

CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 8, 2024

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

*Council President D'Shawn M. Doughty
Councilmember April R. Jackson
Councilmember Sharon C. Dashiell*

*Mayor Randolph J. Taylor
Councilmember Michele Gregory*

PUBLIC OFFICIALS ABSENT

Councilmember Angela M. Blake

IN ATTENDANCE

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Fire Chief Rob Frampton, Field Operations Director Mike Dryden, Housing & Community Development Director Muir Boda, Human Resources Director Meg Caton, Executive Administrative Assistant Jessie Turner, City Clerk Kim Nichols, City Attorney Heather Konyar, and members of the public

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – CITY INVOCATION

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 and invited everyone to recite the pledge to the flag, followed by a moment of silent meditation.

PROCLAMATION- *presented by Mayor Randolph J. Taylor*

Fair Housing Month

Mayor Taylor presented the Fair Housing Month proclamation. April 8th marked the 56th anniversary of the passage of Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, known as the Federal Fair Housing Act of 1968. The Act prohibits discrimination concerning the sale, rental, and financing of housing regardless of race, color, religion, sex, disability, family status or national origin, and recognizes that equal opportunity for all is a fundamental goal of our nation, state and city. The City of Salisbury encourages residents to participate in creating and promoting Fair Housing opportunities for everyone in our community.

ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

President Doughty called for a motion to adopt the legislative agenda. Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous (4-0) to approve the legislative agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA- *presented by City Clerk Kim Nichols*

The Consent Agenda, consisting of the following items, was unanimously approved (4-0) on a

motion and seconded by Ms. Jackson and Ms. Dashiell, respectively:

- **Resolution No. 3338**- *approving the appointment of Laura Toner to the Youth Development Advisory Committee for term ending April 2027*
- **Resolution No. 3339**- *approving the appointment of Margaret Lawson to the Friends of Poplar Hill Board of Directors for term ending April 2027*

Mr. Doughty said he appreciated Ms. Toner and Ms. Lawson for volunteering on the City committees.

ORDINANCES- *presented by City Attorney Heather Konyar*

- **Ordinance No. 2859**- *2nd reading- approving a budget amendment of the FY2024 General Fund Budget to appropriate funds to the Salisbury Fire Department*

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous (4-0) to approve Ordinance No. 2859 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2860**- *2nd reading- authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Maryland Department of Health for the purpose of accepting grant funds in the amount of \$22,009, and to approve a budget amendment to the Grant Fund to appropriate these funds for the Salisbury Fire Department*

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous (4-0) to approve Ordinance No. 2860 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2861**- *1st reading- approving a budget amendment of the FY2024 General Fund Budget and the FY2024 Water Sewer Fund Budget to appropriate additional funds required for Field Operations*

Ms. Gregory moved, Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was unanimous (4-0) to approve Ordinance No. 2861 for first reading.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Two people provided the following comments:

- *The City filed a Motion for Reconsideration in the Salisbury Town Center Apartment litigation. He said he did not understand why because the developer had a very competent attorney who raised many of the same arguments that were raised by the City's Motion for Reconsideration. He asked why should the taxpayer pay an attorney to do something that the developer's attorney was doing. He had a copy of what was filed and would send it to Council. The attorney was arguing the same thing that was argued a month ago in court.*
- *Speaker suggested that the City do separate research and development of the TIF Policy and not just follow what Municap wanted to do. They were essentially bottom feeding and would get good money for any TIFs that go through as one of the consultants. The Village at*

Salisbury Lake was in a PRD zoning district which was set up back in 2007 when the Salisbury Mall was up for development with a different project. In the residential portion of that it says that homes are to be many with rear garages. He said he didn't see any garages in the rear in the plans that were turned in to Planning & Zoning. He saw homes with one and two garage doors in the front. He added that it was supposed to be mixed use, but it was all residential. They didn't even comply with the zoning code they were in.

