

ORDINANCE NO. 2644

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND TO ELIMINATE 16 PARKING SPACES ON FITZWATER STREET FROM FITZWATER STREET TO THE MAIN GATE OF CHESPAEAKE SHIPBUILDING APPROXIMATELY 310 FEET EAST IN ORDER TO PREVENT TRAFFIC CRASHES AND ACCOMMODATE A PREVIOUSLY APPROVED SAFE BICYCLE FACILITY ON FITZWATER STREET.

WHEREAS, the City of Salisbury desires to encourage the use of bicycles throughout the City;
and

WHEREAS, the Salisbury Charter (SC11-2) gives the City charge of all public ways in the City;
and

WHEREAS, Fitzwater Street has on-street parking along the south frontage of the street between Fitzwater Street and West Main Street; and

WHEREAS, removal of selected on-street parking from Fitzwater Street to the main gate of Chesapeake Shipbuilding will allow for safety improvements; and

WHEREAS, Chesapeake Shipbuilding wholly owns all of the property on that side of the street and supports the removal of parking; and

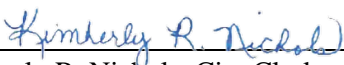
WHEREAS, the Department of Infrastructure and Development desires to build bicycle facilities in the areas listed above and to resolve any issues that could lead to traffic crashes in keeping with the Vision Zero Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND that for the purposes and reasons hereinabove set forth, that the removal of 16 parking spaces on Fitzwater Street from Fitzwater Street to the main entrance of Chesapeake Shipbuilding, is hereby approved.

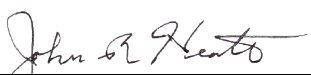
AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED AND ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SALISBURY, MARYLAND that this Ordinance shall take effect upon its final passage.

THIS ORDINANCE was introduced and read at a meeting of the Council of the City of Salisbury, MD held on the 11th day of January, 2021 and thereafter, a statement of the substance of the Ordinance having been published as required by law, was finally passed by the Council on the 25th day of January, 2021.

ATTEST:



Kimberly R. Nichols, City Clerk



John R. Heath, President
Salisbury City Council

APPROVED BY ME THIS:

27 day of January, 2021



Julia Glanz, City Administrator
for and at the direction of
Jacob R. Day, Mayor



City of
Salisbury
Jacob R. Day, Mayor

To: Julia Glanz, City Administrator
From: Amanda Pollack, P.E., Director of Infrastructure and Development
Date: November 30, 2020
Re: Ordinance to remove parking along a portion of Fitzwater Drive

AP

Salisbury Department of Infrastructure and Development is in the process of implementing the Salisbury Bicycle Network Plan which was adopted by Council via Resolution No. 2712 on December 13, 2016. Recently, DID contacted Chesapeake Shipbuilding regarding specifics of installing the Protected Bike Lanes along Fitzwater Drive and during the process Chesapeake Shipbuilding expressed support for removing some parking along their frontage. Given a history of crashes along this stretch of Fitzwater Drive and the knowledge that more space would create a better protected the bicycle facility, it is recommended to remove parking along Fitzwater Drive from Fitzwater Street to the main gate of Chesapeake Shipbuilding, approximately 310' to the east.

Chesapeake Shipbuilding has had numerous incidences of near-miss crashes where parking obstructed lines of sight for vehicle entering/exiting the main gate of their facility. More importantly, the fence is regularly struck by vehicles speeding through the corridor as noted in the letter from their President, Mr. Stephen McGee. To counter the safety concerns the bikeway plans include narrower lanes which are proven to reduce speeds, and concrete medians to protect the bike lane on higher risk areas. The plans also include a provision for future speed tables or humps if dangerous speeds continue after the bikeway is installed. Additionally, the high volume of of pedestrians and cyclists moving throughout the corridor suggest improvements for such users are warranted. The parking along this portion of the corridor is lightly used, usually only by employees or sub-contractors of Chesapeake Shipbuilding, despite attempts by the Company to prohibit the practice for safety.

The attached ordinance includes a request for authority to remove parking on Fitzwater Drive from Fitzwater Street to the main gate of Chesapeake Shipbuilding. A letter of support from Chesapeake Shipbuilding personnel declaring Company/Property Owner support for parking removal is attached. Approximately 16 parking spaces will be removed.

Unless you or the Mayor have further questions, please forward a copy of this memo and the ordinance to the City Council.

CHESAPEAKE SHIPBUILDING CORP.

