

CITY OF SALISBURY  
WORK SESSION  
JANUARY 4, 2016

Public Officials Present

Council President John R. "Jack" Heath  
Council Vice President Laura Mitchell  
Councilman James Ireton, Jr.

Mayor Jacob R. Day  
Councilman Muir Boda  
Councilwoman April Jackson

In Attendance

City Clerk Kimberly R. Nichols, Assistant City Administrator Julia Glanz, Police Chief Barbara Duncan, Salisbury Zoo Director Ralph Piland, Community Development Administrative Support Specialist Ginny Hussey, interested citizens and members of the press.

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On January 4, 2016, Salisbury City Council convened in Work Session at 4:32 p.m. in Council Chambers, Room 301 of the Government Office Building. The following is a synopsis of the topics discussed in Work Session:

**Accepting a Donation from the Arthur W. Perdue Foundation, Inc. for NYESBY**

Assistant City Administrator Julia Glanz presented the resolution to accept a donation from the Arthur W. Perdue Foundation, Inc. for \$2,500 to support the New Year's Eve Salisbury (NYESBY) event. The donation will help with the costs of the band, party favors, portables restroom facilities, and staff and support.

Council reached unanimous consensus to advance the resolution to legislative agenda.

**Community Garden Lease**

Ms. Glanz presented the resolution and lease for the St. Francis de Sales Church to create a community garden on the empty City owned lot behind boundless Playground and the Chipman Cultural Center.

Nicole Long from St. Francis de Sales and Pastor Martin Hutchison reported that they plan to build the raised beds based on Pastor Martin Hutchison's community garden model. This garden and the signage they plan to construct will have to be approved by the Historic District, just as they approved the Camden garden and signage, before the permit is approved. Mayor Day has requested that the signage look the same as the Camden Community Garden to illustrate Salisbury has a network of community gardens.

One member of the public provided the following comments:

- Stated support of the community garden
- People use the playground for birthday parties and other events

- The garden should be called “Georgetown Community Garden” to recognize the name of the neighborhood before it became Newtown”

Pastor Hutchison requested the garden be named “Georgetown-Newtown Community Garden.”

Council unanimously supported the Community Garden resolution and lease to be advanced to the legislative agenda.

### **Budget Amendment – Vehicle Replacement**

Police Chief Barbara Duncan joined Council to discuss the budget amendment to purchase a new SPD Police vehicle, which was in a crash. Patrol Unit #1477, a 2014 Chevrolet Caprice, was involved in the accident on June 9, 2015 resulting in total loss of the vehicle, emergency equipment, MDT computer, and in-car video.

She requested the insurance adjustment totaling \$27,123 be transferred to the SPD Police Services Vehicle Account to be used towards purchasing the new vehicle and equipment.

Council reached unanimous consensus to advance the budget amendment to legislative agenda.

### **Accepting Funds from WINTF to purchase a Police K-9**

Chief Duncan presented the resolution to accept \$5,000 in funds from the Wicomico County Narcotics Task Force (WINTF) to be used towards the purchase of a K-9, equipment and handler training.

Council reached unanimous consensus to advance the budget amendment to legislative agenda.

### **Presentation – Zoo Master Plan**

Zoo Director Ralph Piland and William Sieg of Becker Morgan Group presented the Zoo Master Plan.

After presentation of the plan, Mr. Piland reported the intent was not to change the character of the Zoo, but they needed options for raising money and welcomed community input so that their direction would reflect the overall community as a whole.

The presentation was for informational purposes only and consensus was not needed from Council at this time.

### **Fair Housing Language**

Community Development Administrative Support Specialist Ginny Hussey presented the ordinances to amend the Salisbury City Code to amend the definition and requirements of functional family in consideration of disabled individuals. During the completion of the City’s 2014 Analysis of impediments to Fair Housing, the changes were recommended by the consultant to clarify the City’s commitment to fair housing. The changes involve adding

language to the "Definitions" section of the Zoning Code and were approved by the Salisbury-Wicomico County Planning & Zoning Commission at its November 19, 2015 meeting. No objections were received during its public hearing and the Commission approved the text amendment.

After Council discussion, Mr. Heath asked Mr. Tilghman to provide case law (Mr. Ireton's request) and to check with the Department of Developmental Disabilities to see if Council can actually pass this type of legislature.

### **General Discussion**

Councilman Ireton discussed the following with Council and Mayor Day:

- The issue in the letter from the resident in Newtown was very pressing, and he recommended Council address it right away
- Asked where the City stood on "Curfew Plus". (Mayor Day responded that he had just asked for the Council President to afford Administration a little bit of time to forward a plan, but they are actively working on it. Police Chief Duncan is the primary author, and once he is confident in the plan, it will be presented to Council.)
- Asked about the 1110 N. Division Street property which was sold to Salisbury Neighborhood Housing Service on December 7, 2015
- Asked to discuss the tax differential very soon

Mayor Day stated he had no plans to propose a rent stabilization program, but alternatives and other ideas for supporting neighborhood integrity and homeownership will be proposed through the FY17 Budget. If you would like a conceptual overview, Administration can begin preparing.

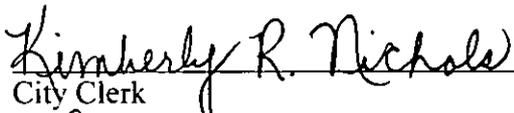
Mayor Day announced an upcoming agenda item which would change how tax sales are handled specific to the City of Salisbury to encourage homeownership.

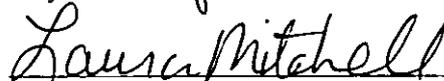
Mr. Boda asked about the status of Cracker Barrel coming to Salisbury. Mayor Day reported the permits were issued twelve (12) months ago, but there are tenants at the Mall with veto power on Mall property decisions that do not support Cracker Barrel coming to Salisbury.

Mr. Boda requested the City do a better job of advertising trash pickup over the holidays.

Mrs. Mitchell announced the next *Coffee With Your Council* will be held in February. Mrs. Nichols will poll Council on the date.

There being no further business to discuss, the Work Session adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

  
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City Clerk

  
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Council Vice President