

CITY OF SALISBURY
WORK SESSION (VIA ZOOM MEETING)
APRIL 5, 2021

Public Officials Present

Council President John “Jack” R. Heath
Councilwoman Angela M. Blake
Councilwoman April Jackson

Council Vice-President Muir Boda
Councilwoman Michele Gregory

Public Officials Absent

Mayor Jacob R. Day

In Attendance

City Administrator / Acting Mayor Julia Glanz, Deputy City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Department of Infrastructure & Development (DID) Director Amanda Pollack, Business Development Director Laura Soper, City Attorney Michael Sullivan, City Clerk Kimberly Nichols, and members of the Public and press.

On April 5, 2021 the Salisbury City Council convened in a Work Session at 5:02 p.m. via Zoom following the adjournment of a Closed Session. The following is a synopsis of the topics discussed:

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation- Somerset Natural Gas Project update

Department of Infrastructure and Development Director Amanda Pollack reported Chesapeake Utilities had been working on the installation of pipes along Rt. 13. At the time of their update to Ms. Pollack, they were about 39% complete and should be finishing this coming week. She also reported Chesapeake Utilities had been working with Transportation Project Specialist Will White on the Rail Trail tree planting. There was a meeting scheduled on Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 10:00 am to examine some potential tree planting areas in the City’s Lake Street Playground. Chesapeake had to do some remediation tree planting to replace the trees removed in the right-of-way near EVO along Rt. 13.

Council President Heath asked Ms. Pollack if Chesapeake was still going to help with Rail Trail plantings, and she replied they potentially would but she had no details yet. Mr. Heath also asked about the verbiage in the memo regarding open trenched pipeline installation. In the first meeting with Chesapeake Utilities they discussed not trenching. Ms. Pollack said when they installed lines in most of the streets they would drill the lines in. She noticed in some of their setups that they were open cutting. It depended on the surface, but she would ask why they were using that in certain places.

The update was for Council information and did not require consensus or action taken from Council.

Chapter 5.28- Fortune-Telling License Fees

City Administrator Julia Glanz said that as a result of public comments made during last week’s Council Meeting, Administration was reviewing requirements from municipalities around the

State and figuring out where the City should be regarding Fortune-Telling fees. She spoke with Chief Duncan who agreed the Chapter needed to be reassessed and streamlined. It contained antiquated verbiage and insensitive language. Background checks would suffice, as applicants would not be required to meet with the Police Chief. Ms. Glanz said that the citizen making the request also attended a County Council Meeting to address their fees, which were the same.

Mr. Boda agreed with Ms. Glanz and said the \$1,000 fee was outrageous and should be brought in line with other businesses and what new churches were required to pay.

Ms. Blake asked whether the Palm Reader establishment on the corner of Beaglin Park Drive and Mt. Hermon Road complied with the City. Mr. Boda said the property was located in the County.

Ms. Gregory appreciated Council addressing the issue and knew others who wanted to be able to provide these types of services.

President Heath agreed it was a deterrent to keep that type of business out of the City, and the fees were bizarre. If Administration came up with a recommendation, Council would look at it and move forward with it on the agenda.

Rescinding the rental increase freeze- Council discussion

Ms. Glanz reported that things were looking up regarding COVID and the Governor had rescinded many of the emergency protections in place. Mayor Day brought before Council in May 2020 legislation that limited fee increases landlords could impose on their tenants in a State of Emergency. Although still in the State of Emergency, in trying to stay in step with the parameters of where the City should be and not wanting to hold restrictions any longer than necessary, Administration wanted to gauge Council on removing the freeze moving forward.

Mr. Boda concurred with Ms. Glanz and thought the City should work on rescinding the freeze. There was enough assistance to help people get caught up and it was time to do this.

Council reached unanimous consensus to ask Administration to prepare the legislation for Work Session.

Public Comments

One member of the Public commented on the update from Chesapeake and the possibility of Chesapeake assisting with right-of-way access, and was happy with the direction of things.

Administration and Council Comments

Ms. Glanz reported 2,000 runners came through Salisbury in the Marathon. Everyone was safe and distanced, and many qualified for Boston. This fast course would keep Salisbury at the top of runners' lists of marathons to run. She thanked Jason Chance and the local agencies that helped.

Regarding rental assistance, there was a new pot of money coming from the State that would have far fewer restrictions and close some gaps to help people. The mass vaccination centers have a lot of appointments, so get your vaccination.

Mr. Boda said to keep supporting local businesses and get vaccinated. Please wait at least 90 days after having COVID to get your vaccination.

Ms. Jackson heard that Maryland was one of the top states for vaccinations. She said to continue getting your vaccinations, social distance, wear your mask and sanitize.

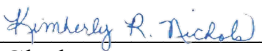
Ms. Blake was waiting for the Johnson & Johnson vaccination, but it may take longer than she anticipated. She said for those healthy enough to please give blood.

Ms. Gregory announced it was Autism Acceptance Month and to please do research before donating to autism related groups. There were some better than others, and she preferred the Autism Self-Advocacy Network, but there were a lot of different ones. Please wear your mask and vaccinate as soon as you can.

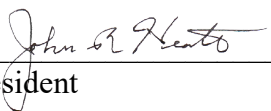
President Heath concurred with Ms. Blake to donate blood, if possible, and wear your mask when going out.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the Work Session adjourned at 5:26 p.m.



City Clerk



Council President