

CITY OF SALEM
COMMON COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
June 18, 2024
6:30PM

OPENING 6:30PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Council President Sharon Cline

INVOCATION: Sonita Johnson

STATEMENT OF ADVERTISEMENT:

The Clerk read the following: 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.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Gregory, Groce, Kellum, Loatman, Smith, Cline

Also present: Mayor Veler, Admin/Clerk Ben Angeli, Solicitor Ranieri, Commerce Director Bailey, Deputy Clerk Mandy Renner.

PUBLIC PORTION FOR AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Motion to open: Kellum and Second: Groce.

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

Council president Cline 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.

Janice Roots, Salem NJ, wanted to express concerns regarding Ordinance 24-19. Ms. Roots explained that these properties were not introduced to the public. How is it fair that Cody Loatman was able to proceed with the purchase of this property without them being advertised? Sharon Cline then proceeded to inform Ms. Roots on the process to which Cody Loatman was able to proceed with the purchase of 57 Market Street. Janice Roots then submitted her application to council.

Quenla Bentley stated that everyone in the community should have been informed about the program and put on the city website.

Kathy Parsons stated that it is a conflict of interest being that Cody Loatman sits on the housing committee.

Andrea Robinson expressed concerns that the community was not notified about this program.

James Maley questioned if 57 Market Street will be in Cody Loatman's name or under his business name. Solicitor Ranieri responded that the property will be under Mr. Loatman's name.

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

COMMUNICATIONS/APPLICATIONS/REPORTS:

Approval of an Entertainment License for Beautiful Vessels Housing and Family Development for Outreach events on July 20, 2024, August 31, 2024 and September 28, 2024 from 11am to 2pm at MLK Park.

Approval of an Entertainment License for St. John's Pentecostal Outreach Church for Salem Community Ambassador Water Day's on July 5, 12, 19, 26 and August 2, 2024 at the Walnut Street field from 12pm to 4pm.

Approval of an Entertainment License for SUFS for 2024 Summer Concert Series on 6/20, 7/18, 8/15 and 9/19 at MLK Park from 5:30pm to 9pm.

Motion to approve: Kellum and second: Groce.
All Council Members present voted in favor in a voice vote.

SECOND READING OF AND HEARING FOR ORDINANCES:

ORD. 24-17 An Ordinance amending Chapter 230 of the Code of the City of Salem, New Jersey entitled "Water and Sewer".

Motion to open public hearing on Ord. 24-17: Kellum and second Groce.
Voice Vote: Groce- Yes, Kellum-Yes, Loatman-Yes, Smith-Yes, and Cline-Yes.

Janice Roots, asked the council to summarize the Ordinance. Solicitor Ranieri explained the ordinance will be amending the rates as a part of the sale.

Motion to close public hearing on Ord. 24-17: Kellum and second Groce.
Voice Vote: Groce- Yes, Kellum-Yes, Loatman-Yes, Smith-Yes, and Cline-Yes.

INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

This is the first reading and introduction. The public hearing for ordinance 24-18 will be on July 18, 2024 at 6:30pm.

ORD. 24-18 An Ordinance amending Ordinance 23-06 and various chapters of the code of the City of Salem, County of Salem, New Jersey related to the regulation of recreational cannabis.

Motion to Introduce: Kellum and second Groce.

Roll Call: Gregory, Groce- Yes, Kellum-Yes, Loatman-Yes, Smith-Yes, and Cline-Yes.

This is the first reading and introduction. The public hearing for ordinance 24-19 will be on July 18, 2024 at 6:30pm.

Ord. 24-19 An Ordinance of the City of Salem ("City"), County of Salem, New Jersey authorizing the sale of Block 6 Lot 16, also known as 57 Market St and the execution an agreement of sale.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion to go into executive session: Kellum and Second Groce.

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

Mr. Angeli stated that Executive Session would last about 30 minutes and that no action can be taken in a closed session. He said that action can be taken after executive session.

The Governing Body, City Solicitor, City Admin/Clerk, CFO, Commerce Director moved into a closed session.

Mr. Angeli stated that no action was taken in Executive Session and that all members that entered the session are still present.

