

CITY OF SALISBURY
WORK SESSION
MAY 2, 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, Police Chief Barbara Duncan, Fire Chief John Tull, Deputy Chief Chris O’Barsky, Housing and Homelessness Manager Christine Chestnutt, Assistant City Clerk Julie English, City Clerk Kim Nichols, and Attorney Ashley Bosche.

On May 2, 2022 the Salisbury City Council convened at 4:30 p.m. in a hybrid Work Session in Council Chambers of the Government Office Building and on Zoom Conferencing Video.

Proclamations- presented by Mayor Jacob R. Day

Municipal Clerks Week proclamation

Mayor Day presented the Municipal Clerks Week proclamation in celebration of the 53rd Municipal Clerks Week and recognized Salisbury City Clerks Julie English and Kim Nichols.

National Small Business Week proclamation

Mayor Day presented the National Small Business Week proclamation to Vinessa Williams, owner of Little Leaders Learning Academy who was named Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the US Small Business Administration’s Baltimore District Office. He urged all residents to support the small businesses in the community.

Criminal Justice Reform Task Force (CJRTF)

Mayor Day thanked the CJRTF members for their service to the City. Chief Duncan said it was a long process mostly through COVID, and they made substantial progress in some areas. Chair Eileen Johnson, joined by Wicomico County Public Defender Wesley Moore, explained that after the murder of George Floyd the Mayor called for the creation of the task force. Alyssa Hastings helped walk them through the process she used with the Environmental Task Force, which was very helpful. Residents from the County were invited to the meetings to provide perspective and advice. Ms. Johnson was grateful for the opportunity to be on the CJRTF and hoped for progress.

President Heath suggested that once Council reviewed the recommendations, after the budget was finalized, they would invite them back to discuss the full report.

Ordinance to appropriate funds received from auction of vehicle

Deputy Fire Chief Chris O’Barsky requested a budget amendment to appropriate funds to the Fire Department Operating Budget from the sale of a 2012 International Terrastar Horton Ambulance. It was an old ambulance no longer in service and was sold on Gov Deals. He said they would appropriate \$20,315.93 back into their operating budget.

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

Ordinance to accept FY22 Community Mental Health Services (COVID Relief) Block Grant funds

Housing & Homelessness Manager Christine Chestnutt informed Council the City received an award of FY22 Community Mental Health Services Block Grant Funds funding from SAMSHA passed through the Wicomico County Local Behavioral Health Authority in the amount of \$12,562.00. The funds will be used to help pay for the Homeless Services Case Specialist.

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

Ordinance to accept CFES donation for water fountain at Ben’s Red Swings

Ms. Glanz explained the ordinance was accepting a \$1,000 donation from the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore to provide for a water fountain at Ben’s Red Swings. The City has already installed the new fountain.

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

Dirt Bike Ordinance

Chief Duncan said that with the current legislative outlook and restrictions on law enforcement, pursuits were very problematic. They were working with the Sheriff’s Department and invited the State’s Attorney’s Office (SAO) to a work group. SPD lacked the ability legislatively to seize dirt bikes they found that had no one claimed ownership to. They worked with the SAO in the past, and unless the bike was involved in a crime, there was not much push to seize it. She suggested passing legislation to allow the SPD to seize the unclaimed bikes. When they crash, a chase car driver will come from behind and load the individual up and take them to the hospital or out of the area for treatment. Another chase vehicle, typically a truck, would pick up the bike and leave the area. The motorist involved or the property owners were left to pay for damages on their own.

She said the City should not have to deal with this community problem and thought there could be legislative remedies. The legislation from Baltimore City and could place extra stress and burden on business owners. They were trying find an answer to bring to Council that would work with the other agencies.

President Heath suggested taking a picture of the chase car’s license plate.

Ms. Jackson said they knew they could not be chased by the SPD. She did not like it and did not feel safe and said she wished the parents would take a stand.

Public Comments

One member of the public provided the following comments:

- The Eastern Shore has a vibrant dirt bike-motor bike culture.
- Before there was legislation passed, discuss the legislation with the community.
- They were a public safety issue. If there was a law passed, give a grace period of a year before seizures begin. During that time, educate the community on roadway rules, how to register a dirt bike, and celebrate the culture of dirt bikes.
- Young people need boundaries and if given free rein, they will work the system. If they are given clear boundaries and a grace period to follow those rules, you would be able to differentiate between those who were manipulating the system and those who were victims of just not knowing.
- Many young people wanted a dirt bike ramp. Should work with the County on it.
- If an ordinance was just “put out” the City risked community backlash just like Baltimore received.

President Heath responded that there was no grace period in the law, and they were violating the law. The last bike, where the driver fell off, was stolen from Baltimore. The people who are advocating for a track are not the same ones that are driving illegally in the City. They get thrilled by making people nervous and upset.

Ms. Jackson agreed that they did not want a dirt track, but only wanted to incite fear.

Administration and Council Comments

Ms. Jackson announced a Maryland Food Bank Drive at VFW 10159 on Friday, May 6, 2022 at 11:00 a.m.

Ms. Blake asked those healthy enough to please donate blood.

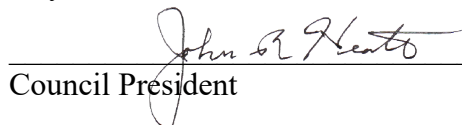
President Heath reiterated Ms. Blake’s comment to give blood if healthy enough. He thanked City Clerks Kim Nichols and Julie English for doing a good job.

Adjournment of Work Session

With no further business to discuss, President Heath adjourned the Work Session at 5:19 p.m. and Council convened in the scheduled Special Meeting.



City Clerk



Council President