- From out of nowhere there's been an effort to change the rules that would greatly restrict how someone could come in who was opposed to the Salisbury apartment project and state anything. The City Attorney came up with this and it was directly contrary to 17.12.120 of the City Code relative to the following: At the hearing before the Board any party may appear in person, by agent or by attorney and testify as to any material facts. Any evidence which would be admissible under the general rules of evidence applicable in judicial proceedings in Maryland shall be admissible in hearings before the Board.
- Speaker invited everyone to the Community Players of Salisbury's opening production of "Vanya, Sonya, Masha, and Spike" at Wor-Wic Community College.
- There were many finance commitments to the TIF that would be paid off in incremental tax increases over the length of time as the projects developed, if the projects were developed. Otherwise, the City was on the hook for paying the bond fees and making sure that the debt service maintained. Know what you're getting into. It could all look good on the surface.
- We hear the term "affordable housing" a lot. Until you put definitions with terms you don't know what they mean. We need to be careful listening to developers who said they will have affordable housing. We need to identify what it means and know the percentages of what they meant to represent as affordable housing. Speaker asked if there would be rules we would follow, and if so, she asked what those rules were so that everyone could follow them.

ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Kitzrow announced Hops on the River was coming up this weekend, so come Downtown. April's Third Friday would include a ribbon cutting of Unity Square and everyone was invited. There will be a TIF Policy that would be presented, and each project would have to be presented and adopted based off its merits.

Mayor Taylor said the Marathon was a big success this weekend and hoped to see everyone at Hops on the River this weekend.

Ms. Dashiell apologized for last week when she thanked Deputy Chief Drewer for being involved with Flag Football. It actually was the brainchild of Sgt. Hitty and he worked very hard on that. She met with the City Police last week. They reached out to each Council member to make a connection and share their priorities. Habitat was a blessing with a home on Church Street this past week, and two more were coming in May. Craig Faunce would be holding a cleanup on April 20th. He was asking everyone to arrive at N. Park Drive by the Dog Park at 9:00 a.m. He asked Council members to identify areas in each district that needed attention. One of the gentlemen at Hands and Hearts submitted a letter regarding the homelessness in Salisbury. He prioritized the benefits of extending operating hours to year-round service, increased access to service, enhanced safety and security, improved health outcomes and community cohesion. Increasing the hours could help break the cycle of homelessness and empower them to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope. Something has to be done because they had nowhere to go on Sunday mornings.

President Doughty said the community voiced their concerns to Ms. Jackson and him in person which was a very tough thing to hear. They began putting their minds and solutions to this.

Ms. Jackson thanked Chief Meienschein and the Salisbury Police Department for placing speed monitor on Parson's Road. She appreciated it because it deterred traffic from speeding. She had the same conversation with the gentleman regarding homelessness. She wanted the City to be mindful of the homeless and asked how many of the units in Anne Street Village were vacant. She wanted the City to focus on this and to make way for our homeless population. She said when they lie on the sidewalks at Acme Market it hurt her heart. She thanked Mayor Taylor and Ms. Gregory for attending the National Vietnam Veterans Celebration held on the 29th at the VFW #10159. It was a great event and there were many Vietnam veterans there to tell their stories. She also thanked Councilwoman Dashiell and Lynne Bratten for coming to the Easter Egg Hunt.

President Doughty thanked the public for their comments. He said he was excited for the warm weather and for us to have a lot more events, and he really loved Salisbury. He visited White Marsh, Maryland (across the Bridge) and it seemed to look like what Unity Square would look like. There were young families, restaurants, bars and a movie theatre. It was great to see what Salisbury could be for all of our residents to enjoy in the future. He echoed the Council members for giving kudos to the allied agencies who supported the Marathon.

Mayor Taylor invited everyone out to the first ever Meet the Mayor, this Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. in the SBY Headquarters Building.

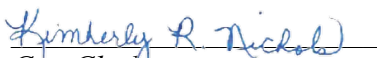
ADJOURNMENT

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


CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION #1

President Doughty immediately 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 as authorized by the State Government Article, § 3-305(b)(1). The topic of discussion will be the selection of the Finance Director.

Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to convene in Closed Session.



City Clerk



City Council