

Salisbury, North Carolina  
March 21, 2017

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Karen Kirks Alexander, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell; Council Members Kenneth Hardin, William Brian Miller, and David Post; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; Deputy City Clerk Kelly Baker, and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

**ABSENT:** City Clerk Myra B. Heard.

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The invocation was given by Councilmember Miller. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alexander at 5:00 p.m.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Mayor Alexander welcomed all visitors present.

## PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Alexander proclaimed the following observances:

AMERICAN LEGION DAY  
HURLEY PARK'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL SPRING  
CELEBRATION DAY

March 22, 2017  
April 2, 2017

## ANNOUNCEMENT – PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Alexander encouraged citizens who would like to speak during public comments to sign in. She noted the sign-up sheet is located by Communications Director Linda McElroy.

## CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the Recessed meeting of February 28, 2017.

(b) Corbin Acres Phase II

Approve final subdivision plat S-04-89 for Corbin Acres Phase II, subject to receipt of guarantee of improvements in accordance with section 5.03.2 of the 2007 Subdivision Ordinance, and accept Askin Lane and Corbin Ridge Drive for City maintenance, and adopt an Ordinance establishing stop conditions and begin the one-year warranty period.

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 13-332, ARTICLE X, CHAPTER 13 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA RELATING TO STOP SIGNS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 26 at Page No. 34, and is known as Ordinance 2017-19.)

(c) Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization Priority List

Adopt a Resolution of Support endorsing a new project for the Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization priority list.

RESOLUTION ENDORSING A NEW PROJECT FOR THE CABARRUS-ROWAN METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION PRIORITY LIST.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 15 at Page No. 4, and is known as Ordinance 2017-03.)

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Hardin seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

### **UPDATE – SALISBURY POLICE CHIEF**

Police Chief Jerry Stokes stated since Council's last meeting staff has made two conditional offers of employment. He noted six police officers have been hired since January 1, 2017, and all police officers recently completed Fair and Impartial Training.

Chief Stokes explained the Police Department applied for a Collaborative Reform Participation Grant with Community Oriented Policing Services that was offered through the Department Of Justice. He noted staff is not sure what type of funding might be available due to administration changes.

Chief Stokes noted the City identified its Task Force Officer who will collaborate with a Federal Task Force Officer. He stated the City's Task Force Officer will move from patrol work to investigative work, and must understand tracking and development of gang activity data.

Councilmember Hardin asked about the background of the police officers being considered for employment. Chief Stokes noted three are in Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET), one has prior law enforcement experience in Virginia, and two are BLET graduates.

Councilmember Miller asked how many additional police officers are needed. Chief Stokes noted the Police Department started 2017 with 18 vacancies, and it currently has 11 vacancies. He stated the goal is to have the Police Department 90% staffed by December 31, 2017. He pointed out the Police Department will meet its 90% goal with a few more hires.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell shared an incident that took place near the Veterans Hospital, and she noted the police officer involved was very compassionate with a citizen in need. She stated the same police officer came to Isenberg Elementary School for Tie Tuesday. She commended Chief Stokes and the police officers for their service to the community.

### **CONTRACT – HIGHFILL INFRASTRUCTURE ENGINEERING, P.C.**

Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) Engineering Manager Jason Wilson explained the Crane Creek Lift Station is SRU's largest lift station. He noted Crane Creek Lift Station is located off of Bringle Ferry Road, and its average daily flows are approaching one million gallons. He stated staff is looking for operational redundancy and to increase capacity from the proposed upgrades.

Mr. Wilson stated the Crane Creek Lift Station and Force Main Upgrades Project is identified in the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). He noted a Request for Qualification was submitted October 2016 for engineering firms to assist with project design and permitting, and the City received 13 responses. He added staff recommends Highfill Infrastructure for design of the project.

Councilmember Hardin asked if operational redundancies impact operational efficiencies. Mr. Wilson agreed, and he explained a single force main leaves the station and pumps under pressure producing a single point of failure. He noted staff is looking to increase capacity and possibly add a parallel force main as an increased safety factor.

Councilmember Miller asked if the proposal is included in the current year's CIP plan. Mr. Wilson agreed.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with Highfill Infrastructure Engineering, P.C. for an amount not to exceed \$202,000 for engineering services associated with the Crane Creek Lift Station and Force Main upgrades project. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

### **CONTRACT –VANGUARD UTILITY SERVICE**

Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) Senior Engineer Jeff Jones explained the item before Council is the fourth large contract in SRU's meter change-out project. He noted the meters have been purchased and the contract before Council will cover their installation. He commented the contractor will install 400 to 600 meters per week.

