

**CITY OF SALEM  
MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MEETING  
OF APRIL 20, 2015**

A regular 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 Old County Courthouse located at Broadway and Market Street at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present: Council President Karen Roots, Councilpersons, Ruth Carter, Earl Gage, Charles Hassler, Horace Johnson and James Waddington. Council President announced that a quorum was present. Also in attendance were Mayor Charles Washington, Jr., Solicitor David Puma, CFO David Crescenzi, and City Clerk Kathleen L. Keen. Councilmen Vaughn Groce and Sherman Hampton were absent.

**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 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2015 SETTING FOR 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**

It was moved by Councilman Johnson to approve the bill list, Councilman Gage seconded and all were in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Councilman Johnson, seconded by Councilman Gage to adopt the minutes of the April 6, 2015 Council Meeting. Motion carried 6-0.

**COMMUNICATIONS/APPLICATIONS/REPORTS:**

Mayor Washington and Council President Roots presented Ms. Wendy Dublin a Certificate of Appreciation from the City for her dedicated volunteer work with the seniors at Salem Senior Village.

Maurice Evans and Roger Moore, both graduates of Salem High School and Alumni of Positive Impact informed council of a cleanup their group did on Hubble Avenue recently. They noted on May 2<sup>nd</sup> they would be cleaning up East and West Side Courts, and on May 16<sup>th</sup> they are planning on Thompson and Carpenter Streets. Additionally they would like to continue their work with Positive Impact this summer working with seniors from the High School doing car washes and the middle school youth also. Council President Roots thank the Alumnus for coming back and offering their help. She noted there were 22 people out this past Saturday with the group.

Councilman Hassler motioned to approve an Entertainment application for Harvest Time Worship Center for the use of the High School Football Field for Track and Field events Monday through Thursday 6-8pm March 31<sup>st</sup>–August 31<sup>st</sup>. Councilman Gage seconded the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Hassler motioned to approve the 2015 Salem Main Street/Stand Up For Salem Event Dates only. Councilman Gage seconded the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried 6-0.

**INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

**RESOLUTION 2015-82  
A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FORECLOSURE OF  
TAX TITLE LIENS IN REM**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 54:5-104.29 et seq., the Tax Collector of the City of Salem has certified to the City Council that the City of Salem, a municipality in the County of Salem, New Jersey is the holder of certain Tax Sale certificates covering the lands for the amounts, including subsequent municipal liens, as shown on the Tax Foreclosure list hereto annexed and made a part hereof.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Salem the Governing Body of the City of Salem, that the Tax Sale Certificates as shown on the attached foreclosure list now held by the City of Salem be foreclosed by summary proceedings IN REM as provided by N.J.S.A. 54:5104.29 et seq. as amended and pursuant to the rules of Civil Practice in the Superior Court of New Jersey.

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter		X	X			
E. Gage			X			
V. Groce						X
S. Hampton						X
C. Hassler	X		X			
H. Johnson			X			
J. Waddington			X			
K. Roots			X			

**RESOLUTION 2015-83  
A RESOLUTION CHANGING THE AUTHORIZED SIGNERS ON AN  
ACCOUNT AT FRANKLIN SAVINGS AND LOAN ENTITLED  
“CITY OF SALEM PUBLIC DEFENDERS TRUST”**

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** by the Common Council of the City of Salem, in the County of Salem, and State of New Jersey, the authorized signers of a Salem City Bank account entitled “City of Salem Public Defenders Trust” will be Charles Washington, Jr., Mayor and David Crescenzi, CFO. The Mayor and CFO are authorized to sign any and all documents required by Franklin Savings and Loan in connection with the maintenance of this account.

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter			X			
E. Gage			X			
V. Groce						X
S. Hampton						X
C. Hassler	X		X			
H. Johnson		X	X			
J. Waddington			X			
K. Roots			X			

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Administration:** President Roots reported the Administration committee met on April 14, they discussed vendor fees, and updating the vendor ordinance. City Clerk Keen discussed open appointments on the Housing Authority and the Port Authority that needed to be filled. President Roots said she instructed the CFO and the City Clerk to make the move back into 17 New Market top priority, and the Administration Committee to submit their updates and revisions to the City Clerk for the Personnel Policy to be updated. Lastly she announced Wednesday April 22 is Administrative Professional’s Day the City Administrative Offices will be closing at 1pm for lunch. The next meeting will be April 27th at 5:30.

**Public Safety:** Councilman Gage reported the committee met earlier this evening, continuing their ongoing discussions tackling the manpower issue within the police department.

**Public Works:** With Councilmen Hampton and Groce absent, Solicitor Puma gave a report from the last Public Works meeting; there will be an ordinance for first reading at the next council meeting regarding the DEP Loan, they discussed personnel issues, and the status of the water plant.

**Community Service:** President Roots reported the committee had not met recently, however she has been doing a lot of work for the upcoming season at the pool. She and Councilman Johnson have two new people to work at the pool this summer. The next meeting is scheduled for April 29 at 5:00.

**Human Services:** Councilman Hassler noted the committee would be meeting this Wednesday at 5:00. He then thanked the Mayor and Council members who attended the Little League Opening Day.

**City Property/Capital:** Councilman Hassler reported work on the new roof at 17 New Market Street would be starting soon. Councilman Waddington noted at #1 New Market Street the plaster needs to be fixed, and the building cleaned up when the workers move out. Councilwoman Carter announced the next meeting will be Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> 6pm. CFO Crescenzi reminded the committee about capital money still in last year’s budget to be disbursed.

