

Salisbury, North Carolina
November 17, 2020

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Karen K. Alexander, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Al Heggins, Council Members William Brian Miller, David Post and Tamara Sheffield; City Manager W. Lane Bailey, City Clerk Kelly Baker; and City Attorney J. Graham Corriher.

ABSENT: None.

In response to the State of Emergency declaration related to the spread of COVID-19 and to limit physical interactions and the potential spread of COVID-19 the Salisbury City Council met electronically. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alexander at 6:00 p.m. A moment of silence was taken.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Alexander led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

RECOGNITION OF VIEWERS

Mayor Alexander welcomed all viewers.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Alexander noted the following changes to the Agenda;

Add – Resolution of Support for the Rowan County Board of Commissioner's Resolution as Agenda Item 13a.

Remove – Consent Agenda Item 6h.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt the Agenda with presented changes. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Alexander proclaimed the following observances:

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS
AWARENESS MONTH

November 2020

November 20-December 20, 2020

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the Regular meeting of November 3, 2020, the Recessed meeting of November 5, 2020, and the Special meeting of November 9, 2020.

(b) Recognition- Officer Christopher Schenk

Award Officer Christopher Schenk his sidearm and badge in recognition of his retirement from the Salisbury Police Department November 1, 2020.

(c) Right-of-Way Use Permit– South Lee and East Innes Streets

Approve a Right-of-Way Use Permit for the travel lane in the 100 block of South Lee Street and the parking lane in the 200 East Innes Street for intermittent single closures from November 18, 2020 through December 6, 2020 and for closures of both of the rights-of-way beginning December 7, 2020 and ending January 17, 2021 for construction at 201 East Innes Street.

(d) Resolution – Intent to close a portion of an alley on West Cemetery Street

Adopt a Resolution declaring City Council's intent to close a portion of an alley located in the 800 block of West Cemetery Street and set a public hearing for January 5, 2020.

RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED CLOSING OF A PORTION OF AN ALLEY IN THE 800 BLOCK OF WEST CEMETERY STREET.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 44, and is known as Resolution 2020-28.)

(e) Sale of Property – Parcel 025-013

Authorize the sale of Parcel 025-013 located in the 1000 block of Barbour Street for the amount of \$1,200 subject to concurrence by the Rowan County Board of Commissioners.

(f) Ordinance Amendment- Speed Reduction on Old Plank Road

Adopt an Ordinance amending Section 13-336 of the City Code to reduce the speed limit on Old Plank Road to 25 mph.

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE X, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, RELATING TO SPEED LIMITS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 79, and is known as Ordinance 2020-51.)

(g) Ordinance Amendment- Speed Reduction in The Gables Subdivision

Adopt an Ordinance amending Section 13-336 of the City Code to reduce the speed limit on all streets in The Gables subdivision to 25 mph.

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE X, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, RELATING TO SPEED LIMITS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 80, and is known as Ordinance 2020-52.)

(h) Ordinance Amendment- Designate a portion of West Henderson Street as one-way

Adopt an Ordinance amending Section 13-329 of the City Code to designate a portion of West Henderson Street, located between Confederate Avenue to a point 130 feet east of Mocksville Avenue, as a one-way street.

Item (h) was removed from the Consent Agenda to be added to the Agenda of a future City Council Meeting.

(i) Budget Ordinance Amendment- Brownfields Grant

Adopt an Ordinance amending the FY2020-2021 budget in the amount of \$500,000 to appropriate a Brownfields Grant for the environmental cleanup of the former Kesler Mill site.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020-2021 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE BROWNFIELDS GRANT.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 81, and is known as Ordinance 2020-53.)

(j) Budget Ordinance Amendment- Stormwater Fund Balance

Adopt an Ordinance amending the FY2020-2021 budget in the amount of \$177,390 to appropriate Stormwater Fund Balance and authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with Kemp Sigmon Construction Co, Inc. for a unit based contract for an engineering calculated cost of \$533,858.50 for construction of the McCoy Road Culvert Replacement. \$356,459 was included in the budget for the project, and the appropriation from Stormwater Fund Balance is needed to complete it.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020-2021 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE FUND BALANCE IN STORMWATER FUND FOR MCCOY ROAD.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 82, and is known as Ordinance 2020-54.)

(k) Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan

Approve the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan which has been reviewed and included in the North Carolina Department of Transportation Integrated Mobility Division statewide plan.

(l) Contract- Charles R. Underwood, Inc.

Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Charles R. Underwood, Inc. in the amount of \$109,782 for construction of the Coley Road Sanitary Sewer Lift Station upgrades. This project is included in the adopted FY2020-2021 budget.

(m) Contract- SEPI

Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with SEPI in the amount of \$89,303.24 for construction inspection for Project EB-5619A, the Grants Creek low water pedestrian bridge connecting Meadowbrook to the north side of the creek at Catawba College.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda with presented changes. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

There being no one to address Council, Mayor Alexander closed the public comment session.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL PERFORMANCE AND EVALUATION REPORT (CAPER)

Housing Planner Candace Edwards reviewed the Community Development Block Grant Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report. She stated five goals were created by the Consolidated Plan that was adopted last year along with the Annual Action Plan. She noted the annual budget for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) allocation was \$320,017, and the department has spent approximately \$216,000.

Ms. Edwards indicated one of the goals was to increase affordable housing or rehabilitate existing units for this purpose. She stated the objective was to complete four units of homeownership rehabilitation. She explained the goal was not met due to the COVID 19 pandemic. She added two rehabilitations were completed by the Salisbury Community Development Corporation (CDC) who is currently working on three additional projects that are expected to be completed in FY2020-2021. She noted some of the work completed involved roof replacement or repair, water damage repair, HVAC system repair, and plumbing and electrical systems were brought up to code. She added improvements for handicap accessibility were also completed.

Ms. Edwards stated the second goal for the year was to improve public facilities. She indicated the objective was to receive 25 beneficiary households through improvements of public infrastructure in the West End neighborhood. She noted the objective was met in FY2019-2020 with the construction of the West Monroe Street Sidewalk Project. She explained a new sidewalk connection was constructed to connect Grim Street to Brenner Avenue. She added the Sidewalk Project spans four blocks and provides a safe place for pedestrians to walk.

Ms. Edwards noted the third goal was to improve public services. She stated the objective was to increase funding for public service agencies and to connect 150 low-income persons with non-housing public service benefits, and assist with homelessness prevention. She indicated the goal was met by four different community service agencies. She pointed out the Gateway Freedom Service Center served 45 clients with transitional housing and recovery programs for homelessness. She added the center also assisted incarcerated individuals with children and families with substance abuse issues. She indicated the Community Care Clinic served 1,401 uninsured residents in Rowan County whose incomes are below 200% of the federal poverty level. She added the residents received free medical care, dental care, and prescription medications. She explained Rowan Helping Ministries served 286 clients over a two-month span from funding provided to cover wages for staff. She added clients were provided emergency shelters, meals, clothing, and other supportive services. She indicated the Family Crisis Council served 74 victims

of domestic violence and provided clients with emergency shelter, meals, clothing, transportation, legal aid, and other support services. She noted the summer Youth Employment Program was not offered due to the pandemic.

Ms. Edwards stated the third goal was fair housing. She indicated the objective was to begin the implementation of the Fair Housing Action Plan and despite the pandemic, several tasks were accomplished outside of the action plan goals. She noted the fair housing summit that was planned in April was canceled due to COVID-19 but the Human Relations Manager and the Human Relations Council hosted an educational training session with the North Carolina Human Relations Commission. She added a topic of focus was the lack of a formalized structure within the local fair housing system. She indicated several departments within and outside of the City were able to meet and plan for next year's Action Plan and make plans to host a regional fair housing summit in the spring of 2021.

Ms. Edwards pointed out the fourth goal was planning and administration. She stated the objective to implement a well-managed community development program was met. She indicated the department was able to hire a housing planner and update the program guidelines for owner occupied rehabilitations and down payment assistance programs. She added the program updates included reviewing outdated recipient contracts. She explained updating contracts will allow the program to better align with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) regulations, maintain accurate project files with the CDC, and allow for the timely expenditure of funds to complete projects.

b) Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding the CDBG Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER).

There being no one to address Council, Mayor Alexander closed the public hearing and indicated the public will be able to provide comments on the CDBG CAPER until December 17, 2020. She added comments can be sent to Housing Planner Candace Edwards at Candace.edwards@salisburync.gov

Ms. Edwards indicated information regarding the CDBG CAPER can be found on the City's website along with her contact information.

UPDATE- FORWARD 2040 STEERING COMMITTEE

Planning Director Hannah Jacobson introduced Steering Committee Co-Chairs Dee Dee Wright and Sue McHugh. Ms. McHugh stated it took the committee longer than expected to accomplish project goals due to staff changes. She indicated despite difficulty coordinating meetings the committee has worked hard to make headway.

