

CITY OF SALISBURY
WORK SESSION
AUGUST 2, 2021

Public Officials Present

Council President John “Jack” R. Heath
Council Vice-President Muir Boda
Councilwoman April Jackson

Mayor Jacob R. Day
Councilwoman Michele Gregory

Public Officials Absent

Councilwoman Angela M. Blake

In Attendance

City Administrator Julia Glanz, Deputy City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Department of Infrastructure & Development (DID) Director Amanda Pollack, City Attorney Michael Sullivan, Business Development Director Laura Soper, Mayor’s Office Intern Hannah Prugh, Assistant City Clerk Julie English, and members of the Public.

On August 2, 2021 the Salisbury City Council convened in a hybrid Work Session (in person and on Zoom Conferencing Video) at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers with Council Vice-President Muir Boda presiding. The following is a synopsis of the topics discussed.

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation- Somerset Natural Gas Project Update

Department of Infrastructure and Development (DID) Director Amanda Pollack provided the monthly update. As of July, about 98% of the pipeline was installed within the City limits.

Fortune Telling License Legislation

Communications Intern for the Mayor’s Office Hannah Prugh shared the concerns of a community member regarding Chapter 5.28 of the City Charter. The concerns stemmed from the extensive, outdated and expensive process the charter required to obtain a license for fortune telling. Ms. Prugh proposed updated language for Chapter 5.28 of the City Charter in addition to reducing fees and penalties. If approved, the fee to conduct a background check would be reduced from \$1,000 to \$100. Business Development Director Laura Soper added that the proposed fines would better align with the City’s current mobile business and hotel violation fees.

Mr. Boda questioned the relevance of requiring a license for fortune telling as it may be considered a religious liberty. Mayor Day responded by adding in general business regulation was designed so that a level of professionalism existed in each field to protect public health and safety.

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

Summersgate Amended and Restated Annexation Agreement

Department of Infrastructure and Development Director Amanda Pollack presented an annexation amendment request from Summersgate. Co-Founder and President of Vantage Point Retirement Living Greg Stevens requested the removal of the requirement to realign Johnson Road with Robins Avenue prior to proceeding with Phase I of the Summersgate project. Mrs. Pollack acknowledged that a traffic study may be required by the Planning Commission or State Highway Administration moving forward.

Mr. Stevens reviewed the plans for Summersgate at the request of the Mayor. He also spoke to the small percentage of residents that would be driving. In addition Mr. Stevens shared that a recent marketing study produced a demand for additional senior living facilities.

First Street House Fire Update

Fire Marshal Eric Cramer provided an update on the First Street fire earlier in the year which caused two fatalities. The Housing and Community Development Department and the Salisbury Fire Department did not receive the cooperation of the tenants to provide further information as to what may have caused the fire. The Salisbury Fire Department was denied a copy of the fire data. The State of Maryland was responsible for collecting the information and conducting the investigation.

Mayor Day discussed the possibility of the Housing and Community Development Department being granted Administrative Search Warrants by a judge when code compliance is questioned.

President Heath recommended contacting the District representatives for assistance. Mayor Day suggested contacting them directly by phone.

Council Comments

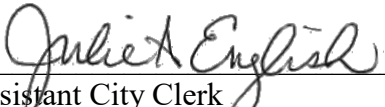
Mr. Boda reminded everyone about the upcoming National Night Out with the Salisbury Police Department at Newton Community Center at 5:00pm. He also mentioned that Wicomico County was in the “at risk” category.

Ms. Jackson encouraged residents to allow inspectors to come into your homes when they are conducting investigations to benefit your well-being. She also announced the VFW Unity Day on August 15th and pleaded for everyone to get vaccinated.

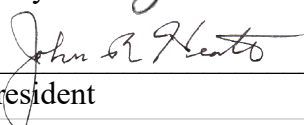
Ms. Gregory reiterated what Ms. Jackson said about the importance of getting vaccinated.

Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, the Work Session was adjourned at 4:36 p.m.



Assistant City Clerk



Council President