

RESOLUTION NO. 3395

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
SALISBURY, MARYLAND AMENDING THE SALISBURY
CITY COUNCIL REGULATIONS AND RULES OF ORDER**

WHEREAS, §SC2 - 6 of the Charter of the City of Salisbury provides that the City Council shall determine its own rules and order of business: and

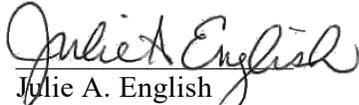
WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Salisbury has previously adopted Regulations and Rules of Order by Resolution No. 737, and has amended those Regulations and Rules of Order by Resolution Nos. 806, 876, 972, 1043, 1335, 1386, 1451, 1476, 1577, 1600, 1672, 2072, 2251, and 2396; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to update and amend its Regulations and Rules of Order.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Salisbury, Maryland, that the Salisbury City Council Regulations and Rules of Order are hereby amended as set forth by the attached Regulations and Rules of Order.

THE ABOVE RESOLUTION was introduced, read and passed at the regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Salisbury, Maryland held on this 28 day of April, 2025, and shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

ATTEST:


Julie A. English
City Clerk


D'Shawn M. Doughty
PRESIDENT, City Council

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL REGULATIONS AND RULES OF ORDER
As Amended on February 10, 2025

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1. PREAMBLE

The Salisbury City Council facilitates the expression of views and the introduction of legislation and promotes the orderly, open discussion of issues relevant to the government of the City. Council adopts these Rules of Order to establish clear expectations for behavior and to provide a framework for all Council meetings. These Rules shall be in effect upon their adoption by a majority of the City Council until they are amended or new rules are adopted. These Rules shall be interpreted and enforced by the Council President. A Council action that is otherwise valid does not become invalid because the Council did not follow these Rules.

2. GENERAL PROVISIONS

A. Meetings of the Salisbury City Council will be held in Council Chambers in Room 301 of the Government Office Building, 125 N. Division Street, Salisbury, Maryland,

unless notice to the contrary is given.

- B. Special meetings may be called by a majority of the members of Council as often as necessary for the transaction of business. The time and place of a special meeting shall be set by the Council President, or in his or her absence, the Council Vice President or his or her designee.
- C. Notice of meetings will be posted on the City Council's website, at a reasonable time in advance of the meeting.
- D. The City Clerk's Office shall notify the media of all Council meetings.

3. COUNCIL MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

- A. Council members are expected to attend all meetings (legislative sessions, special sessions, work sessions, closed meetings, and budget sessions) of the City Council.
- B. Council Members are not permitted to participate in any meeting by telephone.
- C. If a Council Member cannot attend a legislative session, special session, or work session in person, but desires to attend remotely, he or she shall follow the procedures set forth in Chapter 1.20 of the City Code governing electronic participation.
- D. Council Members are not permitted to participate in closed meetings or budget sessions via electronic means.
- E. Council Members shall have at hand all materials for all meetings.

4. COUNCIL MEMBERS' CONDUCT AT ALL MEETINGS

- A. The Council President, or in his or her absence, the Council Vice President, shall call the meeting to order at the appointed hour. In the absence of both the Council President and Council Vice President, the City Council may elect by majority vote a President *Pro Tem*, who shall act as presiding officer for the duration of the meeting.
- B. After calling the meeting to order, the Council President shall entertain a motion to adopt the agenda for the meeting as presented. After such motion has been made and seconded, any Council Member may request the deletion of any item on the agenda, a change in the order of any agenda item, or the addition of any urgent or emergency item. Such changes may be approved by consensus, or in the absence of a consensus, such changes shall be approved upon affirmative vote of a majority of the Council. Any member of the Council may also request that an item be removed from the consent agenda for discussion, for further information, or in order that there might be

a separate vote on that item.

- C. The Council President shall control discussion of the Council on each agenda item to assure full participation in accordance with these Rules.
- D. A Council Member shall speak only after being recognized by the Council President. A Council Member recognized for a specific purpose shall limit remarks to that purpose. A Council Member, after being recognized, shall not be interrupted except by the Council President to enforce these Rules. The Council President, as a member of the Council, may enter into any discussion.
- E. After being recognized by the Council President, a member of the Council may request and receive information, explanations or opinions of the Mayor, City Administrator, City Attorney, City Clerk, any City department head or their designee.
- F. Council Members shall conduct meetings in a professional manner. Council Members must be respectful to the public, City staff members, and each other at all times.
- G. Any Council Member wishing to present a Certificate of Appreciation or a Certificate of Recognition must receive a consensus of the Council in advance before it is placed on the agenda.