Ms. Jacobson stated the process has been trying but she remains optimistic and proud of the committee's hard work. She indicated in February 2020 Council was given an update on the Forward 2040 Plan, and Senior Planner Catherine Garner is prepared to provide Council an update on projects that have been completed and future plans.

Ms. Garner pointed out the committee held 23 meetings in early 2020. She added five of the meetings were pop-up meetings hosted by Ms. Jacobson and herself with assistance from Steering Committee members who hosted five meetings with neighborhood groups. She indicated staff attended City Boards and Commission meetings to gain feedback from the public. She added the department formatted surveys to be completed online and received 66 responses. She stated there were approximately 285 participants over all platforms both online and in person. She added participation was cut short by COVID-19 which affected participation in surveys and meetings, but staff received a fair amount of responses.

Ms. Garner indicated the first survey distributed requested big ideas from the public. She explained the survey included three blue dots and three yellow dots that were used to rank ideas according to importance. She added many citizens found the task challenging and believed all ideas are important. She added the public was able to provide responses for projects that were less important and included tasks that are currently being performed well within the City. She noted survey results regarding the most important item was economic sustainability followed by a vibrant community life. She added there were many less important items listed as tasks the City is handling well.

Ms. Garner stated another survey exercise allowed participants to designate areas based on the level of change the area could sustain. She explained the objective was to get an idea of citizen appetite for change around the community and to identify areas they would like to see developed or redeveloped. She indicated Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Manager Levi Coldiron used the information from the survey data to create a map ranking neighborhoods in order of how they scored on the percentage of change scale and the appetite for change scale. She pointed out the vast majority of neighborhoods were categorized as Revive and indicated the want for medium levels of change followed by neighborhoods that tied between Revive and Revolutionize. She added there were also areas categorized as Revolutionize and indicated the want for large levels of change and areas that citizens identified as needing very little change or to stay the same.

Ms. Jacobson pointed out members of the Steering Committee and staff were able to use the information from community engagement efforts to draft ten vision statements that are centered on different themes. She stated one theme is to have a resilient and diverse economy which is a high priority item for the community. She noted other themes for vision statements involved thriving neighborhoods, equitable and inclusive community, clean and natural environment, unique and dynamic downtown, high quality built environment, local and regional partnerships, responsibly managed growth, healthy and active community, and vibrant community atmosphere. She added during the next community engagement in 2021 staff will focus on each of the vision statements and provide the public with a mixture of online and in-person opportunities to participate.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked why the need for safe spaces to walk and cycle was not high on the priority list. Ms. Garner stated citizens ranked the need low but the planning industry recognizes that having safe spaces to walk and cycle is an important aspect that attracts people to a community.

Mayor Alexander stated the items that the City are functioning well in is probably ranked low on the list because there is no need to change things or small improvements are needed. Councilmember Post agreed.

Councilmember Sheffield asked how the next community engagement project will relate to the vision statements. Ms. Jacobson stated there will be focus group conversations regarding each vision statement topic. She added a plan will be developed that will create a pathway to achieve the visions. She mentioned vision statement themes will also be used to create policy statements.

Mayor Alexander thanked staff and members of the Steering Committee for their commitment to the project.

RECESS

By consensus, Council agreed to take a five-minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 6:50 p.m.

FY2019-2020 WEST END HOUSING REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Salisbury Community Development Corporation Director Chanaka Yatawara stated the West End Housing Rehabilitation program started approximately two years ago. He explained the goal of the program was to revitalize single-family housing in the neighborhood and included owner occupied and rental property. He indicated the organization planned to use \$20,000 toward revitalizing owner occupied rehabilitations that will be forgiven over five years at 20% each year. He stated the only reason an owner will be required to pay the money back is if the home is sold prior to the five years. He explained assistance provided to rental property was designed where the City of Salisbury provided \$10,000 in funding and the landlord contributed 25%, or \$2,500. He added the total amount of assistance was \$12,500 and will be forgiven at the same rate as owner occupied rehabilitations. He indicated as a requirement for assistance the owners had to rent the homes to low to moderate income tenants.

