

CITY OF SALEM
MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
OF APRIL 15, 2019

A meeting of the Common Council of the City of Salem was called to order by Pro-Tempore Councilman Earl Gage. 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, Timothy Gregory, Vaughn Groce, Sharon Kellum, and James Smith. Council President Karen Roots joined after and resumed the meeting. Also in attendance, our Mayor Charles Washington, Jr., Andrea Rhea-City Solicitor, Dave Crescenzi-CFO, and Anita Garcia-City Clerk.

INVOCATION

Father Charles Messer

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 Groce and seconded by Councilman Kellum to adopt the minutes of April 1, 2019. All in favor. Motion carries.

COMMUNICATION/APPLICATION/REPORTS

Mayor Washington presented a certificate of appreciation to George Reese, from Henry D. Young Insurance Agency for their continuous business support and excellent business practices in the City.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCE FOR FIRST READING

CITY OF SALEM
ORDINANCE NO. 1813

CALENDAR YEAR 2019
MODEL ORDINANCE TO EXCEED THE MUNICIPAL BUDGET
APPROPRIATION LIMITS AND TO ESTABLISH A CAP BANK
(N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14)

WHEREAS, the Local Government Cap Law, N.J.S. 40A: 4-45.1 et seq., provides that in the preparation of its annual budget, a municipality shall limit any increase in said budget up to 2.50% unless authorized by ordinance to increase it to 3.50% over the previous year's final appropriations, subject to certain exceptions; and,

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.15a provides that a municipality may, when authorized by ordinance, appropriate the difference between the amount of its actual final appropriation and the 3.50% percentage rate as an exception to its final appropriations in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Salem in the County of Salem finds it advisable and necessary to increase its CY 2019 budget by up to 3.50% over the previous year's final appropriations, in the interest of promoting the health, safety and welfare of the citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Salem hereby determines that a 1.00% increase in the budget for said year, amounting to \$65,285.06 in excess of the increase in final appropriations otherwise permitted by the Local Government Cap Law, is advisable and necessary; and,

WHEREAS the Council of the City of Salem hereby determines that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED, by the Council of the City of Salem, in the County of Salem, a majority of the full authorized membership of this governing body affirmatively concurring, that, in the CY 2019 budget year, the final appropriations of the City of Salem shall, in accordance with this ordinance and N.J.S.A. 40A: 4-45.14, be increased by 3.50%, amounting to \$228,497.71, and that the CY 2019 municipal budget for the City of Salem be approved and adopted in accordance with this ordinance; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that any that any amount authorized hereinabove that is not appropriated as part of the final budget shall be retained as an exception to final appropriation in either of the next two succeeding years; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance as introduced be filed with the Director of the Division of Local Government Services within 5 days of introduction; and,

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that a certified copy of this ordinance upon adoption, with the recorded vote included thereon, be filed with said Director within 5 days after such adoption.

ATTEST:

CITY OF SALEM

Anita Garcia, Clerk

Karen Roots, Council President

Introduced: April 15, 2019

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

I, Anita Garcia, Deputy 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 15, 2019.

Date

Anita Garcia, Clerk

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

CITY OF SALEM RESOLUTION 2019-72

GOVERNING BODY CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION'S

“Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964”

WHEREAS, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5 as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183 requires the governing body of each municipality and county to certify that their local unit's hiring practices comply with the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's "Enforcement Guidance on the Consideration of Arrest and Conviction Records in Employment Decisions Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," *as amended*, 42 U.S.C. § 2000e *et seq.*, (April 25, 2012) before submitting its approved annual budget to the Division of Local Government Services in the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs; and

WHEREAS, the members of the governing body have familiarized themselves with the contents of the above-referenced enforcement guidance and with their local unit's hiring practices as they pertain to the consideration of an individual's criminal history, as evidenced by the group affidavit form of the governing body attached hereto.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the *City Council* of the *City of Salem*, hereby states that it has complied with N.J.S.A. 40A:4-5, as amended by P.L. 2017, c.183, by certifying that the local unit’s hiring practices comply with the above-referenced enforcement guidance and hereby directs the Clerk to cause to be maintained and available for inspection a certified copy of this resolution and the required affidavit to show evidence of said compliance.

