

CITY OF SALEM
MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
OF APRIL 1, 2019

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Salem was called to order by Council President Karen Roots. The meeting took place at 1 New Market Street at 6:30 p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. **Present:** Councilpersons Ruth Carter, William Corbin, Earl Gage, Timothy Gregory, Vaughn Groce, Sharon Kellum, and James Smith. Also in attendance, our Mayor Charles Washington, Jr., Andrea Rhea-City Solicitor, Dave Crescenzi-CFO, and Anita Garcia-City Clerk.

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 7, 2019 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 Kellum to adopt the minutes of March 18, 2019. All in favor. Motion carries.

COMMUNICATION/APPLICATION/REPORTS

Councilman Earl Gage presented a certificate of appreciation to Joy Coleman for her attendance, her diligence and interest in the Salem City Community. Ella’s Mama Mia’s Restaurant was also presented with a certificate of recognition for their outstanding business proprietary and their business ethics overall. Whitney White from GISI presented Council with a November report. Expressed that with all the planning done, we are now in the implementation stage.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING

**CITY OF SALEM
ORDINANCE NO. 1811**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALEM AMENDING CITY CODE
225-37, SCHEDULE XI, HANDICAPPED PARKING ZONES**

WHEREAS, the handicap parking space at 210 Church Street in the City of Salem created and authorized by Ordinance 03-03 is no longer needed because the resident at the location who needed the handicap space is no longer residing at that address.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Salem, Salem County, New Jersey as follows:

Section 1. Section 225-37, Schedule XI is hereby amended by deleting 210 Church Street as a location for a handicap parking space.

Section 2. Signs restricting the space for handicap parking shall be removed from the location set forth above.

Section 3. If a court of competent jurisdiction shall declare any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof.

Section 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances of the City of Salem heretofore adopted that are inconsistent with any of the terms and provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of any inconsistency.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by law.

ATTEST:

CITY OF SALEM

Anita Garcia, Clerk

Karen Roots, Council President

Introduced: April 1, 2019

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter			X			
W. Corbin			X			
E. Gage	X		X			
T. Gregory			X			
V. Groce			X			
S. Kellum		X	X			

J. Smith			X			
K. Roots			X			

I, Anita Garcia, City Clerk of the City of Salem, in the County of Salem, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of an Ordinance introduced by the Common Council of the City of Salem on April 1, 2019. Public Hearing shall take place on May 6, 2019.

Date

Anita Garcia, Clerk

**CITY OF SALEM
ORDINANCE NO. 1812**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY CODE OF THE CITY OF SALEM, SPECIFICALLY SECTION 130-82 ENTITLED “PROHIBITED USES”

WHEREAS, the Municipal Land Use Law (N.J.S.A. 40:55D- 1 et. seq.) delegates to municipalities the power to zone and regulate development of property; and

WHEREAS, recent efforts by the Governor and New Jersey Legislature suggest that the sale and distribution of marijuana may become legal in the near future; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Salem has determined that the cultivation, distribution and sale of marijuana presents particular concerns of safety, security and nuisances that arise as a result of the use of drugs ; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that it is anticipated that the legalization of marijuana may provide the City with new revenue and employment; however, the safety and security of residents far outweighs the potential economic gain for the City; and

WHEREAS, given the small geographical area of the City, the Comprehensive Master Plan, and overwhelming security and safety concerns, there is no area of the City where the cultivation, processing, sale and/or distribution of marijuana can be safely established.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Salem, Salem County, New Jersey as follows:

Section 1. Chapter 130-82 of the General Zoning Regulations of the City Code entitled “Prohibited Uses” shall be amended to add an additional prohibited use/accessory uses enumerated therein to be prohibited in all zone districts enumerated as subsection C. and shall read as follows:

§ 130-82 Prohibited Uses

C. Marijuana cultivation facilities, marijuana product manufacturing facilities, marijuana testing facilities, marijuana retailers and ancillary businesses thereto are prohibited in all zone districts.

Section 2. The City Clerk is directed, after introduction, to submit a copy of the within Ordinance to the Planning Board of the City of Salem for its review in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40:55D-26 and 64. The Planning Board is directed to make and transmit a report to the Council within 35 days of the referral identifying any inconsistencies with the Master Plan or recommendations it deems appropriate.

