

**CITY OF SALEM
MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING
MARCH 17, 2016**

A Special Budget Meeting of the Common Council of the City of Salem was called to order by Council President Karen Roots. The meeting took place in the Municipal Annex located at 17 New Market Street at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present: Council President Karen Roots, Councilpersons, Ruth Carter, Charles Hassler, Horace Johnson, and Lydia Thompson. Councilmen Earl Gage and Vaughn Groce joined the meeting via conference call. Council President announced that a quorum was present. Also in attendance were CFO David Crescenzi and City Clerk Kathleen L. Keen.

STATEMENT OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

NOTICE OF THIS SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM, AS REQUIRED BY N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 ET SEQ., THE "OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT", WAS PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT ON MARCH 15, 2015 SETTING FOR THE TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF THIS SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

RESOLUTION 2016-73

**A RESOLUTION TO AVERAGE THE TAX COLLECTION RATE FOR USE IN THE
2016 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the City of Salem experienced a decline in the tax collection rate for the year 2015;

WHEREAS, the use of the lower collection rate in arriving at the budget appropriation Reserve for Uncollected Taxes in the 2016 Municipal Budget would result in an unfair tax burden to the taxpayers of the City of Salem; and

WHEREAS, the Division of Local Government Services, Department of Community Affairs will allow the City of Salem to use the average of the prior three years' collection rates in calculating the budget appropriation Reserve for Uncollected Taxes in the 2016 Municipal Budget; and

WHEREAS, the prior three years' collection rates are 88.13% for 2014, 87.35% for 2013 and 86.05% for 2012; and

WHEREAS, the averaging of the prior three years' collection rates result in a collection rate of 87.18%;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Salem will use the collection rate of 85.00% in calculating the budget appropriation Reserve for Uncollected Taxes in the 2016 Municipal Budget.

CFO Crescenzi explained the collection rate of 85.00% was determined during a discussion with the State Finance Board and the City Auditor.

R2016-73

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter			X			
E. Gage			X			
V. Groce			X			
C. Hassler	X		X			
H. Johnson		X	X			
S. Kellum			X			
L. Thompson			X			
K. Roots			X			

RESOLUTION 2016-74
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE 2016
BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF SALEM

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Salem in the County of Salem and State of New Jersey that the attached is hereby adopted for introduction as the City's 2016 Budget; and the same shall be duly advertised and made available for public inspection in accordance with all statutory requirements; and scheduled for a public hearing, after due notice thereof, at which time the budget shall be considered for adoption.

CFO Crescenzi explained the budget process and the statutory duties of introducing it, though it is still a working document. Councilman Gage referenced Transitional Aid, and other factors that could help with the working budget. The roll call vote to introduce was as follows:

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter		X	X			
E. Gage			X			
V. Groce			X			
C. Hassler	X		X			
H. Johnson			X			
S. Kellum			X			
L. Thompson			X			
K. Roots			X			

PUBLIC PORTION:

With no requests for public comment, Councilman Hassler made a motion to close the Public Portion of the meeting. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion and all were in favor.

With no further business before Council, Councilman Hassler motioned to adjourn the meeting, Councilwoman Thompson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The council meeting ended at 9:35am.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved: March 21, 2016

Kathleen L. Keen
Kathleen L. Keen, RMC City Clerk