Mr. Yatawara indicated most homes were in need of repairs to the roof, gutters, windows, siding, decks, and porches. He added repairs were also done to foundations, walkways, and driveways of the homes. He noted \$612,538 was used to revitalize 33 homes over the last two and one-half years. He mentioned the homes were located throughout the neighborhood. He presented photographs of some of the homes that were revitalized and reviewed the type of repairs that were done. He added some of the homes had been boarded up for years and were revitalized and sold. He stated the neighborhood has improved since the start of the rehabilitation program.

Councilmember Miller asked if funding for the program has been exhausted. He stated it would be ideal if the City could spark the interest of the free market and have other individuals or organizations come in and complete rehabilitation projects.

Ms. Jacobson pointed out there is money left and the program will be transitioning to the Park Avenue neighborhood as a complement to the Kesler Mill site cleanup scheduled for next year. She added letters have been mailed to property owners in the Kesler Mill area to inform them of the opportunities that will be available.

Councilmember Miller stated he would like to see the program continue because there are many aging homes in the City. He recommended staff continue to locate funding sources for the program and to encourage investment in aging property.

SALISBURY PAUL BRUHN GRANT PROGRAM SELECTION CRITERIA

Senior Planner Catherine Garner explained the Paul Bruhn Grant program is a grant that was received from the National Park Service and funded through the Historic Preservation Fund with money received from offshore drilling licenses. She added Park Services distribute the specialty re-licensing funds across the nation for a variety of projects. She indicated the Paul Bruhn Historic Revitalization Grant is a competitive grant for rural communities under 50,000 in population. She stated this year the City was one of eight entities selected to receive the funds and the only municipality selected. She explained the total award was received was \$543,185 which equaled the requested amount. She added the total that has to be put forth for rehabilitations is \$500,000 of the Park Service funds. She noted Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) plans to contribute funds for fire lines and fire loop extensions from an existing grant.

Ms. Garner stated the goal of the funding is to assist in substantial structural and facade rehabilitation of commercial properties in the Salisbury Historic District. She explained the focus will be on projects such as roof repair and replacement, structural repairs, window and door restoration, and fire safety improvements that will protect the downtown area. She indicated a substantial rehabilitation as proposed in this grant application is a minimum of a \$100,000 investment in the property. She added she is proposing that the City provide a 25:75 match to provide additional incentives to complete projects.

Ms. Garner indicated many of the eligible applicants would be public entities. She stated eligible properties will be contributing commercial structures in the Salisbury Historic District. She pointed out targeted areas will be in the Salisbury Historic District which encompasses the West square local district that is primarily residential and the downtown local district which is a commercial district.

Ms. Garner stated a website has been created for the grant to distribute information regarding the grant and mailings have also been sent to properties within target areas informing residents of the opportunity.

Ms. Garner indicated the application for the grant will be judged competitively by a selection committee that will consist of the Chair of the Historic Preservation Committee, the Chair of the Community Appearance Commission, the Chair of the Downtown Salisbury Inc. (DSI) Economic Vitality Commission, the Chair of the DSI Design Committee, and the City's Chief Financial Officer. She explained she is proposing that the application for the grant be a two part

process. She added the first part would be a preliminary application to ensure the property has met the eligibility criteria and project goals. She pointed out buildings have to be contributing structures as a requirement of the grant. She added the Park Service, the State Historic Preservation Office, and staff recognize that the National Register Nomination is dated and a preliminary application is necessary to evaluate whether a building would be found to be contributing or non-contributing to the district. She explained the second part of the application would contain detailed project information which will be scored by the Selection Committee.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked if members of the Selection Committee will be consistent throughout the selection process and if there is a change if the former Chair would remain on the Selection Committee. Ms. Garner stated if a Chair was to transition they can work with the new Chair to decide who will be on the committee. She indicated the selection process will not be a long process and will take place in the spring.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins stated the decision to have Chairs of various organizations serve as members of the selection committee was a great one but she is concerned about diversity. She asked for the race and gender of selection committee members. Ms. Garner stated there are two female members and all members are Caucasian. She indicated the members were chosen because they are part of Boards and Commissions that are involved in downtown revitalization and historic preservation.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins suggested having proposed Chairs appoint someone from their Committee or Board to the selection committee who will bring diversity to the group. Ms. Garner stated she will have a conversation with Park Services and provide feedback to Council once it is verified that changes can be made.

