

Salisbury, North Carolina
January 5, 2016

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; City Clerk Myra B. Heard, and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

ABSENT: None.

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 4:00 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.

RECOGNITION – RETIRED POLICE CHIEF RORY B. COLLINS

Mayor Alexander recognized retired Police Chief Rory B. Collins who retired after 20 years of service to the City, and having served as Police Chief since March 18, 2010. She read a Resolution honoring Chief Collins and presented a framed copy to him.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution honoring retired Police Chief Rory B. Collins. Mr. Miller seconded the motion.

Councilmember Hardin thanked Chief Collins for all he has done for the City, but stated everyone must be valued and understood and in honoring some, others are dishonored. Mr. Hardin added he would be remiss if he did not acknowledge that there are people who are still suffering and hurting in the City.

Messrs. Miller and Post, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. Mr. Hardin voted NAY. (4-1)

RESOLUTION HONORING RETIRED POLICE CHIEF RORY B. COLLINS.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 15 at Page No. 1, and is known as Resolution 2016-01.)

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Alexander noted the following changes to the Agenda:

Add — Council go into a closed session to consult with an attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3).

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Alexander proclaimed the following observance:

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

January 18, 2016

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Regular Meetings of December 15, 2015.

(b) Temporary Road Closure

Adopt an **ORDINANCE** declaring a temporary road closure on Main Street between Liberty and Bank Streets for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade to be held Saturday, January 16, 2016 from 10:45 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., and a temporary road closure for the intersection of South Long and East Bank Streets beginning at 11:30 a.m. and lasting approximately 15 minutes.

ORDINANCE DECLARING A TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARADE

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 1, and is known as Ordinance 2016-01.)

(c) AT&T – Public Right-of-Way Request

Approve a request from AT&T to place 10 x 15 inch handholes and 2,891 feet of innerduct in the public right-of-way in accordance with Section 11-24(27) of the City Code.

(d) Piedmont Natural Gas – Easement Offer

Accept an offer from Piedmont Natural Gas in the amount of \$3,788 for the purchase of a permanent and temporary easement located at 1920 Old Wilkesboro Road.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Post seconded the motion.

Councilmember Hardin noted at its last meeting Council requested time to review the City's audit information in order to bring questions back to the auditor and Finance Director Teresa Harris. He stated he would like this to take place during a Council meeting so citizens can hear the conversation. City Manager Lane Bailey noted a review of the City's audit information would be placed on a future Agenda.

Mayor Alexander stated Councilmember Post requested to meet with the auditor, Ms. Harris, and members of the Finance Department. She added Mr. Hardin could attend the meeting and ask questions that could be answered at a future Council meeting.

Mr. Post clarified he did not ask to meet with the auditor. He explained the City prepares the financial report and the auditor verifies the information. He noted he would like to meet with staff, and then Council could meet with the auditor if it has additional questions.

Mayor Alexander asked Mr. Bailey to place a review of the City's financial information on a future Agenda. She requested specific questions be brought to staff prior to the meeting.

Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

2015 BLOCKWORK UPDATE

Ms. Diane Hundley, Community Appearance Commission (CAC) Chair, and Ms. Barbara Perry, Housing Advocacy Commission (HAC) Chair updated Council on the 2015 BlockWork project.

Ms. Perry noted 2015 was the fifth year of BlockWork and the second year the CAC collaborated with the HAC. She explained the event was held October 24, 2015, which was also National Make a Difference Day, and was conducted in the 800 and 900 blocks of South Jackson Street. She indicated over 200 volunteers worked on 19 properties doing general cleanup, porch repairs, painting, landscaping, roof replacement, an art project, and building a neighborhood park.

Ms. Perry noted staff participation is critical to the project's success. She recognized the Code Services, Planning, Public Services, Fire, and Police Departments for their work on the project. She acknowledged members of the Salisbury Youth Council, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Jr. Civitans, Rowan County Youth Leadership, and a large group from Pfeiffer College who participated in the project. She thanked all the volunteers who worked to make the project a success.

