

**CITY OF SALEM
MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
OF NOVEMBER 21, 2016**

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Salem was called to order President Karen Roots. The meeting took place at the 1 New Market Street at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present: Councilpersons, Ruthann Carter, Earl Gage, Vaughn Groce, Charlie Hassler, Horace Johnson, Sharon Kellum, and Lydia Thompson. Also in attendance were Mayor Charles Washington, Solicitor David Puma, CFO David Crescenzi, and City Clerk Tierra M. Jennings.

INVOCATION Pastor Jones

STATEMENT OF THE OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS ACT

NOTICE OF THE REGULAR MEETINGS 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", HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY THE PUBLIC ADVERTISEMENT OF A SCHEDULE ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION ON JANUARY 1ST, 2016 SETTING FORTH THE TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF ALL THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion made by Councilman Hassler and seconded by Councilman Johnson to approve payment of bills. All in favor. Motion carried 8-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Hassler and seconded by Councilman Johnson to adopt the minutes of OCTOBER 3, 2016 and OCTOBER 17, 2016 Open and Closed Session Minutes. All in favor. Motion carried 8-0.

COMMUNICATION/APPLICATION/REPORTS

- **OCTOBER 2016 MUNICIPAL UPDATE FOR FENWICK AMBULANCE SQUAD**
Motion made by Councilman Gage and seconded by Councilman Groce to accept the correspondence in relation to the municipal update regarding the Fenwick Ambulance Squad. All in favor. Motion carried 8-0

- **RECOGNITION OF SALEM CITY STREET AND WATER/SEWER DEPARTMENT**
City Council recognized the City of Salem's Street Department and Water/Sewer Department on a job well done. Each department was recognized by Mayor Charles Washington with an inspiring speech along with a plaque that read "*For all of your hard work and dedication to our City. We could not have done it without your efforts.*" Dinner was also served.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2016-154**

**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A FAIR AND OPEN
PROCESS FOR THE AWARDING OF PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES CONTRACTS FOR THE CITY OF SALEM**

WHEREAS, the City requires or may require the services of a **Municipal Engineer, Municipal Auditor, Municipal Attorney, Bond Counsel, IT-Computer Consultant, Municipal Prosecutor, Public Defender, Financial Advisor, Labor Attorney, Grant Consultant, Brownfields Consulting Engineer, Municipal Water Engineer, Municipal Planner and Municipal Environmental/Wastewater Engineer; and**

WHEREAS, retaining the services of qualified professionals for such professionals for such positions has long been exempt from “public bidding” by State Law N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(a) due to the important policy consideration of allowing a body of elected officials to appoint candidates they deem to be most qualified and advantageous to the needs and goals of the municipality; and

WHEREAS, state Law N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20-5 permits municipalities to establish a “fair and open process” that allows for public solicitation of qualifications of persons interested in providing such services; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has determined that establishing such a process protects its right to appoint the most qualified candidates while making the process more open and competitive; now therefore

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Salem in the County of Salem and State of New Jersey as follows:

1. The qualifications evaluation criteria, attached hereto as Exhibits “A through “K”. is hereby adopted in accordance with N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.7.
2. The City Clerk shall advertise a notice of solicitation of qualifications for such positions in a form substantially similar to Exhibit “A” attached hereto. The City Clerk shall publish said notice at least 10 calendar days in advance of the date set forth therein as the deadline to submit proposals.

3. The City Clerk shall make the necessary arrangements to publicly open and announce all proposals received. The City Clerk or her designee shall forthwith thereafter review all proposals received and transmit them to the City Council with a report and recommendations.

4. Award of any contracts based on the submissions received shall be made by Resolution of the City Council, after receipt of the materials from the City Clerk, at an open public meeting.

Motion made by Councilman Hassler and seconded by Councilman Gage to adopt Resolution 2016-154. All in favor. Motion carries 8-0.

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2016-155**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING TAMMY STELL AS TAX SEARCH OFFICER OF
THE CITY OF SALEM**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Salem, County of Salem and State of New Jersey that **TAMMY STELL** be and here is appointed as Tax Search Officer for the City of Salem for a term beginning November 22nd, 2016 and ending December 31st, 2016.

Motion made by Councilman Hassler and seconded by Councilman Gage to adopt Resolution 2016-155. All in favor. Motion carries 8-0.

