

**CITY OF SALEM
MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
OF APRIL 2, 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, Sharon Kellum, Horace Johnson, Lydia Thompson, and Russell Walker. 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. Councilpersons Lydia Thompson and Vaughn Groce are absent.

INVOCATION

COUNCILMAN EARL GAGE

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 MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Gage and seconded by Councilman Carter to adopt the minutes of March 19, 2018 (Open Session). All in favor. Motion carries.

COMMUNICATION/APPLICATION/REPORTS

APPLICATIONS

STAND UP FOR SALEM TO HOST THE FOLLOWING EVENTS:

Coin Drop for Salem Midget Football on June 9 and August 25 from 9:00am-2:00pm
Block Party on June 8 at MLK Park from 4:00pm-8:00pm
Family Movie Night(s) on June 29, July 27, and August 24
Cow-Run 10 mile race on October 6 from 8:00am-1:00pm

Councilman Gage motioned and Councilman Carter seconded to approve Stand Up For Salem Events Applications. All in Favor. Motion carries.

PRESENTATIONS

RECOGNITION- SALEM CITY COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM PRESENTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT ROOTS

Council President Roots and Councilman Johnson presented Wayne Johnson with an award for all his hard work with the cleanup in Salem City.

COMMUNICATIONS

JUDGE BENJAMIN TELSEY, ASSIGNMENT JUDGE OF VICINAGE 15 CUMBERLAND, GLOUCESTER, AND SALEM COUNTIES

Judge Benjamin Telsey spoke about Criminal Justice Reform that was implemented in January 2017 that focuses on procedures for warrants. This new reform omits the monetary bail and provides assessments on how people are released and/or retained in jail.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING

1804 AN ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIAION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2018 (N.J.S.A. 40A:4-45.14)

Introduction: April 2, 2018

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter		X	X			
E. Gage	X		X			
V. Groce						X
H. Johnson			X			
S. Kellum			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 April 2, 2018 and further said Council will hold a hearing and consider said ordinance for final passage at a meeting to be held **AT A LATER DATE** 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 2018-89

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE
2018 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 2018 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.

Adopted: April 2, 2018

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

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2018-90**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM TO
AVERAGE TAX COLLECTION RATE
FOR USE IN THE 2018 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the City of Salem experienced a decline in the tax collection rate for the year 2017; and

WHEREAS, the use of the lower collection rate in arriving at the budget appropriation Reserve for Uncollected Taxes in the 2018 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 2018 Municipal Budget; and

WHEREAS, the prior three years' collection rates are 88.13% for 2014, 83.17% for 2015 and 81.71% for 2016; and

WHEREAS, the averaging of the prior three years' collection rates result in a collection rate of 84.34%;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Salem will use the collection rate of 82.00% in calculating the budget appropriation Reserve for Uncollected Taxes in the 2018 Municipal Budget.

Adopted: April 2, 2018

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

Administration: (Roots, Gage, Johnson, Carter)

Will meet on April 9

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

Will meet on April 9

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

Will meet on April 9

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

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

Mr. Johnson suggested going out and assessing swimming pool. Also, Clerk will send out cleanup letters for May 19 at 8:00pm

City Property/Capital/Human Services: (Carter, Walker, Kellum, Roots)

Will meet on April 9.

MAYORAL COMMENTS

- Spring Fling for Commerce Department on April 9
- NAACP Banquet will be on April 14

- Met with John Bibeau, who is co-owner of Washington Hall condos. Looking to have condos under the NTI program.
- A time-line for the recently closed Incollingo's grocery store will be available online for public to see the progress the Mayor's Task Force is making to replace store.

OLD BUSINESS

DISCUSSION REGARDING RFP FOR ENGINEER TO ASSESS THE ELKINTON POND. Received an extension for DEP. Periodic inspections on dam need to be done as soon as possible.

NEW BUSINESS

DISCUSSION OF NEED FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL REGARDING TAX LIENS. Need to deal with bankrupt properties in where a special counsel may be needed. Motion made by Gage and seconded by Johnson to send out RFP for Special Counsel. All in Favor. Motion carries.

PUBLIC PORTION

James Roe 34 Manning Road- Inquired about the roof on the Salem Middle School. Also asked Council if there was a buyer for the Incollingo's store. Also, asked if Council is interested in statewide meeting about legislations regarding marijuana.

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

Motion made by Councilman and seconded by Councilman to adopt Resolution 2018-91 for Closed Session. Roll Call. Motion carried 6-0

CITY OF SALEM RESOLUTION 2018-91

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

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: April 2, 2018

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

With a Motion by Councilman Gage, seconded by Councilman Johnson, and all in favor, Council came out of Closed Session at 8:00pm.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before Council, Councilman Gage motioned to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Johnson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The council meeting ended at 8:10pm.

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved: April 16, 2018


City Clerk