ATTEST:

CITY OF SALEM

Anita Garcia, City Clerk

Karen Roots, Council President

Adopted: April 15, 2019

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter			X			
W. Corbin			X			
E. Gage			X			
T. Gregory			X			
V. Groce	X		X			
S. Kellum		X	X			
J. Smith			X			
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 a Resolution adopted by the Common Council of the City of Salem on April 15, 2019.

Date

Anita Garcia, Clerk

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2019-73**

**A RESOLUTION TO AVERAGE TAX COLLECTION RATE FOR USE IN
THE 2019 MUNICIPAL BUDGET**

WHEREAS, the City of Salem experienced a decline in the tax collection rate for the year 2018; and

WHEREAS, the use of the lower collection rate in arriving at the budget appropriation Reserve for Uncollected Taxes in the 2019 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 2019 Municipal Budget; and

WHEREAS, the prior three years' collection rates are 83.17% for 2015, 81.71% for 2016 and 80.64% for 2017; and

WHEREAS, the averaging of the prior three years' collection rates result in a collection rate of 81.84%;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Salem will use the collection rate of 81.25% in calculating the budget appropriation Reserve for Uncollected Taxes in the 2019 Municipal Budget.

ATTEST:

CITY OF SALEM

Anita Garcia, City Clerk

Karen Roots, Council President

Adopted: April 15, 2019

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter			X			
W. Corbin			X			
E. Gage			X			
T. Gregory			X			
V. Groce	X		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 15, 2019.

Date

Anita Garcia, Clerk

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2019-74**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTRODUCTION OF THE 2019
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 2019 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.

ATTEST

CITY OF SALEM

Anita Garcia, City Clerk

Karen Roots, Council President

Adopted: April 15, 2019

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
R. Carter			X			
W. Corbin			X			
E. Gage	X		X			
T. Gregory			X			
V. Groce		X	X			
S. Kellum			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 15, 2019.

Date

Anita Garcia, City Clerk

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2019-75**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING TERMINATION OF STANDSTILL
AGREEMENT**

WHEREAS, the City of Salem (“City”) entered into an agreement with Inventive Development, Inc. (“IDI”) dated November 28, 2016 entitled “Standstill Agreement”; and

WHEREAS, either party has the option to terminate said agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City Solicitor has been provided notice from IDI’s attorney that it is interested in negotiating a long term lease with the City; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that termination of the standstill agreement is in its best interest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Salem that it shall exercise its termination of the above referenced agreement with IDI and the Solicitor is authorized to communicate the same.

ATTEST:

CITY OF SALEM

Anita Garcia, City Clerk

Karen Roots, Council President

Adopted: April 15, 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 15, 2019.

Date

Anita Garcia, Clerk

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration (Roots, Gage, Corbin, Carter)

Meeting will be held April 22, 2019 – time to be determined

Public Safety (Gage, Groce, Roots, Carter)

Meeting will be held April 22, 2019 – time to be determined

Public Works (Groce, Roots, Smith, Gage)

Councilman Groce presented notes from meeting on April 3, 2019.

- Discussed WRM leaving
- The need for a licensed Sewer Operator/Backup Operator

- Meeting with John and Ray on Friday at 2:00pm
- 3rd Street work has been completed (EOW)
- Meter location/reading is in progress – 6 months completion
- New hires: still evaluating/testing
- Staffing: Need S3 and Laborer

Next public works meeting will be held April 22, 2019 – time to be determined
 Mayor Washington added that the city has a great new director. So as far as the meter readings, solutions precede in the months ahead.

