

CITY OF SALISBURY
WORK SESSION
AUGUST 6, 2012

Present

Council President Terry Cohen
Council Vice President Deborah S. Campbell *
* (teleconferenced)
Councilman Tim Spies

Councilwoman Eugenie P. "Shanie" Shields (left at 7:45 p.m.)
Councilwoman Laura Mitchell
Mayor James Ireton, Jr. (left at 5:45 p.m., returned at 7:27 p.m.)

In Attendance

City Clerk Kim Nichols, CMC, City Administrator John Pick, ICMA-CM, Election Director Anthony Gutierrez, Deputy Election Director Joanne Barthman, Planning & Zoning Director Jack Lenox, Planning & Zoning Deputy Director Lori Carter, Acting Fire Chief Rick Hoppes, Salisbury-Wicomico Economic Director Dave Ryan, Police Chief Barbara Duncan, Internal Services – Purchasing - Deputy Director Catrice Parsons, City Attorney Pete Golba (arrived at 5p.m.), and members of the public and press.

The City Council convened in a work session at 4:30 p.m. in Conference Room 306 of the Government Office Building.

Service and Equipment Lease Agreement with Wicomico County Board of Elections

Council invited Election Director Anthony Gutierrez and Deputy Election Director to join them at the table to discuss the service and equipment lease agreement with the Wicomico County Board of Elections.

Council discussed the following possible changes which would affect the agreement:

- increasing the number of polling places across the City
- providing multi-district voting in all polling places

Mr. Gutierrez informed Council that the voting machines could easily accommodate the added number of voters, candidates, etc., if Council chose to provide multi-district voting in all polling places, and it would most likely not increase the City's cost. However, there would be subsequent additional charges if additional voting locations were added.

This lease agreement is normally agreed upon in the summer preceding the elections, but Mr. Gutierrez assured Council the agreement could wait until as late as December, 2012 to be finalized. He was confident that any changes in polling places could easily be noted on the individual cards that get mailed in order to help alleviate the confusion that changing voting locations may cause. Mr. Gutierrez will email all Council members after the Board of Elections board meeting in which he will discuss the possible changes Council has discussed.

SAFER Grant for 12 Firefighters

Mayor Ireton, City Administrator John Pick, and Acting Fire Chief Rick Hoppes joined Council to discuss the SAFER Grant in which the Fire Department would return three (3) frozen positions and add nine (9) new positions to the department.

Council discussed the following points and concerns:

- Since the grant is for twelve (12) positions, if the department lost an employee, would another have to be hired as a replacement? Acting Chief Hoppes answered "yes" as the performance period was 10-18-12 until 10-17-14.
- Mayor Ireton will find out if the twelve (12) employees could be furloughed

- Acting Chief Hoppes expected there would be many applicants
- As this is a very competitive grant, the City cannot apply for it again if it's turned down now
- Council has asked repeatedly to be included in grant application discussions if there are budget implications, and was not informed of this grant until recently
- If any current employees of the Fire Department retired, their salaries could fill the new firefighters
- Fireboat is only staffed while it is being used
- Request for follow-up on Council Vice President Campbell's Period 13 question to know how much the City is returning to surplus

The discussion was for informational purposes, and Council did not take action on the topic.

Council recessed at 6:05 and reconvened at 6:12 p.m.)

Enterprise Zone Follow-up discussion

Council discussed Mayor Ireton's proposed Enterprise Zone expansion application with Planning & Zoning Director Jack Lenox, Planning & Zoning Deputy Director Lori Carter, and Salisbury-Wicomico Economic Director Dave Ryan. The City will need to decide whether the application will indicate a desire to expand the Enterprise Zone or not, but the application cannot reduce the size of the Enterprise Zone area. This is a dual application with Wicomico County, which has two areas it desires to add to the Enterprise Zone.

Mr. Pick explained the City Council requested a lot of information the last time they discussed the Enterprise Zone application, and asked Mr. Lenox and Ms. Carter to provide a review.

Ms. Carter indicated that Snow Hill Road and Edgemore Avenue through Alexandria Avenue were included in Mayor Ireton's proposed expansion, some locations of which are not in qualified areas. Mr. Pick stated the Mayor's reasoning for including the unqualified areas was that there are a number of vacant businesses along those corridors, and being located in the Enterprise Zone could provide potentially renovating incentives. He explained the Mayor agreed with the County's proposed areas. He also stated Mayor Ireton was comfortable with adding the qualified areas on the map indicated in green.

The Enterprise Zone application is due October 15, 2012. The Wicomico County Council will need to approve the City's plan in order to move forward with the dual application. They are scheduled to discuss the application on August 21, 2012. The maps will be sent in PDF form to City Council members.

Towing RFP

Police Chief Barbara Duncan and Catrice Parsons, Internal Services Assistant Director – Purchasing joined Council at the table to discuss the towing RFP. She explained the bid document provided in the Council packet was created based on research conducted in conjunction with Ms. Parsons. The purpose for this is to reduce the number of companies and to professionalize the nature of towing in the Salisbury City limits and to further highlight and correct some of the problems experienced with towing in the City.

Chief Duncan explained the towing services contract will allow the City to solicit towing services for accidents, stolen/recovered vehicles, evidence/investigation vehicles, and vehicles related to illegal activity. The City prefers to have a maximum of three (3) vendors on a rotating call list as needed for towing services.

After discussing the proposed Towing RFP, Mayor Ireton stated he was not pleased with the entire towing RFP process. He would contact Chief Duncan tomorrow (August 7, 2012) and let Council know the outcome.

Council President Cohen thanked Chief Duncan and Ms. Parsons for their hard work and research. She questioned why the research hadn't been halted earlier if Administration wasn't willing to allow it to come to fruition.

(Council recessed at 7:47 p.m. and reconvened at 7:55 p.m.)

On a motion by Mrs. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Spies, at 8:00 p.m. the vote was unanimous to convene in closed session to receive a briefing on possible changes related to a contractual matter, as permitted under the Annotated Code of Maryland § 10-508(a)(7)(8).

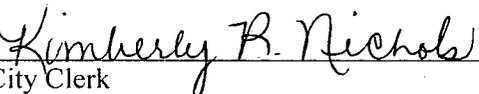
At 8:22 p.m., on a motion and seconded by Mr. Spies and Mrs. Mitchell, the closed session adjourned and Council reconvened in work session for general discussion.

General Discussion/Upcoming Agendas

Council discussed the River's Edge project, and Council President Cohen expressed appreciation to Mr. Tilghman for his work on the resolution of support for Osprey Property Companies to receive tax credits. Ms. Cohen indicated her preference to not advance the resolution to the August 13, 2012 legislative agenda unless there was consensus to do otherwise. The proposed resolution contains additional requirements and verbiage referring to a two (2) million dollar loan, which was not discussed or agreed upon by Council.

Council did not reach consensus to advance the resolution of support.

With no further discussion, the work session adjourned at 8:43 p.m.



City Clerk



Council President