

ORDINANCE NO. 2991

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY AMENDING CHAPTER 17 OF THE SALISBURY CITY CODE, ENTITLED “17.216.050 – SIGNS WHICH MAY BE ERECTED IN ANY DISTRICT” TO REMOVE THE TIME RESTRICTIONS ON THE DISPLAY POLITICAL SIGNS.

WHEREAS, the ongoing application, administration, and enforcement of the City of Salisbury Municipal Code (the “**Salisbury City Code**”) demonstrates a need for its periodic review, evaluation, and amendment to comply with present community standards and values and promote public safety, health and welfare of the citizens of the City of Salisbury (the “**City**”);

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury (the “**Mayor and Council**”) are authorized by MD Code, Local Government, § 5-202 to adopt such ordinances, not contrary to the Constitution of Maryland, public general law or public local law, as the Mayor and Council deem necessary to assure the good government of the municipality, to preserve peace and order, to secure persons and property from damage and destruction, and to protect the health, comfort and convenience of the citizens of the City;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council may amend 17.216.050 of the Salisbury City Code pursuant to the authority granted in § SC 2-15 of the Salisbury City Charter;

WHEREAS, the City of Salisbury encourages all of its citizens to participate in the political process and freely express their support of or opposition to political candidates, elected officials, and political issues;

WHEREAS, in order to maintain consistency with state and federal case law concerning political signs, the City of Salisbury seeks to remove provisions of the Salisbury City Code which restrict the timing of such signs;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 17.228.020 of the Salisbury City Code, any amendment to the Salisbury Zoning Code requires the recommendation of the Salisbury Planning and Zoning Commission (the “**Planning Commission**”) prior to the passage of an ordinance amending Chapter 17;

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the proposed amendment was held by the Planning Commission in accordance with the provisions of Section 17.228.020 of the Salisbury City Code on March 25, 2026;

WHEREAS, at the conclusion of its March 25, 2026 meeting, the Planning Commission recommended, by a vote of 5-1, that the amendments to Section 17.216.050 of the Salisbury City Code set forth herein be approved by the Mayor and Council; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council have determined that the amendments to 17.216.050 of the Salisbury City Code shall be adopted as set forth herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND, that 17.216.050 of the Salisbury City Code is hereby amended by adding the bolded and underlined language and deleting the strikethrough language as follows:

Section 1. 17.216.050 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled “17.216.050 - Signs which may be erected in any districts.” is amended as follows:

Signs which may be erected in any district are as follows:

- A. Signs of any size or shape may be erected by or under the direction of any governmental body or agency in any location for purposes of promotion, identification, direction, safety or convenience to the public;
- B. Instructional signs not exceeding two square feet in area or three feet in height;

- C. Name and address signs not exceeding one for each principal building or use on a premises and not exceeding two square feet in area;
- D. Permanent subdivision identification signs which do not exceed twenty (20) square feet in surface area per face, limited to two faces, not exceeding one per main entrance and set back fifteen (15) feet from the curbline;
- E. Temporary real estate signs indicating the sale, rental or lease of the premises on which it is located, with a maximum area of eight square feet, nonilluminated; provided that premises in the R-5, R-8, and R-10 zoned districts shall only display rental signs ninety (90) days prior to lease termination and shall be removed after the premises is rented;
- F. Temporary development signs advertising the sale or rental of structures, which have a maximum surface area of sixty (60) square feet, limited to two faces, maximum height of fifteen (15) feet, indirectly illuminated, and set back the distance from the street line that is required for the district in which the sign is located
- G. Temporary construction signs limited to one each for contractors, architects, financing, etc., nonilluminated and set back the distance from the street line that is required for the district in which it is located and permitted only while construction is in progress or such time as may be required by state or federal requirements for financing or by any other requirement for extended advertising of the program under which construction has been accomplished;
- H. Memorial tablets or signs and historic markers, flags and insignias of bona fide civic, charitable, fraternal and welfare or religious organizations and national flags and flags of political subdivisions of the United States;
- I. Signs erected by a utility company locating underground facilities or the location of a public telephone booth not exceeding two square feet;
- J. One or more political campaign signs which, in the aggregate, do not exceed a total of thirty-two (32) square feet in area, set back at least fifteen (15) feet from the curbline, on any privately owned lot, except where a building is located less than fifteen (15) feet from the curbline and, in that event, the setback is the lesser of fifteen (15) feet or the distance between the building and the curbline. ~~Each such sign may not be erected more than ninety (90) days prior to the nomination, election or referendum and must be removed within seven days after the election or referendum, except that the candidates who won the primary may continue to display their signs until the final election.~~
- K. Directional signs located within one mile of and limited to one sign for each use or location for which the directions are intended, and provided that:
 - 1. Written permission is obtained from the property owner;
 - 2. The sign is set back ten feet from the curbline;
 - 3. The surface area does not exceed four square feet;
 - 4. The sign is nonilluminated;
 - 5. The sign is located a minimum of five hundred (500) feet from any other directional sign on the same side of the street;
 - 6. The height does not exceed five feet.
- L. Nonbusiness signs (which are not outdoor advertising structures as defined in Section 17.216.020) may be erected for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days in any calendar year by or for the owner or lawful occupant of any lot or structure which signs, in aggregate, do not exceed a total of six square feet in area, nonilluminated. Such signs must be set back at least

fifteen (15) feet from the curbline on any lot or affixed to an occupied dwelling, structure or building, except where such dwelling, structure or building is located less than fifteen (15) feet from the curbline and, in that event, the setback is the lesser of fifteen (15) feet or the distance between the dwelling structure or building and the curbline.

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND, as follows:

Section 2. It is the intention of the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury that each provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein.

Section 3. It is further the intention of the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury that if any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable under applicable Maryland or federal law, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudged and all other provisions of this Ordinance shall remain and shall be deemed valid and enforceable.

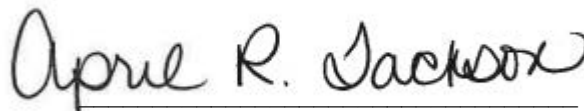
Section 4. The recitals set forth hereinabove are incorporated into this section of the Ordinance as if such recitals were specifically set forth at length in this Section 4.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect from and after the date of its final passage.

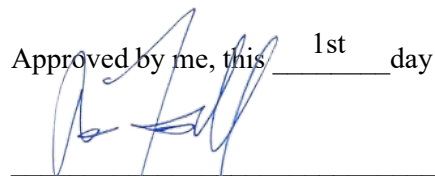
THIS ORDINANCE was introduced and read at a Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury held on the 27 day of April, 2026 and thereafter, a statement of the substance of the Ordinance having been published as required by law, in the meantime, was finally passed by the Council of the City of Salisbury on the 11 day of May, 2026.

ATTEST:


Julie A. English, City Clerk


April R. Jackson, City Council President

Approved by me, this _____ 1st _____ day of _____ June _____, 2026.


Randolph J. Taylor, Mayor