The City Clerk is further directed to give notice by personal service, certified mail or email with confirmation of delivery at least ten (10) days prior the hearing on the adoption of the Ordinance to the Salem County Planning Board and Clerks of adjoining municipalities.

Section 3. If a court of competent jurisdiction shall declare any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of this Ordinance as a whole or any part thereof.

Section 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances of the City of Salem heretofore adopted that are inconsistent with any of the terms and provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of any inconsistency.

Section 5. This ordinance shall take effect as provided by law.

ATTEST:

CITY OF SALEM

Anita Garcia, Clerk

Karen Roots, Council President

Introduced: April 1, 2019

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter						
W. Corbin						
E. Gage						
T. Gregory						
V. Groce						
S. Kellum						
J. Smith						
K. Roots						

I, Anita Garcia, City Clerk of the City of Salem, in the County of Salem, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of an Ordinance adopted on first reading by the Common Council of the City of Salem on April 1, 2019.

Date

Anita Garcia, Clerk

Tabled: April 1, 2019

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter			X			
W. Corbin			X			
E. Gage	X		X			
T. Gregory			X			
V. Groce			X			
S. Kellum		X	X			
J. Smith			X			
K. Roots			X			

Councilman Groce initiated for this Ordinance to be **Tabled**. Councilman Gage made the motion to table; Councilwoman Kellum seconded it; motion carried. Mayor was not expecting a vote. This Ordinance will be in review for the next Council meeting.

While it has been stated that having marijuana stores in the City could help the City financially, it is the Mayor's take that not all money is good money. We have had a high unemployment rate. I believe it is a set-up for an economically tired community and I believe the City of Salem can do better. The Mayor suggested that the legislation be read in order to be fully informed. Further elaborating, "The City of Salem would only get a small percentage associated with the sales. The state itself would be the one benefiting most of the money, therefore, leaving our municipality dealing with the consequences of having those types of establishments within our City. We have enough crime and drug usage within our City. Very quickly, what becomes legal can become illegal if not monitored properly, so I am totally against it." Concluding, for all the success stories that you hear about in Colorado, you do not hear about the accidents and such, associated with marijuana use. Please educate yourself and we will have another conversation about it in our next Council meeting. A lot of phone calls are being received of the legalization, I have no interest however, of receiving any revenue in that manner.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2019-69**

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH JERSEY
PORT CORPORATION**

WHEREAS, the South Jersey Port Corporation owns property within the City of Salem for certain port operations; and

WHEREAS, S.J Port Corporation is exempt from real estate taxation but is authorized to enter into an agreement with the City to make payment in lieu of taxes; and

WHEREAS, S.J. Port Corporation has submitted an agreement that it will pay the sum of \$ 31,224.37 for the year 2019.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Salem that the agreement with S.J. Port Corporation for the payment in lieu of taxes in the amount of \$31,224.37 for the tax year 2019 as attached hereto is approved and the Mayor is authorized to execute the agreement.

ATTEST:

CITY OF SALEM

Anita Garcia, City Clerk

Karen Roots, Council President

Adopted: April 1, 2019

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter			X			
W. Corbin			X			
E. Gage	X		X			
T. Gregory			X			
V. Groce			X			
S. Kellum		X	X			
J. Smith			X			
K. Roots			X			

I, Anita Garcia, City Clerk of the City of Salem, in the County of Salem, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Common Council of the City of Salem on April 1, 2019.

Date

Anita Garcia, Clerk

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2019-70**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SIGNING THE INTER-LOCAL
AGREEMENT FOR THE CITY OF SALEM POOL FOR THE YEAR 2019**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Salem in the State of New Jersey that the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to sign the 2019 Inter-Local Agreement between The Salem City Board of Education, and the City of Salem for the operation of the City Pool located on Block 114, Lot 7 with an address of 155 Walnut Street, Salem, NJ 08079 upon approval of the format of same by the City Solicitor.

ATTEST:

CITY OF SALEM

Anita Garcia, City Clerk

Karen Roots, Council President

Adopted: April 1, 2019

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter			X			
W. Corbin			X			
E. Gage	X		X			
T. Gregory			X			
V. Groce			X			
S. Kellum		X	X			
J. Smith			X			
K. Roots			X			

I, Anita Garcia, City Clerk of the City of Salem, in the County of Salem, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Common Council of the City of Salem on April 1, 2019.

