



WORK SESSION MEETING MINUTES OCTOBER 21, 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 Randy Taylor

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow, Fire Chief Rob Frampton, Arts, Business & Culture Director Allen Swiger, Infrastructure and Development Director Nick Voitiuc, Housing and Community Development Director Muir Boda, City Clerk Julie English, City Attorney Ashley Bosché

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The City Council convened in a Work Session on October 21, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. in the Government Office Building Council Chambers, Room 301, located at 125 N. Division Street. President Doughty began by stating they would convene in a special legislative session immediately following the work session and reminded everyone that the meeting for Monday, October 28th was canceled. He acknowledged that there was a full council this week.

After reviewing the emergency exit instructions, President Doughty invited Fire Chief Rob Frampton for a statistical Fire Department review.

PRESENTATIONS

3rd Quarter Statistical Fire Department Review

Chief Frampton reported that the department had experienced an increase in calls, which resulted in less downtime for their providers. He highlighted the department's success in cardiac arrest survival rates and the administration of 199 doses of Narcan. Additionally, Chief Frampton shared that there had been 70 opioid-related calls in 2024 so far. He discussed the significant workload faced by the Fire Marshal's office. The office completed 120 building reviews, conducted 586 inspections, and collected \$432,000 in revenue thus far. Chief

Frampton emphasized the ongoing efforts to update its mission statement, which had not been revised since 2000. He reminded council that Fire Prevention Month occurred in October but fire safety should be practiced year-round. In response to a question from President Doughty about the potential timeframe for hiring additional staff, Chief Frampton indicated that there was no immediate need.

Mr. Kitzrow added that any future hiring would likely involve staffing an entire shift rather than just a few individuals.

Ms. Jackson inquired whether the 70 opioid-related calls had all been overdoses, to which Chief Frampton clarified that they varied in nature. She then asked if the number had increased compared to last year, and he confirmed that it had. Ms. Gregory asked whether the GIS community risk assessment tool would allow families to look up response times for their areas, and Chief Frampton assured her it would. Ms. Blake raised the topic of the Fire Service Agreement. Chief Frampton responded that ongoing meetings were taking place and that progress was being made in a positive direction.

Mayor Taylor then asked for Chief Frampton's thoughts on reducing calls to nursing homes. Chief Frampton acknowledged the impact of the S.W.I.F.T. team's outreach but suggested that it would be difficult to significantly reduce those calls. Finally, Mayor Taylor asked whether the long-term vision for addressing opioid-related calls involved collaboration with the recovery agency. Chief Frampton affirmed this vision, noting that partnerships with entities like the police department and the Recovery Resource Center would help provide individuals with the care and resources they needed to regain employment and housing, while also allowing the department to track their progress.

Here is Home Presentation

City Administrator Andy Kitzrow began by providing an overview of the *Here Is Home* incentive program, highlighting the three main programs within it with the Housing Expansion Incentive Program being the largest. He explained that a new tax credit for properties under renovation was expected to stimulate neighborhood housing development. Since the program's inception, 67 projects had been initiated, encompassing 8,100 units, including apartments and assisted living facilities, with a total construction value of \$1.4 billion. Additionally, the program had generated an annual property tax assessment of \$11.7 million, with higher initial costs but promised long-term returns. The active pipeline included 29 projects with 4,200 units, valued at \$617 million in construction, and a projected annual tax revenue of \$5 million.

Ms. Dashiell inquired about the number of projects in the pipeline, the associated deadlines, and whether affordable housing was included in these incentives. Mr. Kitzrow clarified that the projects in the pipeline had submitted applications and continued to show interest in the program. He noted that the deadlines for these projects depended on the type of units being constructed. He also indicated that further discussion would be necessary to determine whether these deadlines needed to be extended. President Doughty clarified that Mr. Kitzrow was presenting the original *Here Is Home* program from 2020-2021, at a time when affordable

housing was not part of the conversation. Mr. Kitzrow responded by noting that there was potential to incentivize affordable housing for redevelopment if the program continued.

Finally, President Doughty asked for Mayor Taylor's thoughts on the *Here Is Home* program and its future. Mayor Taylor expressed concerns about the slow pace of housing construction, particularly with larger builders controlling the supply. He highlighted that demand for housing remained high, yet available options were both limited and expensive. He concluded by emphasizing the need for increased production of both rental and for-purchase units to better meet the demand.

Ordinance amending Title 8 of the Salisbury City Code, entitled "Health and Safety," to allow for electronic communication as an option for warning letters for municipal code violation notices

Mr. Boda explained that this ordinance would provide a more efficient process in how the city communicates their corrective action letters to property owners within the city.

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

Ordinance approving an amendment of the City's budget to accept and appropriate donated funds from the Salisbury Zoo Commission, Inc. for the completion of the Andean Bear Exhibit Design Phase

Mr. Swiger stated that the donation of \$54,000 from the Zoo commission would allow them to complete the design phase of the Andean Bear Exhibit and would allow them to move forward with other real capital campaigns.

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

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

Mr. Voitiuc presented the adoption of the full finalized version of the critical area map. He stated that this was presented to council in February but the maps were lacking detail on specific zones. The maps had been updated and reviewed by the Planning Commission.

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

ADJOURNMENT/ CONVENE IN SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE SESSION

With no further business to discuss, the Work Session adjourned at 5:09 p.m.


City Clerk


Council President