

Salisbury, North Carolina
March 30, 2009

SPECIAL MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Susan W. Kluttz; Mayor Pro Tem Paul B. Woodson; Councilmen William (Bill) Burgin, William (Pete) Kennedy and Mark N. Lewis; City Manager David W. Treme and City Clerk Myra B. Heard.

Members of Salisbury City Council met a 12:00 Noon for a luncheon meeting with members of the Rowan County Board of Commissioners. Members of the County Commission present were: Chairman Carl Ford, Vice-Chairman Jon Barber, Tina Hall and Raymond Coltrain along with County Manager Gary Page and Clerk to the Board Carolyn Athey.

Members discussed topics of mutual interest for possible collaboration. The topics included: a ¼ cent sales tax, Telecommunications, Alcoa and protection of infrastructure assets, Airport Development, Education including Reading and Math Skills below State Average, Economic Development, Annexation, Census 2010, the Faltering Economy and Unemployment, and the I-85/29 Sewer Line Project. Members agreed that each should continue to improve communication between the two Boards.

Councilman Burgin commented that annexation is a topic the two Boards will most likely not agree upon, but the Boards should not let an area where they disagree prevent them from working together on the areas where they can agree.

Mayor Kluttz pointed out that education is a common theme among the topics of interest for each Board. She suggested the City and County collaborate to develop a project to assist with educational needs. It was noted that the Chamber of Commerce could assist with an educational project and perhaps direct some of its resources toward education.

Mr. Burgin commented that during City Council's February 2009 Retreat, Dr. Suzanne Morse addressed educational needs in the community and stated that if the community is behind in education it will not be successful in achieving other goals.

Councilman Lewis noted that Dr. Morse pointed out that low 3rd grade test scores are a symptom of an underlying problem of poverty.

Members of the two Boards agreed that education is the number one issue for the entire County. Board members discussed a desire to continue the joint luncheon meetings and indicated that the Rowan-Salisbury School Board should be invited to attend the next luncheon. Board members agreed that prior to the next joint luncheon the next step should be to set a meeting for Mayor Kluttz and Chairman Ford with School Superintendent Dr. Judy Grissom and School Board Chairman Dr. Jim Emerson to offer assistance.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Susan W. Kluttz, Mayor

Myra B. Heard, City Clerk