



## **WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 7, 2024**

### **PUBLIC OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Council President D'Shawn M. Doughty, Council Vice President Angela M. Blake, Councilwoman April R. Jackson, Councilwoman Sharon C. Dashiell, Mayor Randy Taylor

### **PUBLIC OFFICIALS ABSENT**

Councilwoman Michele R. Gregory

### **STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Fire Chief Rob Frampton, Deputy Chief Chris O'Barsky, Assistant Chief of EMS Chris Truitt, Police Chief Dave Meienschein, Colonel Howard Drewer, Captain John Felts, Arts, Business & Culture Director Allen Swiger, Infrastructure and Development Director Nick Voitiuc, City Clerk Julie English, Deputy City Clerk Hannah Long, City Attorney Ashley Bosché

### **WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The City Council convened in a Work Session on October 7, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Government Office Building Council Chambers, Room 301, located at 125 N. Division Street. President Doughty started by introducing the New Deputy City Clerk, Hannah Long and asked for prayers for Councilwoman Gregory and her son who was ill. After reviewing the emergency exit instructions, President Doughty turned it over to Fire Chief Rob Frampton.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

#### **S.W.I.F.T. Presentation- Mobile Integrated Health Advisory Council**

Kat Rodgers and Chief Frampton, Co-Chairs for the Mobile Integrated Health Advisory Council, gave an explanation of what the S.W.I.F.T team was, what they do in our community. Chief Frampton explained that the team was made up of 20 individuals between the Fire Department and Tidal Health. Ms. Rodgers gave a brief background about how S.W.I.F.T. got started. She shared success stories and Chief Frampton talked about S.W.I.F.T. 2.0 and the direction they were wanting to take. The goal of the program was to decrease emergency room visits, which

would also decrease the number of EMS units having to respond to the calls. Chief Frampton reviewed accomplishments of the S.W.I.F.T team. Grant funding had been keeping the program going but those costs were being absorbed. Ms. Rodgers concluded that they would like to expand their services to include behavioral health and to gain financial sustainability.

President Doughty thanked them for highlighting what S.W.I.F.T was doing in the community and then asked what they were doing to work with the vulnerable population. Ms. Rodgers responded that they had several different connections. They have been using video and audio interpretation to fill the language barrier gap and if it was a scheduled visit, they could take an interpreter with them.

Ms. Dashiell asked if the number of patients they served had gone up and how patients of the program became “inactive”. Ms. Rodgers explained that no one was discharged from the program, only their status changed; active or inactive. Ms. Dashiell also asked if they were serving the city and the county. Chief Frampton confirmed that they served both.

Mayor Taylor asked if EMS was assessing patients on the way to the hospital to see if they actually needed hospital care or if they could be seen by S.W.I.F.T. Chief Frampton responded that the program ran Monday through Friday from 8:00am-4:30pm. Any calls outside of those hours would be taken to the hospital. If an EMS call came in during operating hours and the patient did not need hospital care, the S.W.I.F.T. team would be called in to assist them. Chief Frampton explained that the Program Coordinator reviewed records to verify whether those who were seen in the emergency room overnight had a valid reason. He also mentioned that there was a tracking mechanism in their medical reporting that flagged the Program Coordinator so he/she could follow up with the patient.

Ms. Jackson asked if they saw an increase or decrease for the need of the program. Ms. Rodgers stated that there was an increased need due to the of lack of housing and transportation, the complexity of needs including aging population and the poor population. Chief Frampton stated that the program was very successful but services were limited because of the number of staff. Ms. Rodgers concluded that she would love to see this expand to 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.

There were no public comments.

#### **Hometown Heroes Banner Update- presented by City Administrator Andy Kitzrow**

Mr. Kitzrow reported that a meeting was held with stakeholders, including representatives from the county and the city, to discuss the Hometown Hero’s project. The group was in favor of moving the project forward with Eastern Shore Drive serving as the location for the banners. A total of thirty poles would be used to display two, double-sided banners, allowing for 60 heroes to be honored. The project would begin with Eastern Shore Drive, and depending on interest, there could be an expansion in the future. Mr. Kitzrow mentioned that they were collaborating with Nicole Bozman, who was heading up the Delmar Hometown Hero’s Banner Program. The goal was to have the banners ready by Veterans Day 2024, with the banners displayed from

Memorial Day to Veterans Day each year. The city would cover the costs of installation, labor, and hardware for the poles, while individuals interested in participating would purchase their banners. All the details were still being worked out.