**Redevelopment:** Councilman Waddington reported Cathedral Community Church provided the background information needed; they are ready to begin. The Olive Street Day Care Center can be demolished with NRTC monies, and would like to have a resolution for the next council meeting. He spoke of 203 Wesley Street and the In Rem foreclosure process, and the City drafting an Ordinance pertaining to Vacant Properties. Helene Pierson of SUFS/Main Street noted the NRTC time frame will be up in June, there are still demos to be completed, facades on homes to be completed, and seeding of some lots. She also spoke of the demolition of the Day Care Center, fencing around the Salem City Community Garden, and the City owned lot behind the municipal building and adjacent to Washington Hall with regard to “fixing it up”. The next Redevelopment meeting is scheduled for May 4 at 5:15.

**Neighborhood Initiatives:** Councilman Johnson reported trash amnesty day will be May 6<sup>th</sup> and bulk amnesty day May 9<sup>th</sup> from 8am-12noon at the street department. The City wide spring cleanup will be May 9<sup>th</sup> also. The “community clean-up” trailer is being painted by the middle school children and is being equipped with the tools needed.

**MAYORAL COMMENTS:**

Mayor Washington reminded everyone May 11<sup>th</sup> is Salem County Youth Night at the Blue Rocks Game in Wilmington. Salem City Little League players will take the field with the Blue Rocks Players during opening ceremonies, and Mayor Washington himself will be throwing out the first pitch. He encouraged everyone to attend and show their support and pride for the players and the City. He also noted National Day of Prayer is May 7<sup>th</sup>. The Salem Area Ministerium will be holding a Pray Observance for the Community at 6:30 at the Old Salem Courthouse.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

CFO Crescenzi spoke of Vendor Fees; mainly the fees are to offset the cost to the city, not a way to make money for the city.

**PUBLIC PORTION:**

*Robert Lanard of West Broadway* said he read in the paper the City wants to have 4 officers per shift. He noted the population of Salem is only 5000 or less which is similar to Penns Grove, and they only have 3 officers per shift. He noted Carneys Point Township only has 3 officers per shift with a population close to 8000, and 17 square miles. He then stated he told the Police Department about an issue in town needing to be handled in early December of 2014 and was told there were no Detectives back in the office until January of 2015, they are shut down. He questioned how the police department can “cry” they have no help, yet shut down an office. Councilman Gage responded; the town is not safe, and with the number of officers retiring they need to hire to keep the police department fully staffed. He also spoke of the number of crimes with relation to the population in the city. Mayor Washington noted the Police have been working with the Public Safety committee and council diligently to find ways to keep the city safe, and cost is not an issue for the safety of our community; the police department needs an adequate staff.

Rebecca Gower-Call of Fenwick Ave. spoke as a member of the Housing Authority. She informed council of members who have recently resigned and offered some names for the appointments. She noted the board is willing to change the dates and times of the meetings to accommodate new members if needed. Mayor Washington addressed Ms. Gower-Call noting he had spoken to her previously about the appointments and reminded her council is also well aware. He noted he has spoken to Mr. Dice the Housing Authority Director, who does not seem to have the same concerns. Councilman Johnson suggested the Board move forward with changing the time of the meetings to better accommodate the members.

Helene Pierson of SUFS/Main Street noted she would like to see the Shade Tree Commission meet more often and questioned the vendor fees for SUFS/Main Street events. Council President Roots informed Ms. Pierson a list of potential fees was given to Mr. Davenport.

Joy Coleman of Van Meter Terrace asked if there was a phone number to contact the police “anonymously” without having information go out over a “scanner” for everyone to hear. Council President Roots noted Chief Pelura was present at the meeting and directed Ms. Coleman to speak with him after. Ms. Coleman then spoke of hearing about “attempted break-ins” in her neighborhood, and asked when the council meetings would move back to #1 New Market Street.

Rod Miller of West Broadway stated there is another vacant property on his block, there are too many transients coming through and the whole block “could use a cleaning up”. He said the town is overrun with poverty and the city needs a plan to attract people. Mr. Miller noted the Historic Preservation and the History in our City should be a “good draw”. Lastly he stated no businesses or developers are going to come to the city unless they can feel safe.

Jessica Fordham of Morrison Ave. stated she has a new neighbor and is very happy about it. She feels the house and yard will start to look better, and noted the new owner has plans to buy other properties in the neighborhood.

With no further 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.

Councilman Hassler motioned to convene into Executive Session, Councilwoman Carter seconded the motion and all were in favor. The regular portion of the meeting ended at 8:15pm.

#### **RESOLUTION 2015-84**

#### **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;

**WHEREAS**, the City 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**, by the City Council of the City of Salem that the Council 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.

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter			X			
E. Gage			X			
V. Groce						X
S. Hampton						X
C. Hassler	X		X			
H. Johnson		X	X			
J. Waddington			X			
K. Roots			X			

With a Motion by Councilman Hassler, seconded by Councilman Johnson, and all in favor, Council came out of Closed Session at 8:40. The following business took place:

Councilman Hassler made a motion to allow a fence to be erected around the Salem City Community Garden, Councilman Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Councilman Hassler made a motion to terminate the contract with Premier Technology for the Administrative offices only. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

With no further business before Council, Councilman Hassler made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Councilwoman Carter seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The council meeting ended at 8:45pm

Respectfully submitted:

Approved: May 4, 2015

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