

**CITY OF SALEM
MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
OF SEPTEMBER 21, 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 Streets at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present: Council President Karen Roots, Councilpersons, Ruth Carter, Vaughn Groce, and James Waddington. Councilman Earl Gage joined the meeting via conference call. 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 Charles Hassler and Horace Johnson 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 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.

INVOCATION Pastor Atwood Jones of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, and President of the Salem Area Ministerium provided the invocation.

APPOINTMENT OF LYDIA J. THOMPSON TO CITY COUNCIL

Councilman Groce motioned to appoint Lydia J. Thompson to fill the unexpired term of Sherman Hampton. Councilwoman Carter seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Carter-Y, Gage-Y, Groce-Y, Waddington-Y, and Roots-Y. Motion carried.

OATH OF OFFICE

Mayor Washington administered the Oath of Office to Lydia J. Thompson. Council members then congratulated Councilwoman Thompson as she took her position amongst the Common Council. At this time Councilman Gage excused himself from the meeting via conference call.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF BILLS

It was moved by Councilman Groce to approve the bill list, Councilwoman Carter seconded and all were in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilwoman Carter, seconded by Councilman Groce to adopt the minutes of Special Budget Meetings held on January 27, March 9, and July 13, 2015. Council and Closed Session minutes of the August 17 meeting and August 31 Special meeting were included. Motion carried 5-0.

COMMUNICATIONS/APPLICATIONS/REPORTS:

Councilman Groce motioned to approve an Entertainment Application for Harvest Time Worship Center to hold an outdoor Church Service in MLK Park on October 11th at 10am. Councilwoman Carter seconded the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried 5-0.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

**ORDINANCE 1510
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 225, SECTION 37 HANDICAPPED
PARKING ZONE, FOR A HANDICAPPED PARKING SIGN TO BE PLACED AT
216 CHURCH STREET**

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED, by the Common Council of the City of Salem, County of Salem, and State of New Jersey, that Chapter 225, Section 37, Schedule “11” be amended as follows:

A Handicapped Parking Sign be placed at **216 Church Street**, the residence of Lisa Aborn.

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

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING

**ORDINANCE 1509
AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DONATION OF 236 SINNICKSON STREET.
BLOCK 84, LOT 20; 213 CHURCH STREET, BLOCK 64, LOT 15; 215 CHURCH
STREET, BLOCK 64, LOT 16 AND 286 PEARL STREET, BLOCK 23, LOT 7**

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED, by the Common Council of the City of Salem, County of Salem and State of New Jersey that pursuant to the authority granted in N.J.S.A. 40A:12-5 (a)(1) the City of Salem shall acquire the real property and premises commonly known as:

- a. 236 SINNICKON STREET, BLOCK 84, LOT 20
- b. 213 CHURCH STREET, BLOCK 64, LOT 15
- c. 215 CHURCH STREET, BLOCK 64, LOT 16
- d. 286 PEARL STREET, BLOCK 23, LOT 7

Salem, New Jersey, by acceptance of the donation of same by deed transfer from Angelo Harold, such acceptance to be effectuated upon review and approval of the City Solicitor as to clear title to same.

THIS ORDINANCE shall take effect according to law.

Councilman Groce motioned to open the public hearing, Councilwoman Carter seconded. Council President Roots declared the public hearing open on Ordinance No. 1509. *Rod Miller* asked who is donating the properties listed in the ordinance. Solicitor Puma responded to Mr. Miller. With no further public comments, it was moved and seconded by Councilpersons Groce and Carter that the public hearing be closed. Motion carried 5-0. It was moved and seconded by Councilpersons Groce and Carter that Ordinance No. 1509 be adopted on second reading. The roll call vote was as follows:

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

Introduced: August 31, 2015

Published: September 15, 2015

Public Hearing: September 21, 2015

Final Adoption: September 21, 2015

Final Publication: September 29, 2015

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

RESOLUTION 2015-134

A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING THE 2014 ANNUAL AUDIT

Councilman Groce motioned to table Resolution 15-134, Councilwoman Carter seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

RESOLUTION TABLED

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

RESOLUTION 2015-135
A RESOLUTION REQUESTING APPROVAL OF ITEMS OF REVENUE AND
APPROPRIATION REGARDING THE NJDEP HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY GRANT

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-87 (Chapter 159) provides that the Director of the Division of Local Government Services may approve the insertion of any special item of revenue in the budget of any county or municipality when such item shall have been made available by law and the amount was not determined at the time of the adoption of the budget; and

WHEREAS, the Director may approve the insertion of an item of appropriation for equal amount;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Salem, in the County of Salem, New Jersey hereby requests the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to approve the insertion of an item of revenue in the budget of the year 2015 in the sum of \$24,999.00 which is now available from the NJDEP Historic Preservation Office Architectural Survey Grant in the amount of \$24,999.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the like sum of \$24,999.00 is hereby appropriated under the caption “NJDEP HPO Architectural Survey Grant” and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the above is the result of funds from an NJDOT Grant in the amount of \$24,999.00

