

**CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND**

**REGULAR MEETING**

**JUNE 10, 2024**

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

*Council President D'Shawn M. Doughty  
Vice President Angela M. Blake  
Councilmember Sharon C. Dashiell*

*Mayor Randolph J. Taylor  
Councilmember Michele Gregory*

**PUBLIC OFFICIALS ABSENT**

*Councilmember April R. Jackson*

**IN ATTENDANCE**

*City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Fire Chief Rob Frampton, Housing and Community Development Director Muir Boda, City Council Intern Kofi Kessey, City Attorney Ashley Bosché, Assistant City Clerk Julie English, 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 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 the City Invocation presented by Pastor Bill Reid of Parkway Church of God.*

*President Doughty introduced City Council Intern Kofi Kessey and expressed his excitement for the Internship Program.*

**ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

*President Doughty called for a motion to adopt the legislative agenda. Ms. Gregory moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve the legislative agenda.*

**CONSENT AGENDA-** *presented by Assistant City Clerk Julie English*

*The Consent Agenda, consisting of the following items, was unanimously approved (4-0) on a motion and seconded by Ms. Gregory and Ms. Dashiell, respectively:*

- April 22, 2024 Council Meeting Minutes*
- **Resolution No. 3349** - approving the appointment of Melissa Howe to the Youth Development Advisory Committee term ending June 2027*

*President Doughty thanked Melissa Howe for volunteering.*

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

The following items were unanimously approved on a motion and seconded by Ms. Blake and Ms. Gregory, respectively:

- *ITB A-25-102 Public Safety Video Surveillance Solutions* \$991,569.30 (5 yr. est.)
- *RFP A-25-103 Community Development Software* \$158,925.01 (3 yr. est.)
- *ITB 24-116 Paleo Well 2 Rehabilitation* \$101,795.00

**RESOLUTIONS-** presented by City Administrator Andy Kitzrow

- **Resolution No. 3350-** to amend the bylaws of the Human Rights Advisory Committee to change the committee's membership requirements and terms

*Ms. Blake moved and Ms. Dashiell seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approved Resolution No. 3350.*

- **Resolution No. 3351-** to approve the City's Consolidated Plan for program year 2024-2028, the Action Plan for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for program year 2024, and the 2024 Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice

*Ms. Gregory moved and Ms. Dashiell seconded. Resolution No. 3351 was passed by unanimous vote.*

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**West Road Annexation-** presented by City Administrator Andy Kitzrow

- **Resolution No. 3346-** proposing the annexation to the City of Salisbury of a certain area of land contiguous to and binding upon the Corporate Limits of the City of Salisbury to be known as "Diya Patel Properties, XII, LLC – West Road Annexation"

*Ms. Gregory moved and Ms. Blake seconded to approve the resolution.*

*One member of the public (via Zoom) was sworn in by Assistant City Clerk Julie English.*

*The Public Hearing was opened at 6:18 p.m. and the following public comment was provided:*

- *Speaker requested that the developers consider making a portion of the new homes affordable housing. She would like it to benefit not only those with low income but also the college students who were interested in staying in this area. She spoke up for those individuals who had been in Salisbury and were still waiting for housing.*

*The Public Hearing was closed at 6:23 p.m.*

*Ms. Dashiell shared that there was a survey done in the area where the apartments were to be built. She believed the term "affordable" should be defined. President Doughty*

agreed.

*Before voting, Ms. Dashiell wanted to know if any of the apartments would be designated as affordable housing. Mr. Kitzrow explained that the developer had not yet determined if they would be affordable housing. At that point in the process, those details would not be determined or required.*

*Ms. Dashiell requested confirmation that she could vote in favor of the annexation and then ask questions, or share her opposition, once the details had gone through the Planning and Zoning Commission and were presented to Council. Mr. Kitzrow confirmed.*

*Resolution No. 3346 was passed with a vote of 4-0.*

*Mr. Kitzrow added that part of the annexation fee that is paid by the developer was required to go back into the existing neighborhood. He mentioned that they could look into what was in the Code as well as how the agreement was written.*

- **Resolution No. 3347-** *proposing the annexation plan for the “Diya Patel Properties, XII, LLC – West Road Annexation”*

*Ms. Blake moved and Ms. Gregory seconded to approve the resolution.*

*The Public Hearing was opened at 6:30 p.m. Having no public comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:31 p.m.*

*Resolution No. 3347 was passed by unanimous vote.*

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

- **Ordinance No. 2870-** *2<sup>nd</sup> reading- appropriating the necessary funds for the operation of the Government and Administration of the City of Salisbury, Maryland for the period July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025, establishing the levy for the General Fund for the same fiscal period and establishing the appropriation for the Water and Sewer, Parking Authority, City Marina and Storm Water Funds*

*Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2870 for second reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2871-** *2<sup>nd</sup> reading- to amend Water & Sewer rates to increase by 9% and making said changes effective for all bills dated October 1, 2024 and thereafter unless and until subsequently revised or changed*

*Ms. Gregory moved, Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2871 for second reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2872-** *2<sup>nd</sup> reading- to set fees for FY2025 and thereafter unless and until*

*subsequently revised or changed*

*Ms. Gregory moved and Ms. Dashiell seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2872 for second reading.*

*Ms. Bosché stated there were 2 amendments to Ordinance No. 2872. The first amendment was to strike the Sale of Code Book to remove it from the fee schedule, and the second was to increase the Trash Service fee to \$73 (seventy-three dollars).*

*Ms. Gregory moved and Ms. Dashiell seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2872 as amended for second reading. The vote was 4-0 to approve Ordinance No. 2872 as amended.*