Ms. Garner noted applications will be given points based on several factors to accomplish the goal of the grant which is to stimulate economic development in rural communities. She added one criteria is a property's proximity to the new Bell Tower Green Park which will earn the application more points than a property that is farther away. She pointed out a project will also receive points based on the number of total units that are being rehabilitated. She explained the rate of points will be one point per residential unit and two points per commercial unit. She mentioned the age of the building will also be factored into the point system. She stated construction in the 1700's will earn three points, 1800's will receive two points, and construction after 1900 will be given one point. She indicated five points will be given for fire line construction and additions.

Ms. Garner stated the selection criteria and points that have been assigned to each factor are subject to change based on recommendations from Council.

Council discussed the point distribution for a property's proximity to the park, residential and commercial units, age, and fire loops.

Ms. Garner indicated the grant was created to preserve historic architecture and the department would like to incentivize each architectural element that is preserved. She stated she is proposing a one point per element system. She added applicants will need to define exactly what

they are preserving and document the items in the grant application process. She pointed out additional points will be given to applications for the creation of affordable housing. She indicated she is proposing five points be awarded for every unit of housing that is rented to a household earning 80% or less of the area median income for an eight-year period. She added the committee would require building owners submit documentation and verification yearly to City staff for monitoring. She noted if an applicant has a contract with a minority-owned or a woman-owned business they will be given five points. She stated there is also a provision for additional points that will balance cost matching. She explained if someone wanted to contribute 90% and only needed a 10% match from the City the points would be adjusted accordingly based on every 10% additionally the applicant would be providing.

Ms. Garner stated once applicants are selected, awarded, and have completed the permitting process both locally and through the Park Service, the grant will be a reimbursement grant. She added the reimbursement will be processed based on successful inspections, completion, and provision of receipts and invoices. She indicated a unique aspect of the grant compared to the Downtown Revitalization grant is that Park Service requires any property that is receiving historic preservation funding to be placed in an easement. She explained the number of easement years is based on the total federal investment which is included in the grant application information. She added for the amount of money that will be provided the easement will be approximately 15-20 years. She stated the proposal for the easement holder is the State Historic Preservation Office which is often used for Historic Preservation Fund grants.

Ms. Garner mentioned the City was awarded the grant in 2020 and it will expire in 2023. She indicated there is a short amount of time to complete the tasks necessary and maximize the amount of time to complete the projects. She stated the department is proposing that Part A applications be due by the end of the year with applicants being notified on a rolling basis as to whether or not they are invited to complete Part B. She added based on Park Service requirements Part B applications will be due by the middle of February 2021. She added projects will be selected and applicants will be notified before spring 2021. She stated construction is anticipated to begin in late summer 2021 which will provide several months for permitting, tax credit review, and a federal review.

Councilmember Sheffield asked if a federal review could eliminate an application once it has been selected based on the proposed criteria. Ms. Garner stated a federal review will focus on federal requirements. She explained one requirement is the building must contribute to the district which will be determined in Part A applications. She added other reviews for the federal government would ensure there are no adverse impacts. She indicated the department does not anticipate any issues as long as all requirements are met.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked if information regarding the applications has been advertised. Ms. Garner stated notices have been distributed notifying individuals of the upcoming opportunity, but applications are not being accepted at this time. She added once the selection criteria is adopted by Council the applications will be advertised and sent out.

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to adopt the selection criteria presented for the Salisbury Paul Bruhn Grant program with the addition of minority participation in the

selection process. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

BUDGET ORDINANCE- BELL TOWER GREEN PARK PROPERTY

Parks and Recreation Department Director Nick Aceves stated the Bell Tower Green Park is being built downtown and is projected to open April 2021. He explained the \$700,000 that the City and the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund Grant (PARTF) are contributing will go towards construction costs and is accounted for in the project budget. He added money received for the sale of the property will be returned to the property for expenses.

He stated the department is seeking \$700,000 to provide Belltower Green Inc. with an initial payment. He explained once the park is complete and has met the stipulations, it will be inspected by staff from Recreational Resource Services of North Carolina State University. He added after a successful inspection the final \$350,000 payment will be made to purchase the property. He indicated after the purchase of the park invoices will be submitted to the State for reimbursement of the \$350,000 for the grant that was awarded in 2018.

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending the FY2020-2021 Budget Ordinance of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina to appropriate Fund Balance in General Fund for Bell Tower Green Park. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020-2021 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE FUND BALANCE IN GENERAL FUND FOR BELL TOWER GREEN PARK.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 83, and is known as Ordinance 2020-55.)

