

CITY OF SALISBURY
WORK SESSION
JANUARY 3, 2012

Present

Council President Terry E. Cohen
Councilwoman Laura Mitchell

Council Vice President Deborah S. Campbell
Councilwoman Eugenie P. Shields
Councilman Timothy K. Spies

In Attendance

City Clerk Brenda Colegrove, Mayor James Ireton, Jr., City Administrator John Pick, Assistant City Administrator Loré Chambers, City Attorney Paul Wilber, Police Chief Barbara Duncan, Neighborhood Services and Code Compliance Director Tom Stevenson, Acting Internal Services Director Gerri Moore, Assistant Internal Services Director-Procurement Catrice Parsons

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

Continuing discussion on changes of Title 15 regarding Rental Inspections

Neighborhood Services and Code Compliance Director Tom Stevenson and City Attorney Paul Wilber joined Council for discussion. A copy of the draft ordinance prepared by Mr. Wilber is attached and made a part of these minutes. A concern was raised that language was not included regarding structures that were built originally to be occupied by single-family outside the R-5, R-8 and R-10 zones and were converted as well as including an inspection at turnover. The issue of the tenant refusing entry into a unit for inspection (property owner agrees to an inspection) was again raised as a concern.

Mrs. Campbell suggested hiring an attorney who specializes in housing law in order to address the inspection ordinance before the March 1 registration renewals. Ms. Cohen suggested either Mark Tilghman or Peter Golba. She believed it would be expeditious and cost effective to retain someone who was specialized in housing law. Mrs. Shields was not in support of hiring another attorney as she was prepared to move forward with the proposed ordinance. Mr. Spies gave a tentative yes, but wanted to know the cost first and how long it would take to complete. Mrs. Mitchell acknowledged that she had the same concerns – cost and time frame.

Mr. Stevenson reported that the code enforcement officers for College Park have been trained as fire inspectors and, as such, have been getting administrative search warrants through the fire inspection provision provided by State Law. Mr. Stevenson suggested inviting Ms. Ripley, as well as Kevin Best, to a work session to address any questions/concerns Council may still have regarding this legislation.

Mrs. Shields voiced her concern of a possible conflict of interest with Mr. Spies voting on housing issues in light of his pending court case. Mr. Wilber related that the question could be posed to the Ethics Commission. Mr. Spies acknowledged that he did not own any rental properties and has no issue with NSCC doing their job.

Ms. Cohen asked City Clerk Brenda Colegrove to follow-up with Jeannie Ripley in College Park as to who was involved with their code and federal case. In response to Ms. Cohen's question, Mayor Ireton responded that he would not include any letter concerning legislation under consideration by Council with the renewals.

This issue will be scheduled for another work session in order to get resolved prior to March 1.

Follow-up discussion on Towing Ordinance

Police Chief Barbara Duncan joined Council for discussion. Copies of the draft ordinances as a result of the December 6 work session are attached and made a part of these minutes.

After discussion, there was unanimous consensus to move forward with both ordinances to include on the January 9 agenda with the following changes: 1) include definition of emergency relocation tow; and 2) delete on the schedule of fees under winching "minimum winch fee"

Rubbish – follow-up discussion

Neighborhood Services and Code Compliance Director Tom Stevenson summarized the proposed ordinance amending the current definition of "rubbish" in the Code (copy attached and made a part of these minutes).

It was the unanimous consensus of Council to amend the definition to read as follows and schedule the ordinance for first reading on the January 9 agenda:

Rubbish may include, but not be limited to: paper, plastic, glass, metal, cardboard, wood, fabrics, cans, loose trash, clothing, fallen trees, tree limbs including stumps and debris, automotive parts, inoperable exercise equipment, trash bags, household waste, combustible and non-combustible materials, abandoned or inoperable machinery, unregistered marine equipment including boats and towing trailers, debris from building construction or reconstruction, and all other waste materials and any other item not included within this definition that is considered by the housing official or his designee to be a blighting influence to the property. "Rubbish" shall not be construed or interpreted to include abandoned, unlicensed or inoperable motor vehicles.

Park and Flea Lease Agreement

Assistant Internal Services Director-Procurement Catrice Parsons presented the proposed lease agreement with the Salisbury Area Chamber of Commerce for operating a Park and Flea Market in downtown Salisbury (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). There was unanimous consensus to place this item on the January 9 agenda under Consent Agenda.

Feldman's follow-up discussion with Administration

Mayor Ireton reviewed his position concerning the items Palmer Gillis need to be resolved (copy of Mr. Pick's December 28, 2011 memo attached and made a part of these minutes). There was unanimous consensus from Council and Mayor Ireton for Ms. Cohen to send a letter to Mr. Gillis indicating there was only one item on the list (swap of lands) that they were not in agreement.

(the City, Wicomico County and the School Board) had agreed upon. A copy of Mr. Pick's December 28, 2011 memo summarizing the changes is attached and made a part of these minutes.

By unanimous consensus, the Council concurred with the following changes as agreed upon by the Consortium:

- Emergency Room copay
- Outpatient surgery copay
- Prescription copay

More information was needed on the Inpatient Hospital stay copay.

Follow-up on possible Comcast audit and other Comcast issues

To be rescheduled.

General discussion/upcoming agendas

City Clerk Brenda Colegrove announced her retirement effective March 1, 2012.

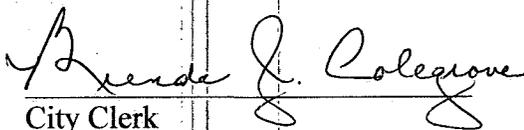
Neighborhood sweep inspections – Ms. Cohen acknowledged that she had been unaware that some sweeps were done without notice.

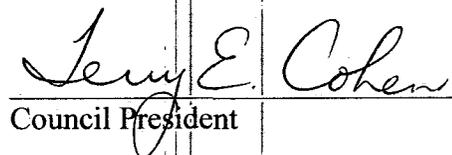
Ms. Cohen requested that Council submit any questions regarding Comcast to Administration and/or the City Clerk for follow-up.

Fundraising efforts – Mrs. Campbell requested an update for the public on the fundraising efforts of the K-9 unit and mounted unit. Mr. Spies requested an update from the Fire Department on their efforts for fundraising.

Adjournment

The work session adjourned at 8:23 p.m.


City Clerk


Council President