



**LEGISLATIVE SESSION
MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 26, 2024**

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

Council President D'Shawn M. Doughty, Councilwoman April R. Jackson (Zoom), Councilwoman Michele R. Gregory (Zoom), Councilwoman Sharon C. Dashiell, Mayor Randy Taylor

PUBLIC OFFICIALS ABSENT

Councilwoman Angela M. Blake

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Fire Chief Rob Frampton, Police Chief David Meienschein, Department of Infrastructure and Development Director Nick Voitiuc, Housing and Community Development Director Muir Boda, City Clerk Julie English, City Attorney Ashley Bosché

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Immediately following a Special Work Session, Council convened in Legislative Session on August 26, 2024 at 6:07 p.m. in the Government Office Building Council Chambers, Room 301, located at 125 N. Division Street. President Doughty asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

INVOCATION

Pastor Greg Morris from the Parkway Church of God was called forward to provide the Invocation.

CITATIONS – presented by Councilwoman Sharon Dashiell

Ms. Dashiell began by presenting a citation to Ashley Jones-Purnell for receiving Wicomico's Rising Star Award. Next, Ms. Dashiell presented a citation to Debra Reynolds as she was named Wicomico Teacher of the Year. Congratulations was given to both recipients and pictures were taken. President Doughty noted that both recipients came from Wicomico County Public Schools.

PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

President Doughty presented the meeting agenda and called for a motion and a second to approve the agenda. Ms. Jackson motioned and Ms. Dashiell seconded. The vote was 4-0 in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA – presented by City Clerk Julie English

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following item:

- **Resolution No. 3363** – approving the appointment of Susan Ferrell to the Human Rights Advisory Committee term ending August 2026

The Consent Agenda was approved (4-0) on a motion and second by Ms. Jackson and Ms. Gregory, respectively.

President Doughty thanked Susan Ferrell for serving in that capacity.

RESOLUTION – presented by City Administrator Andy Kitzrow

- **Resolution No. 3364** – accepting the gift of the Heron Mural from the Salisbury Arts Alliance for relocation and revitalization

Resolution No. 3364 was approved (4-0) on a motion and second by Ms. Jackson and Ms. Dashiell, respectively.

ORDINANCES – presented by City Attorney Ashley Bosché

- **Ordinance No. 2882** – 2nd reading - approving a budget amendment of the FY25 General Fund Budget to appropriate the funds received from the recovery and recycling of scrap metal

Ordinance No. 2882 was approved for second reading on a motion and second by Ms. Jackson and Ms. Gregory, respectively. The vote was 4-0.

- **Ordinance No. 2883** - 2nd reading – approving an amendment of the City’s General Capital Project Fund Budget to provide additional funds for the Truitt Street Community Center Expansion

Ms. Dashiell motioned and Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approved Ordinance No. 2883 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2884**- 1st reading – authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with

Maryland Humanities for the purpose of accepting grant funds in the amount of \$431.14 and to approve a budget amendment to the grant fund to appropriate these funds for the Maryland Folk Festival Programming

Ms. Jackson motioned and Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approved Ordinance No. 2884 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2885**- 1st reading – approving a budget amendment of the City’s FY25 Budget to accept and appropriate donated funds from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore Winter Wonderland of Lights Fund to support the cost of the annual holiday lighting displays at Salisbury’s City Park

Ms. Jackson motioned and Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approved Ordinance No. 2885 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2886**- 1st reading- approving a budget amendment of the FY2025 General Fund Budget to appropriate funds to the Salisbury Fire Department

Ms. Dashiell motioned and Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approved Ordinance No. 2886 for first reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2887**- 1st reading- to accept funds received from Perdue Agribusiness, LLC for the City of Salisbury’s Supplemental Environment Project

Ms. Gregory motioned and Ms. Dashiell seconded, and the vote was 4-0 to approved Ordinance No. 2887 first reading.

