

AS AMENDED ON JULY 9, 2012

RESOLUTION NO. 2176

A RESOLUTION OF THE SALISBURY CITY COUNCIL TO  
CLARIFY CERTAIN STATEMENTS MADE BY THE MEDIA  
AND BY THE MAYOR REGARDING THE POSITION OF A  
MAJORITY OF COUNCIL MEMBERS ON A DOWNTOWN  
PLAN ADVANCED BY THE MAYOR.

WHEREAS, certain statements in the local media and in online media made by Mayor James P. Ireton, Jr. and by the local media itself have been both erroneous and sensationalist, targeting certain Council members, creating confusion among citizens who care deeply about Downtown Salisbury, and causing an impediment to the ability of the Council and certain members to perform their duties; and

WHEREAS, the Council deems it to be in the best interest of the citizens to have a clearer and more accurate understanding of why certain members did not view the Mayor's plan as being in the best interest of the City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Salisbury City Council hereby informs the citizens as follows of some of the reasons certain members deemed it not in the best interest of the City to advance the Mayor's plan, in contrast to erroneous reporting of those reasons by the Mayor and select local media:

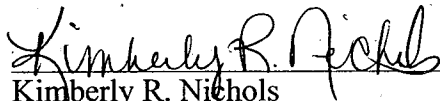
1. The Mayor and Administration have systematically failed to advance or have inadequately supported some measures already approved, supported or requested by Council that are deemed critical to the revitalization of Downtown (i.e., expansion of the Downtown Revolving Loan Fund options, resolution of existing and continued property deterioration, heightened property standards, improved and consistent permitting and inspection processes, residential trash pick-up, etc.)
2. Elements of the plan are from prior studies that have been rejected or not advanced by various prior Councils and Administrations over the past 30 years.
3. There are long-term consequences of stripping ~~remaining~~ significant value from a blighted property (specifically, the now city-owned "Linens of the Week" property), where significant taxpayer investment has already been made for the improvement of a distressed City area by taking away a substantial portion of its Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDU's), thereby reducing its redevelopment options, and in creating an EDU swapping policy, which may expose the City to possible commodity-trading implications.
4. Downtown has available five incentive/economic development programs, including tax credits and loans, that have not been well promoted and leveraged by the Mayor and Administration.

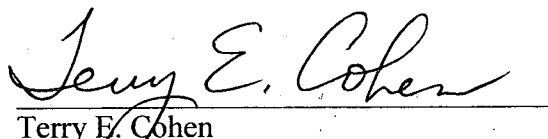
5. The plan incorporates a Main Street roadway and streetscape improvement plan that has already been supported by actions of the current and previous Councils.
6. Relative to surplusings downtown City parking lots, the Mayor and Administration were unable to satisfactorily answer Council's questions about marketing issues that are key to the success of a serious and well-constructed plan.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Salisbury City Council remains steadfastly committed to the revitalization of Downtown through solid and consistent due diligence in all related matters, business community discussion and outreach to the citizens – the City's marketplace – for Downtown initiatives through positive discourse and widely – accepted methodologies that reflect well upon the City.

THIS RESOLUTION was duly passed at a meeting of the Council of the City of Salisbury held on July 9, 2012 and is to become effective immediately upon adoption.

ATTEST:

  
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Kimberly R. Nichols  
CITY CLERK

  
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Terry E. Cohen  
PRESIDENT, City Council