5. **AGENDA**

- A. The Council President shall prepare a written agenda for each meeting with the assistance of the Clerk's Office.
- B. The Council President may place upon the agenda any item which is legal, constitutional and proper for the Council to consider, provided, however, that the Council President may reasonably defer a requested agenda item until a future meeting of the Council in order to secure full attendance by Council Members, or to secure the input of the City's staff.
- C. The Mayor, City Administrator or a member of the Council, may make a timely request to the Council President that an item be placed upon the agenda for a meeting. The Council President has discretion whether to add the item to the agenda.
- D. No item will be added to the agenda after the established deadlines (set forth in Sections 7B and 8B below), unless the Council President determines it to be urgent in nature or an emergency.

- E. Items which are matters of a routine, non-controversial nature may be placed on the agenda under Consent Agenda. The purpose of the consent agenda is to provide a method for the expeditious handling of items which, in the opinion of the Council President, City Clerk and City Administrator, will not require discussion and will be approved unanimously by the Council. Items shall be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of any individual Council Member.

6. VOTING AND THE MAKING OF MOTIONS

- A. Any member of the Council, except the Council President, may make or second a motion for the Council to take action regarding any agenda item, subject to the City Ethics Code and State Ethics Law.
- B. Any member of the Council may vote regarding any agenda item, subject to the City Ethics Code and State Ethics Law.
- C. The Council President may not make a motion, and may second a motion only when there are only three (3) members of the Council, including the President, present and voting.
- D. In the absence of the Council President, the Council Vice President shall be subject to the same limitations upon voting and the making of motions as the Council President.
- E. The City Clerk shall record the name of the Council Member making each motion, the name of the Council Member who seconded the motion, and the vote.
- F. If a Council Member wishes to defer an agenda item to another meeting, the motion to "postpone to a certain time" is used. The motion requires a second, is debatable, and a majority vote is required for adoption. The motion must state when the agenda item will be reintroduced.
- G. In the absence of a rule herein to govern a point of procedure, the City Council shall defer to Robert's Rules of Order.

7. LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

- A. All regularly scheduled legislative sessions of the Salisbury City Council shall be held on the second and fourth Monday of each month. All meetings will convene at 6:00 p.m. in either a work session or legislative session, as determined by a majority of Council, unless otherwise noted.

- B. The agenda for each legislative session shall be prepared by the City Clerk at the direction of the Council President. The Clerk shall endeavor to publish the agenda no later than 12:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before the regularly scheduled legislative session.
- C. In order to afford members of the public the opportunity to speak, there shall be a public comment period where the Council may hear public comments from the public regarding any matter. Rules regarding public comments are set forth in Section 12 below. Members of the public and/or interested parties may not under any circumstances address the Council outside of the public comment period.
- D. Council Members' comments shall be made before the adjournment of each legislative session. Personal remarks or general observations by Council Members are permitted during Council Member's comments, but they should be kept brief and should be relevant. Each Council Member shall be allotted a maximum of four (4) minutes to make his or her comments.

8. WORK SESSIONS

- A. Work Sessions of the Salisbury City Council will be held as necessary.
- B. The Council shall conduct work sessions on matters which are expected to come before the Council for formal action at a legislative session or otherwise need study by the Council. Items to be considered will be placed on the work session agenda by the Council President. The Clerk shall endeavor to publish the agenda no later than 12:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before the regularly scheduled work session. ~~The agenda for a work session shall be published no later than 12:00 p.m. on the Wednesday before the next regularly scheduled work session.~~
- C. Work session meeting agendas shall list items for Council discussion.
- D. During work sessions, the Council shall receive information and/or presentations on agenda items. Council may ask questions and request that additional information be provided. Council may give consensus that matters under consideration be moved forward for formal action at a legislative session, that further study be conducted, that matters not be pursued further (except for matters requiring a public hearing), or that modifications be made before a matter is considered further.
- E. Final action on items is not taken at work sessions. The Council may decide by consensus, or by a majority vote, on how to proceed on various items under consideration. However, no formal vote of the Council in favor or against any agenda item may be taken at a work session.

- F. Work sessions are considered public meetings and the public can attend. Members of the public and/or interested parties may not under any circumstances address the Council on the items under consideration during the work session outside of the general public comment period.
- G. Immediately preceding the end of work sessions, in order to afford members of the public the opportunity to speak, there shall be a public comment period where the Council may hear public comments from citizens regarding an agenda item that was under consideration during the session. Public comments must be directed to an agenda item that was under consideration at the session where the comment is being made. The Council President shall rule on the germaneness of the citizen comments. Rules regarding public comments are set forth in Section 12 below.

