He said there was no indication there was an immediate issue with it. He asked DID Director Rick Baldwin to join him at the podium.*

*Mr. Baldwin said this had been ongoing for quite some years and there were multiple assessments done by firms that specialized in parking decks. It was typical that when a parking garage was built it would have a projected useful life of approximately 25 years. The City's parking deck was built in two phases. The various years in funding was in response to the studies we've received. The number of times the City bid was far many more times the number of opportunities we were able to award. He added that with this round they would be able to complete Phase II and all recommended repairs, extending the useful life significantly. They were pleased with the bids that came in this time.*

- *ITB A-24-105 Fire Apparatus Maintenance and Repair Services* *\$250,000.00 est.*

*Ms. Miller presented ITB A-24-105. President Doughty asked if it was typical to only receive one bid for something regarding this nature, and Ms. Miller replied yes. He asked then about the close dates. Did they typically report on when they were closed. She explained the bid date was when they published the bid. Bid opening was when they physically opened the bids, but they were closed to everyone else.*

- *ITB 24-107 Wastewater Treatment Plant Materials Building Renovations \$249,043.00*

*Ms. Miller presented ITB 24-107. There were no Council questions.*

- *ITB 24-113 Truitt Street Community Center HVAC Installation \$148,880.00*

*Ms. Miller presented ITB 24-113. President Doughty said he was excited the City was moving forward with this project.*

- *ITB 24-112 Truitt Street Community Center Electrical Installation \$142,000.00*

*Ms. Miller presented ITB 24-112 and there were no questions from Council.*

- *RFP A-24-102 Engineering Services \$ 0.00\**

- a. *\*Multiple vendor awards on a task-order basis*

*Ms. Miller presented A-24-102. Mr. Doughty commented that the firms were familiar names and good to work with.*

*Approval of Tier 6 Change Order*

- *RFP 20-103 Laboratory Information Management System – CO #6 \$ 0.00*

*Ms. Miller presented the Change Order RFP 20-103. Council had no questions.*

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

- **Ordinance No. 2853-** *2<sup>nd</sup> reading- approving a budget amendment of the FY2024 General Fund Budget to appropriate funds to the Salisbury Fire Department’s operating account*

*Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2853 for second reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2854-** *2<sup>nd</sup> reading- authorizing a budget amendment and the Mayor to appropriate funds for the WWTP Material Warehouse Project*

*Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2854 for second reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2855-** *1<sup>st</sup> reading- authorizing a budget amendment to reallocate \$149,000.00 from the Main Street Master Plan Project to serve as the local match to the Transportation Alternative Program – Salisbury Citywide Bikeways Design Project*

*Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Dashiell seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2855 for first reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2856**- 1<sup>st</sup> reading- authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore for the purpose of accepting grant funds in the amount of \$1,500, and to approve a budget amendment to the Grant Fund to appropriate these funds for the Salisbury-Wicomico Integrated Firstcare Team

*Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2856 for first reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2857**- 1<sup>st</sup> reading- to amend Chapter 15.24 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled “Housing Standards”, to clarify fire and life safety provisions regarding the Fire Marshal and this code

*Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2857 for first reading.*

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Four people provided the following comments:*

- *Speaker stated he emailed Council on the Award of Bids parking structure rehab item and attended to hear the discussion, but only heard it said that the City would take that \$30 million item in the CIP to replace the existing parking garage. The work at the existing parking structure was already pushed back in the CIP to 2028.*
- *Speaker said he found \$592,000 appropriated for the garage in a CIP from four years ago. It was difficult reading through the City’s documents, so there could be more funds appropriated.*
- *There were 703 parking spaces in the garage and part of the sale of the existing parking lots was that there was extra room in the garage for them to park. All the lots now have been sold except for a small lot on Rt. 50.*
- *If the parking garage was torn down to be replaced, where were the people going to park?*
- *We’ve sold the lots where they might park while the parking structure was being replaced. It would make sense to do the replacement now and strike a deal with one of the developers that bought those lots to use them for the time needed. This epitomized the ridiculous way the City was managed in recent years.*
- *3.25.010 established the HORIZON program. (Speaker handed the copy of the code to Ms. Nichols and it has been attached as part of the minutes.) It stated the program shall be reevaluated after three years, and the Council could amend the program or end the program at any time by resolution. It was time to bring the program under control or to rescind it.*
- *Speaker read from an article in the Baltimore Sun from April 8, 2021 in which it stated that Harford County’s former Planning & Zoning director made a mistake when he determined that five sober living facility houses could be built in a residential neighborhood south of Belair without a Special Exception, as determined by a County Zoning hearing examiner.*
- *Speaker passed out to Council another article that states Maryland made it easy to open and operate sober living homes. The argument was that the State of Maryland was overseeing these homes and that was not the case, with very few exceptions. It was months since he*

received an update. Mr. Kitzrow offered a conversation with Mr. Boda last month, but speaker had not heard from that office.