Mr. Jones stated staff received two proposals for the contract. He explained Vanguard Utility Services won the bid for SRU's large meter installation project, and the company has provided excellent customer service. He indicated the large meter project is 50% complete and scheduled for completion June 30, 2017. He pointed out the price is within budget, and staff recommends awarding the contract to Vanguard Utility Services.

Mayor Alexander asked about \$791,741 of remaining funds. Mr. Jones noted those funds will be used for other projects and repairs to meter boxes, meter setters, old pipes, and contingency needs.

Councilmember Hardin asked what happens if the contractor does not meet its deadline. Mr. Jones explained the contract includes liquidated damages which require the contractor pay the City for each day it works beyond the completion date. He indicated the contracts include milestone metrics to monitor progress and spending.

Councilmember Post asked if 20,600 meters will be installed by October 2017. Mr. Jones agreed.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** to award a contract in the amount of \$995,339.40 to Vanguard Utility Services for small meter installation. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

### **UPDATE – SIDEWALKS 100 WEST INNES STREET**

Planning and Development Services Manager Janet Gapen introduced Urban Design Planner Alyssa Nelson to Council.

Assistant Public Service Director Craig Powers stated last year Council approved \$150,000 for downtown sidewalk enhancements. He noted the goal is to build a streetscape that can maintain its appearance for many years, and staff recommends enhancing Innes Street from the bridge to the statue.

Mr. Powers reviewed renderings of how changing the pavers would transform the appearance of downtown. He commented staff recommends installing a concrete base below the pavers to prevent sidewalk movement. He added staff also recommends incorporating design elements from past streetscape projects to make the area compatible with the rest of downtown. He noted staff will perform the demolition and install the sidewalk's concrete base. He suggested hiring a contractor to install the pavers.

Ms. Nelson displayed photographs of cracks and discoloration in the sidewalk along Innes Street. She pointed out the brick pavers will frame the walkway and call attention to facades.

Mr. Powers noted there are no new electrical duct banks planned or a need to move curbs that would delay the project. He indicated staff will replace the street trees during the sidewalk enhancements, and staff will consult with the Tree Board regarding their selection.

Councilmember Miller pointed out the Maxwell Chambers property is being considered for a community park and is adjacent to Innes Street. He suggested contacting the property owners to incorporate the designs of the two areas. Mr. Powers agreed, and he added staff wants to maintain a standard on this major corridor of the City.

Mayor Pre Tem Blackwell asked staff to minimize the time businesses are impacted by the project, and she requested staff over-communicate with business owners.

Councilmember Hardin asked if the pavers are ADA compliant, and if the pavers will cause problems for citizens with sight or mobility issues. Mr. Powers noted the bricks change color at handicapped ramps and truncated domes help citizens who are visually impaired determine where the sidewalk ends and the street begins. He indicated the design would also be used at crosswalks.

Mayor Alexander clarified the proposal is compliant with North Carolina Department of Transportation requirements. Mr. Powers agreed.

Mr. Miller referenced a crosswalk in Winston-Salem that has a blinking light to notify drivers of pedestrian traffic. He added something must be done to make Innes Street safer for pedestrians.

Mr. Hardin asked if street paving could be done after hours. He pointed out the intersection of Caldwell and Innes Streets has been paved several times which has created issues for drivers. Mr. Powers explained staff analyzes each site specifically to determine the best time for street paving.

Mr. Miller noted he would like to identify areas along Innes Street where additional greenery could be placed even if it cannot be funded at the current time.

Councilmember Post pointed out the 100 blocks of Main Street previously had planters. He commented the trees along Innes Street are mature, and he asked if they could be saved. Mr. Powers stated City Arborist Mark Martin recommended the trees be removed, and he indicated the goal is a 15-year life span for street trees. Mr. Post asked if a tree could be used that does not have to be replaced every 15 years. Mr. Powers explained he relies on Mr. Martin's expertise regarding street tree placement.

Ms. Blackwell noted Greenville, South Carolina has pin oaks trees that cover the street, and they have found a way maximize mature trees for this type of setting.

