

**CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 26, 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, City Clerk Kim Nichols, Fire Chief Rob Frampton, Deputy Chief Darrin Scott, Executive Administrative Assistant Jessie Turner, 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 Bill Reid of the Parkway Church of God to the podium to provide the City Invocation.*

*President Doughty then called for a moment of silent meditation in memory of Dr. Nevins Todd. He made a lasting impact on this community which he loved so much. He passed away on February 18, 2024 at the age of 91. Council's sympathies went out to his wife, Joanne and children Nevins, William and Cherianne, and his six grandchildren.*

**ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

*President Doughty called for a motion to adopt the legislative agenda. Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Jackson 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:*

- *February 5, 2024 Work Session Minutes*
- **Resolution No. 3328-** *approving the appointment of Emily Zerrenner to the Youth Development Advisory Committee for the term ending February 2027*
- **Resolution No. 3329-** *approving the appointment of James Hesen to the Youth Development Advisory Committee for the term ending February 2027*
- **Resolution No. 3330-** *approving the appointment of Benjamin Stewart to the Parks and Recreation Committee for the term ending February 2027*
- **Resolution No. 3331-** *approving the appointment of Linda Roskovich to the Parks and Recreation Committee for the term ending February 2027*
- **Resolution No. 3332-** *approving the re-appointment of James Maybury to the Zoo*

*Commission for term ending February 2027*

*Mr. Doughty recognized Benjamin Stewart (present in the meeting) and thanked him for volunteering to serve on the Parks and Recreation Committee and Emily Zerrenner on Zoom for volunteering to serve on the Youth Development Advisory Committee.*

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

- **Ordinance No. 2855-** *2<sup>nd</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. Blake moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2855 for second reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2856-** *2<sup>nd</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. Jackson moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2856 for second reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2857-** *2<sup>nd</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. Dashiell seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2857 for second reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2858-** *1<sup>st</sup> reading- approving a budget amendment of the FY2024 General Fund budget to appropriate funds to the Salisbury Zoo*

*Ms. Dashiell moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2858 for first reading.*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Five people provided the following comments:*

- *Speaker spoke in support of the ZenCity Pilot program. She was very impressed that the Mayor and Council had put forth an innovative program that would provide much needed data and analysis for not just the City’s decision making and planning, but for the non-profits and other organizations in the City. She was on three separate housing task forces, and it would be amazing if the ZenCity Platform could take all the comments from all the websites and social media platforms in all the different languages spoken here, and consolidate it into something tangible to determine the key things the City needed to focus*

on. The City had great support with Jordan Ray and the communications team, but they only spoke English. The last she checked, AI could translate any language, AI did not call in sick, take a lunch break, and worked 24 hours a day. She commended Mayor Taylor and the Council for bringing the opportunity forward. If Salisbury did not get on board, we would be left behind. She wanted to see a good investment made for her taxpaying dollars.

- *Speaker commented that when there were matching funds in grants, that was not “free money.” Every taxpayer in Maryland paid into that money and it should be responsibly spend. The fiduciary was required to act with loyalty for the sole benefit and interest for the ones who entrusted them with this power and property. That was the benefit of the people who entrusted them, not what they thought should be done. There were platforms that gave a sampling of what was going on. There needed to be more input and comments from the citizens in the City. We want to live our lives without wondering what was next and ruined this time by using the taxpayers of Maryland as your ATM. Speaker hoped Council and Administration would consider this when faced with spending matching funds for projects.*
- *Speaker reported that last month Mr. Kitzrow offered to meet with him and Mr. Boda. The meeting did not occur. Two weeks ago he offered to meet with the speaker, Mr. Boda, Councilwoman Dashiell, and the Mayor. He had not heard from them. He said Mr. Kitzrow claimed HCDD was complaint driven. He disagreed and he said he applied for permits in the past and the process generated a list of other permits required. He said that 311 Middle Boulevard had an exterior renovation within the Historic District without a historic renovation permit. This was his official complaint, so please address it. The only mitigation was to remove the exterior renovations which were the Fire Department connection for the commercial fire suppression system that was installed to turn the residential home into a Level 3.1 recovery home. It had an FDC sign on the outside and a big exterior inlet for a fire engine to hook up to. There was no Historic District Commission permit or yellow placard in the yard. He did not understand why the City did not act on this violation. He shared he was fined for building a fence without a permit and a neighbor on the same street was fined with putting the wrong windows in his home. We have an out of town commercial interest doing external renovations in the historic district, and clearly ignoring the complaint.*
- *Speaker said he was not advocating for or against the expenditure of money, but reminded Council that the Bikeway Plan was developed by the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee in 2017 when they identified the following four groups of people in the City:*
  - *Strong and fearless bikers- 4% of the population*
  - *Enthused and confident bikers- 9% of the population*
  - *Never bikers- 31% of the population*
  - *Other people in the middle- 56% of the population*

