

**CITY OF SALEM
COMMON COUNCIL CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 11, 2021
6:30 PM**

OPENING 6:30 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council President Earl Gage

INVOCATION: Council President Earl Gage

STATEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT: Mr. Angeli read the statement as follows:

Notice of this meeting has been provided to the South Jersey Times and the Elmer Times and is posted on the City Hall Bulletin Board stating the time and the place of the meeting. Notice has also been posted that the meeting can be accessed through Zoom.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Cline, Davis, Gregory, Groce, Kellum, Slaughter, Gage

Absent: Smith

Also Present: Mayor Washington, Solicitor Rhea, CFO Nunez, Commerce Director Bailey, Admin/Clerk Angeli and Chief Pelura

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Motion to open: Gregory and Second: Kellum

All Council Members present voted in favor in a voice vote.

Mr. Angeli stated the following: The public is instructed that this portion of the meeting is provided for comments and questions on Agenda items only. There will be a public portion later in the meeting for general comments and questions. Please state your name and address, street name only for the record.

No comments or questions were offered.

Motion to close the public portion on agenda items: Gregory and Second: Kellum

All Council Members present voted in favor in a voice vote.

COMMUNICATIONS/APPLICATIONS: None

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

**RES. 2021-48 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND AS A RESULT OF TAX APPEAL
SETTLEMENT REGARDING BLOCK 3 LOT 23**

Solicitor Rhea explained the purpose of the Resolution.

Motion: Gregory and Second: Kellum

All Council Members present voted in favor in a voice vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS AND DISCUSSION:

ADMINISTRATION (Gage, Gregory, Kellum, Smith)

Council President Gage spoke about the importance of Council training and that it had not been done in years. He spoke about the WIPA process and named the people that would be on the WIPA Ad Hoc Committee (Mayor Washington, Gage, Groce, Gregory, Nunez, Angeli, Rhea and Representatives from R&V).

PUBLIC SAFETY (Gage, Smith, Groce, Davis)

Mr. Gregory was invited to speak about the "Coalition for a Safe Community". He mentioned the people and organizations that were involved. Mr. Groce spoke about the Peace Task Force. Mr. Davis said that Council should be proactive. He spoke about loitering and the need for public transportation in the City.

PUBLIC WORKS (Groce, Gregory, Gage, Slaughter)

Mr. Angeli gave an update on the three street issues (9th Street, Pledger and Belden). Mr. Groce spoke about the WIPA process and the meeting with Mr. Ramsey.

ORDINANCE/BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS (Slaughter, Cline, Smith, Groce)

Councilwoman Cline spoke about the need to set smart goals and wanted the Council to look into renovating the football field. Mr. Angeli spoke about the committee putting a list of ordinances to look at for 2021. Mr. Groce mentioned working on a loitering Ordinance. The Solicitor stated that the Municipalities cannot do ordinances if the state criminal code addresses it. Chief Pelura stated that a loitering Ordinance may affect those that are not involved in criminal activity.

NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVES/PARKS AND RECS (Slaughter, Kellum, Cline, Davis)

Discussion about the possibility of a new park and what needed to be done at the City pool.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ECDC) (Smith, Davis, Kellum, Gregory)

Developing a list of properties for public auction and recreational Cannabis were discussed. The Mayor spoke about the NTI program and about the focus being on home ownership. Discussion ensued.

CFO REPORT:

Ms. Nunez said that she was working on closing out 2020 and putting all the information into the Edmonds system. Spoke about the 2021 budget and said that we should look at March 20th for introduction.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

Mr. Angeli spoke about the NJDOT grant and that it would be on for the next meeting.

COMMERCE DEPARTMENT:

Discussion about the grant opportunity for a camera for illegal dumping.

Mr. Gregory made a motion on resolution 2021-49 A resolution authorizing the Commerce Director to prepare and submit the camera grant for illegal dumping. Councilwoman Kellum seconded the motion and all present voted in favor.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Motion to open: Gregory and Second: Kellum

All Council Members present voted in favor in a voice vote.

Mr. Angeli stated the following: The public is instructed that this portion of the meeting is provided for comments and questions on any matter. Please state your name and address, street name only for the record.

No comments or questions were offered.

