

SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL  
BUDGET WORK SESSION  
MAY 14, 2015

Public Officials Present

Council Vice President Laura Mitchell                      Councilwoman Eugenie P. Shields  
Councilman John "Jack" R. Heath (arrived 12:00 pm)      Councilman Timothy K. Spies

Public Officials Not Present

Mayor James Ireton, Jr.  
Council President Jacob R. Day

In Attendance

City Clerk Kim Nichols, City Administrator Tom Stevenson, and Internal Services Director Keith Cordrey

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The City Council convened in a Budget Work Session at 11:10 a.m. in Conference Room 306 of the Government Office Building.

Council began the budget session with discussion of the following revisit list items:

Comcast

Mr. Stevenson discussed changing the percentage from 30% to 20%. PAC14's additional money (\$2 million) is to be received over a period of ten years and is Capital money. When the current agreement was reached there was some capital funding included, but there was no ongoing capital contribution provided for in the agreement and PAC14 has funded capital items through fund raising and operating funds. Attorney Dan Cohen, City representative in the Comcast contract negotiations, estimated a 5% increase and Mr. Stevenson recommended using that until a more concrete number was received. Mr. Cordrey would increase their share, and would return to the item when the exact number is received.

Workers Comp

*Mr. Cordrey received the Workers Comp quote and the adjustment will likely be close to \$450,000.00.*

Neighborhood Services and Code Compliance (NSCC) Safety Shoes

NSCC safety shoes – *Council reached consensus to add \$1,000 (for five employees) to buy work shoes and Mr. Stevenson will find out whether they want to require steel-toed boots.* NSCC will have to decide if they want to change their policy to require safety shoes for the inspectors

working in the field. If they do not wish to require safety shoes, they can just not spend the budgeted amount.

### **Community Development Specialist**

The new position (Community Development Specialist) is not included in the budget but the Grant Specialist is included. Mr. Stevenson stated the Council would receive a presentation from Mayor Ireton on Monday during the May 18 Work Session concerning the initiative. Council agreed to insert a placeholder until the Mayor's plan can be heard, but they would need to remember the position is not included in the budget.

### **City Clerk/Assistant City Clerk reclassifications**

*Council approved funding the classification increases of one grade for the City Clerk and Assistant City Clerk positions as recommended by Human Resources.*

### **Live Near your Work**

The City still has the House Keys for Employees program, but the Live Near Your Work program has ended. Council agreed that funds should be provided for employees to purchase homes in the City limits. They discussed reasons why people would want to live in Salisbury.

### **Consultant for Planning & Zoning (P & Z) Review**

Mr. Stevenson reported that P & Z Deputy Director Lori Carter estimated the cost of a consultant to re-write the Zoning Code and train office staff would be approximately \$250,000.

### **Salisbury Police Department (SPD) Revisit List Items**

Chief Duncan and Colonel Meienschein joined Council at the table to discuss the items on the revisit list.

- Body cameras – The least amount would be \$5,500 per month for three years. *Council reached consensus to add the funds for body cameras (\$184,000) which includes data storage and extended warranty.*
- Combining two positions – Safe Streets Coordinator and Crime Analyst – Chief Duncan reported that last year SPD was awarded \$260,000 for Safe Streets (included the salary and fringe benefits for the Safe Streets Community Prosecutor, Safe Streets Coordinator and Crime Analyst). There was also funding awarded for street level operations in overtime for SPD and the County Sheriff's Department. The award was reduced this year to \$208,000 and in order to maintain the operations, SPD would like to combine the Crime Analyst and Safe Streets Coordinator positions (acknowledging the value of the Community Prosecutor and wishing to fully fund that position) for the salary of \$56,000 for the part-time position to perform both jobs. Colonel Meienschein told Council it was inevitable that funding will be cut again next year, and the County should begin

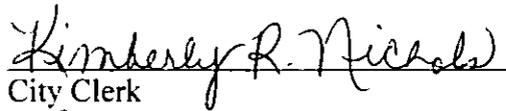
absorbing some or all of the salary for the Prosecutor's position. In about three weeks, the SPD will know if the proposal of combining the two positions has been accepted. The sooner the Council knows whether the proposal has been accepted, the better.

Council will receive more information later in an upcoming budget session on the Community Development Specialist and the Form-based code.

Mrs. Shields asked Mr. Cordrey to include funds for lunch and coffee for Council when they have to attend daylong meetings.

*Mrs. Mitchell noted that Mayor Ireton's budget did not include funding the employee picnic, and Council reached consensus to include \$5,000 for the funding.*

With no further discussion, Mrs. Mitchell adjourned the Budget Work Session at 12:50 p.m.

  
City Clerk

  
Council Vice President