



## **WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES FEBRUARY 24, 2025**

### **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 Randy Taylor

### **STAFF IN ATTENDANCE**

Associate Planner Zack White, Department of Infrastructure and Development Director Nick Voitiuc, Fire Chief Rob Frampton, Deputy Chief Chris O'Barsky, Assistant Chief Chris Truitt, City Clerk Julie English, City Attorney Ashley Bosché

### **WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The City Council convened in a Work Session on February 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Government Office Building Council Chambers, Room 301, located at 125 N. Division Street. After reviewing the emergency exit instructions, President Doughty asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**INVOCATION** - Rev. Dr. Larry Dunlap – Cross Pointe Church of the Nazarene

**Ordinance** – to accept funds received from the Chesapeake Bay Trust in the amount of \$148,267, as awarded to plant 834 trees

Mr. White explained that the City of Salisbury received approval for funding from the Chesapeake Bay Trust in August 2024. As part of that agreement, the Trust awarded \$148,267 to support the City's 2025–2027 Terrascaping Action Plan. He noted that the agreement required the planting of 834 native trees, registering each tree, and submitting progress reports throughout the project timeline.

President Doughty asked if Mr. White had identified potential planting locations. Mr. White responded that he had been determining suitable sites in coordination with the Department of Natural Resources and the Field Operations team. He also noted that he was seeking input from the public and hoped to recruit volunteers to assist with the planting efforts.

Ms. Dashiell mentioned the idea of asking the Salisbury University Athletic department to assist when the time came. Ms. Jackson agreed that the community should be involved. Ms. Blake suggested to have a booth at 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday to recruit volunteers and involve the community.

After the discussion, Council reached unanimous consensus to move this forward to Legislative Session.

**Budget Amendment** – of the FY2025 General Fund Budget to appropriate funds to the Salisbury Fire Department’s Operating Budget

Deputy Chief O’Barsky explained that Chief Frampton had been involved in an accident through no fault of his own. The approved legislation would move the funds from the insurance company from the general fund budget back into the departments account.

Having no Council comments, Council reached unanimous consensus to move this forward to Legislative Session.

**Budget Amendment** – authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Maryland Department of Health for the purpose of accepting grant funds in the amount of \$29,625, and to approve a budget amendment to the grant fund to appropriate these funds for the Salisbury Fire Department

Assistant Chief Truitt explained that the grant, provided through the Maryland Department of Health, would cover the cost of 120 cancer testing kits, including shipping.

President Doughty requested a future update with statistics and test results. Ms. Dashiell inquired whether everyone would have the opportunity to be tested. Assistant Chief Truitt responded that participation varied, with some individuals opting to be tested every other year or every three years.

Having no further Council comments, Council reached unanimous consensus to proceed with the budget amendment.

**Budget Amendment** – of the FY2025 General Fund Budget to appropriate funds to the Salisbury Fire Department’s Operating Budget

Chief Frampton requested \$47,000 from surplus of additional funds to ensure that the long overdue parking lot project at Station 1 would be completed.

Having no Council comments, Council reached unanimous consensus to move this forward to Legislative Session.

**Ordinance** – amending Chapter 2.16.020 (H) and (G) of the Salisbury City Code to grant the fire chief the authority to designate who of the career deputies shall be the second and third in command in the department and who shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the fire chief in the event that fire chief was unable to fulfill his or her duties and responsibilities due to illness, incapacity, or absence.

Chief Frampton explained that this change would give the Fire Chief the flexibility to designate either Deputy Chief for certain responsibilities, rather than defaulting to the Deputy Chief of Administration. He noted that this approach made sense given how individuals moved into those roles and the varying levels of seniority.

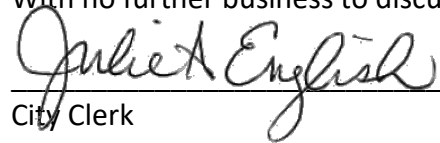
Having no Council comments, Council reached unanimous consensus to move this forward.


**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Speaker #1 expressed that the planting of trees was a great idea but was concerned by the amount and where they were going to be placed.
- Speaker #2 suggested students get community service hours for planting the trees and to take into account the areas that were about to be built upon.

**ADJOURNMENT/CONVENE IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

With no further business to discuss, the Work Session adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

  
City Clerk

  
Council President