*The “other people in the middle” was the group the committee identified as the purpose for developing the bike path. Here we were about to spend some more money on this project and the issue revolves around getting money from the State- why shouldn’t we do it? He said he did not think this was the right question. Two years have passed since the project was started. It was time to go back and ask if the program has achieved the objectives that were outlined in the original plan which was getting people in that 56% group to get out and bike more. He was an avid walker and walked about two hours every single day. He did not know*

*if the program was successful, but in his own observation, he has seen only two bicycles. He thought the City had an obligation to ask if the program was working.*

- Speaker was the Program Coordinator of the Internship Program at the SU Interdisciplinary (IDIS) Department and had the pleasure to work with City staff internships. He worked with many companies with internships, and the City of Salisbury was by far the best internship provider.*
- Speaker had questions concerning Ordinance No. 2855 and asked if someone could expound on the Main Street Masterplan project that the funds were being reallocated from to give an idea of what was placed on hold to further the bike project. She asked if the funds would be reallocated in this fiscal budget or some other future plan in order to continue the Main Street Project. She wondered if the City would take into consideration redoing some of the areas that were put in stone.*

### **ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

*Mayor Taylor said they were hard at work reallocating the Bikeway Plan funds in a way that recognized the need for bike paths but without all the infrastructure that was associated with it. He said he felt the same way. He shared that Dr. Todd was a unique individual. He had two sons, both doctors, and a daughter. They were in the fifth generation of doctors. Because he was a heart surgeon, Mayor Taylor said he would like to come back and do a healthy heart day that was committed to Dr. Todd. He also extended his condolences to the family.*

*Ms. Gregory reported that the Downtown Salisbury Business Alliance was collecting donations of empty eggs for an Easter egg hunt they were planning for March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Their Spring Street Market would be going on in an effort to bring people downtown.*

*Ms. Dashiell thanked “Jeff” and “Lisa” for the information they passed out over the last couple of meetings. There was food for thought in both of them. She said the article with the cover of Salisbury as the worst place was not what the article was about. There were items in the article that the Council was trying very hard to address. She attended the trolley ride and enjoyed it very much. She attended the Salisbury-Wicomico Metropolitan Planning Organization Council (SWMPO) and they did feasibility studies that were requested. Currently they were doing Brown Street in Fruitland. The Mayor and City Council were going to supply a meal for the homeless, as well as the Fire Department Admin Office, the Headquarters Auxiliary, and the Assistant Chief’s Office. There were a lot needing to be filled.*

*Ms. Jackson had a report from the Parks & Rec Committee. They discovered they were unable to do a disc golf course in the Park due to invasive species and flooding in the area. They were trying to get more information from experts regarding the flooding and invasive species. They discussed how to present items for the CIP, the City Park Masterplan, areas of improvement, Chris Roberts Memorial Course, The Memorial Park, Beaverdam Park, and asked when the Park lighting would be put in. They had eight Park employees and 48 City parks. She was interested in budgeting more funding for the parks.*

*It was still Black History Month. Mr. Emerson Holloway, an educator, was the first male African American on the Wicomico County Council and a park was named after him. She explained to Friday at a Black History program at the Chipman Cultural Center, that we had street signs that*

honored persons in the community who were impactful. The late Bishop James Green and Bishop James Eure had street honorary named for them. The Clinton Stewart Funeral Home on West Road. She shared there was much history here in Salisbury, and added that she and Council President were Black History.

President Doughty reported receiving emails regarding community cleanups and said they would be linked on the website for everyone to see the cleanups that were happening. He honored Eric Mays for the great work he did for Flint, Michigan and extended regards to Flint. There was a lot on social media about him recently which really got people thinking about the jobs City Council did.

Ms. Blake discussed the Rails to Trails that went into the Bike Lanes. She knew it was coming, and did not know exactly when, but they were putting together a presentation to show how they both went together. It was a regional project which reached from Delaware to Virginia. There was a large section completed, and a presentation should be coming at some point. This should answer many questions regarding the bike lanes, grants, and how the whole project fit into the region.

Ms. Blake also reported on the Schumaker Pond concerns. There was \$25,000 in the CIP for the Schumaker Pond project. The Salisbury University Biology Department was putting together a proposal for a research project that would take place throughout all the seasons of the year so they could clearly determine what was in the pond and where it was coming from. They were also going to do some Geo-mapping for the City. It was in the very beginning stages.

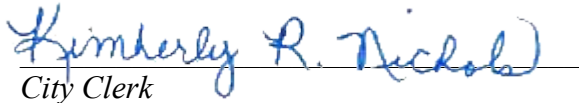
If healthy enough, Ms. Blake asked everyone to consider donating blood, plasma or becoming an organ donor.


Ms. Jackson shared the grand opening for the new 7-11 on Rt. 50 was a great event and everyone concurred.

President Doughty noted they looked forward next week to having discussions on projects in Open Session and some would have to be held in Closed Session.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the Legislative Session adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

  
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City Clerk

  
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Council President