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

RESOLUTION 2015-136
APPROVING THE RENEWAL OF A CLUB LICENSE FOR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

WHEREAS, the following entity has applied to the City of Salem for renewal of a Club License to sell alcoholic beverages for the year commencing July 1st, 2015 and ending June 30th, 2016 on premises set forth in said application; and

WHEREAS, due to a new electronic licensing system recently implemented, the Director of the Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control issued an Order to extend the 2014-2015 license term through September 18, 2015 allowing licensees to continue operating until their successful renewal for the 2015-2016 license term; and

WHEREAS, the hereinafter named entity, the applicant, has complied with the requirements provided by law for the obtaining of such Club License; and

WHEREAS, no objections have been made to the granting of such license to said applicant, and the City Clerk has made careful examination of the application for renewal, and finding the same to be in proper order and knowing of no reason why the license should not be granted;

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 hereinafter named applicant be and hereby is granted a Club License, as numbered in this resolution, to sell alcoholic beverages at the premises stated, subject to law and regulations:

<u>APPLICANT</u>	<u>PREMISES</u>	<u>LICENSE NO.</u>
Fraternal Order of Eagles Salem Aerie 1966	232 East Broadway	1712-31-011-001

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Kathleen L. Keen, City Clerk be and hereby is designated as the person authorized to issue the aforesaid licenses on behalf of the City of Salem, and furthermore shall forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Director of the New Jersey Division of Alcoholic Beverage Control, in accordance with the Director’s instructions.

LICENSE FEE CHARGED: \$150.00

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration: President Roots reported on a meeting with the State Monitor regarding the MOU, they discussed union negotiations, grievances, and outsourcing. She also spoke of the personnel policy being updated with regard to the dress code, and possible uniform shirts for the Inspections/Housing office workers. Lastly she noted the City Administration Offices are being overrun with Notary Service request. It was decided the services will be for city residents only, and limited to Tuesday and Thursday only, from 9am-11:30 and 1:30-4pm. The next Administration meeting will be September 28th at 5:30.

Public Safety: Councilman Gage absent – no report.

Public Works: Councilman Groce reported on possible water plant litigation. He spoke of reaching out to Ardaugh with regard to the city ordinance and the number of employees needed on site to receive a discount. He mentioned the PCFA grant approval for Mud Diggers Ditch, and an employee retiring in the upcoming year. Lastly he spoke of a resident on Olive Street with an issue, and the Superintendent of the Water plants’ correspondence to council.

Community Service: President Roots had no report.

Human Services: Councilman Hassler absent – no report

City Property/Capital: Councilwoman Carter spoke of a request to purchase city owned property in the Tilbury area, however the property is not all city owned, it is partially in Elsinboro. There was a discussion regarding placing liens on properties for grass cutting and boarding up. The next meeting will be September 28, 6:15 at 17 New Market.

Redevelopment: Councilman Waddington reported the committee would be meeting in conjunction with the Historic Preservation Commission this week to discuss the Architectural Survey on Broadway that was recently completed.

Neighborhood Initiatives: Councilman Johnson absent – no report.

MAYORAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Washington thanked Pastor Jones for delivering the Invocation this evening, stating the City Council will continue in this direction at all meetings. He then spoke of the MOU the city is under, noting it will direct the city in the right direction, as the city must meet certain criteria and receive approval from the state monitor before proceeding with any contracts. He noted the city had received prior approval for the purchase of police vehicles. Lastly Mayor Washington apologized for the construction still happening on Broadway; the city never anticipated the project would extend this long. He then reminded everyone of the upcoming “Cow Run” sponsored by SUFS.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Lucille Simons of Kent St addressed council stating Kent Street is not being kept clean, she said most of the homes are rentals and the landlords should be held accountable. The owners keep their properties clean. Mayor Washington addressed Ms. Simon asking her to contact Carol in the Inspections office if there are homes with trash in the yards. Ms. Simon’s spoke of loud music in her neighborhood at all hours of the night, Mayor Washington encouraged her to contact the police department when that is happening.

Rod Miller of W. Broadway asked when his block would be deem historic and included in the historic district. Mayor Washington said council has not discussed moving in that direction, as it could become costly to homeowners to adhere to the Historic Preservation rules and regulations.

Heather Ashfield of Chestnut St. asked if the city would be having another city wide clean up soon. Councilman Groce referred her to Councilman Johnson as he is the chairman of that committee.

With no further requests for public comment, Councilman Groce made a motion to close the Public Portion of the meeting. Councilman Waddington seconded the motion and all were in favor. Councilman Waddington motioned to convene into Executive Session, Councilman Groce seconded the motion and all were in favor. The regular portion of the meeting ended at 7:46pm.

RESOLUTION 2015-137

**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**
- b. CONTRACTS**
- c. LITIGATION**

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	X			
C. Hassler						X
H. Johnson						X
L. Thompson			X			
J. Waddington	X		X			
K. Roots			X			

With a Motion by President Roots, seconded by Councilman Groce, and all in favor, Council came out of Closed Session at 8:35. With no further business before Council, Councilman Groce motioned to adjourn the meeting, Councilwoman Carter seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The council meeting ended at 8:35pm

Respectfully submitted:

Approved: October 5, 2015

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