



## **LEGISLATIVE SESSION MEETING MINUTES SEPTEMBER 9, 2024**

### **PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Council President D'Shawn M. Doughty, Vice President Angela M. Blake, Councilwoman April R. Jackson, Councilwoman Michele R. Gregory, Councilwoman Sharon C. Dashiell, Mayor Randy Taylor

### **STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Procurement Director Jennifer Miller, City Clerk Julie English, City Attorney Ashley Bosché

### **WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

The City Council convened in Legislative Session on September 9, 2024 at 6:58 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 Carlson from the Park Seventh Day Adventist was called forward to provide the Invocation.

### **PRESENTATION** – Democracy Across Disciplines

Dr. Sandy Pope – Director, Institute for Public Affairs and Civic Engagement (PACE)

Dr. Pope shared with Council a lecture series presented by PACE. Topics covered in the lectures include: advocacy, purposes and structures of democratic government, citizen interaction with government, elections, voting, and local advocacy efforts. He invited the Council and anyone watching to assist with choosing the topics for next year. The schedule for the series was included in the agenda packet.

### **PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

President Doughty presented the meeting agenda and called for a motion and a second to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Dashiell motioned and Ms. Jackson seconded. The vote was 5-0 to approve the legislative agenda.

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

- RFP A-25-108 Parking Management System

After Ms. Miller presented the Award of Bid, President Doughty asked for Mr. Kitzrow to give a brief background for the public. Mr. Kitzrow explained that the City wanted to move away from having parking attendants. There was a failed implementation with the previous vendor. Using the funding that was previously budgeted for an automated parking system, another company was vetted through proper procedure. Mr. Kitzrow apologized to all who has had to deal with the transition.

The Award of Bid was unanimously approved on a motion and second by Ms. Gregory and Ms. Blake, respectively.

**DECLARATION OF SURPLUS-** presented by Procurement Director Jennifer Miller

- Dept. of Field Operations – Misc. vehicles, equipment, mobile building

The Declaration of Surplus was unanimously approved on a motion and second by Ms. Gregory and Ms. Jackson, respectively.

**RESOLUTION** – presented by City Clerk Julie English

President Doughty recused himself from discussion and voting of this item due to a conflict of interest. Vice President Blake ran this portion of the meeting.

- **Resolution No. 3365** – to confirm the Council Vice President has the authority to execute all closing documents on behalf of the City to convey the Mitchell Landing Apartment Complex from the City of Salisbury to the Wicomico County Housing Authority

After Ms. English presented the resolution, Ms. Jackson asked for and received confirmation that Vice President Blake would only sign on behalf of the City if Mayor Taylor did not sign.

Ms. Jackson motioned and Ms. Gregory seconded to approve Resolution No. 3365. Ms. Gregory, Ms. Blake and Ms. Jackson voted in favor. Ms. Dashiell voted nay. Resolution No. 3365 was passed by a vote of 3-1 in favor.

**ORDINANCE** – presented by City Attorney Ashley Bosché

- **Ordinance No. 2884** – 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

Ordinance No. 2884 was unanimously approved (5-0) for second reading on a motion and second by Ms. Jackson and Ms. Gregory, respectively.

- **Ordinance No. 2885** - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Dashiell seconded, and the vote was 5-0 to approved Ordinance No. 2885 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2886**- 2<sup>nd</sup> reading – approving a budget amendment of the FY2025 General Fund Budget to appropriate funds to the Salisbury Fire Department

Ms. Jackson motioned and Ms. Gregory seconded, and the vote was 5-0 to approved Ordinance No. 2886

- **Ordinance No. 2887**- 2<sup>nd</sup> reading- to accept funds received from Perdue Agribusiness, LLC for the City of Salisbury’s Supplemental Environment Project

Ms. Blake motioned and Ms. Jackson seconded, and the vote was 5-0 to approved Ordinance No. 2887 for second reading.

- **Ordinance No. 2889**- 1<sup>st</sup> reading- amending Chapter 1.08 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled “Election Board,” to adopt recommendations made by the City of Salisbury Election Board regarding the application for mail-in ballots and the canvassing of ballots

Ms. Jackson motioned and Ms. Gregory seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2889. The Ordinance was approved for first reading on a 5-0 vote in favor.

- **Ordinance No. 2890**- 1<sup>st</sup> reading- amending Chapter 1.12 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled “City Election Campaign Advertising and Finance”

While presenting the ordinance, Ms. Bosché stated that lines 23-25 should be reworked to be applicable to Chapter 1.12.

Ms. Jackson motioned and Ms. Gregory seconded to approve Ordinance No. 2890 for first reading. Ordinance No. 2890 was approved for first reading with pending amendments to lines 23-25. The vote was 5-0 in favor.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following public comments were made:

- Speaker #1 questioned some wording in the resolution that was passed. She also asked that Vice President Blake review all paperwork before signing on behalf of the City if it became necessary.
- Speaker #2 spoke in favor of increased density as long as the parking needs were met. She brought attention to the houses currently boarded up and requested something be done about them.
- Speaker #3 questioned who the property of Mitchell Landing would be sold to. He also called out former Mayor Day for the current state of the property.

President Doughty asked for Administration to provide an update on Lot 10 with regard to communications from Nick Simpson.

Mr. Kitzrow stated an email had come in during the meeting. Administration had not had time to review the email. Mayor Taylor added that there had been conversations about Lot 10. He is hoping to have some updates soon.

## **ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS**

Mayor Taylor shared some remarks in response to one of the public speakers. He wanted to public to know that he was trying to do what is in the best interest of the City.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Ms. Dashiell announced the upcoming cold weather shelter. She expressed her appreciation to Habitat for Humanity for the new homes going up. Ms. Dashiell also shared information on the upcoming Back to School event the City was hosting through the HCDD department. She provided an update on the Aircraft Maintenance School. The upcoming class will be full. Lastly, she advocated for volunteers for the Mission of Mercy.

Ms. Jackson was glad the Mitchell Landing project was moving forward. She shared information for two upcoming events at the VFW: Trunk N Treat and Adult Spooktacular.

Ms. Gregory asked for volunteers for the upcoming folk festival. She provided information on an upcoming event for art by women. She appreciated the advocates for affordable housing and provided statistics.

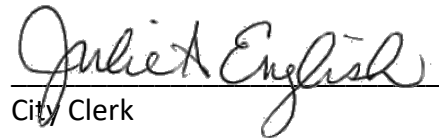
Ms. Blake shared about the recent house fire she suffered at her home. She asked for those healthy enough to donate blood and plasma, and to be an organ donor.


President Doughty was thankful that Ms. Blake was still there to share her story. He stated there would be some changes in the process for public comment. He acknowledged the concerns with Council members being on their personal devices during the meeting. He added that the motions and seconds would be slowed down. He was an advocate of affordable housing.

President Doughty expressed how serious he took his Oath of Office. He referenced the Charter as the guide for how public officials shall govern the City. Lastly, he thanked the transportation division for the 4-way stop at Church and Truitt Streets. He thanked Administration for getting signage posted for the new traffic pattern.

**ADJOURNMENT/CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION**

With no further business to discuss, the Legislative Session adjourned at 8:03 p.m. President Doughty asked for a motion and second to convene in Closed Session. A motion and second was made by Ms. Blake and Ms. Jackson, respectively. The Closed Session was to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter and to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation as authorized by the State Government Article, § 3-305(b)(7) and (8). The topic of discussion was update and legal advice on the PFAS lawsuit.

  
City Clerk

  
Council President