



CITY OF SALISBURY

115 S. Division Street, Salisbury, MD 21801

WORK SESSION

125 N. Division Street, Room 301, Salisbury, MD 21801

Monday, September 8, 2025 7:00 PM

D'SHAWN M. DOUGHTY
Council President

ANGELA M. BLAKE
Council Vice President

APRIL R. JACKSON
Councilwoman

MICHELE R. GREGORY
Councilwoman

SHARON C. DASHIELL
Councilwoman

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENTATION

- Summer Youth Program Recap

RESOLUTION

- Charter Amendment - Updating SC5-1 to increase the maximum fines for misdemeanors and municipal infractions
Charter Amendment Resolution to amend SC5-1 of the charter to increase the maximum fine for misdemeanors and municipal infractions from \$1,000 to \$5,000 in accordance with newly updated state law.

ORDINANCE

- Ordinance to add the International Property Maintenance Code to Title 15 of the Salisbury City Code
Ordinance amending Title 15 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled "Buildings and Construction" to add the adoption of and reference to the International Property Maintenance Code.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

- Council Representatives - Boards and Commissions

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Items Only)

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

COUNCIL COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

<p>City Council Meetings are conducted in Open Session unless otherwise indicated. All or part of the Council's meetings can be held in Closed Session under the authority of the Maryland Open Meetings Law, Annotated Code of Maryland General Provisions Article § 3-305(b) by vote of the City Council.</p>



Memo

To: Tom Stevenson, Acting City Administrator
From: Muir Boda, Director of Housing & Community Development
Date: August 20, 2025
Subject: Charter Amendment - Updating SC5-1 to increase the maximum fines for misdemeanors and municipal infractions

As part of our ongoing efforts to enhance municipal enforcement, the Maryland Municipal League (MML) and the Code Enforcement and Zoning Officers Association of Maryland (CEZOA) prioritized increasing the maximum allowable criminal fines and municipal infraction penalties from \$1,000 to \$5,000. These initiatives culminated in the enactment of Senate Bill No. 820, which will become effective on October 1, 2025.

This legislation aligns our fines with those of Maryland counties, which previously updated their maximum penalties in a prior legislative session. As a result, municipalities now have greater flexibility to set fines, such as aligning with Wicomico County's littering fine of \$1,500, as Salisbury's current fine for littering is \$1,000. In accordance with this, we plan to propose legislation to increase the municipal littering fine to \$1,500.

Following the establishment of this charter amendment, we will develop and present a comprehensive Fines and Municipal Infractions Schedule for adoption. This schedule will include all municipal infractions and misdemeanors. We will also update relevant sections of the municipal code to reference this schedule explicitly. This schedule will be reviewed and adopted annually during the budget process to promote transparency and administrative efficiency. This approach will ensure consistent updates and provide clarity to citizens and staff when referencing municipal fines and infractions.

Attachment(s):
[CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION. MI amount.docx](#)

1 **CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION NO. _____**
2

3 **A RESOLUTION TO AMEND § SC5-1 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF**
4 **SALISBURY TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM FINE FOR MISDEMEANORS**
5 **AND MUNICIPAL INFRACTIONS FROM \$1,000 TO \$5,000 IN ACCORDANCE**
6 **WITH NEWLY UPDATED STATE LAW.**
7

8 **RECITALS**

9 **WHEREAS**, the ongoing application, administration, and enforcement of the Salisbury Charter
10 demonstrates a need for its periodic review, evaluation, and amendment to keep the provisions of the
11 Charter current; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury (the “**Mayor and Council**”) are
13 authorized by MD Code, Local Government, § 4-301 *et seq.*, as amended, and § SC21-2 of the Charter to
14 amend the Charter, not contrary to the Constitution of Maryland, public general law or public local law, as
15 the Mayor and Council deem necessary to assure the good government of the municipality; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Annotated Code of Maryland is amended from time to time; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Maryland Senate Bill No. 820 was enacted for the purpose of increasing the
18 maximum amount of criminal fines and fines for municipal infractions that may be imposed by a
19 municipality to enforce certain ordinances and resolutions enacted by the municipality; and