Motion to close the public portion on agenda items: Gregory and Second: Kellum
All Council Members present voted in favor in a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: Gregory and Second: Kellum
All Council Members present voted in favor in a voice vote.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING:

THE REGULAR COMMON COUNCIL MEETING ON JANUARY 18, 2021

Minutes respectfully submitted by:



Ben Angeli, RMC

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2021-48**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REFUND AS A RESULT OF TAX APPEAL
SETTLEMENT REGARDING BLOCK 3 LOT 23**

WHEREAS, the former owner of property located on Griffith Street and designated as Block 3, lot 23, filed tax appeals for tax years 2015, 2016 and 2017; and

WHEREAS, a settlement was reached in the Tax Court of New Jersey and judgment reducing the assessment for tax year 2017 for the above referenced property was entered under Docket No. 005015-2017; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the settlement, the parties agreed that the overpayment in the amount of \$34,150.00 would be refunded without interest if made within 60 days of the entry of the judgment; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Salem that a refund is authorized and shall be issued in accordance with the settlement reached in the tax appeal referenced above in the amount of \$34,150.00 to Bruce J. Stavitsky, Esq. Attorney Trust Account for the benefit of "Ardagh Glass Container, Co." c/o Stavitsky & Associates LLC, Attorney Trust Account, 350 Passaic Avenue, Fairfield, New Jersey 07004.

ATTEST:



Ben Angeli, RMC

CITY OF SALEM



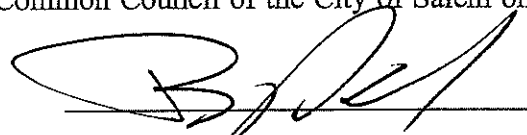
Earl Gage, Council President

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
S. Cline			X			
R. Davis			X			
T. Gregory	X		X			
V. Groce			X			
S. Kellum		X	X			
G. Slaughter			X			
J. Smith						X
E. Gage			X			

I, Ben Angeli, 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 January 11, 2021.

1-11-2021

Date



Ben Angeli, RMC

ARDAGH TAX APPEAL – 2015, 2016 and 2017

Properties under appeal : BI 3, Lot 23 ; BI 4, Lot 1 ; BI 4, Lot 1.10; BI 11, Lot 28; BI 11, Lot 47, BI 12, Lot 4; BI 12, Lot 19 and BI 12 19

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Total Assessment	\$13,356,418	\$13,356,418	\$7,483,600
Requested Assessment	\$4,548,000	\$4,548,000	\$5,540,000
Taxes Paid	\$516,359	\$523,037	\$310,082
Requested Refund	\$340,843	\$345,251	\$201,048 tot. \$887,142

Settlement:

All tax appeals withdrawn for 2015 and 2016

All assessments remained the same for 2017 except Block 3, Lot 23 – Assessment reduced by 500,000.
For 2017 only. Freeze Act does not apply.

2017 tax rate $6.830 \times 500,000 = 34,150$.

**CITY OF SALEM
RESOLUTION 2021-49**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SALEM CITY COMMERCE DEPARTMENT
TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT APPLICATION FOR THE CAMERA GRANT FOR
ILLEGAL DUMPING**

WHEREAS, the NJDEP has announced The Camera Grant for Illegal Dumping; and

WHEREAS, guidelines were recently issued and deadlines set for grant applications, and

WHEREAS, this grant program will award a camera or multiple cameras to Municipalities to aid in the reduction of illegal dumping; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salem has an existing problem with multiple illegal dumping sites; and

WHEREAS, the illegal dumping issue is a problem that poses a threat to the health and welfare of the residents of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Salem desires to submit a proposal requesting that a camera or cameras be made available to the City to combat the illegal dumping that is prevalent in the City.

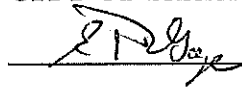
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Salem, in the County of Salem, New Jersey hereby authorizes the Salem City Commerce Department to prepare and submit the application for the NJDEP Camera grant for Illegal Dumping.

ATTEST:



Ben Angeli, RMC

CITY OF SALEM



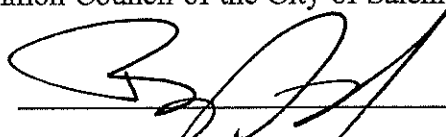
Earl Gage, Council President

COUNCIL	MOVED	SECONDED	Y	N	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
S. Cline			X			
R. Davis			X			
T. Gregory	X		X			
V. Groce			X			
S. Kellum		X	X			
G. Slaughter			X			
J. Smith						X
E. Gage			X			

I, Ben Angeli, 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 January 11, 2021.

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Date



Ben Angeli, RMC