SHIPBUILDERS & NAVAL ARCHITECTS

November 25, 2020

William R. White
Department of Infrastructure and Development, City of Salisbury
125 N. Division St., Room 202
Salisbury, MD 21801

Dear Mr. White,

On November 23, 2020, you and I exchanged e-mails regarding the addition of two large monolithic medians that would separate the side accesses to Fitzwater Drive, our employee parking lot, and Fitzwater street into three separate features. I stated that the shipyard has no problem with the addition. I did express our concerns about the addition of a bicycle lane along the south side of Fitzwater Street adjacent to our fence line that runs from our main gate (opposite Delaware Avenue) to Fitzwater Drive. We experience frequent single car accidents that hit the cars parked along Fitzwater Street in this area and also frequently (about once every 4 to 6 weeks this year) penetrate our fence. We feel the addition of a bicycle lane in this area is going to introduce bicyclists to a high danger area. The cause of the accidents, in addition to impaired driving, appears to be high rates of speed when traveling south on Parsons Road and failing to properly negotiate the turn onto Fitzwater Street.

That being said, we also have near misses when exiting our main gate, due to cars parked along the south side of Fitzwater Street. When a speeding car does negotiate the turn, the curvature of Fitzwater Street, coupled with topography and parked cars on the street, greatly reduces reaction time for both a vehicle exiting our facility and a speeding car moving east onto Fitzwater Street. To increase safety for all, Chesapeake Shipbuilding Corp. supports making this stretch of Fitzwater Street, as highlighted in red in Figure 1, a no-parking zone that would be enforceable by local authorities.

Though our employee parking capacity is limited and likely to be further constrained if the shipyard grows the workforce as anticipated in the future, removing parking along this portion of Fitzwater Street would improve safety to a degree that outweighs the lack of parking.

CHESAPEAKE SHIPBUILDING CORP.

SHIPBUILDERS & NAVAL ARCHITECTS

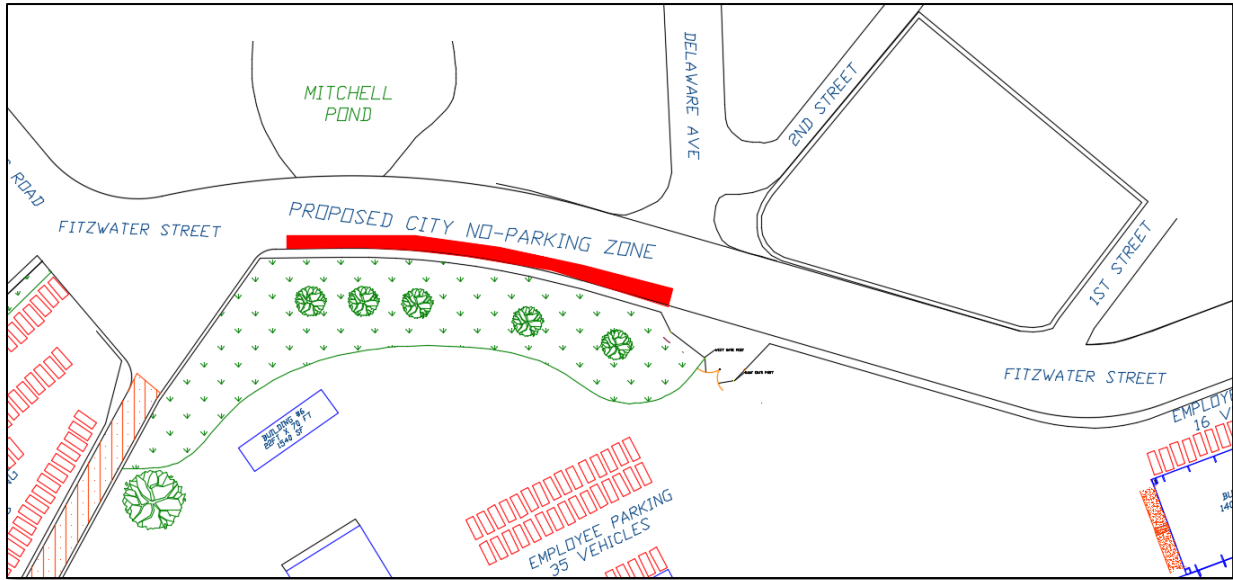


Figure 1 Proposed No-Parking Zone

Should you have any other questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Steven P. McGee, PE
President
Chesapeake Shipbuilding Corp.
P: 410-742-4900
Email: smcgee@cheship.com