Ms. Jackson expressed concerns about not being involved in the process, but after a discussion with Mr. Kitzrow, it was agreed that she would be included moving forward. President Doughty commended Ms. Jackson's work with veterans and acknowledged her involvement in the project.

Public comment on this topic was as follows:

- Speaker #1 invited Council, Administration, and veterans to the Veterans Roundtable Luncheon to discuss how veterans could be better supported.

**Ordinance** to approve a budget amendment of the FY2025 General Fund Budget to appropriate funds to the Salisbury Fire Department's Operating Budget

Assistant Chief Truitt presented an ordinance requesting approval for the reallocation of \$17,000 from the sale of radios to be used for a fire pump repair.

Having no council or public comments, Council reached unanimous consensus to move this ordinance forward to Legislative Session.

**Ordinance** to approve a budget amendment of the FY25 General Fund Budget to appropriate funds received from the Blue Heron Agility Association of Delaware in the amount of \$4,000

Chief Meienschein, along with the Command staff, presented an ordinance to Council requesting approval to accept funds to purchase Hot-N-Pop devices for the K9 vehicles.

There were no council or public comments. Council reached unanimous consensus to move this forward to Legislative Session.

**Ordinance** to amend chapter 10.04.040, entitles "Enforcement Officers", of the Salisbury City Code to clarify which city personnel are authorized to act as enforcement officers

Chief Meienschein and his Command staff presented an ordinance to Council requesting approval to amend the city code. The amendment would allow designated staff, outside of the police department, to enforce parking regulations.

President Doughty asked if training would be provided to the additional staff. Colonel Drewer confirmed that training had been scheduled. He added that they would could enforce anything other than the parking metered spots. After being asked to come forward, Chief Frampton echoed what had already been stated.

Having no public comments, Council reached unanimous consensus to move the legislation forward to Legislative Session.

**Ordinance** to add new fees for FY2025 and thereafter unless and until subsequently revised or changed

An ordinance was introduced to Council by Mr. Swiger, requesting approval to transfer the responsibility of collecting fees from the Zoo Commission to the Zoo. Additionally, Mr. Voitiuc shared new fees related to the Comprehensive Plan process and stormwater reviews.

Council prompted a discussion on the uses of Unity Square and whether additional fees should be implemented. Mr. Swiger explained that there were processes in place for the other parks, however Unity Square was too new to have one yet. It was suggested that further discussion and evaluation of the current schedule take place in a year.

There were no public comments. Council reached unanimous consensus to move this forward to Legislative Session.

**Ordinance** to approve a budget amendment of the FY2025 General Fund Budget and Parking Fund Budget and authorizing the Mayor to amend the authorized positions included in the FY25 General Fund Budget and Parking Fund Budget

Mr. Kitzrow presented the above ordinance, requesting Council's approval to modify 16 positions across several departments within the city.

Having no council or public comments, Council reached a unanimous consensus to move this forward to Legislative Session.

### **ADMINISTRATION UPDATES/COMMENTS**

Mr. Kitzrow acknowledged events happening at the Zoo for Halloween. He added that October was the busiest month for the Arts, Business, and Culture team. He gave a shout out to all the city staff members and volunteers that made the Maryland Folk Festival a success.

Mayor Taylor let everyone know about the Beer Festival happening at Pemberton Park.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

In light of the littering issue, Ms. Blake proposed that the city partner with other agencies or do a citywide cleanup day. As always, she encouraged donating blood and plasma, in addition to becoming an organ donor.

Ms. Jackson requested the statistics of who was being hired in the city. She wanted the number of people of color applying for jobs within the city and why they were not getting the jobs. She

then thanked the VFW and American Legion for coming out and supporting the Hometown Heroes Project. She invited everyone to come out to the VFW's trunk or treat.


Ms. Dashiell gave credit to the utilities crew that came out so quickly to repair the sinkhole on College Ave. She requested more info on TIF's. She also encouraged everyone to get a flu shot.

President Doughty began with an incident that occurred in Salisbury involving police officers. He emphasized that conversations were happening and he thanked everyone for holding the city accountable. He highlighted that it was National Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National ADHD Awareness Month, National Down Syndrome Awareness Month, National Physical Therapy Awareness Month, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Awareness Month, and that National Depression Screening Day was October 7<sup>th</sup> and October 10<sup>th</sup> was World Mental Health Day.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to discuss, the Work Session adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

  
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City Clerk

  
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Council President