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2016-156**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE
ELECTRONIC TAX SALE PILOT PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF SALEM**

WHEREAS, NJSA 54:5-19.1 authorizes electronic tax sales pursuant to rules and regulations to be promulgated by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services, and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Division of Local Government Services has promulgated rules and regulations for pilot programs, and

WHEREAS, the Director of the Division of Local Government Services has approved NJ Tax lien Investors/Real Auction.com to conduct pilot programs, and

WHEREAS, the rules and regulations authorize a municipality to submit an application for participation in the pilot program for an electronic tax sales, and

WHEREAS, an electronic tax sale is innovative and provides a greater pool of potential lien buyers, thus creating the environment for a more complete tax sale process, and

WHEREAS, the City of Salem wishes to participate in the pilot program for an Electronic Tax Sale.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the governing body of the City of Salem, in the State of New Jersey, that the Tax Collector is hereby authorized to complete an application to participate in the electronic tax sale program and submit same to the Director of the Division of Local Government Services.

Motion made by Councilman Hassler and seconded by Councilman Gage to adopt Resolution 2016-156. All in favor. Motion carries 8-0.

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2016-157**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN
REGARDING THE 2016 AUDIT**

WHEREAS, the Department of Community Affairs requires that a corrective action plan addressing the recommendations of the municipal audit be filed with the Division of Local Government Services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Salem, County of Salem, State of New Jersey that the attached corrective action plan be approved for submission to the Division of Local Government Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to submit the aforesaid corrective action plan.

Motion made by Councilman Hassler and seconded by Councilman Gage to adopt Resolution 2016-157. All in favor. Motion carried 8-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration: (Roots, Hassler, Johnson, Carter)

Next meeting will be held on December 12, 2016

Public Safety: (Gage, Roots, Hassler, Carter)

Next meeting will be on December 5, 2016 at 5:30pm

Public Works: (Groce, Roots, Hassler, Gage)

Had a meeting on November 18, 2016 on building issues. New well was also amongst discussion.

Human Services: (Hassler, Gage, Groce, Thompson)

Discussed vacant properties. Some properties were taken off the list due to them not being vacant.

Neighborhood Initiatives/ Community Service: (Thompson, Johnson, Roots, Carter)

Had Amnesty Day on November 16, 2016 and Bulk Event Day on November 19, 2016. Both were a success. Clean Up Day will commence on November 26, 2016 as well as Tire Amnesty which is due for December 10, 2016.

City Property/Capital: (Carter, Hassler, Thompson, Roots)

Put out bid to tear down properties

Redevelopment: (Groce, Johnson, Gage):

Will meet again in December. Date not set.

MAYORAL COMMENTS

“On December 3, 2016 starting at 11:00am, the City will be hosting the Annual Christmas Parade on Broadway. Later at 6:30pm, will be the Yuletide Tour and Christmas Lighting.”

Mayor also addressed those who attended the meeting directly in regards to some negative issues that the residents seem to be facing. The Mayor stated that in regards to the crime in the City that only 5 officers have been hired thus far due to the budget. He stated that he goes by what the City budget is and sticks by it 100%. Every decision made by himself and City Council are fair and just and we should not allow the climate to ruin their lives. He explained that he has a financial plan in place and is currently working with the State on same. He stated that after 25 years, that his administration are the only ones who has gone so far to address this issue and is certain that matters will change for the good of the City.

NEW BUSINESS

Dave Puma distributed sites for the new well. A resolution would need to be sought in regards to same.

OLD BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC PORTION

Robert Tuthill- Talked about the recent shootings in the City. He stated that something needs to be done about it. He asked council why a curfew is not put into place. He is worried that something will happen again and the population will continue to drop.

Cheryl Turner (Parkers Jewelers)- Stated that customers are afraid to come to town and word needs to get out that they are being protected. She also inquired about putting better signage up near the business.

Ty Neal- Received a letter from the ambulance squad that he is no longer a member for defamation. Gene Cagle was the one who sent original letter.

Evonne Lusby- Asked if the City really cares about what is going on in the City. She wants to make a petition to change the town.

J. Ashfield- Stated that she will have a prayer meeting at her church on January 16, 2017.

Leon Daniels- Asked if City Council has a spokesperson for the City. Asked why there is so much negativity in the paper regarding the City of Salem.

Jeremiah- Stated that he wants the City to come up with a reason to go after criminals in the town.

Sharon Klein- She stated if there is a strategic plan that the City has to bring the town back

Joy Coleman- Stated that she is willing to take any child who is willing to come to her. She says that she is available to open up her home to anyone who needs help.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before Council, Councilman Hassler motioned to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The council meeting ended at 8:30pm.