20 **WHEREAS**, under Senate Bill No. 820, effective October 1, 2025, fines that can be assessed by
21 municipalities for misdemeanors and municipal infractions, as set forth in Md. Code Ann., Local Gov't §§
22 6-101 -102, are increased from \$1,000 per violation to \$5,0000 per violation; and

23 **WHEREAS**, The City has determined it is in the best interest of its citizens to amend § SC5-1 of
24 the Charter to reflect the new increase in potential fine amounts under State law and to further conform to
25 the provisions of Md. Code Ann., Local Gov't §§ 6-101 *et seq.*; and

26 **WHEREAS**, the Mayor and Council have determined that amendments to § SC5-1 of the Charter
27 shall be adopted as set forth herein; and

28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF**
29 **SALISBURY** by virtue of the authority granted in Article XI-E of the Maryland Declaration of Rights, §§
30 4-301 *et seq.* of the Local Government Article of the Code of Maryland, and Article XXI of the City Charter
31 as follows:

32 **Section 1.** It is proposed and recommended that § SC5-1(A)(38) be amended to repeal the language
33 in double bold brackets and add the underscored and italicized language:

34 **§ SC5-1. - Enumeration.**

35 A. The City of Salisbury shall have the power:

36 ...

(38) Enforcement of ordinances.

(a) The Council has the power, pursuant to Local Government Article §[[6-102]] 6-101 et seq. of the Annotated Code of Maryland, to provide that violations of ordinances and resolutions of the city shall be punishable as misdemeanors, unless otherwise specified as an infraction. No penalty for such violation shall exceed a [[find]] fine of [[one thousand dollars (\$1,000.)]] five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and imprisonment for six (6) months or such other limits as may be established by subsequent amendments to Local Government Article §[[6-102]] 6-101 et seq. Any person subject to any fine, forfeiture or penalty has the right of appeal as is provided under the general laws of the State. The Council may provide that, if the violation is of a continuing nature and is persisted in, a conviction for one (1) violation shall not be a bar to conviction for a continuation of the offense subsequent to the first or any succeeding violation.

(b) Municipal infractions.

[1] The Council may provide that violations of any municipal ordinance shall be a municipal infraction unless that violation is declared to be a criminal offense [[felony or misdemeanor*]] by the laws of the state of[[**]] Maryland [[other ordinance]]. For purposes of this section, a municipal infraction is a civil offense.

[2] A fine not to exceed [[one thousand dollars (\$1,000.)]] five thousand dollars (\$5,000) may be imposed for each conviction of a municipal infraction. The fine is payable by the offender to the municipality within twenty (20) calendar days of receipt of a citation. Repeat offenders may be assessed a fine not to exceed [[one thousand dollars (\$1,000.)]] five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each repeat offense, and each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

[3] Any person receiving a citation for an infraction may elect to stand trial for the offense by notifying the city in writing of this intention at least five (5) days prior to the date set for payment of the fine. Failure to pay the fine or give notice of intent to stand trial may result in an additional fine or adjudication by the court.

[4] Adjudication of a municipal infraction is not a criminal conviction for any purpose, nor does it impose any of the civil disabilities ordinarily imposed by a criminal conviction.

Section 2. With this proposed Charter amendment, § SC5-1(A)(38) of the Charter would read:

§ SC5-1. - Enumeration.

B. The City of Salisbury shall have the power:

...

(38) Enforcement of ordinances.

(a) The Council has the power, pursuant to Local Government Article § 6-101 et seq. of the Annotated Code of Maryland, to provide that violations of ordinances and resolutions of the city shall be punishable as misdemeanors, unless otherwise specified as an infraction. No penalty for such violation shall exceed a fine of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and imprisonment for six (6) months or such other limits as may be established by subsequent amendments to Local Government Article §6-101 et seq. Any person subject to any fine, forfeiture or penalty has the right of appeal as is provided under the general laws of the State. The Council may provide that, if the violation is of a continuing nature and is persisted in, a conviction for one (1) violation shall not be a bar to conviction for a continuation of the offense subsequent to the first or any succeeding violation.