Human Services (Corbin, Gage, Kellum, Gregory)

Councilman Corbin attended a schoolboard meeting: they are working on a new track for August of this year. IB Program is doing excellent.

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

Councilman Smith: Historic Preservation meeting will be Wednesday night.

Councilwoman Carter spoke on the demolishing of vacant homes.

Council President Roots spoke with Street Dept. Supervisor, Mr. Howard about moving forward with the inmate program to have the inmates assist with the cleaning, upon a listing of the properties where work/cleaning is needed.

Next meeting will be held April 22, 2019 – time to be determined.

Neighborhood Initiatives/Community Services

(Roots, Corbin, Carter, Gregory)

Council President met with the school in regards to hiring other lifeguards for the city pool.

Redevelopment (Smith, Gregory, Kellum, Gage)

Councilman Smith met with Peter Schmitt from Solar Corporation. Mr. Schmitt would like to come before council and do a presentation. Mayor Washington expressed several factors that may pose an issue with the Opportunity Zone, and other concerns. Will continue to speak with Mr. Schmitt and then reach a decision.

MAYORAL COMMENTS

Jack’s Men’s Store was hit by the storm, bringing down the building substantially. Mayor commended the street department for cleaning up. Met with Governor Murphy at the Camden County College. Have been in contact with Pennsville National Bank and Uplift in regards to the grocery store.

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Councilwoman Kellum had a meeting with the Municipal Alliance on March 25, 2019.

- National night out
- WISE Program
- Red Ribbon Program
- Parent job program
- Block party June 7th (would need a table for the event)

- Next meeting will be April 29, 2019 at 17 New Market St.

PUBLIC PORTION

Ed Sasdelli – State Monitor – addressed Resolution 2019-73. May have to inflate the budget for people to pay. Will work hard to bring percentage up to 100%, suggesting on how to maintain a certain percentage with the budget. It is my job to wean you off of transitional. Collecting the fees is crucial for 2019. The city cannot afford to not have a tax collector. Addressed the fact of having certified, accredited positions filled. Also mentioned the visit from the state. How they came because Salem is doing something.

Wayne – 46 Walnut Street. Spoke on a public safety issue on an abandoned property on 48 which is not a safe place. Kids roaming around, going through cellar doors; a woman was heard coughing. Needs cleaning. Also concerned with gun shots. His vehicle was shot on February 24, 2019 as a result of frequency of gun shots. Mayor responded: we will determined on whether the property in question belongs to the city. If so, we will move to have it demolished. As far as gun violence. We have instilled cameras throughout; looking to have more installed. Please do you part in calling the Police; I will in turn speak with the chief.

Robert Lee – 43 Aiken Street. He inquired about public neighborhood program. He was directed to look into the program on the city’s website and to read up on it.

Brianna – 187 – Asked about street sweepers and why they were not operable. Responses from council members and the Mayor: They have been out for quite some time; to have it repaired would cost over \$15 thousand dollars. For a new one, would cost over a quarter of million dollars. Other cities are not willing to share. So that is on hold indefinitely. We ask our community to come together for cleaning.

Jahyda Villegas – the design community has reached out to Carol about the awning for location 134 W. Broadway; we typed a letter to her but no response. Councilman Smith responded: the property is privately owned. It would have to go through Historic Preservation. They will have to come the meeting in order to get approved to fix the roof. Carol is aware of the concerns and has received all correspondence and has done up to where she is able to do. Violations were sent out and the roof was patched and remains in contact with the owner. Ms. Villegas suggested that we enhance communication in regards to the cleaning in the city. Council President Roots assured her that we do communicate as effective as we can by advertising with flyers, city website, word of mouth and such. There will also be a cleaning in May. The Mayor suggested that she take all information posted on our website and flyers, and help with enhancing communication by spreading it around the city.

Motion to close public portion made by Councilman Earl Gage.

Seconded by Councilwoman Sharon Kellum.

All members voted in favor.

Motion carried.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: MAY 6, 2019