

**CITY OF SALEM
MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
OF JANUARY 16, 2018**

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 6:30 p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present: Councilpersons Ruth Carter, Earl Gage, Vaughn Groce, Charles Hassler, Horace Johnson Sharon Kellum and Lydia Thompson. Also in attendance were Mayor Charles Washington, Jr., Jennifer Blumenthal-City Administrator, Andrea Rhea-City Solicitor, Dave Crescenzi-CFO and Tierra M. Jennings-City Clerk.

INVOCATION

PASTOR SONITA JOHNSON

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 AND POSTING AT THE MUNICIPAL ANNEX OF A SCHEDULE ADOPTED BY RESOLUTION ON JANUARY 1ST, 2018 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 Gage and seconded by Councilwoman Kellum to approve bill payments. All in favor. Motion carries.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Gage and seconded by Councilwoman Kellum to adopt the minutes of December 18 (Open & Closed Session). All in favor. Motion carries.

COMMUNICATION/APPLICATION/REPORTS

PRESENTATION

COMMUNITY SERVICE RECOGNITION- PRESENTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT KAREN ROOTS

Karen Roots presented awards to Mr. Joseph Shockley and Mr. Al Baytops for a job well done with the Community Service efforts for the City of Salem

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

1801 AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALEM AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY IDENTIFIED AS BLOCK 68, LOT 43, 65 UNION STREET, SALEM, NJ TO SALEM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Introduced: January 16, 2018

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

NOTICE is hereby given that the foregoing Ordinance was introduced and passed at the meeting of the Common Council of the City of Salem on January 16, 2018 and further said Council will hold a hearing and consider said ordinance for final passage at a meeting to be held on February 5, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Salem City Municipal Building at which time all persons interested may appear for or against the passage of said Ordinance.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2018-54**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY TAX COLLECTOR TO HOLD A
TAX LIEN SALE**

WHEREAS, there remains on the records and books of the City of Salem delinquent taxes, water and sewer utility assessments and other municipal charges outstanding as of December 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 54:5 et seq., provides for the enforcement and collection of such delinquencies through a Tax Lien Sale; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Collector is empowered by statute to conduct and preside over the sale of liens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Salem, County of Salem and State of New Jersey that the Tax Collector is authorized to

conduct a Tax Lien Sale February 21, 2018 for 2017 delinquent taxes, utility assessments and other municipal charges.

Adopted: January 16, 2018

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

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2018-55**

**A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE ELECTIONS OF THE SALEM CITY
FIRE DEPARTMENT BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the Salem City Fire Department Board of Fire Commissioners held a meeting on December 18, 2017; and

WHEREAS, during said meeting the Board of Commissioners of the Salem Fire Department elected the following persons to the positions indicated below for two (2) year terms commencing January 1, 2018; and has respectfully asked for the Common Council to confirm.

John F. Ayars	Chief, Salem City Fire Department
Eric Pankok	Battalion Chief, Liberty Fire House

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Salem, County of Salem and State of New Jersey, recognizes and confirms the aforementioned appointments made to the Salem City Fire Department.

Adopted: January 16, 2018

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter			X			
E. Gage	X		X			
V. Groce			X			

H. Johnson			X			
S. Kellum		X	X			
L. Thompson			X			
R. Walker			X			
K. Roots			X			

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2018-56**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE
A PROPERTY TAX AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF SALEM
AND SOUTH JERSEY PORT CORPORATION**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Salem, in the County of Salem, in the State of New Jersey that the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to sign the Property Tax Agreement between the City of Salem and the South Jersey Port Corporation for year 2018.

Adopted: January 16, 2018

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

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2018-57**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING ENGINEERING INSPECTION SERVICES
FOR THE DEMOLITION OF VARIOUS STRUCTURES WITHIN THE
CITY**

WHEREAS, the City of Salem approved a contract with City Engineers, Remington & Vernick for the calendar year 2018; and

WHEREAS, City requires inspection services related to the demolition of various structures in the City ; and

WHEREAS, Remington and Vernick Engineers has submitted a proposal to perform the inspections services for the project as attached hereto by letter dated January 8, 2018; and

WHEREAS, funding for the services will be available through the demolition bond loan program and the CFO has certified the funds are available.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Salem, County of Salem and State of New Jersey, that the Remington & Vernick Engineers are authorized to perform the inspection services as more fully outlined in its proposal letter for the sum not to exceed \$13,850. As available through and in accordance with the demolition bond loan program.

