

CITY OF SALISBURY  
WORK SESSION  
APRIL 1, 2019

Public Officials Present

Council President John R. "Jack" Heath  
Councilwoman Angela M. Blake

Vice President Muir Boda  
Councilwoman April Jackson

Public Officials Not Present

Mayor Jacob R. Day  
Councilman James Ireton, Jr.

In Attendance

City Administrator Julia Glanz, Department of Infrastructure and Development (DID) Director Amanda Pollack, Transportation Project Specialist Will White, City Clerk Kim Nichols, City Attorney Mark Tilghman, interested citizens and members of the press.

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On April 1, 2019 Salisbury City Council convened in Work Session at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Room 301 of the Government Office Building. The following is a synopsis of the topics discussed in the Work Session.

**Resolution in opposition to offshore drilling**

DID Director Amanda Pollack and Sustainability Advisory Committee (Green Team) member /Oceana Mid-Atlantic Campaign Organizer Matthew Heim joined Council. Ms. Pollack said that in December 2018 the Green Team heard a presentation by Mr. Heim about offshore drilling and seismic testing and formed a sub-committee to work on a resolution in opposition of offshore drilling. The committee voted on March 6, 2019 to forward the resolution to the City.

Mr. Heim provided the following supportive background: President Trump's administration has proposed to allow offshore drilling and exploration for oil and gas in the Atlantic Ocean, including areas off of the Delmarva Peninsula and the Chesapeake Bay. Oceana and other local partners are trying to prevent this due to the potential ecological damage from offshore drilling spills and the exploratory process when a seismic air gun continually sounds off every few seconds. Currently, five companies plan to conduct surveys off the Mid-Atlantic coast. Because they are proprietary, they overlap; meaning the same area of the ocean can be mapped multiple times. There are great concerns are for the whales, dolphins, fish, turtles, and crabs in the ocean.

Oceana has secured resolutions from several Maryland jurisdictions including Ocean City, Worcester County, Berlin, Ocean Pines Chamber of Commerce, Crisfield, St. Mary's County, Annapolis, and Baltimore. City of Havre de Grace and the Town of Hurlock are also considering.

President Heath asked how long each mapping exercise would take. Mr. Heim said each one would take approximately eight weeks, with the total number of days being in the hundreds. Some would take place simultaneously in the same body of water.

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

**Presentation of Proclamation**

City Administration Julia Glanz read the proclamation declaring April 1 – 7, 2019 as “Salisbury Poetry Week” in the City of Salisbury. She invited the Public to attend Jane Satterfield’s Eastern Shore Voices Poetry Reading at Salisbury University’s Commons on April 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at which time the City would reveal the City of Salisbury’s first Poet Laureate.

**Resolution to adopt Vision Zero and establish a task force**

Ms. Pollack and Transportation Project Specialist Will White joined Council. Ms. Pollack explained the initial resolution would adopt Vision Zero as the City’s Traffic and Engineering Design Standard, establish a task force with the goal to end traffic fatalities and serious injuries by January 1, 2030, and adopt a Vision Zero Action Plan by July 1, 2020. Annual progress reports would be presented to Council. She also discussed the task force membership.

**Council’s comments**

President Heath announced the Eastern Shore Drive Task Force public meeting would be held on April 4, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at Salisbury University. He said the businesses on Eastern Shore Dr. were invited and many planned to attend. Mr. Ireton requested this be placed on a Work Session.

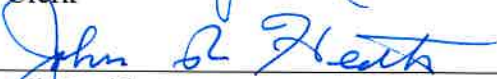
Ms. Jackson asked why Salisbury did not continue membership with the National League of Cities (NLC). She thought the conference information was interesting, and officials from other municipalities have shared how valuable they find the organization. Council President said there had been no interest in attending the conferences and the City received very little benefit from the \$8,000 membership fee. Ms. Glanz indicated cost-benefit was the sole reason for discontinuing membership and thought anyone could attend their conferences by paying the non-member fee. Mr. Boda agreed it was solely a budgetary decision as the City was more involved with MML since most of our attention was at the State level.

Mr. Heath announced the Coffee With Your Council would be held at Bethany Lutheran Church on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. and invited the public to attend.

Mr. Boda reported the Wicomico Library’s Light of Literacy Awards would be held on April 25, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at the Wicomico Civic Center.

With no further business to discuss, the Work Session adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

  
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City Clerk

  
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Council President