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### ADOPTION OF LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

*Mrs. Mitchell moved and Mrs. Shields seconded to approve the legislative agenda.*

*Mr. Heath moved to amend the legislative agenda by moving the Public Hearing/Resolution No. 2480 - authorizing an application to the Maryland State Arts Council of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development to expand the boundaries of the existing Arts and Entertainment District to immediately follow the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Shields seconded and the vote to amend the agenda was unanimous.*

*Mr. Heath moved to further amend the agenda by removing the Ordinance No. 2315 for first reading – setting the Stormwater Utility Fee in accordance with Chapter 13.30 of the City Code from the agenda Mrs. Shields seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve the Legislative Agenda as presented.*

*The amended legislative agenda was passed by unanimous vote in favor.*

### CONSENT AGENDA – presented by City Clerk Kim Nichols

*The Consent Agenda was unanimously approved on a motion and seconded by Mrs. Shields and Mrs. Mitchell, respectively:*

- *January 12, 2015 closed session minutes*
- *February 2, 2015 work session minutes*
- *February 9, 2015 regular meeting minutes*

**PUBLIC HEARING/RESOLUTION NO. 2480** - authorizing an application to the Maryland State Arts Council of the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development to expand the boundaries of the existing Arts and Entertainment District (A & E District) – presented by City Administrator Tom Stevenson

*Mrs. Shields moved and Mr. Heath seconded to approve Resolution No. 2480.*

*The following public comments in support of Resolution No. 2480 were provided by twelve members of the public, after being sworn in by City Clerk Kim Nichols:*

- *Downtown is on an upswing and expansion of A & E is needed*
- *Huge interest in creating art downtown*
- *Outdoor activities are increasing*
- *Downtown needs to be a mixture of restaurants, retail and housing*
- *There will be almost 100 new beds located in Rivers Edge so why not expand A & E to include the new housing complex*

- *Easton and Berlin are much smaller and look how Art has enhanced their downtown*
- *A & E doing great things downtown*
- *Expand and bring more businesses downtown*
- *Arts enrich lives*
- *This A & E District expansion is essential to enhance the cultural aspect of the community*
- *Vibrant downtowns help bring home buyers to the area*
- *The recent progress is nothing short of amazing*
- *Chipman Center has a history of being an Arts venue*
- *Will add affordable places to live and help retain young professionals in the City*
- *Continue the progress, do not halt it*
- *Has a large stage space available and meeting rooms/studio to meet a need in the community (handicapped accessible) and available for conferences and dinners*
- *Asked City Council to vote in favor of expansion of the A & E District*

*City Administrator Tom Stevenson presented Resolution No. 2480, which would increase the size of the Arts & Entertainment District in the City of Salisbury by 12.92 acres. Resolution No. 2480 passed by unanimous vote in favor.*

**PUBLIC HEARING/CHARTER AMENDMENTS** – *presented by City Administrator Tom Stevenson*

- **Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2015-1** – *amending City of Salisbury Charter Section SC7-48 – Decoupling the Enterprise Fund debt from the General Fund*

*Mrs. Mitchell moved and Mr. Heath seconded to approve Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2015-1.*

*Mr. Stevenson presented and Mr. Cordrey further explained the Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2015-1, which will amend the City of Salisbury Charter in order to accomplish the following:*

1. *To exclude from the calculations of the debt limit any outstanding general obligation debt that is from an Enterprise Fund*
2. *To reduce the percentages of superfluous valuation of Real and Personal property against what the debt limit calculation should be applied*
3. *Qualify the debt that is subject to the debt limit*
4. *Clarify that conditionally repayable grants, compensated absences and capital police obligations shall not count against the debt limit*

*After being sworn in, one member of the public provided the following comments:*

- *Concerned that every year the City's revenues go down, but the tax rates are increased*
- *Properties are declining in value, and are selling less than their appraisals*

- *This year when her house is appraised, the speaker will appeal and take about \$40,000 worth of appraised value off her house; others are doing the same*
- *The City's revenue on property taxes will probably be declining unless you increase the property rate*
- *At the end, you are increasing by approximately (2), your ability to borrow*
- *If you increase borrowing, we will increase our debt service, and with our falling property values, how are you going to repay this debt service? With increased property taxes? City citizens are already paying a higher rate than Annapolis and most towns in the State of Maryland.*
- *This looks like an attempt to increase the amount of money the City can borrow, and if so, we should be very concerned*

*Mr. Stevenson explained the last report he received indicated rising property values. Mr. Cordrey explained that the current restriction of the debt policy would be the area that this amendment affected. This will enable the City to complete the construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The repayment on that construction debt requires a payment \$150,000 per year for the first 8 years, and thereafter, the balance that remains will be divided and repaid over the next twelve years. The City will pay no interest on the entirety of the \$38 million debt. MDE has given the City of Salisbury a great amount of relief with this loan, and it levels the debt service for the entire Water Sewer Fund.*

*Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2015-1 passed by unanimous vote in favor.*

- ***Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2015-2*** – amending the City of Salisbury Charter Section SC5-1 (Article V General Powers) for the following reasons: to allow for contracts for the lighting of the City by means deemed proper and for contracts for water use for periods no longer than twenty (20) years instead of three (3) years

*Mrs. Mitchell moved and Mrs. Shields seconded to approve Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2015-2.*

*Mr. Stevenson presented the Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2015-2 which will allow for contracts for the lighting of the City and for water use for periods no longer than twenty (20) years instead of three (3) years.*

*There were no public comments during the Public Hearing and Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2015-2 was passed by unanimous vote in favor.*

**ORDINANCE NO. 2316** – 1<sup>st</sup> reading – authorizing an amendment of the FY15 General Fund budget authorizing Salisbury Police Department to purchase services provided by the Predictive Policing Company (PREDPOL). Terms of the contract are (1) year at a cost of \$15,000. An additional one-time \$3,500 setup fee is required for a total cost of \$18,500. The contract is

*automatically renewable annually; however, either party with 30 days notice may cancel at any time – presented by City Attorney Mark Tilghman*

*Mr. Heath moved, Mrs. Mitchell seconded, and the vote was unanimous to approve Ordinance No. 2316 for first reading.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

*Council President Day adjourned the Legislative Session at 7:40 p.m.*

*Kimberly R. Nichols*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*City Clerk*

*[Signature]*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Council President*