

CITY OF SALISBURY  
WORK SESSION  
JANUARY 3, 2022

Public Officials Present

Council President John “Jack” R. Heath  
Council Vice-President Muir Boda  
Councilwoman Michele Gregory

Mayor Jacob R. Day  
Councilwoman Angela M. Blake  
Councilwoman April Jackson

In Attendance

City Administrator Julia Glanz, Deputy City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Information Services Director Bill Garrett, Business Development Director Laura Soper, Fire Deputy Chief Chris O’Barsky, Fire Captain Chris Truitt, Department of Infrastructure & Development (DID) Director Amanda Pollack, Field Operations Director Jana Potvin, Assistant City Clerk Julie English, Attorney Ashley Bosche, and members of the public.

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On January 3, 2022 the Salisbury City Council convened in a virtual Work Session at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom.

**Here is Home Incentive Program Update**

DID Director Amanda Pollack shared that she received 3 applications in the last month that translated to 309 residential units. She had received 8 applications to date for a total of 1,150 residential units. In the month of December, Ms. Pollack attended pre-application meetings which generated a list of 21 potential projects.

**Shentel Franchise Agreement**

Information Services Director Bill Garrett explained that a company, Shentel, contacted him with the interest to set up a base of operations in Salisbury to offer some direct competition in the internet, television, and telephone market. Mr. Garrett negotiated a nonexclusive agreement with the company and provided some details as to what they would offer. Shentel would like to make Salisbury their “hub” for this region.

Ms. Gregory questioned whether the jobs this would bring in would be local hires. Mr. Garrett responded that the employees would be hired locally.

Council reached unanimous consensus to advance the budget amendment to legislative session.

**EV Stations at City Park and Lot 13**

Delmarva Power reached out to Business Development Director Laura Soper with a request to install 11 electric vehicle charging stations; three in the Downtown Parking

Garage, four along S. Park Drive, and four in Lot 13. The stations will be installed and maintained by Delmarva Power at no cost to the city.

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

### **MD Jurisdictional EMS Operational Program designation brief**

Deputy Chief O'Barsky and Captain Truitt provided a brief on the Salisbury Fire Department's recent designation as a Maryland Jurisdictional EMS Operational Program (JEMSOP). This designation gives the department its own quality assurance and quality improvement plans without having to go through the County. In addition, it allows for opportunities in special protocols and funding.

President Heath requested a report be sent to Council outlining the funding received through various programs during FY21.

### **Multiple City Department Reorganization**

Deputy City Administrator Andy Kitzrow brought forth a proposal to reorganize multiple departments within the City. The reorganization would begin January 29, 2022 and would impact the departments of Field Operations, Human Resources, Water Works, and Business Development. Mr. Kitzrow stated the reorganization would be a revenue neutral adjustment, therefore no funds would be requested from surplus to complete this process.

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

### **Administration and Council Comments**

Mayor Day pointed out that the public should get an understanding in the coming days of the significance of the EMS designation that was discussed earlier. He also mentioned that property values have recently been reassessed for a third of Wicomico County and there was a 25 percent increase in growth. Wicomico County was number 2 in the state with over 20 percent increase in assessed values. Lastly, referring to Ms. Pollack's presentation earlier, he noted that there has been 150 million dollars in proposed residential development in less than a month.

In closing, Mayor Day stated that there is a Maryland Constitutional Amendment proposed this year to make access to a clean environment a fundamental right. He encouraged everyone to support this amendment. Finally, he provided an update on the situation with HUD and the Moss Hill Apartments. The eviction notices have been rescinded and HUD would be hosting a virtual session for interested residents to provide guidance.

Mr. Boda asked that everyone be safe while out and about over the next few days with regard to the inclement weather.

Ms. Jackson assured the citizens of the City that the Council is behind you and will support you in anyway they can.

Ms. Blake was pleased to hear the update from HUD. She again encouraged those healthy enough to donate blood to do so as we are still critical and very low on blood.

Ms. Gregory echoed Ms. Blake on the HUD update. She also encouraged everyone to get their booster and to be careful if they had to be out in the weather.

President Heath wished everyone a Happy New Year and hopes we can get to some form of normality soon. He encouraged all that can to give blood as we are down to less than a days supply.

Ms. Glanz added an acknowledgement for the Field Operations crews for keeping the roads safe for us. President Heath agreed.

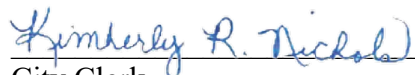
#### **Adjournment of Work Session / Motion to Convene in Closed Session**

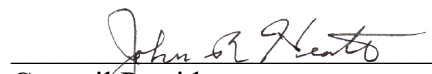
With no further business to discuss in the Work Session, at 5:12 p.m. President Heath called for a motion to enter into Closed Session to discuss a matter directly related to discussing the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; or any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals; in accordance with the Annotated Code of Maryland §3-305(b)(1). Ms. Jackson moved, Mr. Boda seconded, and the vote was 5-0 to convene in Closed Session.

#### **Motion to end Closed Session / Convene in Open Session / Report to Public**

At 5:42 p.m. upon a motion and seconded by Ms. Jackson and Ms. Gregory respectively and approved by unanimous vote in favor (5-0), Council ended the Closed Session and convened in Open Session.

President Heath reported that Council had met in Closed Session to discuss the appointment of a position and the Open Session was then immediately adjourned.

  
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City Clerk

  
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Council President