## **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### Community Appearance Commission

Upon a motion by Ms. Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Messrs. Hardin and Post, and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following re-appointment was made to the Community Appearance Commission for a term to begin April 1, 2017:

Ms. Diane Hundley

Term Expires 3/31/20

### Housing Advocacy Commission

Upon a motion by Ms. Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Messrs. Hardin and Post, and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following re-appointments were made to the Housing Advocacy Commission for a term to begin April 1, 2017:

Ms. Anny Lyles

Term Expires 3/31/20

Ms. Barbara Perry

Term Expires 3/31/20

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell explained Mr. Sam Foust's term on the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) has expired. She noted the TAB requested his term limited be waived so he can continue to serve. Mr. Blackwell suggested Council authorize the TAB to change its by-laws to allow the Housing Authority Director a permanent seat on the Board.

Transportation Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Ms. Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Messrs. Hardin and Post, and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following re-appointment was made to the Transportation Advisory Board for a term to begin April 1, 2017:

Mr. Sam Foust Term Expires 3/31/20

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, and with Messrs. Hardin and Post, and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following re-appointment was made to the Transportation Advisory Board for a term to begin April 1, 2017:

Mr. Quentin Woodward, Jr. Term Expires 3/31/20

Upon a motion by Ms. Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Messrs. Hardin and Post, and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following re-appointment was made to the Transportation Advisory Board for a term to begin April 1, 2017:

Ms. Tamara Walker Term Expires 3/31/20

Planning Board

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, and with Messrs. Hardin and Post, and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Planning Board for a term to begin April 1, 2017:

Mr. Dennis Rogers Term Expires 3/31/20

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, and with Messrs. Hardin and Post, and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following re-appointments were made to the Planning Board for a term to begin April 1, 2017:

Mr. Bill Burgin Term Expires 3/31/20  
Mr. Eric Phillips Term Expires 3/31/20  
Mr. Bill Wagoner Term Expires 3/31/20

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Hardin, and with Mr. Post, and Messes. Alexander and Blackwell voting AYE, the following re-appointments were made to the Planning Board for a term to begin April 1, 2017:

Mr. Jerry Lawson Term Expires 3/31/20  
Mr. Brian T. Miller Term Expires 3/31/20  
Mr. Glenwood Oats Term Expires 3/31/20  
Ms. Amy Smith Term Expires 3/31/20

Alternate Methods of Design Commission

Upon a motion by Ms. Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Messrs. Hardin and Post, and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following re-appointment was made to the Alternate Methods of Design Commission for a term to begin April 1, 2017:

Mr. Rodney Queen Term Expires 3/31/20

Greenway Committee

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Blackwell, and with Messrs. Hardin and Post, and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following re-appointments were made to the Greenway Committee for a term to begin April 1, 2017:

Mr. Benjamin Davis Term Expires 3/31/20  
Ms. Amy Smith Term Expires 3/31/20  
Dr. John Wear, Jr. Term Expires 3/31/20

Historic Preservation Commission

Upon a motion by Ms. Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Messrs. Hardin and Post, and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following re-appointments were made to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term to begin April 1, 2017:

Mr. Daniel DeGraaf Term Expires 3/31/20  
Mr. Andrew Walker Term Expires 3/31/20  
Mr. Acey Worthy Term Expires 3/31/20

Human Relations Council

Upon a motion by Ms. Alexander, seconded by Mr. Post, and with Messrs. Hardin and Miller, and Ms. Blackwell voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Human Relations Council for a term to begin April 1, 2017:

Ms. Debra Ellison Term Expires 3/31/20

Hurley Park Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Mr. Post, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Mr. Hardin, and Messes. Alexander and Blackwell voting AYE, the following re-appointments were made to the Hurley Park Advisory Board for a term to begin April 1, 2017:

Ms. Jane Riley Term Expires 3/31/20  
Ms. Jane Ritchie Term Expires 3/31/20  
Ms. Linda Sufficool Term Expires 3/31/20



## Zoning Board of Adjustment

Upon a motion by Ms. Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Messrs. Hardin and Post, and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following re-appointment was made to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for a term to begin April 1, 2017 to serve as an ETJ Member:

Mr. Robert Cockerl

Term Expires 3/31/20

## PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

Mr. Rodney Queen discussed the importance of tree preservation and stated the City needs a tree preservation program. Ms. Dee Dee Wright gave her time to Mr. Queen. Mr. Queen commented the City needs to shift its focus to other parts of the City, and not just downtown. He stated the City needs tree protection.

Ms. Liliana Spears stated she is a member of the City-supported Hispanic Coalition. She noted the Hispanic Coalition recently held a community event at Matika Village. She thanked the Salisbury Police Department for bringing its ice cream truck and the Parks and Recreation Department for providing games for the event. She indicated the Hispanic Coalition hopes to plan bi-monthly community events.

