

CITY OF SALISBURY  
WORK SESSION  
JULY 17, 2023

Public Officials Present

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

Mayor John R. Heath (via Zoom)  
Councilmember Angela M. Blake  
Councilmember Megan Outten

In Attendance

Assistant City Administrator Tom Stevenson, Information Services (IS) Director Bill Garrett, Arts, Business & Culture Department (ABCD) Director Allen Swiger, ABCD Events & Culture Manager Caroline O'Hare, Transportation Manager Will White, Department of Infrastructure and Development (DID) Director Rick Baldwin, City Planner Brian Soper, Fire Chief John Tull, City Clerk Kimberly Nichols, City Attorney Ashley Bosché and interested members of the public

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On July 17, 2023 the Salisbury City Council convened at 4:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, Room 301 in the Government Office Building. The following is a synopsis of the items discussed in Work Session.

**DIG Grant Acceptance for Anne Street Village Resident Training**

IS Director Bill Garrett informed Council that the City applied for a grant in Resolution No. 2801 for the fiber internet and WIFI for the Anne Street Village facility. The grant was approved twice for two different grants. The larger grant would be used to get additional years of service out of the project and permission was received from the State to change the scope of the grant to allow the City to instead use the money to provide computer technology and office tech training for jobs to the residents. An agreement was made with Wor-Wic Community College and the residents would be taken to Wor-Wic for training in all manner of different technology and office productivity. They would also receive job services to find better employment. He discussed the training opportunities available to the residents of Anne Street Village in order to increase their employment options.

Council agreed this was a great opportunity and reached unanimous consensus to advance the legislation to legislative agenda.

**Maryland Folk Festival sponsorship**

Arts, Business & Culture Department Director Allen Swiger and Events and Culture Manager Caroline O'Hare joined Council. Mr. Swiger indicated ABCD had been working diligently to prepare for the MD Folk Festival, particularly since the National Folk Festival. A significant partnership they wanted to maintain was their work with the Maryland State Arts Council and specifically towards their support to the Maryland Life

Traditions Area. The City was very fortunate that they were going to continue to support the City with a \$150,000 sponsorship for this year. He requested the City accept the sponsorship and move forward with the legislation. Ms. O'Hare said that the City was rolling out artist announcements for the next three weeks and then would push for their volunteers again. Anyone interested in volunteering could go to [MDFolkFest.com](http://MDFolkFest.com) and click on volunteer to find out how to help the festival.

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

### **Budget amendment to purchase portable radios**

Fire Chief John Tull presented the budget ordinance prepared by Finance Director Keith Cordrey. It cancelled a previous appropriation of \$805,000 for the Computer Aided Dispatch Project that was part of the FY24 Bond Proceeds and reallocated \$185,000 in a PayGo account. He said that \$145,000 of the PayGo money would be reallocated for the Fire Department to allow them to continue their purchase of portable radios and the remaining \$40,000 would go back into General Surplus.

President Boda asked if the Computer Aided Dispatch Project was cancelled, and Chief Tull said he thought it was shelved.

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

### **Vision Zero presentation**

Transportation Manager Will White explained that the resolution that established Vision Zero as a City policy required Council receive a report by June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. The report was submitted but was just now being presented due to scheduling difficulties. He noted Alex McRae was present in the audience. He was a representative from BPAC who was very instrumental in the project. The Vision Zero Action Plan, Year 3 has been attached as part of the minutes.

After presenting the Action Plan, Ms. Outten remarked that the State was seeing an uptick in crashes, and asked for the cause. Mr. White said there were many theories and no one knew for sure, but the most likely explanations was most of it was COVID because people may have become more reckless during COVID or with less congestion people may have been travelling faster. Before COVID people were walking and biking more nationally, and cars were getting heavier. As cars got bigger and heavier they more likely caused more bodily injury.

Ms. Outten said she appreciated the level of work done on this for the past few years. Ms. Blake said the City could never compromise on safety and thought the City was doing a great job. She could not wait for Carroll Street to get its full design so that people could see and understand how it would look. Ms. Jackson said they had to make sure everyone was as safe as possible. There were aggressive drivers who flew through

their communities. Mr. White said that a perfect to Ms. Jackson's corollary was on West Road where DID recently completed the protective bike lane. The project was re-prioritized after a fatal crash in 2020 in which an individual was killed by a car crash. If the bike lanes had been installed, the individual would have likely still been alive.

