

CITY OF SALISBURY
BUDGET WORK SESSION

June 3, 2024

Public Officials Present

Council President D’Shawn M. Doughty
Council Vice-President Angela M. Blake
Councilmember Michele Gregory

Mayor Randolph J. Taylor
Councilmember April R. Jackson
Councilmember Sharon C. Dashiell

In Attendance

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, City Attorney Ashley Bosché, City Clerk Kim Nichols, and interested staff and members of the public

The City Council convened in Work Session at 4:30 p.m. on June 3, 2024 in Council Chambers of the Government Office Building. At 6:47 p.m. upon adjournment of the Work Session, Council convened in a Special Budget Work Meeting to discuss the FY25 Fees Schedule.

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow discussed the modified fee schedule introduced at the last Special Budget Work Session that had the proposed fee changes.

President Doughty said last time Council had questions on a few of the items – Foreclosed Property Registration fee, Residential Vacant Building Registration fee, and Developer’s fees. Mr. Kitzrow reported the Foreclosed Property Registration Fee was \$1,000 and Administration’s recommendation was to lower that to \$100. He explained the fees schedule reduction plan. The reason for the escalator several years ago was to likely create a disincentive for vacant houses. Mayor Taylor said that it was not illegal to keeping a vacant house. Ms. Bosché added that all fees had to be reasonable and related to the administrative costs of staffing. Mr. Kitzrow said the number was a lot lower three years ago.

President Doughty said it depended on our goals as a City and that determined the fee and he sometimes associated vacant with blight. We would not cite a vacant, well maintained home.

Ms. Blake said they were going to get some feedback in regards to the cost for mowing the lawns, police showing up, and the various things the City attended to. She agreed with eliminating the escalator issue but wanted to consider going back to \$200 for the vacant building registration. Mayor Taylor shared there were 54 vacant buildings in the City. With the escalator issue, if there were problems beyond that, then that was the other part of the code’s issue. Being sensitive to getting properties up to code and livable to take away the fact that we had to mow their lawns, policing, etc. She wanted to see it at \$200 with the understanding that the escalator fee was removed. Mr. Kitzrow clarified that with removing the escalator fee we would still have to identify a residential vacant building annual fee because there was the registration and there was the annual fee. They discussed the options and reached unanimous consensus to \$200 for both vacant building registrations and also foreclosure fee.

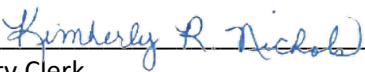
The Nonresidential Vacant Building and Non-residential Vacant Lot Registrations would remain as was without the escalators.

Mr. Kitzrow said the Non-Residential Vacant Lot Annual fee had no escalator and Council would strike it.


Council discussed the \$3000 Development Plan Review Fee with the fact that there was not enough staff for a quick turnaround. Mr. Kitzrow said the \$3,000 would get them through a regular review process to the final. The extra \$1,000 was if there were more and more reviews due to repeated changes. President Doughty thought that was where it should have two line items. The initial would get them there, but for final, if they had that level of service they would be able to charge more. Unanimous consensus was reached to charge \$2000 for the Plan Review Fee and \$1000 for subsequent submittals.

Ms. Bosché discussed how she would present the Fees Schedule for Council in the Special Meeting, which followed this Special Budget Work Session. She would read the ordinance as modified.

The Budget Work Session adjourned at 7:10 p.m. and Council President Doughty immediately called the Special Meeting to order.



City Clerk



Council President