

**CITY OF SALISBURY
WORK SESSION
AUGUST 5, 2024**

PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT

Council President D’Shawn M. Doughty, Council Vice-President Angela M. Blake, Councilwoman April R. Jackson, Councilwoman Michele R. Gregory, Councilwoman Sharon C. Dashiell, Mayor Randolph J. Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Police Chief Dave Meienschein, City Planner Amanda Rodriguez, County Councilmember Jeff Merritt, Arts, Business & Culture Director Allen Swiger, City Clerk Julie English, City Attorney Ashley Bosché and members of the public

The City Council convened in Work Session on August 5, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Government Office Building Council Chambers, Room 301, located at 125 N. Division Street. The following is a synopsis of the items discussed.

Resolution to accept 307R Delaware Avenue

Chief Meienschein presented a resolution to accept the donation of 307R Delaware Avenue from the Twilley Non-exempt Residuary Trust U/W. Accepting this donation would allow the Salisbury Police Department to close in their footprint along Burton Street. Chief explained there had been some security issues in the back lot and that closing it in would help with those issues. It was clarified that the property being donated was not suitable for housing and was more of a depression used for drainage.

Mr. Kitzrow added that the acceptance of the property would also allow the City to close off Burton Street to thru traffic if necessary.

Having no public comments, unanimous consensus was reached by Council to move the legislation forward to the next legislative agenda.

Budget amendment to appropriate funds from the recycling of scrap metal

Chief Meienschein presented a budget amendment to appropriate the funds received from scrap metal. The Salisbury Police Department gathered brass shell casings from the shooting range, where qualifying takes place, and recycled them. The funds received from the recycled brass would then get appropriated back into the ammunition account for the department.

There were no public comments. Council reached unanimous consensus to move this forward to legislative session.

Ordinance to amend Chapter 12.20 – Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Overlay District

City Planner Amanda Rodriguez presented an ordinance to amend Chapter 12.20 of the Salisbury Municipal Code to reflect changes to the Natural Resources article of the Maryland Annotated Code and to adopt a Critical Area District Map. She explained that the map previously presented to Council showed the boundary of the critical area. The map that was before them now included the delineations of the intensely and limited development areas and the resource conservation area. Also included in the packet were copies of the public hearing and the draft ordinance. The ordinance, if approved, would adopt the map, delineations and changes to the Code. Ms. Rodriguez summarized, at the request of

President Doughty, that the State previously used wetland maps from the 70s for their data and could now use GIS and field data to more accurately define the critical area boundaries for properties along the water.

There were no public comments. Council reached unanimous consensus to move the legislation forward to legislative agenda.

Presentation – Veteran Banners

Councilwoman April Jackson, County Councilman Jeff Merritt, VFW District #16 Commander Calvin Mitchell, Sr. and Arts, Business & Culture Director Allen Swiger were present to discuss the possibility of having banners hung in Salisbury to honor veterans. Ms. Jackson shared that the purpose of having the banners was to continually honor local veterans who served the nation past, present and future. She felt the banners should be hung indefinitely rather than just during a holiday or for a certain period of time.

Ms. Jackson hoped Mr. Merritt would present this idea to the County Council as well. She referenced other towns and cities where she had seen similar recognition banners for veterans. Mr. Merritt provided a banner size of 18” wide and 3’ tall when he referenced banners hung in Hebron and Fruitland. He did not recommend banners smaller than that so people could see them while driving by. He added that most of the banners were taken down after the holiday. Ms. Jackson explained that the City would not pay for the banners. The family or individual would be responsible for the cost of the banner.

Mr. Swiger explained that the City had to be sensitive to every awareness initiative. Downtown Salisbury was set up to display banners and there was a policy in the works. He added that there were only 65 spots downtown for banners. He would like to find a fair and balanced approach. There would be others with an interest in hanging banners as well. Even though there were only 65 spots downtown, other locations would be explored. Ms. Jackson responded that she would like to use the entire City for the banners and the County as well.

Councilwoman Dashiell agreed with Ms. Jackson in that the banners should stay up indefinitely. If the banners were opened up into the County it would provide a larger venue.

Mr. Kitzrow reminded everyone that there were other groups interested in having banners hung for awareness. The City needed to be sensitive to others who would ask to recognize other things. If there were “forever” locations, that would not allow others the opportunity to use those locations. Mr. Kitzrow also added that it would need to be determined who would be responsible for the upkeep of the banners as well.