Adopted: January 16, 2018

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

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2018-58**

**A RESOLUTION AWARDDING CONTRACT FOR THE DEMOLITION OF VARIOUS
STRUCTURES IN THE CITY OF SALEM**

WHEREAS, the City Council previously authorized the solicitation of Bids for the Demolition of Various Structures in the City of Salem; and

WHEREAS, the City rejected the bids so that it could revise the specification and authorized the solicitation of the Bids for Demolition of Various Structures in the City of Salem using the revised specifications which were opened on December 14, 2017; and

WHEREAS, bids were received on December 14, 2017 from five bidders as more fully described on the Bid Summary attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the lowest responsible bid was submitted by Delphi Contracting; and

WHEREAS, said bid was reviewed by the City Clerk, City Solicitor and City Engineer and the Engineer has recommended an award of the contract to Delphi Contracting for the Base Bid Items 1-6 in the amount of \$266,449.99; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Financial Officer has certified that funds are available.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that a contract with Delphi Contracting for the Demolition of Various Structures is approved for the Base Bid, Items 1-6 in the amount of \$266,449.99 13 and the Mayor and Clerk are authorized to execute the contract for the same.

Adopted: January 16, 2018

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

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2018-59**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING APPLICATION FOR LOAN FROM THE NEW
JERSEY ENVIRONMENTAL INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the City of Salem has filed or is about to file an application with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust Fund Loan Program for the water meter replacement program project; and

WHEREAS, Remington & Vernick Engineers, the City Engineer, has been engaged to prosecute the said application on behalf of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council wishes to formally confirm the authority of Jennifer Blumenthal, City Administrator, to represent the City for the said purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Salem, that Jennifer Blumenthal, City Administrator, and David Crescenzi, City Chief Financial Officer, are hereby designated the agents of the City of Salem for the purpose of prosecuting the City's application for funds under the New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust Fund Loan Program Application; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that a true copy of this Resolution be forwarded with said application to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection for its review and final action.

Adopted: January 16, 2018

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration: (Roots, Hassler, Johnson, Carter)

Committee discussed personnel issues

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

Meeting to be scheduled per Earl Gage.

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

No Report

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

No Report. Will get together with time and date

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

No Report. Next Meeting February 12.

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

No Report. Next meeting February 12.

Redevelopment: (Groce, Johnson, Gage, Kellum)

No Report

MAYORAL COMMENTS

- Had pre-construction meeting regarding railroad which is set to be completed in June 2018. Looking to employ 160 residents
- Addressing grocery store for co-op program. Will have meeting next week
- Discussed that the public may be here for a personnel issue. Mayor stated that RFP for Municipal Court Judge has been submitted and the deadline will be at the end of January. Looking for fair and impartial Judge who will rule in accordance to the law.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

PUBLIC PORTION

Esther DeShields 61 Chestnut St- Stated that she is worried about her tax situation here in Salem and feels that it is unfair. CFO addressed Ms. Deshields regarding situation.

Saquion Gullett- Spoke about Judge Witcher and how much of a role model he is in the community.

Rosalyn Sewa- Stated regarding her taxes, that the interest rates are high causing her to possibly not be able to keep home. Mayor suggested for her to speak with the CFO.

Walter Hudson- Inquired about Judge Witcher's appointment and the process regarding same. Council addressed Mr. Hudson.

Ray Martin- Inquired about Judge Witcher's appointment and if City Council can reappoint Judge Witcher. Council addressed Mr. Martin.

Kevin Wilson- Inquired about past practice for Judge's appointments. Council addressed Mr. Wilson.

Leon Daniels- Asked about ordinances for fines and costs and if the Court costs affects the City. Mr. Daniels also inquired a pothole on his street and the King Fried Chicken sign being addressed. Additionally, Mr. Daniels asked Council to care for Judge Witcher. Council addressed Mr. Daniels.