Date

Anita Garcia, City Clerk

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration (Roots, Gage, Corbin, Carter)

Karen presented minutes from the last meeting held March 26, 2019. Will begin to have student's involvement with doing the pledge of allegiance.

Public Safety (Gage, Groce, Roots, Carter)

A meeting was held earlier. Discussed arson fires within our city. Working on forming an arson task force.

Public Works (Groce, Roots, Smith, Gage)

Will meet on Thursday at 5:30 pm

Human Services (Corbin, Gage, Kellum, Gregory)

Councilman Corbin addressed that some sites still need cleaning. Possibly putting lien on properties. He also attended a symposium for safe community; youth based. Another meeting will be held April 25, 2019, at the high school, at 6:30pm.

City Property /Capital (Carter, Smith, Kellum, Roots)

Regarding piled up trash, we are identifying properties, whether private owned or renting, to properly address the situation. Looking to work together with the inmate program to help with the clean-up. Will get with Ray Howard.

Neighborhood Initiatives/Community Services

(Roots, Corbin, Carter, Gregory)

Salem City Pool inspection to be done soon. Will be adding additional lifeguards.

Redevelopment (Smith, Gregory, Kellum, Gage)

Councilman Smith will meet with Peter Schmitt from Solar Corporation. Mayor Washington having a meeting on Tuesday to discuss the Ardaugh Site and Opportunity Zone.

MAYORAL COMMENTS

Following up on Incollingo's; there has been no contact. Still waiting on a response to meet at the table.

Second quarter taxes are close, we will then put a lien on the property. Had a great meeting with EDA who proposes grants for small business. Will be attending a Freeholders meeting this Thursday.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

PUBLIC PORTION

Brian Knox – 161 W. Broadway. Ask on how he can go about getting a handicap parking for his wife and parents who are handicapped. The distance from where they park, to their apartment is difficult for his family. Complained about the trash and that he would volunteer to pick up the trash in return for a handicap parking sign. Mayor stated that the owner will be contacted in regards to the trash, but that Mr. Knox will have to speak with the owner about a parking space.

Madji Youssef – VanMeter Terrace; is concerned about the huge tax lien on his property. Does not want it to go into foreclosure. Can't pay everything; he feels he's being overcharged. Dave responded with, during the re-evaluation, it was lowered. He is too far along into foreclosure to make a deal. Cannot file an appeal without paying the taxes. Council President Roots suggested

that Mr. Youssef come into the office on Thursday, April 11, 2019 at 10 am to speak with the tax assessor.

Ms. Gilliam – 355 E. Broadway. I just moved here and I am concerned with the amount of trash I see. I have a heart for the people. I would like to volunteer to pick up trash. The home next door is trashed. I would not only like to link up with an organization, but get the community involved and be the solution. Council President Roots informed her that we do clean ups in the city throughout the year. As a clean-up day approaches, areas are being identified. She was thanked for wanting to be a solution and will be in contact with her further.

Larry Santos – 300 N. Market. Commended the Mayor on the opting out of marijuana distribution. Complained about drug usage across from the school. He spoke with officers. Also stated that half of the cameras that are displayed, do not work. He feels nothing is getting done and is ready to contact the attorney general. The Mayor suggested that he do just that; that we as a body are not making excuses, but that it also takes time.

Another concern are the repairs needed. He spoke with Ray Howard to get help with state and county for asphalt. Also, to create an ordinance that holds owners accountable to which a response was given that an ordinance is already in place. While Mr. Santos spoke extensively on these issues and concern, the Mayor responded with, issues cannot be handled tonight. Will allow Mr. Santos to come and address said issues and concerns at the next Public Safety meeting.

Almada – spoke on the shootings in our city. What are we to do if we desire to work with council. He stated that he fears for his life at times. The Mayor commended him for coming to the meeting, which is the first thing. There are many initiatives to get involved. We tried neighborhood watch, but it fizzles out when people do not volunteer. Council President Roots suggested that he use his resources with the prosecutor.

Joy Coleman – addressed the governing body in appreciation for her recognition.

Motion to close public portion made by Councilman Earl Gage.

Seconded by Councilwoman Sharon Kellum.

All members voted in favor.

Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by: Councilman Gage

Seconded by: Sharon Kellum

Meeting was adjourned

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: APRIL 15, 2019