

CITY OF SALISBURY
WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 6, 2011

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

Assistant City Clerk Kim Nichols, Mayor James Ireton, Jr., City Administrator John Pick, Director of Internal Services Pam Oland, Neighborhood Services & Code Compliance Director Tom Stevenson, Director of Building, Permitting and Inspections Bill Holland, Public Works Director Teresa Gardner, Dallas Baker, City Attorney Paul Wilber (arrived 5:25 p.m.), City Attorney Roscoe Leslie

The City Council convened in a work session at 10:00 a.m. in Council Chambers in Room #306 of the Government Office Building.

Follow-up discussion on access to legal counsel

Mr. Leslie was not prepared for this discussion, so the topic will be brought back to another work session with Mr. Wilber.

Follow-up discussion on amending Chapter 17.12 to change the Board of Zoning Appeals procedures for appeals related to non-conforming uses

A copy of the information provided to Council is attached and made a part of these minutes. Building, Permitting and Inspections Director Bill Holland briefed Council on the two-step process he uses when an illegal conversion is suspected. Mr. T.J. Maloney indicated that thirty days was not enough time for applicants to do the necessary research for an appeal, and the City has very few documents they can utilize.

Council unanimously consented to a resolution establishing a ninety day moratorium on certain City enforcement actions in connection with multi-family residences in R-5, R-8 and R-10 zoning districts that are suspected of being used in an illegal, non-conforming manner.

Follow-up discussion on fire sprinkler requirement exemptions

City Administrator John Pick discussed exempting certain single and two-family lots from the fire sprinkler requirement (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Council unanimously agreed to a five-year sunset on the sprinkler requirements (instead of the ten-year sunset proposed in the draft ordinance), with no further changes to the drafted ordinance.

Follow-up discussion on foreclosed property registry

Neighborhood Services and Code Compliance Director Tom Stevenson explained the changes to the foreclosed property registry ordinance per the Council's input from the July 18, 2011 discussion (copy attached and made a part of these minutes). Council unanimously agreed to a fee of \$25.00 to register these properties. This fee will be enacted in a separate ordinance.

Housing inspections – follow-up from July 18, 2011 discussion

Due to time constraints, this discussion will be re-scheduled for a later date.

Budget Amendment for Winter Wonderland

City Administrator John Pick briefed Council on the stolen and damaged property used in connection with the Winter Wonderland of Lights. A \$1,000.00 donation from the Winter Wonderland of Lights Committee and a settlement of \$4,721.35 from the Local Government Insurance Trust will pay for the replacement equipment. Council unanimously agreed to move forward with the budget ordinance and resolution needed in order to replace the equipment (copy attached and made a part of these minutes).

Recess/Reconvene

The work session recessed at 1:10 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m.

Towing – follow-up on work group

Councilwoman Mitchell briefed Council on the towing work group. Language changes to the ordinance have been made, and after the next scheduled meeting of the work group, the ordinance will come back to Council for input, recommendations and discussion. Mrs. Mitchell will update all Council members by e-mail after the next meeting.

Onley Road – follow-up to Board of Education meeting

Council President Cohen shared her recent experiences and observations concerning the traffic at Bennett High School. The need for traffic calming devices and a traffic study was discussed. Mayor Ireton will ask Chief Duncan about installing a calming box on Onley Road and meet with Public Works Director Teresa Gardner to receive options for a solution.

Motion to convene in closed session

At 5:55 p.m., Mr. Spies moved to go into closed session to consult with legal counsel for legal advice about the possibility of a pass-through acquisition and disposition of property as permitted under the Annotated Code of Maryland Sections 10-508(a)(3)(7). Mrs. Campbell seconded and Council unanimously approved. After discussion, Mr. Spies moved and Mrs. Mitchell seconded to go out of closed session at 6:30 p.m. The vote was unanimous and Council reconvened in work session.

Urban Salisbury – amendment request from Mayor

Council President Cohen briefed Council on the meeting with the Department of Housing and Community Development. Council unanimously agreed to Urban Salisbury using 80% or more of their funds to put on general public events and for up to 20% of their funds for general administration of these events. They agreed to remove the previous restrictions on Urban

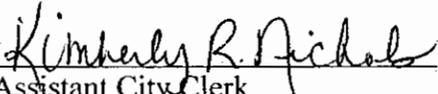
Salisbury's budget by being more flexible and allowing Urban Salisbury to choose which events benefited Downtown Salisbury the most.

General Discussion/upcoming agendas

- Tree trimming - With the additional money budgeted for tree trimming in the City Park, things are progressing well .
- City Park Committee – Council President Cohen briefed Council on the committee and suggested that during discussion of next year's budget, Council may want to consider adding a line item for them.
- Minutes residing with City Clerk – Council unanimously agreed to resolutions or policy changes to make the City Clerk's Office the department in which the various minutes reside.
- Declaring a day or week as "Volunteer Week" or "Day" – to recognize those who volunteer on the boards and committees .

Adjournment

The work session closed at 8:50 p.m.


Assistant City Clerk


Council President