

**CITY OF SALEM
MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
OF APRIL 6, 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, Vaughn Groce, 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. Councilman Hampton was 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 1ST, 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 MINUTES

It was moved by Councilman Hassler, seconded by Councilwoman Carter to adopt the minutes of the March 16, 2015 Regular Council and Closed Session Meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS/APPLICATIONS/REPORTS:

Councilman Hassler motioned to approve a Roadway Solicitation application for the VFW#253 Ladies Auxiliary on November 7th from 9am-1pm. Councilwoman Carter seconded the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried 7-0.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

RESOLUTION 2015-79

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE 2015 BUDGET BE READ BY TITLE ONLY

WHEREAS, N.J.S. 40A:4-8, as amended by Chapter 259, P.L. 1995 provides that the budget may be read by title only at the time of the public hearing if a resolution is passed by not less than a majority of the full governing body, providing that at least one week prior to the date of hearing, a complete copy of the budget has been made available for public inspection in the free public library, if any, located within our municipality and a county library. If there is no county library located within the municipality, then it must be provided to any county library in the county wherein the municipality is located. Further, the public officer delegated the responsibility for delivery of the copies to said libraries has completed a certification forwarded to the governing body that such deliveries were made and copies have been made available by the Clerk to persons requesting them; and

WHEREAS, these two conditions have been met;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the budget shall be read by title only.

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			

PUBLIC HEARING AND ADOPTION OF THE 2015 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

A motion was made by Councilman Hassler and seconded by Councilman Johnson to open the Public Hearing for the 2015 Municipal Budget. With no comments or questions from the public, it was motioned and seconded by Councilmen Hassler and Johnson respectively to then close the public portion. Council President Roots motioned to Table the Adoption of the 2015 Municipal Budget, Councilman Gage seconded the motion. CFO Crescenzi noted the City had applied for Transitional Aid while working on this years' Budget, he then explained the process the City Council must adhere to while waiting to finalize and fully adopt the budget. A roll call vote was taken to Table the Adoption of the 2015 Municipal Budget, motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2015-80

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING PROPOSAL FROM SICKELS & ASSOCIATES, INC. TO PROCEED WITH THE WATER ALLOCATION PERMIT RENEWAL

WHEREAS, after engaging in the Fair and Open Process, on or about January 1, 2015 the City of Salem entered into a Professional Services Agreement with Sickels & Associates, Inc. ("Sickels") for Engineering Services for the City's Water and Sewer Department; and

WHEREAS, the City is in need of assistance with the renewal of the City's water allocation permit from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection ("NJDEP"); and

WHEREAS, Sickels has submitted a proposal dated March 16th, 2015 of approximately \$5,200.00 to perform the required reporting and permit application in connection with the renewal under the existing Professional Service Agreement; and

WHEREAS, City's Water Superintendent has reviewed the proposal with the Public Works Committee Chairman and all are in concurrence with a recommendation that the City Council approve the proposal; and

WHEREAS, the matter has been reviewed with the City's CFO who has confirmed that funds are available in the present budget of the utility for such purpose;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Mayor and Common Council of the City of Salem, County of Salem, and State of New Jersey hereby authorize Sickels & Associates to proceed with the proposal and the appropriate City Officials are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to: execute the proposal, and/or such other documents as may be approved by the City Solicitor to properly document the same; and take such any and all other such actions as are necessary to proceed with the project.

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 2015-81

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SIGNING AN AGREEMENT WITH BARBER CONSULTING SERVICES FOR A NEW SERVER AND CONTINUED IT SERVICES

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 Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to sign an Agreement between the City of Salem and Barber Consulting Services for New Server Installation at the Municipal Annex Building located at 17 New Market Street and continued IT services for the remainder of 2015.

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 announced the next Administration meeting will be April 13th at 5:30.

Public Safety: Councilman Gage reported the committee was still addressing the staffing issues in the Police Department, with the possibility of hiring Special Officers for the upcoming summer season.

Public Works: Councilman Groce updated everyone on the status of the Town Bank Pump Station, and the Elkinton Pond Dam. Councilman Gage spoke of the upcoming Pollution Control meeting.

Community Service: President Roots reported the committee meeting is scheduled for April 8th at 5:00, at which time she and Councilman Johnson will update the committee on their discussions with Mr. Fogg regarding managing the city pool this season.

Human Services: Councilman Hassler stated he would be reaching out to Animal Control Officer Ned Shimp to attend the next Human Services meeting to discuss the Dog Census. He also informed everyone Opening Day for Little League will be April 18th at 9am and encouraged all to come out and support the players.

City Property/Capital: Councilwoman Carter spoke of receiving quotes for siding on the exposed portion of the Municipal Annex at 17 New Market Street. She also mentioned the IT Consultant finishing the cable wiring in the building.

Redevelopment: Councilman Waddington reported the committee met earlier this evening. There were discussions regarding a Homestead Ordinance, and abandoned houses on East Broadway. Councilman Johnson recently attended the Main Street Conference in Atlanta, stating that he “saw the importance of Main Street Programs to cities” and will support them more in the future. While there he also attended a class on “Downtown Businesses” that was very informative. The next Redevelopment meeting is scheduled for April 20th at 5:15.

Neighborhood Initiatives: Councilman Johnson reported there will be a trash amnesty and bulk amnesty day again this spring, and the committee is discussing a community yard sale again this year. He spoke of the middle school kids painting the “community clean-up” trailer within the next couple of weeks.

MAYORAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Washington stated he and Chief Pelura have spoken about hiring officers for the police department, he explained the process the Chief must follow regarding Civil Service, and finding qualified candidates. He then announced National Day of Prayer will be May 6th, with services in MLK Park at 6pm and then continue in the Old County Courthouse at 6:30. Lastly Mayor Washington announced May 11th 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.

NEW BUSINESS:

City Clerk Keen read aloud a “Thank You” letter that was sent to the City Council from the family of former City Clerk Barbara Wright.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Bill Corbin of Davis Ave. said the Street Department works hard on the Little League fields and it shows. He also complimented the Street Department for the Great Job they did this winter with the snow in the city.

Sue Hogate addressed Council stating her high school aged daughter was approached in the Rite Aid parking lot by a woman “panhandling” for money; the woman “robbed” her daughter of \$4.00. Ms. Hogate stated she was told by Rite Aid it was not their problem and to notify the city police. Ms. Hogate noted she had difficulty getting into the Police Department when she arrived there, and was told Rite Aid is private property and they should handle it. Councilman Gage responded he was not happy with the answer Ms. Hogate received from Rite Aid; they should have called the police department for the “victim” of the robbery. Ms. Hogate suggested there be a “Safe Haven” somewhere in the city for people to go if they cannot get to the police department.

John Pelura Jr. of Morrison Ave. asked what the current number of staff was for the Police Department. Councilman Gage responded there are 17 officers to date, and 22 would be ideal. Mr. Pelura asked if there were any more retirees coming up, as that would reduce the numbers more. Councilman Gage noted that was a possibility. Mr. Pelura then asked where he could see a copy of the 2015 budget. City Clerk Keen responded there is a copy at the City Library as well as in the City Clerk’s office.

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.

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 7:40pm

Respectfully submitted:

Approved: April 21, 2015

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