Motion to Introduce: Kellum and second Groce.

Roll Call: Gregory-No, Groce- No, Kellum-No, Loatman-abstain, Smith-abstain, and Cline-No.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

RES. 2024-187. A Resolution to offer first right of purchase to property owners who own property whose structure is attached to a vacant city owned structure.

Motion: Kellum and Second Groce.

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

RES. 2024-188. A Resolution approving the renewal of a plenary retail distribution licenses for acholic beverages.

Motion: Kellum and Second Groce.

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

RES. 2024-189. A Resolution approving the renewal of a club license for acholic beverages.

Motion: Kellum and Second Groce.

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

RES. 2024-190. A Resolution approving the renewal of plenary retail consumption licenses for acholic beverages.

Motion: Kellum and Second Groce.

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

RES 2024-191. A Resolution approving agreement between the City of Salem and the Blue Collars workers association.

Motion: Kellum and Second Groce.

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

RES. 2024-192. A Resolution of the City of Salem, County of Salem, New Jersey to execute and administrative consent order with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and to amend the agreement of sale with New Jersey American Water Company, INC dated November 20, 2024.

Motion: Kellum and Second Groce.

Roll Call: Gregory, Groce- Yes, Kellum-Yes, Loatman-Yes, Smith-Yes, and Cline-Yes.

RES. 2024-193. A Resolution authorizing emergency temporary appropriations.

Motion: Kellum and Second Groce.

Roll Call: Gregory, Groce- Yes, Kellum-Yes, Loatman-Yes, Smith-Yes, and Cline-Yes.

RES. 2024-194. A Resolution to approve contract from Saquion Gullett for Salem City promotional video.

Motion: Kellum and Second Groce.

All Council Members present voted in a favor in a voice vote. Gregory-abstain

RES. 2024-195. A Resolution awarding contract for the resurfacing of New Market Street in the City of Salem (FY 2024 NJDOT)

Motion: Kellum and Second Groce.

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

RES. 2024-196. A Resolution awarding contract for the reconstruction of Belden Street in the City of Salem (FY 2023 NJDOT)

Motion: Kellum and Second Groce.

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

RES. 2024-197. A Resolution providing for a meeting not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-12 These items are for (7) Matters relating to litigation, negotiations and attorney-client privilege.

Motion: Kellum and Second Groce.

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

RES. 2024-198. A Resolution amending Resolutions 2023-283 that authorized submission of a plan for the Salem City municipal alliance grant for the fiscal year 2025 due to typographical error.

Motion: Kellum and Second Groce.

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

RES. 2024-199. A Resolution providing for a meeting not open to the public in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act, NJSA 10:4-12 These items are for (7) Matters relating to litigation, negotiations and attorney-client privilege.

Motion: Kellum and Second Groce.

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

OLD BUSINESS: No old business

NEW BUSINESS: Mayor Veler stated that she received a call from a local church letting her know that they have a trailer with 6 showers and are inquiring about a location to place it.

PUBLIC PORTION:

Motion to open: Kellum Second: Groce.

All Council Members present voted in favor in a voice vote

Janice Roots questioned the outcome of the executive session regarding Ordinance 24-19. Council President Sharon Cline responded stating that the properties will be advertised and put on the City website. Ms. Roots then withdrew her application.

Motion to close the public portion.

Motion to close: Kellum Second: Groce.

All Council Members present voted in favor in a voice vote

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Motion to go into executive session: Kellum and Second Groce.

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

Mr. Angeli stated that Executive Session would last about one hour and that no action can be taken in a closed session. He said that action can be taken after executive session.

The Governing Body, City Solicitor, City Admin/Clerk and Deputy Clerk, CFO, Commerce Director moved into a closed session.

Motion to leave executive session: Gregory and Second: Long

Mr. Angeli stated that no action was taken in Executive Session and that all members that entered the session are still present.


ADJOURNMENT:

Motion: Kellum and Second: Groce.

All Council Members present voted in favor in a voice vote

The next council meeting will be July 15, 2024 AT 6:30 PM

Minutes respectfully submitted by:



Mandy Renner, Deputy Clerk