Ms. Hundley reviewed before and after photographs of the projects, and she noted the neighborhood requested a green space be placed on a burned-out, abandoned property located at the corner of Jackson and Harrison Streets.

Ms. Hundley thanked the following for donating food, beverages, supplies or labor, and those who offered generous discounts:

Bimbo Bakeries USA
Biscuitville
Cheerwine Company
F&M Bank
Frito Lay
Godley's Landscape Nursery
Karl K. Sale
Lowes Home Improvement
Mean Mug
Medina Roofing & Construction
Peter Goff and RCCC Art Program
Rodney Queen
Sherwin-Williams Company

Ms. Hundley also thanked the site managers:

Karl Sale
Zak Russell
Elysia Demers
Geof Wilson
Sue McHugh
Lou Manning
Jessica Vess
C.J. Peters
Jon Leach
Robert Clark

Glen Upp
Lee Wagoner
Mark Whitman
Creth Holman
Steve Raker

Ms. Perry presented a video of the 2015 Blockwork, and she thanked Council for its continued support of the program.

Mayor Alexander thanked Ms. Perry and Ms. Hundley for their presentation.

HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION

Ms. Diane Hundley, Chair of the Community Appearance Commission (CAC), and Ms. Lynn Raker, staff liaison, presented the CAC highlights and goals. Ms. Hundley reviewed the highlights for 2015:

- Awarded eight Municipal Service District Incentive Grants
 - Total Grants – \$17,747 of \$22,000
 - Total Project Amounts – \$41,287
- Awarded eight Innes Street Improvement Grants
 - Total Grants – \$15,167 of \$20,000
 - Total Project Amounts – \$45,159
- Public Art Committee
 - Continued to promote the Salisbury History and Art Trail
 - 2015 Salisbury Sculpture Show
 - Sculpture at I85 Exit 76
- Neighborhoods and Education Committee
 - Neighborhood Leaders Alliance
 - Bi-annual meetings
 - Continued support for Housing Advocacy Commission (HAC) and neighborhood improvement
 - Fifth BlockWork event
 - Co-sponsored Spring and Fall spruce-up with the Public Services Department
 - Adopt-a-Street program
 - Rowan Helping Ministries
 - Brooklyn South Square Neighborhood
 - Park Avenue Neighborhood
 - Food Lion – Harrison Road
- Landscape Committee
 - 11th Annual Holiday Storefront Decorations Awards
 - Landscape of the Month Awards

Ms. Hundley reviewed the 2016-2017 Level 1 goals:

- Support implementation of the East Innes and Long Complete Streets Plan
- Collaborate with staff, Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI) and other stakeholders regarding implementation of Council goals for economic development
 - Improve and enhance downtown Salisbury
 - Develop a downtown infrastructure plan
- Collaborate with Community Development Corporation (CDC) for effective use of neighborhood rehabilitation funds
- Support planning efforts for Dixonville-Lincoln Memorial
- Collaborate with the Planning Board on new Sign Ordinance
- Assist with plan for improvements at primary West End entrances
- Support planning and implementation of “Centerpiece” multi-purpose cultural plaza

Ms. Hundley reviewed the Level 1 goals requiring funding:

- Continue the Municipal Service District Incentive Grant Program – \$25,000
- Continue the Innes Street Corridor Improvement Grant Program – \$25,000
- Continue promotion of programs – \$1,500
 - Spring and Fall Spruce-up Days
 - Landscape of the Month
 - Adopt a Salisbury Street
 - Other programs
- Continue to expand the Salisbury History and Art Trail marker program and host the 8th annual Sculpture Show – \$20,000
- Hold the annual BlockWork program to promote neighborhood improvements block-by-block – \$10,000
- Begin three-year phased replacement plan with Public Services for downtown trash receptacles - \$10,000
- Support plantings in downtown planters with Parks and Recreation and Landscaping – \$1,000

Ms. Hundley noted the Municipal Service District Grant, administered from 1981 through June 30, 2015, yielded a total of \$510,000 in public investment and leveraged \$7.564 million in private investment, a ratio of 1 to 15 public to private investment.