- **Ordinance No. 2875**- 2<sup>nd</sup> reading- to correct Ordinance No. 2865 and authorizing the Mayor to appropriate funds for various capital projects

*Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Dashiell seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2875 for second reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2876**- 2<sup>nd</sup> reading- authorizing a budget amendment to appropriate funds for the WTP Filter Project

*Ms. Gregory moved, Ms. Dashiell seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approve Ordinance No. 2876 for second reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2877**- 1<sup>st</sup> reading- to lower the posted speed limit in the Village of Tony Tank Creek neighborhood to prevent traffic fatalities and serious injuries in keeping with the City's Vision Zero goal of eliminating all traffic deaths and serious injuries by January 1, 2030

*Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2877 for first reading.*

- **Ordinance No. 2878**- 1<sup>st</sup> reading- amending Title 10, entitled "Health and Safety" of the Salisbury City Code, by adding a new Chapter 8.36 entitled "Abandoned Shopping Carts"

*Ms. Blake moved, Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approve Ordinance No. 2878 for first reading.*

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

*Six members of the public provided the following comments:*

- *Speaker #1 spoke about affordable housing. She recommended looking into what affordable housing really was and what needed to be addressed in the city before making any*

- decisions. Her biggest concerns were the students, individuals 20 years of age and up, and the disabled community that did not have anywhere to live.
- Speaker #2 extended best wishes to Councilwoman Jackson. Speaker spoke on the annexation. He addressed the questions that had been brought up during the meeting about the annexation. He was not in favor of the “this is the way we’ve always done it” response. He believed affordable housing could be changed by doing rather than just talking about it. He referenced lawsuits against the Ross.
  - Speaker #3 also spoke about the Ross and its lack of occupancy. He asked the Council to have a public hearing to explain to the public what things are, for example: TIF’s, Horizon Program, etc. He would like the Council to revisit the development issue.
  - Speaker #4 wondered what the penalty was for a citizen seen pushing a shopping cart away from the business. She disagreed that the establishment should bare the expense of the behavior of the community. She believed ‘affordable housing’ had become cliché. She wanted to know how the Council and Administration would ensure what they wanted to see was reflected.
  - Speaker #5 extended best wishes for a full recovery to Councilwoman Jackson. She shared that expanding the city boundaries also expanded the boundaries for the need for additional city services such as police and fire. She did not want the need for additional services to ultimately cost the citizens of Salisbury money. She added that there should be levels and definitions with regard to affordable housing. She expressed her concern about the crime rate. She believed the city’s resources were being stretched thin. Lastly, she referenced the survey that was taking place in Salisbury. She understood that \$30,000 of the cost would be paid through a grant. She wanted to know who was paying the other half of the cost. She also did not believe the survey was anonymous, as announced, since the students asking the questions would have the address of the responder. She added that it would be nice to receive feedback on the improvements that had happened since the last survey.
  - Speaker #6 believed there needed to be a task force that would take a deep dive into what would be done. The City should not be so anxious about receiving funds, but rather ensure the city gets what it needed. The City needed to have a conversation with the County so they could start absorbing some of the costs.

### **ADMINISTRATION AND COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mayor Taylor said the Zoo Gala on Saturday was great. He stated the backflow valve was installed on Fitzwater Street and the back flooding situation should be resolved. He also wished Councilwoman Jackson well. He added that former Councilmember Gary Comegys was not doing well.

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow reminded everyone about the upcoming Juneteenth festival on the 15<sup>th</sup> in Downtown Salisbury. He wished a Happy Father’s Day to all the fathers. Mr. Kitzrow shared that Administration was in constant communication with developers and they (the developers) would always follow the dollars since it was a business, no matter what the location was. The best way to gain the business of the developers was through tax credits. He mentioned the Comp Plan, a 10-year plan, and stated the review of the plan also included an update to the Zoning Code.

Ms. Gregory shared that Community Field Day would be happening at Billy Jean Jackson Park on the 19<sup>th</sup> from 12:00-4:00 p.m. She added that there was a health fest coming up at the fire department on Cypress Street on Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Lastly, she shared that the Salisbury Zoo would have story time over the Summer on Tuesdays from 10:00-10:30 a.m. She encouraged parents to take their children since schools would be out.

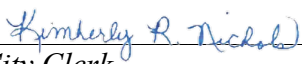
Ms. Dashiell shared that she had received a lot of resident comments about the 9% water service increase. She wanted to know why these increases were not spread out over the last 6 or 7 years. She commended Stephanie Willey, in association with Drug Free Wicomico, in acknowledging officers who had gone above and beyond. She mentioned that she, along with Mr. Kitzrow, attended the PTSD 911 showing at Wor-Wic Community College. It spoke about mental health and first responders. Ms. Dashiell announced that Councilwoman Jackson was part of the Black History Living Museum at the library. It was a great use of everyone's time. Lastly, she informed everyone that the Salisbury airport was back to pre-Covid flights.


Ms. Blake mentioned her new puppies and that they would be going through training to help children with mental health issues. She asked that those healthy enough please give blood and consider being an organ donor.

President Doughty appreciated the emphasis on all the topics. He stressed the importance of affordable housing and stated it was not glamorous. He agreed that it takes time to get it where it should be. He was happy the community was having the conversations with the Council and Administration. He shared that the first Housing Action Committee meeting would be in 2 weeks. He attended the Veteran's Stand Down to support the veterans in the community. He was also able to attend the Black History event at the library. Members of his family were part of the organization of the event and also assisted at the event. President Doughty ended by acknowledging that his baby sister would graduate Friday with her Nursing degree.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the Legislative Session adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

  
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City Clerk

  
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Council President