

CITY OF SALISBURY  
WORK SESSION  
MAY 19, 2014

Public Officials Present

Council President Jacob R. Day  
Council Vice-President Laura Mitchell (*arrived 1:42 p.m.*)  
Councilwoman Eugenie P. Shields  
Councilman Timothy K. Spies  
Mayor James Ireton, Jr.

Public Officials Not Present

Councilwoman Terry E. Cohen

In Attendance

Assistant City Clerk Diane C. Nelson, CMC, City Administrator M. Thomas Stevenson, Jr., City Attorney Mark Tilghman, and Fire Chief Richard Hoppes

---

The City Council convened in Work Session in Room #301 in the Government Office Building at 1:35 p.m. and immediately thereafter, President Day called for a motion to convene in Closed Session. Mrs. Shields moved, Mr. Spies seconded, and as Mrs. Mitchell had not yet joined the meeting, the vote was unanimous (3-0) to convene in Closed Session to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction, or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals and to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland §10-508(a)(1)(8). The Closed Session began at 1:37 p.m.

At 3:30 p.m., on a motion and seconded by Mrs. Shields and Mrs. Mitchell, respectively, and by unanimous vote in favor (4-0), the Closed Session was adjourned and Council reconvened in Open Work Session. President Day then provided the statement for the public that Council had discussed the performance of the City Solicitor and the Fire Service Agreement Negotiations and Strategy with staff.

Thereafter, President Day called for a short recess prior to reconvening the Work Session at 3:35 p.m. and moving forward with the Work Session Agenda.

**Office of Business Development Overview**

Business Development Specialist Laura Kordzikowski provided an overview of the Office of Business Development through a PowerPoint presentation detailing the activities and projects initiated since she assumed business development responsibilities in November 2013; there followed a question and answer period by Council.

**Internal Auditing Presentation**

Steve Roser, CPA, CIA, CRMA, with Wicomico County provided an overview of Internal Auditing through a PowerPoint presentation outlining the *Internal Audit Framework*, and how it can benefit an organization or local government by reducing fraud risk exposure and improving efficiency of

operations. He explained that he reported directly to Council in his role as Internal Auditor for the County. There followed a question and answer period by Council.

### **Wicomico Creek Watchers Report**

President Day postponed this agenda item to a later meeting when Dr. Stribling could be in attendance to deliver the report.

### **Residency requirement on City Boards**

President Day provided background information on previous Council discussions regarding a residency requirement for appointment to City Boards and Commissions. Although several boards and commissions have discussed a residency requirement for appointment, the Recycling Advisory Committee is presently the only board that has such a requirement, stipulating appointments from each quadrant of the City.

Discussion topics included:

- Lack of community involvement may pose challenge if enforcing residency requirement
- Appointment of Community Residents would offer broader viewpoints for the City than just City residents' viewpoints
- Residency requirement could be Board-dependent upon issues each board is addressing
- Difficulties experienced staffing Recycling Committee with imposition of quadrant residency requirement

After discussion, Council reached consensus to:

- Discuss the Recycling Committee in open session since that Advisory Board needs attention now
- Invite Boards and Commissions to participate during *Community Organization Presentations* at Council Meetings in an effort to solicit more Community involvement

### **General Discussion**

President Day provided background information on the Supreme Court's recent decision to allow prayer in Council Meetings and other public places that prompted his research regarding Salisbury City Council's decision several years ago to forego recitation of the Lord's Prayer at the beginning of the Council Meeting followed by the Pledge of Allegiance in favor of area Clergy providing a prayer of their Faith that would give Council strength and guidance in making good decisions for the City.

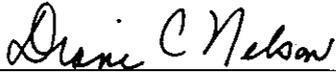
Discussion topics included:

- Decision was made to forestall potential lawsuits that could be costly to the City
- Area Clergy was inclusive of all religious institutions in the Salisbury Community
- Only happened once or twice and then defaulted to moment of silence
- Process *was* to have been letters out to area Clergy
- Process *now* to be letters to area Clergy, Ministerial or Ecumenical Alliance
- Intersperse Clergy with inspirational material provided by Citizens at meetings
- How to solicit inspirational material from Citizens

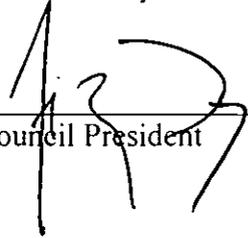
- Have prayer prior to adoption of Agenda and not part of Agenda as it was the last time

After discussion, there was Council consensus to implement what was adopted previously, to reach out to all Clergy in the religious community to rotate delivery of faith-based prayers just prior to the beginning of the Legislative Session; in the absence of Clergy to deliver prayer, Council would look to Citizens for delivery of inspirational blessings prior to defaulting to a Moment of Silence.

The Work Session adjourned at 4:44 p.m.



Assistant City Clerk



Council President