

CITY OF SALISBURY
WORK SESSION
FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Public Officials Present

Council President Muir Boda
Council Vice-President April Jackson
Councilwoman Michele Gregory

Mayor John R. Heath
Councilwoman Angela Blake
Councilwoman Megan Outten

In Attendance

City Administrator Julia Glanz, Deputy City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Building Official Bill Holland, City Planner Brian Soper, Fire Chief John Tull, Police Captain Howard Drewer, Field Operations Director Mike Dryden, Deputy Director Sam Ireland, ABCD Director Allen Swiger, Department of Infrastructure & Development Director (DID) Rick Baldwin, Water Works Director Cori Cameron (via Zoom), Department of Housing & Community Development Director Ron Strickler (via Zoom), City Clerk Kimberly Nichols, Attorney Ashley Bosche and interested members of the public.

On February 21, 2023 the Salisbury City Council convened at 4:34 p.m. in a Work Session in Conference Room 306 of the Government Office Building following the adjournment of the Special Meeting.

The following is a synopsis of the items discussed in Work Session.

South Division Street – Rinnier Annexation Introduction

Building Official Bill Holland explained the proposed property to be annexed was located on the eastern side of South Division Street on the corner of Onley Road and was about 1.8 acres. On July 21, 2022 the Planning Commission approved the property to be zoned College and University. The plan was to develop the property into two apartment buildings with eighteen total units projected to be used for student housing. Parking, street lighting, and dumpster enclosures were included in the plan.

Once developed, the value of the annexed property would be approximately \$2,080,000 with an annual revenue of \$20,454, and a net estimated fiscal impact to the City of \$6,534. Mr. Holland recommended moving the annexation forward to legislative session.

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

FY24-28 CIP Presentation

Finance Director Keith Cordrey stated as a reminder to Council that this document was a plan and did not appropriate funds for expenditures. It did not mean that any items included in the plan would necessarily be included in the City's budget.

Deputy City Administrator Kitzrow discussed the need for another City owned parking garage downtown.

Mr. Cordrey reported that Debt Service was less than 10% of expenditures. If it was completely implemented, and it never was, at the end of the five-year period there would be very little debt service remaining. The City's percentage of Bonded Debt was 5.8%.

Fire Chief John Tull said they were still looking for a location for a north side station and would also need to look toward the east side because the fire district went to Wor-Wic Community College now.

Police Captain Howard Drewer discussed the condition of the police fleet and reasons to gravitate towards a complete take-home program and shared vehicle program.

Field Operations Director Mike Dryden and Deputy Director Sam Ireland discussed the aging playground equipment and replacement schedule. Ms. Jackson asked why Waterside Park had not been started. Ms. Gregory asked about the one-ton trucks and Mr. Ireland explained how they were used. She asked about the bridge repair in the Park and Ms. Glanz explained the bridge and bandstand repairs were funded through an endowment fund through the Community Foundation. Ms. Glanz and Council discussed the maintenance of Schumaker Pond.

ABCD Director Allen Swiger reported on the progress of Poplar Hill Mansion's new handicap lift. The Mansion's historical value and the revenues generated by the events held there were discussed. Potter's Field Cemetery and the need for historical markers in the City were also discussed.

DID Director Rick Baldwin informed Council about speed humps and speed bumps. Ms. Jackson noted that one was needed on Parsons Road and Ms. Glanz said that Will White would be notified. Ms. Gregory discussed the South Park Drive erosion and the flooded tennis courts and asked about surfacing the courts with something more porous. Mr. Baldwin advised that construction with those types of surfaces was very expensive. He reported on the North Prong environmental clean-up on Lake Street at Ms. Jackson's request. Ms. Blake discussed the dark lights at the intersection near the Ward Wildfowl area and a general discussion on street lights was held.

Water Works Director Cori Cameron joined Council via Zoom. Discussion included the raw water line and City water towers.

Resolution to accept a Circuit Court forfeited rifle

Captain Drewer explained as part of the disposition of the criminal case handled by SPD officers, the gas operated rifle was seized from the defendant's residence pursuant to the execution of a search warrant. The Court ordered that the firearm be awarded to the City of Salisbury Police Department to be used in their Tact Team.

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

Mobile Crisis Presentation

Tina-Marie Brown, Director of The Sante Group and Alison Hunter-Jacobs, Coordinator made the presentation on Santé Mobile Crisis.

Ms. Hunter-Jacobs informed Council that Santé had a lot of success. They had 29 cold contacts to connect people to available services. There were 27 cases opened up to follow up with. Of those, 20 were adults. They did 127 phone contacts and 23 referrals. She highlighted a case of an adult female diagnosed with schizophrenia who was off her medicine, was very symptomatic and a high utilizer of the Police Department (PD). They started building a relationship with her and were able to connect her to the team able to provide her medication. She stopped calling the PD now and was stable. The change in her occurred in a few short weeks.

Councilwoman Blake said Mses. Brown and Hunter-Jacobs were outstanding social workers and this was the one of the greatest things moving forward with policing in the community. They would eventually reach out to the Sheriff's Department with this program and save many people.

Captain Drewer added that mental health and drug addictions fell in this arena and relayed the vision of bringing other parties to the table. Sante specialized in finding the resources that people needed. President Boda thought that SWIFT may be a good partner with Santé since they dealt with many similar issues.

The presentation was for Council's informational purposes only.

Budget Amendment to accept a grant for chemicals and equipment at the WWTP

WW Director Cori Cameron reported on the request to approve a budget amendment to accept a grant from the Maryland Department of the Environment for costs associated with the WWTP's Enhanced Nutrient Removal (ENR) operation and maintenance activities. The Bay Restoration Fund Operations and Maintenance Grant was in the amount of \$599,776.00 and was an additional \$149,776 over last year's grant of \$450,000.00. Based on 2021 ENR performance, the WWTP had achieved performance optimization and qualified for the grant. The funds would be used for the operations and maintenance of the WWTP. An additional \$495,000.00 was added to their FY23 chemical operating budget 86083-546004 to complete the budget year because chemicals were consistently increasing throughout the year. This grant would prevent WW from needing a budget amendment for chemicals. Ms. Cameron also requested the remaining \$104,766.00 be added to the equipment account #86083-534302 to purchase and repair equipment for plant maintenance.

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

Budget Amendment to Accept CFES Grant for the Summer Work Program

Housing & Community Development Director (HCDD) Ron Strickler reported on the CFES Workforce Grant in the amount of \$7,500 which would allow the City to hire two additional summer youth employees.

Council agreed it was a great program and reached unanimous consensus to move forward with the budget amendment.

Budget Amendment to Accept Draper/Bless Our Children donation

Mr. Strickler reported the Santa’s Workshop operated every year and had operated on Main Street for the third year now. This past Christmas the HCDD distributed 357 gifts to children, which trumped their previous record of 250 gifts. This year, Draper donated \$5,000 which necessitated the budget amendment to receive the funds into the account.

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


Budget Amendment to accept SFY 2023 Homelessness Solutions Program (HSP) Grant Funding

Mr. Strickler indicated when the HSP Grant Fund was set up in the FY23 Budget it was in the amount of \$40,000. An additional \$9,574 was received from the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development, which needed to go through the Somerset County Health Department. A budget amendment was needed to add the additional \$9,574 into that account.


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

Adjournment / Convene in Special Meeting #2

With no further business to discuss, President Boda adjourned the Work Session at 6:15 p.m. and Council immediately convened in the scheduled Special Meeting #2.



City Clerk



Council President