

CITY OF SALISBURY
WORK SESSION
APRIL 26, 2012

Present

Council President Terry Cohen
Councilman Tim Spies
Councilwoman Laura Mitchell

Council Vice President Deborah S. Campbell
Councilwoman Eugenie "Shanie" P. Shields*
*(left at 7:05 p.m.)

Absent

Mayor James Ireton, Jr.

In Attendance

City Clerk Kim Nichols, CMC, City Administrator John Pick, ICMA-CM, City Attorney Mark Tilghman, Planning & Zoning Technical Services Coordinator Frank McKenzie, and members of the public and press.

The City Council convened in a work session on Election Redistricting at 6:31 p.m. in Conference Room 306 of the Government Office Building.

Mrs. Campbell moved to convene in closed session for the purpose of consulting with legal counsel and staff on a legal matter related to election redistricting as permitted under the Annotated Code of Maryland Section 10-508(a)(7)(8). Mr. Spies seconded, the vote was unanimous, and the closed session began at 6:35 p.m.

After adjournment of the closed session (Mrs. Campbell motioned to adjourn, Mr. Spies seconded and the vote was unanimous to adjourn), Council reconvened in work session at 6:54 p.m. to discuss election redistricting.

The City Clerk relayed to Council per Mayor Ireton's request that he would support two minority-majority districts, and would support anything else decided by Council, provided that proportional representation was achieved.

Council considered the following election district changes:

1. Increase to seven (7) Council members – Council unanimously agreed to keep it at five (5) members
2. Five (5) single-member districts – Ms. Cohen, Mrs. Campbell and Mr. Spies did not agree, and Mrs. Mitchell and Mrs. Shields did agree with five single-member districts
3. Four (4) districts with three (3) of them being single-member and one being two (2) seats – no consensus was reached to support this
4. Four (4) single-member districts with one (1) at-large – Council was not in favor of any at-large seats, although Mrs. Campbell said she would not be adverse to it if in the end it helped achieve proportional representation
5. Expansion of the current minority-majority district (District 1) which represents enough population to have two (2) seats, and District 2 having the population to represent three (3) seats.
6. Expansion of current District 1 (minority-majority), with one (1) seat, District 2 with three seats, and a District 3 with one (1) seat (minority-majority).

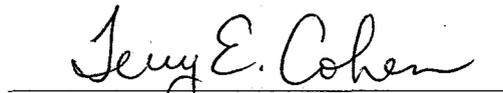
Council had general discussion on what the public feels, then how to apply the termination of staggered terms to the two options under consideration (two multi-member districts or three districts, one of which would be multi-member). Discussion and input from the city attorney indicated that ending staggered terms would have to take a two-step process as happened with adding a district under the consent decree.

Frank McKenzie presented to Council two (2) plans with accompanying maps which he had created based solely on the data, one that had the three districts and one that had two multi-member districts (essentially combining the two minority-majority districts into one district with two seats because the two districts were now adjacent). After reviewing the maps and the data Mr. McKenzie presented, Council unanimously agreed that both maps supported proportional representation. Council then discussed particular district line changes.

Council unanimously agreed to support either of the plans drawn up by Mr. McKenzie and discussed. Prior to meeting with the ACLU, Solicitor Tilghman will check with Mayor Ireton to see if the Mayor has a preference between the two proposed maps. Mr. McKenzie will update the two (2) plans based upon Council's comments.

With no further discussion, the work session adjourned at 8:41 p.m.


City Clerk


Council President



PUBLIC NOTICE

The City Council has scheduled an additional open work session for Thursday, April 26, 2012, at 6:30 p.m. The work session will be held in Conference Room 306 of the Government Office Building (125 N. Division Street) for continuing discussion of Election Redistricting. The meeting and its deliberations are open for the public to observe; however, due to pending litigation from the ACLU/NAACP, the Council may exercise its reserved right to convene in closed session for purposes of obtaining advice from legal counsel and/or consulting with staff, consultants or other individuals about pending or potential litigation as permitted under Section 10-508(a)(7)(8) of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

#####

**The City Council reserves the right to convene in closed session
as permitted under the Annotated Code of Maryland.**

Kimberly R. Nichols, CMC
City Clerk
410-548-3140
4/23/12