Ms. Hundley reviewed the Innes Street Improvement Grant, and she pointed out \$386,000 in public investment has leveraged more than \$4.9 million in private investment, for a ratio of 1 to 13 public to private investment. She indicated this investment results in a dramatic increase in tax revenues, tourism dollars, sales tax revenues, and jobs.

Ms. Hundley discussed other key goals for the CAC:

- Support City efforts to address deteriorated housing
- Continue to raise awareness of public art opportunities

- Continue to serve as a liaison for neighborhood leaders and to host bi-annual neighborhood leader meetings

Ms. Hundley thanked Council for its support of the CAC and its vision for the City.

Mayor Alexander thanked the CAC and the BlockWork volunteers for their outstanding contributions to the City and all of its neighborhoods. She commented when work is done in one neighborhood it is a great way to inspire others to participate and support future BlockWorks. Mayor Alexander thanked everyone who participated and recognized the CAC for all it does for the community.

HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – GREENWAY COMMITTEE

Ms. Amy Smith, Greenway Committee Chair, and Mr. Stephen Brown, staff liaison, presented the Greenway Committee's 2015 highlights and 2016 goals.

Ms. Smith explained the Greenway system consists of 3.1 miles of trails that include walk connectors every tenth mile. She reviewed 2015 highlights:

- Greenway area:
 - Memorial Park
 - Forest Hills
 - Prescott
 - Grants Creek
 - Kelsey Scott
 - Brenner Avenue
- 14th annual Earth Day Exploratory at the Greenway
- 18th annual Run Walk for the Greenway 5K

Ms. Smith then reviewed the Greenway Committees goals for 2016:

- Continue phase three of Greenway development
 - Kelsey Scott/Grants Creek Connector
 - Working with VA Medical center to possibly utilize some of their land for Greenway connectivity
 - Support a subcommittee to pursue grants and easement agreements for phase three of the Greenway
- Coordinate the 19th annual 5K Run Walk for the Greenway
 - July 16, 2016
- Coordinate the 15th annual Earth Day Exploratory
 - April 22, 2016
- Continue to support the Carolina Thread Trail

Ms. Smith thanked Council for its support of the Greenway Committee.

Councilmember Hardin asked if Greenway usage could be monitored. Ms. Smith noted the Committee has explored grants for software that would allow staff to monitor how many visitors use the Greenway, but currently does not have a way to accurately determine the number of visitors.

Mayor Alexander stated she and City Manager Lane Bailey will be meeting with Dr. Michael Goodman from the VA Medical Center regarding use of the Center's property for Greenway connectivity.

Mayor Alexander thanked Ms. Smith and Mr. Brown for their presentation and expressed Council's gratitude to the Greenway Committee. She commented the Greenways could help the City be recognized as a sustainable community.

HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

Reverend Carolyn Bratton, Human Relations Council (HRC) Chair, and Ms. Betty Jo Hardy, HRC Vice-Chair, presented the HRC highlights and goals. Reverend Bratton reviewed the 2014-2015 highlights:

- Ninth Peace Pole in Royal Giants Park in East Spencer
- Elizabeth Duncan Koontz Humanitarian Banquet
- Voices From the Margin
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
- Mayor's Spirit Luncheon
- New Partnerships – Lee Street Theater, Rowan Arts Council, Town of Granite Quarry, and the Town of East Spencer

Ms. Hardy presented the HRC new initiatives and continued projects:

