

CITY OF SALISBURY  
WORK SESSION  
JUNE 3, 2013

Public Officials Present

Council President Jacob R. Day  
Councilwoman Terry E. Cohen  
Mayor James Ireton, Jr.

Council Vice President Laura Mitchell  
Councilwoman Eugenie P. Shields (left 7:46 p.m.)  
Councilman Timothy K. Spies

In Attendance

City Clerk Kimberly Nichols, CMC, City Administrator John Pick, ICMA-CM, Assistant City Administrator Loré Chambers, Neighborhood Services and Code Compliance Director Tom Stevenson, Internal Services Director Keith Cordrey, IT Director Bill Garrett, Community Development Director Deborah Stam, Planning and Zoning Director Jack Lenox, and members of the public and press.

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The City Council convened in a work session at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers after Council President Day adjourned the Special Meeting. The vote was unanimous to convene in a Closed Session, after which the regularly scheduled Work Session reconvened at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Day provided the statement out explanation to the public of the closed session in which Council discussed the RFP for the possible disposition of the old Downtown Firehouse Headquarters.

**Free Downtown Wi-Fi**

IT Director Bill Garrett joined Council at the table to explain the concept and budget requirements needed in order for the City to provide free Wi-Fi to residents and businesses in the Government Office Building, down Main Street to the intersection at Market Street. He explained that there are currently no reliable unprotected free Wi-Fi feeds downtown, and the wireless technology would allow devices such as smartphones, tablets and laptop computers to connect to the Internet. Antennas would be installed on the roofs of buildings downtown, undesirable/illegal sites and games that take up a large bandwidth would be blocked, and the Wi-Fi would be entirely separate from the City's system.

Mr. Garrett provided facts based upon his research of other municipalities similar in size to Salisbury. All had positive results and would unquestionably repeat the investment if given the opportunity.

After discussing the budgetary needs of the purchase, installation, and maintenance of the system, the need for a Network Technician, the benefits of continued growth to Downtown Salisbury that this system would bring, and the possibility of including this investment as part of the current franchise negotiations with Comcast, Council unanimously supported the concept to provide free Wi-Fi to downtown Salisbury.

**Discussion of Location of the Skatepark**

Deborah Stam, Director of Community Development, joined Council to discuss the grant awarded from the MD Department of Natural Resources in the amount of \$262,000 in Community Parks & Playgrounds funding for Phase 1 of the Salisbury Skatepark. She presented the following two locations; South Park Drive, owned by the City and previously declined by Council, and North Park Drive, owned by Wicomico County and next to the Civic Center.

After discussion Council's concerns including the type of chain link fence proposed, crime statistics, maintenance, possible collaboration efforts with Wicomico County, transportation issues, and the impact of the park on wildlife, the majority of Council reached consensus to support the South Park Drive location in which to build the Salisbury Skatepark. Mr. Day, Mrs. Mitchell, and Mrs. Shields supported the location; Ms. Cohen and Mr. Spies did not.

### **DNR Grant Agreement – Market Street Shoreline Project**

Public Works Acting Director Amanda Pollack and Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Conservation Planner Bhaskar Subramanian were invited to join Council to discuss the Market Street Shoreline Project. The City of Salisbury received funding from the DNR through the Chesapeake & Atlantic Coastal Bays 2010 Trust Fund, created to restore the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries.

Mrs. Pollack and Mr. Subramanian explained the living shoreline and bioretention system, types of plants and trees planned for use in the system, integration with the Riverwalk, and details of the grant, which requires a \$46,941.00 commitment from the City.

After discussion, Council reached unanimous consensus to move forward with the acceptance of the grant.

### **Comprehensive Connection Charge Fee Payment Schedule**

Mrs. Pollack recommended that Council continue discussing the fee payment schedule and have the second reading on Ordinance No. 2249 on June 10<sup>th</sup> because ~~it's specifically applying it specifically~~ applies to the Comprehensive Connection Charges. The previous issues Mrs. Gardner brought forward last week included some of the bigger pictures about EDU's, such as trading EDU's and utilizing them in different ways, and this discussion went beyond the intent of this ordinance and section of the Code.

City Attorney Mark Tilghman discussed the changes to the ordinance, and reached unanimous consensus to advance Ordinance No. 2249 to the June 10th Legislative Session for second reading, at which time Council will move to approve the amendments per Mr. Tilghman's direction.

### **Discussion of a Storm Water Utility**

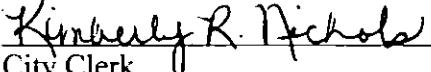
Mrs. Pollack provided an update to the ongoing discussion of a storm water utility, explaining that the storm water utilities were initiated from EPA regulations passed down to the states. Maryland issues permits which are separate storm sewer system permits, and Salisbury is a Phase 2 permit

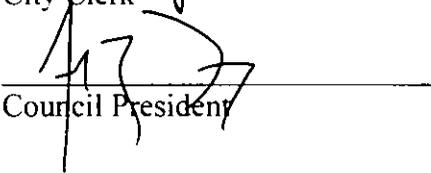
holder. The Phase 1 permit holders were mandated to create storm water utilities, and are still operating under draft permits, but were told their new permits will soon be issued. Salisbury has always been told their Phase 2 permit would be coming out any time. However, Mrs. Pollack stated she attended a MDE workshop recently and was provided status of the Phase 2 permit distribution. Currently, MDE is still issuing the draft Phase 1 permits, so Salisbury is quite a way off, and will be considerably delayed in receipt of their Phase 2 permit.

Council discussed billing the utility on water bills, why wait until January, 2015 to start charging, and questioned what might occur if someone does not pay that portion of their utility bill. Mrs. Pollack suggested possibly discussing the issue with Wicomico County because it may be advantageous to include the bill on tax bills. Also, would a storm water bill have to be created for vacant properties?

Mrs. Pollack's recommendation was to begin working on non-residential users' fee structures. Whether that includes collaborating with Salisbury University's GIS Department or some other system, she expressed the necessity of moving forward. She explained no approval or action by Council was needed at this time, but conveyed how essential it was to keep the discussion open and ongoing, and encouraged all questions and concerns be sent to her.

With no further discussion, Council President Day adjourned the work session at 8:35 p.m.

  
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City Clerk

  
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Council President