Ms. Gregory asked about whether the five-point intersection of Truitt and Main would have a circle installed. Mr. White said the feasibility study was almost ready to begin for the roundabout at that location.

Ms. Outten asked how they were working on communicating this to the community. Mr. White said every project had a specific website and they were looking to push the info out more with a social media campaign that would reach more people.

### **Administration and Council Comments**

Mayor Heath congratulated Information Services Director Bill Garrett for the grant. Anne Street Village was not traditional, permanent housing. This would give tools to the residents to get a job quicker and move through to give room to people still homeless. This was a prime example of what the project was supposed to do. He said he appreciated Mr. White's comments. Part of the City's problem was partial projects uncompleted. Under this direction, DID was tasked with not starting new projects until current projects were finished. The goals and priorities of those would be handled in order. He indicated Carroll Street was Number 1 and Waverly was Number 2, or vice-versa. They would be completed first and begin other projects in order of priority based on statistics.

Mr. Kitzrow said that Salisbury was doing what the State and Federal Governments wanted to see happen, and he looked forward to seeing the projects moved forward.

Mayor Heath also appealed for blood donations, as the area was extremely low. He thanked Field Operations on their hard work during the rain.

Ms. Outten said that she and Ms. Jackson attended the Community Prayer Vigil Peace Walk at the Wesley Temple United Methodist Church. It was a wonderful experience to see such a strong turnout. We had to keep our kids safe and continue the conversations.

Ms. Blake asked for bag ban ordinance to be reposted on the City's Facebook page. She was inundated by the public regarding the ten cents and clarified the City was not collecting money and it was not a tax. She asked that the Vision Zero plan be placed on the page as many people asked her about the traffic calming. She requested Bird Scooters be placed on the agenda for discussion and also asked those healthy enough to donate blood and become an organ donor.

Ms. Jackson said she had a very busy, exciting weekend. Her Senior Citizen Cookout was a success with over 200 seniors attending. The Prayer Vigil last evening was great but the work needed to continue. Resources and programs must be implemented for our

families and children. She was starting a program through the Salisbury Advisory Council for Youth Activities- Stand up and Speak out and was looking for a building and donations for field trips for the youth. She was planning a field trip to Killen's Pond. There would be educational trips throughout the year. Anyone wishing to donate towards the cause could call her at 410-726-8478. The land at 617 W Isabella was donated by the family of former Council member Gretchen Shockley. She wanted to know if part of that land would be used for a memorial for Ms. Shockley, who was our very first African American on City Council. The City owed her that tribute with a memorial garden and plaque in her honor. She was still waiting to hear from Field Operations.

Ms. Gregory announced the Wicomico County Health Department was hosting a food pantry drive for July through the Wicomico Partnerships for Families and Children.

Ms. Jackson said she noticed a lot of the parks were closed in the community. They have become havens for trouble. She asked the County to open them up again. She remembered playground directors were summertime school teachers. She asked the City and County to work together and open up our parks and playgrounds again.

**Adjournment / Convene in Closed Session**

With no further business to discuss, at 5:10 p.m. President Boda called for a motion to convene in Closed Session to consult with legal counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter and to consult with staff, consultants and other individuals about pending or potential litigation (an annexation) under the authority of the Maryland Open Meetings Law, Annotated Code of Maryland General Provisions Article 3-305(b)(7)(8).

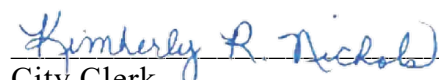
Ms. Jackson moved, Ms. Outten seconded and the vote was unanimous to convene in Closed Session. The Open Session was immediately closed.


**Adjourn Closed Session / Convene in Open Session / Adjournment**

At 5:55 p.m. Ms. Jackson moved to adjourn the Closed Session. Ms. Blake seconded, and the vote was unanimous.

Council convened at 6:00 p.m. in Open Session whereby President Boda reported that Council had met in Closed Session and received annexation updates and obtained legal advice from Counsel on pending or potential litigation.

With no further business to discuss, the Open Session was adjourned.

  
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City Clerk

  
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Council President