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

(a) Resolution Supporting Action of the Rowan County Board of Commissioners

Mayor Alexander read a Resolution Supporting Action of the Rowan County Board of Commissioners which urged citizens to practice the safety measures recommended by public health professionals and to take action to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to protect themselves, loved ones, and the community.

Thereupon, Councilmember Sheffield made a **motion** to adopt the Resolution Supporting Action of the Rowan County Board of Commissioners. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander

voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ACTION OF THE ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 45, and is known as Resolution 2020-29.)

(b) City Attorney's Report

City Attorney Graham Corriher had nothing to report to Council.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Lane Bailey stated he would like to recognize the Public Works Department, Fire Department, and Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) for great service over the past several days. He indicated City Staff has assisted with water rescues and helped those in need during the floods that have occurred. He thanked City Staff who assisted in the effort.

Mr. Bailey noted there is one Council meeting in December and requested a work session to update Council on the Downtown Master Plan at 5:00 p.m. before the next Council meeting on December 1, 2020.

Council discussed the timeframe, and by consensus stated its preference to include the item on the regular agenda if possible.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sheffield congratulated Officer Christopher Schenk on his retirement from the Salisbury Police Department.

Councilmember Sheffield thanked the Rowan County Commissioners for making a statement regarding COVID and for recommending citizens follow health care guidelines. She indicated the statement shows a standard of solidarity. She encouraged other municipalities to adopt similar measures.

Councilmember Sheffield stated she appreciates the recognition of Transgender Day of Remembrance. She thanked Council for working toward equality and for taking a moment to recognize an invisible group that is often targeted for violence and hate.

Councilmember Miller wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilmember Post thanked City staff who assisted with water rescues and helped those in need during the floods. He indicated citizens are often unaware of problems within the City because staff perform their job well.

Councilmember Post stated he would like to recognize Mr. Paul Fisher who passed away recently. He stated because of Mr. Fisher's contributions to the community, he would like Council to consider naming part of a street surrounding the Bell Tower Green Park in his honor.

MAYOR PRO TEM COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins agreed with Councilmember Post regarding honoring Mr. Paul Fisher.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins stated she is excited about the work being done in and around the City to ensure the citizens are being served well. She thanked City Staff for its hard work and wished everyone a happy holiday.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

Mayor Alexander announced the following events:

(a) **Kesler Mill Brownfield Cleanup Project**

Mayor Alexander announced the Community Planning Services Department will host a virtual kick-off meeting Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. for neighbors and interested parties to learn more about the Kesler Mill Brownfield Cleanup Project. The virtual meeting will be held via Zoom and a link to register for the meeting can be found on the project website at www.salisburync.gov/KeslerMill. Residents are encouraged to attend to learn more about the timeline for cleanup, ask questions, and provide feedback. A recording of the meeting will be posted to the website, along with additional videos and frequently asked questions.

(b) **Holiday Night Out**

Mayor Alexander announced the Downtown Development Department and Downtown Salisbury Inc. will host a Holiday Night Out on Friday, November the 27th, 2020 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Downtown shops and restaurants will stay open late to offer the best options for the perfect holiday gift. Participants are encouraged to wear a face mask, wait six feet apart, and wash their hands. For more information contact Latoya Price at (704) 637-7814 or latoya.price@salisburync.gov.

(c) **Small Business Saturday**

Mayor Alexander announced the Downtown Development Department and Downtown Salisbury Inc. will host Small Business Saturday on November 28, 2020. Everyone is encouraged

to support your neighbors by shopping in-store and online with downtown merchants, and dining in downtown restaurants to celebrate the season. For more information contact Latoya Price at (704) 637-7814 or latoya.price@salisburync.gov.

Mayor Alexander thanked staff for the great things that are happening in spite of a year full of challenges. She indicated staff has provided outstanding service to the community by dealing with changes and hardships, platooning, shifting work hours, and sacrificing time from their families to benefit the citizens of Salisbury. She thanked City Staff for a job well done.


Mayor Alexander acknowledged Captain Melanie Thompson for the time and effort she gave to assist a citizen's daughter during a difficult time. She stated she would like to provide a reception for officers that have retired during the COVID-19 pandemic and honor them for their service.

Mayor Alexander wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Alexander informed everyone there is a SLOW COVID-19 NC app that can assist with alerting residents if they are exposed to the virus. She stated approximately 300,000 individuals have downloaded the app. She added information regarding the app will be uploaded to the City's website soon.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Miller. All Council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.



Karen Alexander, Mayor



Kelly Baker, City Clerk