Ms. Emily Rivers thanked Council for allowing Mr. Bailey and Chief Stokes to meet with her so she could share her ideas for peace in the community. She pointed out the positive community events are working to unite the community. She stated jobs are needed for college students who return home during the summer months. Ms. Judy McDaniel gave her time to Ms. Rivers. Ms. Rivers stated the community must utilize the talent of local youth.

Ms. Carolyn Logan noted it has been 10 years since Treasure Feamster's death, but she thinks little has been done to deter gangs and stop the violence in the City. She indicated the City does not recognize those who live in poverty and have lost hope. Ms. Giles gave her time to Ms. Logan. Ms. Logan stated Council must address gang violence in the City.

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

Ms. Blackwell asked if the City will continue its summer youth intern program. City Manager Lane Bailey noted staff be in touch with Ms. Rivers regarding intern employment opportunities.

## CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

There were no comments.

## MAYOR 'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

### (a) Piedmont Natural Gas Station Repairs

Mayor Alexander announced Piedmont Natural Gas will be making repairs to the regulator station in the 1600 block of West Horah Street. She noted to ensure public safety during construction, the 1600 block of West Horah Street will be closed to through traffic beginning the week of March 20, 2017. She added the work is anticipated to last three months and the road should reopen in mid-June. If there are any questions or concerns during this time please contact the Engineering Department at 704-638-5200.

### (b) 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Hurley Park Spring Celebration

Mayor Alexander announced the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Hurley Park Spring Celebration will be held Sunday, April 2, 2017 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. There will be free entertainment and refreshments provided by the Hurley Park Advisory Board and Cheerwine. For more information please call 704-638-4459.

### (c) "Community Action Planning Sessions"

Mayor Alexander announced Salisbury citizens, in partnership with the City of Salisbury, Rowan County and Rowan Salisbury School Board representatives, will begin a series of "Community Action Planning Sessions" over the next six weeks. The sessions will be held at the following dates and locations:

- Monday, April 3, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m., Wallace Educational Forum
- Thursday, April 6, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at Livingstone College
- Saturday, April 8, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon at the Civic Center
- Saturday, April 29, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon J.F. Hurley YMCA

All citizens who are dedicated to working towards a better Salisbury are encouraged to attend one or more of the sessions. Childcare will be provided at April 8 and April 29 sessions. Details will be shared via social media, flyers, Nextdoor.com, and Nixle.

### (d) Downtown Salisbury, Inc. Open House

Mayor Alexander announced Downtown Salisbury, Inc. will host an Open House Monday, April 3, 2017 from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. in the Salisbury Business Center located at 301 South Main Street. This event is the third and final Open House in a series regarding future public improvements in the downtown. The results and public input from previous open houses will be presented at 6:15 p.m. and again at 7:15 p.m.

(e) 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Touch a Truck

Mayor Alexander announced Salisbury Parks and Recreation will hold its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Touch a Truck event Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the City Hall parking lot at 217 South Main Street. Participants will have an opportunity to have a hands-on, up close and personal education experience with a wide variety of vehicles including dump trucks, monster trucks, a helicopter, ambulances and more. The event is free and open to the public.

(f) Special Event Permit Committee

Mayor Alexander announced the Special Event Permit Committee will meet April 5, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at Park Avenue Community Center.

(g) Code Enforcement Issues

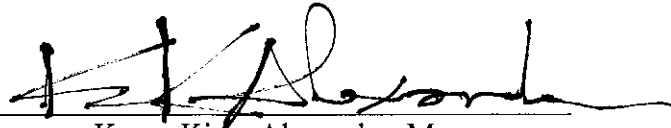
Councilmember Hardin thanked City Manager Lane Bailey and Code Enforcement for their quick response to Code Enforcement issues.

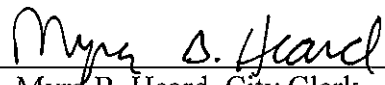
**RECESS**

Mayor Alexander asked for a motion to recess the meeting until Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at Morgan Ridge Rail Walk and Brewery located at 421 North Lee Street.

Thereupon Mr. Miler made a **motion** to recess the meeting until Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at Morgan Ridge Rail Walk and Brewery located at 421 North Lee Street. Mr. Post seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

The meeting was recessed until Wednesday, March 22, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. at 421 North Lee Street.

  
Karen Kirks Alexander, Mayor

  
Myra B. Heard, City Clerk