

CITY OF SALISBURY
WORK SESSION
MARCH 20, 2023

Public Officials Present

Council President Muir Boda
Councilwoman Michele Gregory

Council Vice President April Jackson (via Zoom)
Councilwoman Megan Outten (via Zoom)

Public Officials Absent

Mayor John R. Heath
Councilwoman Angela Blake

In Attendance

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Assistant City Administrator Tom Stevenson, Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD) Director Ron Strickler, Housing & Homelessness Manager Brett Sanders, Fire Chief John Tull, Deputy Fire Chief Chris O’Barsky, Assistant Police Chief Colonel Dave Meienschein, Director of Communications Kacey Martin, Assistant City Clerk Julie English, Attorney Ashley Bosche and members of the public.

On March 20, 2023 the Salisbury City Council convened at 4:30 p.m. in a hybrid Work Session in Council Chambers and on Zoom.

Establishment of an endowment fund for Anne Street Village

Housing & Homelessness Manager Brett Sanders explained the idea of establishing an endowment fund for Anne Street Village as a way for the City to accept donations in a structured way with accountability. The City would work with the Community Foundation to create a non-endowed community needs fund with a 1% operating cost and a minimum draw down of \$1,000.

HCDD Director Ron Strickler added that the money would support a variety of functions such as utilities, operational costs, and emergency costs.

Ms. Outten asked if it was possible for the City to have the funds necessary to keep the individual units going. Mr. Strickler responded that there was a proposed FY24 budget that would be shared with council.

Ms. Gregory wanted to know what fees were associated with managing the fund. Mr. Sanders shared that there would be a 1% annual fee and the initial startup fee would be \$5,000. The usual annual fee was 7% and the startup amount was \$10,000. The City would experience a drastic reduction in fees.

Ms. Jackson asked how many people the village would house and how they would be chosen. Mr. Sanders explained that 24 people would be housed and the wait list was organized in tiers with those individuals who have been outside for 15 years at the top. The list had about 41 people on it.

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

Budget amendment to appropriate funds for the Fire Department's vehicle repair account

Deputy Chief Chris O'Barsky requested a budget amendment for \$50,000. The money would cover the manufacturer recommended 1,000 hour service as well as replacing both turbos that were leaking on the fire boat. In addition, there were expected costs to repair the rescue truck and two of the older engines. Funding remaining from the amendment would cover unexpected costs for the remainder of the fiscal year.

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

Resolution to approve the donation of a K-9

Assistant Chief Colonel Meienschein shared that the canine they would like to acquire comes from an international company and a program called Throw Away Dog. The pre-trained canine had a value of \$12,000. The goal for the canine was to train it as a bomb dog to assist with the increased number of events in the City. In going through this program to acquire another canine for the department, the City would be spending about half the normal cost for a trained dog.

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

Budget amendment to purchase and upfit 4 SPD vehicles

Colonel Meienschein requested the move of just under \$215,000 from the general fund (money from the dissolution of the Wicomico task force) to allow for the upfit of four vehicles. One of the vehicles would go to patrol function, two to the Criminal Investigation function, and one to the Recruiting function.

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

Discussion on commercial vehicles on private property

Council entered into a discussion on people being ticketed for having commercial vehicles on private property. President Boda read section 10.32.040 *Parking of certain vehicles in residentially zoned districts* from the City Code. Mr. Strickler then referenced section 17 *Development Standards* of the Code. He also shared that the majority of the tickets given on commercial vehicles were complaint driven from neighbors.

Mr. Kitzrow recommended possibly modifying the code to more clearly identify which vehicles

were being referenced.

Ms. Gregory believed the size of the vehicle should be specified in the code. She added that some companies required their employees to park the vehicle on the street for various reasons.

President Boda shared that a lot of school bus drivers in his neighborhood parked buses in their yards.

Ms. Jackson reminded everyone that a lot of people were working from home. She expressed that she was not in favor of tractor trailers being parked on residential property. She was not opposed to dump trucks being parked on the owners' property as long as they were functional and maintained.

Mr. Strickler specified the code in question was 17.156.060 *Development Standards* and it stated that "no outside storage of trucks or vans used in the conduct of business shall be permitted." As is, the code referred to all commercial vehicles. Mr. Strickler recommended governing the code by the weight of the vehicle.

Mr. Stevenson clarified that when the legislation referenced was written, he was a part of it, and the intention was not to target smaller commercial work vehicles.

Mr. Kitzrow asked for the decision to be made whether or not it was the interpretation of the code that needed to be clarified or whether the code itself would need to be changed. President Boda responded that he would prefer the code be updated as to prevent the same discussion from happening 15 years down the road. He also added that all parts of the code that referenced this topic should match.

Ms. Jackson expressed her concern over the City forcing someone, who has parked their dump truck in their yard for almost 20 years, to find another place to park it due to a complaint.

Mr. Kitzrow added that trailers were not addressed in the code and questioned whether they should be included. President Boda believed that everything should be considered. Mr. Strickler mentioned that persons running a business out of their residential property should also be addressed.

Comments

Ms. Jackson said to be mindful of COVID. She encouraged social distancing and staying home if you were not feeling well. She stressed the importance of getting your booster shot and to wear a mask when necessary.

Ms. Gregory echoed Ms. Jackson on getting your boosters.

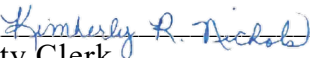
Mr. Boda reminded everyone to give blood.

Mr. Kitzrow mentioned that there was a “new face” at the meeting and he would introduce himself. He also shared that events would be starting back up in the City and that the marathon would be April 1st.

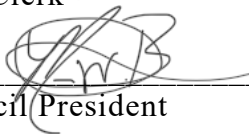
Mr. Stevenson shared that he started back to work with the City on Monday.

Adjournment / Convene in Special Meeting

With no further business to discuss, President Boda adjourned the Work Session at 5:18 p.m.



City Clerk



Council President