- The conversation has been going on here since July 4<sup>th</sup> for some kind of process to be made to certify recovery homes. He advised the City to create a citizens advisory committee on group living or sober living. He was getting disheartened to come every two weeks to speak into the void.
- While trying to avoid litigation from recovery homes against Salisbury, he brought the article to remind County that citizens were suing governments. He was getting close to create a community organization effort to gather the concerned citizens to consider a lawsuit of their own.
- Speaker thanked Council for their leadership on behalf of the community. Approving the bikeways grant was a step in the right direction. Bike lanes have been worked on in the City since 2012. There were things done well and other things that we've learned from and will do differently. We were mature enough as a community to be good stewards of the money to turn into meaningful improvements. He thanked Council for supporting the legislation.
- Speaker said she mentioned getting reports from commission meetings attended by members of the City Council so that the public would get a synopsis of what the boards and commissions were doing. It would open transparency and build relationships with the City Council members.
- Two meetings ago there were members of the community who addressed the tragedies that occurred during a very cold spell. There were questions from those individuals about what was going on and responses were not given by Council members. This standard had held for years. She thought a report should come out to the public about what was discovered and learned and what our procedures and policies were. She asked how many people were in the Anne Street Village, who were the employees hired by the City as homeless coordinators, what were they doing, and were they pursuing their duties to offer the homeless individuals respite, care, warmth, and concern, or did they go home after work to their warm homes when everybody else went home.
- The HORIZON Program was up for review and the infrastructure built should carry their weight in providing revenue for fire, police, streets, maintenance, and upkeep.

### **ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Kitzrow stated if Council was interested in creating a Task Force or committee, it may be a useful use of time. He would follow back up after speaking with the Mayor. They would continue to work on providing updates to questions and concerns. Salisbury had a big structural fire over the weekend. It was a great response time by our team, and luckily no lives were lost.

Mayor Taylor said he did an analysis on assessments that were coming online. He thought it was a good idea to incent people to push into the urban core around downtown. The current HORIZON program was too long in its repayment and could be tweaked to keep the incentive going downtown. The Ross only had a 4 ½% increase in the amount of new assessments coming onboard. He said he pushed the Apology Resolution over to the TRUTH Committee. They were to meet on February 21<sup>st</sup> and he had positive results so far. He hoped to have it presented very soon.

Ms. Gregory reminded everyone that Covid was still around. She was fortunately over it, but we really needed to be very careful. to get a flu shot and wear a mask. The flu was running rampant.

*Ms. Dashiell reported she attended the Wicomico County Airport Commission this afternoon. The airport was establishing a maintenance tech school to train airline mechanics. The target for starting the school was in the Fall of this year. As Wayne Strausburg stated, there were planes flying over us all the time and we needed to have a reason to pull them down. This school would hopefully help do that and help grow. She attended the Rotary Luncheon where two heroes were honored – Bill Suess and Alfred Jones.*

*Ms. Blake asked drivers to stop for school buses. On Long Avenue where the Board of Education office building was, buses stop and let students off there. Many people do not stop for them. She noted the fire on Pemberton looked very, very bad. She was happy nobody was hurt and praised the Fire Department. She frequently attended the Human Rights Committee over the past two years, and the committee has re-grouped over the past two months or so. The Board members were addressing by-laws and how the group should function. She met with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee in December and enjoyed hearing the discussion on the bike lanes, Rails to Trails project, and getting bike education out to the community. If healthy enough, please donate blood or plasma, and become an organ donor. The Eastern Shore remains very low.*

*Ms. Jackson had a report from the Parks & Rec Committee next week. She reported on some prominent African American leaders here on the Shore, including James Leonard. He initiated the Leonard Apartments for domestic farm workers only, which was on the corner of Booth Street in 1988. He was passionate about having housing for domestic farm workers, and the apartments were named in his honor. He also owned a store at 617 Lake Street.*