Leslie Witcher- Stated that Judge Witcher has been on the bench for 8 years and that he is a firm, fair Judge and that Council should consider reappointing him. Council addressed Ms. Witcher.

John Melleady 71-73 Market Street- Discussed the cost and assessment of his property. Council addressed Mr. Melleady.

Kevin Wilson- Asked if more African-American individuals can be hired in the Salem City Police Department. Council addressed Mr. Wilson.

Gilda Small 1 Hires Ave- Commented on how fair Judge Witcher is on the bench. Also inquired about why her taxes doubled. Council addressed Ms. Small.

Al Baytops- Complained that the trucks are speeding down Broadway and asked if the police can get involved. Council addressed Mr. Baytops

Motion made by Councilman Gage and seconded by Councilwoman Kellum to close public portion. All in Favor. Motion carries.

Motion made by Councilman Gage and seconded by Councilwoman Kellum to adopt Resolution 2018-60 for Closed Session. Roll Call. Motion carried 8-0

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2018-60**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CLOSED SESSION OF THE COMMON
COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM**

WHEREAS, the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b permits a public body to go into a closed session during a public meeting to discuss certain matters as follows:

(1) ***Matters required by law to be confidential:*** Any matter which by express provision of the Federal law or State statute or rule of court shall be rendered confidential or excluded from the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act.

(2) Any matter in which the release of information would impair the right to receive federal funding.

(3) ***Matters involving individual privacy:*** Any matter, the disclosure of which constitutes an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy such as records, data, reports, recommendations or other personal material of any education, training, social service, medical, health, custodial, child protection, rehabilitation, legal defense, welfare, housing relocation, insurance and similar program or institution operated by a public body pertaining to any specific individual admitted to or served by such institution or program, including, but not limited to information relative to the individual's personal and family circumstances, and any material pertaining to admission, discharge, treatment, progress or condition of any individual, unless the individual concerned .

(4) **Matters pertaining to a collective bargaining agreement:** Any matter involving a collective bargaining agreement, or the terms and conditions which are proposed for inclusion in any collective bargaining agreement, including the negotiation of the terms and conditions thereof with employees or representatives of employees of the public body.

(5) **Matters relating to the purchase, lease acquisition of real property or investment of public funds:** Any matter involving the lease, purchase or acquisition of real property with public funds, the setting of banking rates or investment of public funds, where it could adversely affect the public interest if discussion of such matters were disclosed.

(6) **Matters of public protection:** Any tactic and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public, provided that their disclosure could impair such protection.

(7) **Matters relating to litigation, negotiations and attorney-client privilege:** Any matter of pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiation other than in (4) above in which the Board is or may become a party. Any matters falling within the attorney-client privilege, to the extent that confidentiality is required for the attorney to exercise ethical duties as a lawyer.

(8) **Matters relating to the employment relationship:** Any matter involving the employment, appointment, termination of employment, terms and conditions of employment, evaluation of the performance of, promotion or disciplining of any specific prospective public officer or employee or current public officer or employee employed or appointed by the public body, unless all of the individual employees or appointees whose rights could be adversely affected request in writing that such matter or matters be discussed in public.

(9) **Deliberations after public hearing.** Deliberations by the Board occurring after a public hearing that may result in a civil penalty or the suspension or loss of a license or permit of a responding party; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has determined that it is necessary to go into a closed session to discuss certain matters relating to the items as permitted by N.J.S.A. 10:4-12b

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Common Council of the City of Salem will go into closed session to discuss the following, in accordance with the aforesaid provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, after which it will reconvene in the public:

A. PERSONNEL

B. CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the minutes of the closed session will be made available to the public when the need for privacy no longer exists.

Adopted: January 16, 2018

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter			X			

E. Gage	X		X			
V. Groce			X			
H. Johnson			X			
S. Kellum		X	X			
L. Thompson			X			
R. Walker			X			
K. Roots			X			


With a Motion by Councilman Gage, seconded by Councilwoman Kellum, and all in favor, Council came out of Closed Session at 8:25pm.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved: February 5, 2018



City Clerk