(b) Municipal infractions.

[1] The Council may provide that violations of any municipal ordinance shall be a municipal

infraction unless that violation is declared to be a criminal offense by the laws of the state of Maryland. For purposes of this section, a municipal infraction is a civil offense.

[2] A fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) may be imposed for each conviction of a municipal infraction. The fine is payable by the offender to the municipality within twenty (20) calendar days of receipt of a citation. Repeat offenders may be assessed a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each repeat offense, and each day a violation continues shall constitute a separate offense.

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[4] Adjudication of a municipal infraction is not a criminal conviction for any purpose, nor does it impose any of the civil disabilities ordinarily imposed by a criminal conviction.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY:

Section 3. Pursuant to MD Code, Local Government, § 4-304, a public hearing on this Resolution, providing for the amendment of the City of Salisbury's Charter as set forth herein, shall be and hereby is scheduled for _____, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

Section 4. Pursuant to the City of Salisbury's Charter § SC21-2 and MD Code, Local Government, § 4-304, the City shall post a complete and exact copy of this Charter Amendment at the City Government Building for at least forty (40) days after the passage of this Resolution and advertise a fair summary of this Resolution in a newspaper of general circulation in the City at least four times at weekly intervals and within forty days after the Resolution has been adopted.

Section 5. The title of this Resolution shall be deemed a fair summary of the amendments provided for herein for publication and all other purposes.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY:

Section 6. This Resolution shall take effect on the fiftieth day after the Resolution is adopted, subject to the right of referendum.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY:

Section 7. It is the intention of the Council of the City of Salisbury that each provision of this Resolution shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein.

Section 8. It is further the intention of the Council of the City of Salisbury that if any section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision of this Resolution shall be adjudged invalid, unconstitutional, or otherwise unenforceable under applicable Maryland or federal law, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause, or provision so adjudged and all other provisions of this Resolution shall remain and shall be deemed valid and enforceable

Section 9. The Recitals set forth hereinabove are incorporated into this section of this Resolution as if such recitals were specifically set forth at length in this Section 9.

118 **THIS RESOLUTION** was introduced, read, and passed at the regular meeting of the Council of
119 the City of Salisbury held on the ____ day of _____, 2025.
120

121 _____
122 Julie A English,
123 City Clerk

D'Shawn M. Doughty,
Council President



City of Salisbury

Memo

To: Tom Stevenson, Acting City Administrator
From: Muir Boda, Director
Date: August 7, 2025
Subject: Ordinance to add the International Property Maintenance Code to Title 15 of the Salisbury City Code

This memorandum informs you of the proposed amendments to Title 15 of the Salisbury City Code regarding the adoption and integration of the 2021 International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC).

The IPMC is designed to establish minimum standards for maintaining existing buildings and properties within the City. Its goal is to ensure that all properties are kept in a manner that guarantees our residents' safety, livability, and overall quality.

The IPMC serves as a vital tool for our municipal authorities, providing Code Enforcement with a clear and concise reference to regulations that align with existing standards already adopted by the City. By incorporating the 2021 edition of the IPMC, which is fully compatible with the I-Codes approved by the City on December 16, 2021 (Ordinance 2906), we will strengthen our ability to address property maintenance issues effectively.

These updates will enhance the health, safety, and welfare of our citizens by ensuring that the City's regulations remain current and comprehensive. Furthermore, the IPMC will support our Code Enforcement officers in efficiently addressing issues that may not be explicitly covered in the municipal code but fall within the standards set by the IPMC.