9. BUDGET SESSIONS

- A. Budget Sessions of the Salisbury City Council will be held annually in the spring.
- B. Notice of all budget sessions will be published on the City Council website once the sessions have been scheduled by the Council President with the input of City Administration.
- C. Budget sessions are considered public meetings and the public can attend. In order to ensure that budget sessions are conducted in a timely and efficient manner, there shall be no public comment period or any other opportunity for members of the public to address the Council during a budget session.
- D. Council members are not permitted to participate in budget sessions remotely.
- E. The agenda for budget sessions shall contain a schedule outlining the approximate time when each department presentation shall begin and end. The Council will endeavor to follow the schedule outlined in the agenda but should delays arise the Department Presentations may continue outside of the times outlined in the agenda.
- F. Budget Sessions are not broadcast live on PAC 14 or any other source of media.

10. CLOSED SESSION MEETINGS

- A. The Council may conduct closed meetings as permitted by State Law. A member of the public cannot attend a closed meeting.
- B. Everything that is discussed during a closed meeting, and all materials which are reviewed during a closed meeting or are prepared in anticipation thereof, shall be

considered confidential and no Council Member shall publicly disclose any such information or material. Public disclosure may be made only in the event a majority of the Council Members vote to approve the public disclosure.

- C. Council Members are not permitted to participate in closed sessions remotely.
- D. No council member shall make any disclosures or release any information which would result in the waiver of the attorney/client privilege without first obtaining the approval of a majority of the Council in open session.

11. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- A. After convening a public hearing, but before the presentation of testimony, the Council President or his designee must briefly explain the purpose of the public hearing.
- B. Any member of the public wishing to provide testimony will be administered an oath by the City Clerk or Deputy City Clerk.
- C. In order to expedite the hearing and allow all witnesses an opportunity to be heard, the Council President may announce in advance or at the hearing time limits for each speaker.
- D. Written testimony may be submitted in advance to the City Clerk via email.
- E. The Council President may temporarily suspend any testimony that is not relevant to the subject of the hearing and advise the speaker to that effect. The Council President may stop taking further testimony from and vacate any remaining time allocated to a speaker who, after being so advised, continues to offer irrelevant testimony.

12. PUBLIC COMMENT AND PARTICIPATION

- A. Members of the public shall be courteous to their fellow citizens and the proceedings while the Council is in session by limiting conversations within the Council Chambers and the entrance hallway into the Chambers.
- B. A person attending a meeting may not engage in conduct, including visual demonstrations such as the waving of placards, banners, or signs, that disrupts the meeting or interferes with the right of a member of the public to attend and observe the session as determined by the Council President. Exhibits, displays and visual aids used in connection with presentations to the Council are permitted so long as they are only displayed during the presentation.
- C. No person will be allowed to address the Council until the appropriate time, as determined by the Council President.

- D. Upon recognition by the Council President to address Council, the person must begin by first stating his or her name, whether he or she is a City resident, and the persons or organization represented, if any.
- E. In order to afford all persons an opportunity to speak, comments made by members of the public must be no longer than three (3) minutes. The Council President in his or her discretion may grant additional time.
- F. In order to afford all persons an opportunity to speak, the Council President may limit comments regarding a specific agenda item if an excessive number of similar comments are made regarding that specific item.
- G. If a member of the public wishes to disseminate written comments to Council, it shall be submitted to the City Clerk via email prior to the meeting and it will be attached to the minutes as part of the record.
- H. Members of the Council will not immediately comment upon the remarks made by a member of the public. If a member of the public asks a question of Council, answers may be provided at a later date, after time is taken to investigate the matter.
- I. Any person making personal, impertinent or slanderous remarks, or who becomes boisterous in any manner that disrupts a meeting while addressing the Council, may be warned by the Council President and if necessary, requested to leave the meeting immediately.

13. PROCEDURES FOR SECURITY AT CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

- A. A Salisbury Police Department officer will be present at every meeting or session of the City Council. The Salisbury Police Department officer should not leave the Council Chambers until the conclusion of the meeting unless a problem or emergency occurs. At the beginning of every meeting or session of the Council the Council President shall advise all attendees on evacuation procedures.

 Adopted: 10/23/00 by Resolution No. 737
 Amended: 11/26/01 by Resolution No. 806
 Amended: 8/26/02 by Resolution No. 876
 Amended: 5/12/03 by Resolution No. 972
 Amended: 12/8/03 by Resolution No. 1043
 Amended: 11/28/05 by Resolution No. 1335
 Amended: 3/27/06 by Resolution No. 1386
 Amended: 10/23/06 by Resolution No. 1451

Amended: 1/8/07 by Resolution No. 1476
Amended: 10/8/07 by Resolution No. 1577
Amended: 11/26/07 by Resolution No. 1600
Amended: 7/14/08 by Resolution No. 1672
Amended: 7/11/11 by Resolution No. 2072
Amended: 9/10/12 by Resolution No. 2203
Amended: 2/25/13 by Resolution No. 2251
Amended: 2/10/25 by Resolution No. 3377