

CITY OF SALISBURY  
WORK SESSION  
JUNE 5, 2023

Public Officials Present

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

Mayor John R. Heath  
Councilmember Angela M. Blake  
Councilmember Megan Outten

In Attendance

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Ethics Commission Chair Neill Carey, Ethics Commission Member Dr. Timothy Stock, Acting Police Chief Dave Meienschein, Field Operations Director Michael Dryden, Department of Infrastructure and Development (DID) Director Rick Baldwin, Arts, Business & Culture Department (ABC Dept.) Director Allen Swiger, City Clerk Kimberly Nichols, City Attorney Ashley Bosché, and interested members of the public

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On June 5, 2023 the Salisbury City Council convened at 4:30 p.m. in Special Meeting #1. Following the adjournment of the Special Meeting at 5:57 p.m., they convened in the Work Session. The following is a synopsis of the items discussed in Work Session.

**Discussion on Opinion 2023-01- Ethics Commission**

Dr. Neill Carey, Ethics Commission Chair and member Dr. Timothy Stock joined Council at the table. Dr. Carey said the Ethics Commission was asked to opine on whether current and former employees could be on City boards and commissions. City Attorney Ashley Bosché provided the commission excellent advice and the decision was that full time and part time City employees should not serve on a board or committee. Former City employees could be appointed as long as there was no improper or perceived improper influence. Employees who were currently board members could finish their term but could not be reappointed. Council's attendance on committees were not as voting members and they were not City employees in this advisory opinion.

Mr. Boda asked whether a City employee could serve as a Council member and it was decided that they could not. Since the City Handbook was just completed, Ms. Bosché said the policy could be verbally communicated until the next handbook update.

**Discussion on changing duty weapons**

Acting Chief Dave Meienschein came before Council to discuss the Police Department's transition to a new firearm platform from 45 caliber handguns to 9-millimeter handguns.

The change would increase officers' proficiency and help qualify those with smaller hands. It took more than a year to receive 45 caliber ammo orders. Many new officers did not have firearms experience, and this weapon was easier to handle.

Ms. Blake asked about the cost of the firearms. Acting Chief Meienschein answered for 90 officers it would cost about \$43,000, and the ammo would be about \$10,000, but they could trade in their 45-caliber ammo. The trade in cost for ninety 45 caliber firearms would be about \$30,000, and costs were currently \$310 to \$320 per weapon. New holsters and sights were needed. The change would occur by the end of the current year.

Funds were identified in the current budget. The item was for Council information only.

### **South Boulevard and Camden Avenue Traffic Light discussion**

DID Director Rick Baldwin and FOPs Director Michael Dryden joined Council to discuss the traffic light at South Boulevard and Camden Avenue.

Mr. Kitzrow said they wanted everyone to understand the plan moving forward. He said that the public questioned why the working traffic light was replaced with stop signs, and now the temporary 4-way stop transitioned into a permanent 4-way stop. There was also discussion on the costs of returning to a 4-way traffic signal. There were safety precaution requirements to alert the public to the traffic pattern change with flashing red lights which would ultimately go to 4-way stop signs surrounded by LED lights for visibility. The rumble strips were removed as they were no longer needed to alert people to the new traffic pattern. The testing of the intersection was done by DID.

Mr. Baldwin discussed the *warrant analysis* process on the intersection which compared data on the intersection to the Federal Highway standards to decide what was appropriate for control of the intersection. He explained that *warrant analysis* was done on the intersection prior to COVID, during COVID, and since COVID, which indicated that according to the federal standards, a traffic light was not be appropriate for the location. The guidelines allowed for the traffic engineers to make other decisions or exceptions. The light was older and most of the parts were obsolete. When other lights of this type have been removed and replaced with 4-way stops, their parts have been saved to use in other lights of that type. This light was struck by lightning which knocked out the controller. Mr. Baldwin said that his technicians got the light to work with a flashing yellow and red. The current signs indicating speed were collecting data to be used as they moved forward. The stop line did not allow a full view of the intersection, but the law allowed motorists to ease forward. The light's replacement cost was over \$200,000.

Mr. Kitzrow asked about availability of a new light if that was the decision. Mr. Baldwin said it was not in the budget and could take a year plus the lead time for Procurement after July 1, 2024. They had been waiting for months for the hardware for the Parkside Light. Ms. Jackson asked why this was not communicated to the community and said the community should have been informed before the change happened. She thought the people were upset because it was not communicated with them first.

President Boda invited Lynne Bratten forward. She reported the light worked and was not broken. One of the press releases stated that it was damaged in the process of putting

it on blink mode. Now they were saying it was simply broken. She said it was working when the sign was erected announcing it would go to a 4-way stop. At that point she raised questions because it was needed. She drove through it that day and it was still red, green and yellow. She did not know why Vision Zero decided that it was not needed.

Ms. Blake noted there were several lights removed around town. The difference in them was the sight line and she was concerned about this one and wanted to advocate for the light to be turned on. Mayor Heath added that he drove that route all the time and as long as all drivers stopped, the stop line it could be readily seen. He asked to give it time to see if people were paying attention. If it did not work out and there were still issues, the light could be replaced. Ms. Blake said that a better job of planning was needed. Ms. Jackson noted the 4-way stop on Naylor Mill Road was a disaster. Ms. Outten said it was apparent during this entire meeting that transparency was becoming increasingly more important to the community. She also thanked Mayor Heath and Mr. Kitzrow for responding to her in such a timely manner to her questions about the light.

### **Accepting donation from the Delmarva Zoological Society for the Andean Bear Campaign**

Arts, Business & Culture Department Director Allen Swiger reported the steering committee for the Andean Bear Campaign had been working diligently to identify what they needed including the implementation of a web-based software capable of managing and tracking revenues for the upcoming campaign. They approached the Delmarva Zoological Society for the donation of \$125,000 to offset those costs. The Zoological Society generously wanted to make the donation to the City.

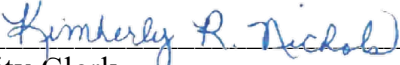
Council reached unanimous consensus to advance the legislation to legislative agenda.


### **Resolution to appoint new Registered Agent**

Ms. Bosché said the City's current resident agent was still Julia Glanz and it needed to be updated to Andy Kitzrow. Council reached unanimous consensus to advance the legislation to legislative agenda.

### **Adjournment / Convene in Special Meeting**

With no further business to discuss, President Boda adjourned the Work Session at 6:47 p.m. and Council immediately convened in the scheduled Special Meeting #2.

  
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City Clerk

  
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Council President