

CITY OF SALISBURY
WORK SESSION
AUGUST 18, 2014

Public Officials Present

Council President Jacob R. Day
Council Vice President Laura Mitchell
Mayor James Ireton, Jr.
Councilwoman Eugenie P. Shields
Councilman Timothy K. Spies

In Attendance

City Clerk Kimberly R. Nichols, CMC, City Administrator M. Thomas Stevenson, Jr., Internal Services Director Keith Cordrey, City Attorney Associate Peter J. Golba, interested citizens and members of the press

On August 18, 2014 Salisbury City Council convened in a Work Session at 1:32 p.m. in Council Chambers (Room 301) of the Government Office Building. The following is a synopsis of the meeting:

Youth Civics Council presentation

Mr. Day invited the Youth Civics Council representatives forward to present their projects.

Gail Rabasca and Aubrey Davis-Lockart joined Council and presented their idea of planning a Half-Marathon, similar to Salisbury University's Seagull Century. Half-Marathons are very popular right now because they are more challenging than 5K's and not as long as a marathon, and there aren't as many held locally, so it should be well-attended. There could be a 5K option, and the focal point could be Downtown Salisbury. The proceeds from the Half Marathon would benefit a local charity or non-profit. Local businesses could help by becoming sponsors.

Council was appreciative and interested in the planning of a Half-Marathon.

Urban Bee Keeping

President Day explained that the Lower Eastern Shore Beekeeping Association assisted in drafting the ordinance in the briefing packet. The primary purposes for supporting residents being able to participate in bee keeping in Salisbury is to keep Africanized Honey Bees away (which are a threat to humans) to allow and support healthy community gardening and flowering tree systems throughout Salisbury.

Urban Chickens discussion

Since the Urban Bee Keeping discussion ties in with Urban Chickens, Council discussed both topics concurrently. Police Major Dave Meienschein joined Council to provide input and

estimates on the amount of time that would be required and numbers of necessary additional staffers. He did not have any specific numbers, but acknowledged additional manpower would be needed.

Council discussion included the additional staff (Police, Animal Control Officers, Neighborhood Services) needed to monitor bees and chickens, noise and odor issues, and the varmints that are attracted to chickens. Council also discussed hen house structures and consulted Building Permits and Inspections Director Bill Holland on permitting and setback requirements.

After discussion, President Day asked City Administrator Tom Stevenson and Kim Nichols to research other cities and clerks in Maryland through MML to find out how many additional staffers and dollar amounts may be needed to support regulating and monitoring bees and chickens. Council would return the topic to another Work Session to continue discussion on potential issues that could arise from allowing bees and chickens to be kept in the City.

Reallocation of 2003 CDA Bonds

Internal Services Director Keith Cordrey explained that bond council was in the process of drafting an ordinance to re-designate funds from the Springfield Circle Storm Drain, South Baptist Street Storm Drain, and Beaver Dam Creek Stabilize Projects. The ordinance will request that Ordinance No. 1870 (adopted on January 27, 2003 issuing \$5,525,000 in Infrastructure Bonds, 2003 Series A) be amended to include the following reallocated projects:

- City Park Tennis Court lighting improvements (\$25,000)
- Marina Signage and Fence Improvements (\$50,000)

City Tennis Court Lighting Upgrade/City Marina Entrance and Sign Improvement

Public Works Director Mike Moulds joined Council and Mr. Cordrey to discuss the allocated projects and Council reached unanimous consensus to advance the ordinance to an upcoming legislative session.

Council took a ½ hour break at 2:30 p.m. and reconvened in Work Session at 3:00 p.m.

South Division Street/Rinnier Annexation

Chris Jakubiak and Blair Rinnier joined Council to discuss the annexation agreement for the Rinnier Annexation on Olney Road near the intersection of South Division Street. Mr. Rinnier received positive feedback from the Planning Commission pertaining to the proposed land use and zoning. The plan will be for 11 or 12 townhouses for student rental, with 8-A Zoning. The Concept plan calls for bike parking, solar energy, grass and sidewalks. The adjoining City parcel will be improved and maintained in a park-like appearance by Mr. Rinnier.

Council discussion included proposed storm drain, the old Mall's rubble (recycling materials), left hand turns/James S. Bennett down Olney Road, parcel width, and bike racks.

The next step will be for the City Council to review the State required Annexation Plan and resolution, which will be scheduled for another Work Session for discussion.

Bed & Breakfast Inns in Newtown Historic District

Planning & Zoning Director Jack Lenox joined Council to discuss the Bed & Breakfast (B & B) ordinance that will provide for B & B inns within the Newtown Historic District pursuant to special exception.

The following was discussed by Council:

- Leaving some flexibility for parking off site – Mr. Lenox will direct Planning & Zoning to consider
- There are gaps in the general provisions for the number of appropriate rooms
- Lines 30 and 31 – Rooms
- Noise discussion
- Length of stay discussion to avoid any sort of rooming house appearance (6 months is too long)
- Newtown Neighborhood Association should comment
- What is precedent in other cities (Frederick, Annapolis)?

Mr. Spies asked that Line 55 be amended to reword “unobtrusively” and asked that Line 54 be reconsidered, which refers to 75 watt light bulbs, which are now illegal.

Council reached unanimous consensus to return the discussion to Work Session to discuss the changes made to the drafted ordinance. The next work session discussion on the B & B Ordinance will include parking, number of rooms, and sign standards.

Non-conforming Uses/Amortization legislation for properties in Newtown Historic District

Mayor Ireton and Council discussed the 10 - Year Amortization process and Mr. Day stated that precedence examples would be useful.

Council unanimously agreed that the conversation would continue at an upcoming Work Session.

Council Discussion

Council Vice President asked whether Neighborhood Sweeps were still being done, and Mayor Ireton advised the sweeps never were stopped. Mrs. Mitchell asked Mr. Stevenson for a listing of the Habitual Offenders.

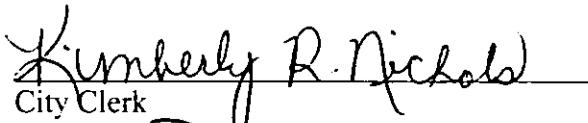
Motion to convene in Closed Session

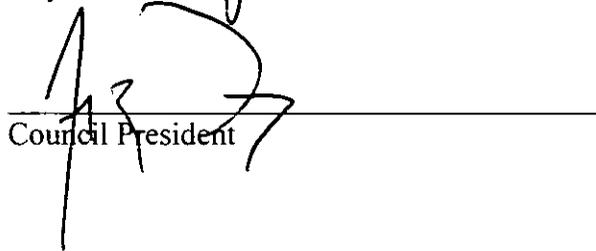
At 5:42 p.m. Mrs. Shields moved, Mr. Spies seconded and the vote was unanimous to convene in Closed Session to discuss a pending contract negotiated over a parcel of land as permitted in the Annotated Code of Maryland §10-508(a)(3).

At 5:58 p.m. Mrs. Shields moved, Mrs. Mitchell seconded and the vote was unanimous to close the Closed Session and return to Open Session at which time President Day provided the statement out to the public that Council directed Counsel to share their perspective on the agreement and to finalize the contract in question.

Adjournment

Council President Day adjourned the Open Session at 6:00 p.m.


City Clerk


Council President