*Mr. Phillip Deshields was the first African American man that she knew of in Salisbury as being the President of the Wicomico County NAACP. Reverend J.C. Mills, former pastor of First Baptist Church, was a civil rights leader and strong advocate for the African American community. Emerson Holloway, a school teacher, was the first African American to serve on the Wicomico County Council. There was a park named in his honor. Ms. Gertrude Shockley was the first African American female to serve on the Salisbury City Council.*

*On May 18, 1968, a Salisbury police officer shot and killed someone who was deaf. It triggered unrest for three days with burning and looting. Ms. Jackson said she remembered the riots against anyone in the area who was not of color. She remembered seeing the cinder blocks and bricks, and recalled a fireman getting knocked off of a fire engine. Her father was on one end of Lake Street trying to stop everyone not of color from coming down the street so they would not get hurt.*

*Professor and Jeanette Chipman were members of the same church she and her family attended. Professor Chipman was the epitome of greatness, intelligence and faithfulness. Her father sued the City before redistricting, and he won! Before that, they had no representation or way to enter this political arena. Billy Gene Jackson was a youth advisor, civil rights leader, and loved children.*

*Downtown Salisbury was a thriving area, with The Blue Moon, Ritz Theater, Willow and Allied Cab, Blue Tango, Mr. Curleys, Lock and Load, and Big-Hearted Charlie. These were the people we should teach our young people about.*

*There were African American women in leadership roles including Lavonzella Siggers, Rachel Polk, Shanie Shields, Mary Pinkett, and even herself- all who represented District One in Salisbury. The first African American female on the Wicomico County Council was Sheree Sample-Hughes. She went to become the first African American woman to represent 37A and Speaker Pro Temp.*

*Rudy Kane, Sr. who recently passed was the first African American to represent 37A and the first African American man to sit on the Wicomico County Council.*

*She did not find much online, and would not have known these things if her father had not shared them with her. It was up to us to keep our Black History alive because it was not online anywhere.*

*President Doughty said he was glad she was furthering her father's legacy and glad to get some history lesson. He got that every week when visiting his grandparents. A lot of youth and community members did not know all of the Black history in Salisbury and Wicomico County, and he did not want the work of our ancestors to be in vain. He said the Rules of Order would include Council reporting on their committees. He said he attended the monthly Planning & Zoning and last month the big topic was that there would be a Dollar General on Milford Street near Mitchell's Martial Arts. Last week Mr. Doughty said he volunteered at the Junior Achievement Leadership Academy. It was amazing spending time with 10 -12 graders from the community and being a part of that. He attended the Business After Hours at Wor-Wic Community College.*

*Ms. Dashiell added that if anyone had children in the public school system, they may want to share the information Ms. Jackson provided.*

### **ADJOURNMENT**

*With no further business to discuss, the Legislative Session adjourned at 7:19 p.m.*



CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND  
CLOSED SESSION  
JANUARY 22, 2023

**TIME & PLACE:** 6:36 p.m., Council Chambers, Government Office Building  
**PURPOSE:** 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 was going to consult with special legal counsel to consider all matters that related to the City's ongoing collective bargaining negotiations.

**VOTE TO CLOSE:** Unanimous (5-0)

**CITATION:** Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305(b)(7)(9)

**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

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The City Council convened in Legislative Session at 6:00 p.m. on December 11, 2023 in Council Chambers of the Government Office Building and via Zoom Video Conferencing. At 6:35 p.m. 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 the City's ongoing collective bargaining negotiations.

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

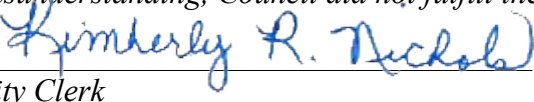
Council did not discuss City business in Closed Session because the special legal counsel was unable to participate. It was thought that he would be joining the Closed Session via Zoom, but he was unavailable due to a scheduling misunderstanding. After he was contacted via telephone and Council realized he was unavailable, the Closed Session immediately adjourned.


**Motion to adjourn Closed Session**

At 6:45 p.m. Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Dashiell seconded, and the vote was unanimous to adjourn the Closed Session.

**Convene in Open Session / Report to Public / Adjournment**

Council returned to Open Session and President Doughty reported that Council had just returned from Closed Session. Because special legal counsel had a prior obligation due to a scheduling misunderstanding, Council did not fulfill the Closed Session. The Open Meeting was adjourned.

  
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City Clerk

  
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Council President