

**CITY OF SALEM
MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
OF JANUARY 11, 2016**

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 Municipal Building located at 1 New Market Street at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present: Council President Karen Roots, Councilpersons, Ruth Carter, Earl Gage, Vaughn Groce, Charles Hassler, Horace Johnson, and Lydia Thompson. 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. Councilman Waddington was 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, 2016 SETTING FOR THE TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF ALL THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE MAYOR AND COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALEM.

INVOCATION Mayor Washington provided the invocation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Councilman Hassler, seconded by Councilman Johnson to adopt the minutes of the December 7, 2015 Council Meeting and Closed Session. Motion carried 7-0.

COMMUNICATIONS/APPLICATIONS/REPORTS:

Councilman Hassler motioned to approve applications for NJ State Fireman's Association Memberships for Dorsey W. Maxwell and Charles N. Wygor Jr. Councilman Gage seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION:

RESOLUTION 2016-51

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SIGNING OF A SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL
AGREEMENT WITH THE SALEM COUNTY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY
SOLID WASTE DIVISION**

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 Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized, empowered and directed to sign the Agreement between the City of Salem and Salem County Improvement Authority with its principal place of business located at 52 McKillip Road, Alloway, New Jersey 08001 for disposal of solid waste for a period of one (1) year terminating on December 31, 2016, according to the attached fee schedule.

R-2016-51

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Administration: President Roots reported the committee would meet on January 25th at 5:00pm.

Public Safety: Councilman Gage reported the committee last met in December and discussed the need to hire additional officers for the police department. They met with members of the Ambulance and the Mayor of Woodstown regarding the current MOU; Councilman Gage noted everything was working out good.

Public Works: Councilman Groce stated the committee had met last Friday and discussed the RFP's received for possible water plant litigation services. The next meeting will be this Wednesday at 4:30.

Community Service: President Roots reported Community Services has now been combined with the Neighborhood Initiatives Committee.

Human Services: Councilman Hassler reminded everyone of the upcoming dog inoculations Free Rabies Clinic will be held on January 16th from 9am-12noon at the Street Department on Grievs Parkway; licenses will be available to purchase also.

City Property/Capital: Councilwoman Carter discussed the heating system at the police department and the air conditioning system at #17 New Market and requesting quotes for the jobs. CFO Crescenzi reported the cameras are hooked back up at the municipal annex at 17 New Market. The next meeting will be January 20 at 5:30.

Redevelopment: With Councilman Waddington absent, Councilman Groce reported there was no meeting as of yet for the year.

Neighborhood Initiatives: Councilwoman Thompson stated she would like to have a meeting of the Community Services/Neighborhood Initiatives Committee on Wednesday January 20 at 4:45.

At this time Councilman Waddington joined the Council meeting.

MAYORAL COMMENTS:

Mayor Washington spoke of the January 1 Reorganization meeting, noting good things will be happening and the City of Salem will be moving forward in 2016. He stated he has reached out to potential developers for economic development projects, he has met with Police Chief Pelura regarding “hotspots” in the city that need to be addressed, and lastly the need to hire new officers and what their specific job descriptions will be.

NEW BUSINESS: City Clerk Keen announced she was in receipt of a letter from Councilman Waddington announcing his retirement from City Council. The City Clerk then read the letter:

January 11, 2016

My Dear Fellow Council Members,

After careful consideration I have decided to retire from Salem City Council effective Sunday January 31, 2016. For me this has been a difficult decision due to my love for the City of Salem, and my lifelong feeling that it is incumbent upon us as citizens to try to improve the place where we live, work, and play.

While February 1, represents my 24th year on Council, and my 27th year in the pension system, my involvement with City government began in 1976, when Mayor Ken Lewis appointed me to the then newly formed Historic Preservation Advisory Committee. Since that time I have served in various capacities on the Zoning Board of Adjustment, the Salem City Planning Board, the City Board of Health, the Environmental Commission, the Salem Port Authority, the Brownfield Development Area Steering Committee, and (of course) City Council.

It has been my pleasure to work with each of you and I wish you success as we continue to work on behalf of improvement in the City of Salem. Please feel free to contact me if there is any way that I can assist in those efforts.

Sincerely,
James G. Waddington

Councilman Gage motioned to accept Councilman Waddington’s retirement letter “with regret”. Councilman Hassler seconded the motion, and all were in favor. Mayor Washington then thanked Councilman Waddington for his years of service to the city and his knowledge that has been a great asset as well; he wished him the best of luck in his retirement. Council President Roots thanked Councilman Waddington for his input and dedication to the city, stating she has known him personally for years as a good friend of her family and he was very well-liked by her father. Next, Councilman Johnson remembered Councilman Waddington helping him while purchasing his first home when he moved back to Salem, and always being there for the city. Councilman Groce thanked Councilman Waddington for his service to the city and noted he has learned a lot from Councilman Waddington in the years he has been on council. Lastly Councilman Hassler thanked Councilman Waddington for his many years on council, and his vast knowledge of the city; stating it’s always taken for granted or assumed that a person will always be there when needed. Councilman Waddington assured everyone they will see him again, “maybe in the audience next time,” and that he will be available for advice when needed.

Councilman Hassler reminded everyone of the annual Martin Luther King Breakfast on Monday January 18, noting Councilwoman Ruth Carter will be honored at the breakfast.

OLD BUSINESS: CFO Crescenzi addressed a recent letter from the County Tax Board ordering the City to have a revaluation. He spoke of the cost, the process of a bond ordinance, and getting a bond note approved. Mayor Washington said the city will be consulting with the state monitor also with regard to the revaluation cost and process.

PUBLIC PORTION: NONE

With no requests for public comment, Councilman Hassler made a motion to close the Public Portion of the meeting. Councilman Johnson seconded the motion and all were in favor. Councilman Hassler motioned to convene into Executive Session, Councilman Johnson seconded the motion and all were in favor. The regular portion of the meeting ended at 7:35pm.

RESOLUTION 2016-52
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**

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

With a Motion by Councilman Hassler, seconded by Councilman Gage, and all in favor, Council came out of Closed Session at 8:30.

With no further business before Council, Council President Roots motioned to adjourn the meeting, Councilman Gage seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The council meeting ended at 8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved: February 1, 2016

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