President Doughty then called for a motion and a second to approve Ordinance No. 2888. Ms. Gregory motioned but a second was not received from Ms. Dashiell nor Ms. Jackson. Ordinance No. 2888 (below) failed and was not presented.

- **Ordinance No. 2888**- 1st reading- to amend Chapter 12.04 of the City Code by adding Subchapter 12.04.080, which shall address the removal, alteration, and maintenance of displays of public art and commemorative artwork on city streets, sidewalks, and public places

President Doughty opened the floor to discuss on the item. Ms. Gregory pointed out a correction on line 73 that needed to be made, changing “commerce” to “culture”.

Ms. Dashiell stated she did not see a purpose for the ordinance and that she had complete faith in the Public Arts Committee to do their job. Ms. Jackson agreed with Ms. Dashiell. Ms. Gregory requested that the ordinance be tabled. Ms. Jackson believed the ordinance would take the power from the Mayor and did not feel the Council needed to be so involved. Ms. Dashiell and Ms. Jackson agreed that there was no need to table the item since further discussion would not

change their minds. Ms. Gregory pointed out that there was a council member absent who may want to weigh in on the item, which is why she asked to table the item. Ms. Gregory made a motion to move the legislation to a work session for further discussion. Having no second, Ordinance 2888 died and could not be brought back before Council.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following public comments were made:

- Speaker #1 spoke to the need for affordable housing and supported the needs of the homeless population. She called on Council and Administration to find ways to assist those needing assistance with housing and homelessness.
- Speaker #2 requested a formal process be implemented for the removal of public art.
- Speaker #3 shared information about a down payment assistance program available to those who qualified.
- Speaker #4 echoed the remarks of Speaker #1.
- Speaker #5 preferred the discussion of PFAS be held in open session. He stated the affordable housing problem was a county problem, not just a city issue. He also questioned the Horizon program.
- Speaker #7 referenced the Council's Rules of Order, provided the definition of the word "shall", and advocated for the public's right to provide comment.
- Speaker #8 was concerned with the lack of affordable housing in Salisbury. She spoke to the effects of homelessness on children's education.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Mr. Kitzrow stated the City was actively searching for a Housing and Homelessness Manager if anyone would like to assist with affordable housing and homelessness as a city employee. He announced that the RFP for Anne Street Village opened that week. Mr. Kitzrow noted that Salisbury welcomed the Housing Secretary, who gave 18 million dollars for a local affordable housing project.

Mayor Taylor shared information he received through a conversation with one of the families that was living at the games park. He pointed out that factors such as learning disabilities, sex offender registry, etc. sometimes played a role in the homelessness community. It was a complicated situation. He added that some of the kids referenced earlier were kids belonging to families such as these. Mayor Taylor felt it was unfair for the public to act like the City did not care of about the homeless community. He wished everyone a healthy return to school. Lastly, he invited all to attend the upcoming folk festival.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Jackson shared her implementation of a program involving black business owners. She also asked for prayers for her health and for Councilwoman Blake as she had a fire in her home.

Ms. Gregory advocated for volunteers for the folk festival, specifically the bucket brigade. She shared her disappointment in the public art legislation not moving forward.

Ms. Dashiell defended the city with regard to the homelessness situation. She cautioned that you could not group everyone under one label of homelessness. She agreed with one of the speakers who stated it needed to be a collaborative effort between other municipalities. She applauded the city's housing committee. Ms. Dashiell felt that new development should require affordable housing to some extent.


Ms. Dashiell gave kudos to the city staff who removed the concrete pieces on the corner of Camden and College Avenue. She then advocated for attendance at several upcoming events.

President Doughty asked for continued thoughts and prayers for Councilwoman Blake. He thanked the volunteers who assisted with the Fresh Start event. He also mentioned an upcoming event and thanked the public for coming out to share their concern for the homeless and affordable housing. President Doughty referenced the plans for the housing committee and wanted everyone to come together to make big things happen.


ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the Work Session adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Due to the lack of an in-person quorum the scheduled Closed Session was cancelled.



City Clerk



Council President