Ms. Dashiell mentioned that she and Ms. Jackson discussed the option to have specific areas, Unity Square for example, designated for banners that would be displayed to provide awareness and could be changed out. She also thanked Mr. Kitzrow for pointing out the upkeep as she had not thought about that.

President Doughty asked how much time would be needed to complete the draft policy for the banners and to determine what the footprint beyond the downtown area would be. Mr. Swiger stated the fees would need to be added to the fee schedule and that he and Mr. Merritt would need to take a drive to determine possible locations. Mr. Swiger believed they could accomplish those goals in a month.

Mr. Merritt added that there were 191 names listed on the Wicomico County War Memorial whose home of record was Wicomico County. Mr. Kitzrow noted that when you make something permanent, whether to memorialize or celebrate someone, you will eventually run out of space. Whether it was a bench or a tree, you would hit a cap. He agreed that people needed to be honored and celebrated but wanted everyone to understand what would happen further along in the process.

Mr. Swiger mentioned that there could be specific poles designated for certain causes and those banners could be rotated out monthly.

Commander Calvin Mitchell, Sr. spoke in support of the banners. He stated that it had been 50 years since they had been recognized. That was when the law passed to establish Veteran's Day. The banners would be another way to show veterans that the City cared about them.

The following Public Comment was given:

The Speaker was grateful for the conversation about the banners and she did not feel enough publicity was given to the veterans. She spoke of her uncle who passed away in April. He was buried in Hurlock and as his family left the gravesite, they noticed the banners honoring veterans and it gave them a sense of honor from the Town of Hurlock after grieving the loss of their family member. She also spoke of her uncle, a Bridgeville resident, who wanted to see a banner hung in Salisbury to honor his brother who loved the City of Salisbury.

ADMINISTRATION COMMENTS

Mr. Kitzrow reminded everyone that National Night Out would be the following evening at 6:00 p.m. at the Salisbury City Park. He thanked the police department and city staff for helping make it happen and invited all to attend.

Mayor Taylor thanked the Department of Field Operations for their work following a storm. There were a lot of trees down that they had to deal with. He asked for the public's patience as they work around the City to get things cleaned up.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Dashiell thanked Sgt. Hitty for heading up the National Night Out event. She welcomed Ms. Jackson back to the meetings (in-person) and acknowledged City Clerk Julie English for her new position. Ms. Dashiell thanked Commander Mitchell and Mr. Merritt for their service. Lastly, she expressed her enjoyment in the Doverdale neighborhood during the Neighborhood Walk and thanked Rachel Manning for her work with those events.

Ms. Jackson thanked Commander Mitchell, the members of Post 10159, and Ms. Aundra Roberts for supporting the veteran banners. She thanked Mr. Merritt and Mr. Swiger for their efforts with the banners. She announced Unity Day at the VFW on the upcoming Saturday and asked all to come. Lastly, Ms. Jackson shared an upcoming event by the West Men Society. They would be holding their annual concert on August 17th at the Lake Street playground.

Ms. Dashiell invited everyone to the Slam Dunk Contest – 3 Point Shootout.

Ms. Gregory also welcomed Ms. English in her new capacity. She shared that retired City Clerk Kim Nichols had a great retirement party and wished her well. She highlighted the upcoming Business Expo for National Black Business Month at the Civic Center and encouraged businesses and the public to attend.

Ms. Blake welcomed Ms. Jackson back and also acknowledged Ms. English. She gave a special thanks to Ms. Dashiell and Ms. Gregory for assisting with Ms. Nichols farewell party. She again asked for those healthy enough to donate blood and/or plasma.

President Doughty encouraged everyone to attend National Night Out. He shared about the Business After Hours for We Are Limitless. He mentioned the Housing Action Committee meeting, Junior Fire Academy, Unity Day, and the Black Excellence Community Fund dinner and awards. He also acknowledged the 'Back to School' events and giveaways.

With no further business to discuss, the Work Session adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

MOTION TO CONVENE IN CLOSED SESSION

President Doughty called for a motion and second to convene in closed session to consult with Attorney Patel to obtain legal advice regarding and to consult with staff regarding the Wicomico County Circuit Court's recent decision in the matter of Salisbury Town Center Apartments, LLC as it relates to the city and to consult with staff, consultants, or other individuals about pending or potential litigation as authorized by the State Government Article § 3-305(b)(7) and (8).

After the public left the Council Chambers, the Closed Session began at 5:15 p.m.

City Clerk



Council President