We recommend adopting these amendments to incorporate the 2021 IPMC into Title 15 of the Salisbury City Code. I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Attachment(s):
[ORDINANCE Update ICC Codes](#)

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY AMENDING TITLE 15 OF THE SALISBURY CITY CODE, ENTITLED “BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION,” TO ADD THE ADOPTION OF AND REFERENCE TO THE INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury (the “**Mayor and Council**”) are authorized by MD Code, Local Government, § 5-202 to adopt such ordinances, not contrary to the Constitution of Maryland, public general law or public local law, as the Mayor and Council deem necessary to assure the good government of the municipality, to preserve peace and order, to secure persons and property from damage and destruction, and to protect the health, comfort and convenience of the citizens of the City;

WHEREAS, the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) is designed to establish standards for the maintenance of existing buildings and properties to ensure their safety, livability, and overall quality;

WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council find that the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City will be furthered by amending Title 15 of the Salisbury City Code to make these changes; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND, that Title 15 of the Salisbury City Code is hereby amended by adding the bolded and underlined language and deleting the strikethrough language as follows:

15.04.010 Adoption of Standard Codes.

- A. Maryland Building Performance Standard Regulations;
- B. International Mechanical Code (2021)(IMC);
- C. International Plumbing Code (2021) (IPC);

- D. International Fuel Gas Code (2021) (IFGC);
- E. International Existing Building Code (2021)(IEBC);
- F. Maryland Accessibility Code;
- G. International Green Construction Code, (2021) (IGCC); ~~and~~
- H. International Solar Energy Provisions (ISEP) (2021); and
- I. International Property Maintenance Code (2021) (IPMC).**

15.04.040 Referenced Standards.

A. Where the following codes are referenced within this code, they shall be considered part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of each such reference:

- 1. International Building Code (2021) (IBC);
- 2. International Residential Code (2021) (IRC);
- 3. International Energy Conservation Code (2021) (IECC);
- 4. International Mechanical Code (2021) (IMC);
- 5. International Plumbing Code (2021) (IPC);
- 6. International Fuel Gas Code (2021) (IFGC);
- 7. International Existing Building Code (2021) (IEBC);
- 8. Maryland Accessibility Code;
- 9. National Electrical Code (2017); ~~and~~
- 10. International Green Construction Code (2021) (IGCC); and
- 11. International Property Maintenance Code (2021) (IPMC).**

BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND, as follows:

Section 2. It is the intention of the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury that each provision of this Ordinance shall be deemed independent of all other provisions herein.

Section 3. It is further the intention of the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury that if any section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision of this Ordinance shall be adjudged invalid, unconstitutional or otherwise unenforceable under applicable Maryland or federal law, such adjudication shall apply only to the section, paragraph, subsection, clause or provision so adjudged and all other provisions of this Ordinance shall remain and shall be deemed valid and enforceable.

Section 4. The recitals set forth hereinabove are incorporated into this section of the Ordinance as if such recitals were specifically set forth at length in this Section 4.

Section 5. This Ordinance shall take effect from and after the date of its final passage.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced and read at a Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the City of Salisbury held on the __ day of __, 2025 and thereafter, a statement of the substance of the Ordinance having been published as required by law, in the meantime, was finally passed by the Council of the City of Salisbury on the __ day of ____, 2025.

87 ATTEST:

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90 Julie English, City Clerk

D'Shawn M. Doughty, City Council President

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93 Approved by me, this _____ day of _____, 2025.

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97 Randolph J. Taylor, Mayor

Council Boards and Commissions Rep List

Planning & Zoning Commission – Mr. Doughty

Town Gown – Mr. Doughty

SWMPO – Ms. Dashiell

Zoo Commission – Ms. Gregory

Wicomico Truth & Reconciliation- Ms. Jackson

Parks & Rec – Ms. Jackson

Youth Development Advisory Committee – Ms. Blake

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee – Ms. Blake

Human Rights Advisory Committee – Ms. Blake

Wicomico Library Committee – Ms. Gregory

Disability Advisory Committee – Ms. Gregory

Sustainability Advisory Committee - Green Team – Ms. Gregory

Airport Committee – Ms. Dashiell

PAC14 – Ms. Dashiell

Tri-County Council – No rep available at this time

Updated 12.4.23