- New Initiatives
 - Voices from the Margin
 - Partnership with Lee Street Theater
 - 2015 focus on Rowan-Salisbury School System
 - Pay it Forward
 - Cost of Peace Poles
- Continued Projects
 - Mayor's Spirit Luncheon
 - Let's Get Connected Day – Peace Poles
 - To be held at the Library Park in Spencer on May 21, 2016
 - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration
 - La Fiesta De Rowan
 - Elizabeth Duncan Koontz Humanitarian Award Banquet
 - Voices from the Margin Project
 - Fair Housing Workshop
 - Support of the Salisbury Youth Council

Reverend Bratton then reviewed the 2015-2016 goals:

- Present recommended Ordinance changes to Council
- Evaluate events
- Continued support of the Salisbury Youth Council
- Address community needs identified through Communities at Risk discussions
- Partner with the Housing Advocacy Commission Fair Housing Workshop

Reverend Bratton presented the 2014-2015 Budget Report:

| | <u>Program Revenue</u> | <u>Program Expenses</u> | <u>Corporate Sponsorship</u> | <u>Community Sponsorship</u> | <u>2016-2017 Projected Budget</u> |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| HRC | | | | | \$4,000.00 |
| Hispanic Coalition Covenant | \$1,970.00 | \$6,276.22 | \$1,000.00 | \$150.00 | \$5,500.00 |
| Community Connection | | \$1,930.99 | | \$145.00 | \$5,500.00 |
| Elizabeth Duncan Koontz Banquet | | \$2,116.79 | \$650.00 | | \$4,000.00 |
| Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration | \$3,192.00 | \$13,047.05 | \$7,370.00 | \$600.00 | \$12,000.00 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$5,162.00</u> | <u>\$23,371.05</u> | <u>\$9,020.00</u> | <u>\$895.00</u> | <u>\$31,000.00</u> |

Reverend Bratton compared the current year sponsorship and the sponsorship requests for 2016-2017:

| | <u>2015-2016</u> | <u>2016-2017</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| City Council | \$5,150 | \$6,000 |
| Rowan County Commissioners | \$3,150 | \$3,150 |

Reverend Bratton thanked Council for its continued support of the HRC.

Mayor Alexander thanked Reverend Bratton and Ms. Hardy for their service and the HRC for all it does to improve community relationships.

Councilmember Post noted several years ago Rowan County withdrew its sponsorship of the HRC. Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell explained the County stopped appointing members to the HRC but did not pull its sponsorship. She added the County reduced its funding by 10 percent during the recession.

Mr. Post pointed out the County designated its sponsorship could only be used for Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration events. He asked if anyone has reached out to the County to see if it is interested in appointing members to the HRC. Reverend Bratton stated the HRC is planning to reach out to the County.

TEMPORARY RIGHT-OF-WAY USE PERMIT – 113 EAST FISHER STREET

Traffic Engineering Coordinator Vickie Eddleman explained Engineering received a request from Central Piedmont Builders to extend the closure of a portion of the parking lane and sidewalk adjacent to 113 East Fisher Street through the end of March 2016.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to approve a temporary right-of-way use permit for Central Piedmont Builders for the closure of three parking spaces and the sidewalk adjacent to 113 East Fisher Street from January 5, 2016 until March 31, 2016. Mr. Post seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

PARKING RESTRICTION – 700 BLOCK OF HEDRICK STREET

Traffic Engineering Coordinator Vickie Eddleman stated Engineering received a request from the property owner at 705 Hedrick Street to restrict parking to 30 minutes along the south side of the 700 block of Hedrick Street for a length of four parking spaces.

Ms. Eddleman stated current parking in the area is all-day and unmarked. She noted staff evaluated the location and recommends signage be added to the area and the parking spaces marked if Council grants the request.

Councilmember Post asked if the request would keep VA Medical Center employees from parking in the spaces all day. Ms. Eddleman noted the request stemmed from VA Medical Center employees using the parking spaces for parking.

Thereupon, Mr. Post made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending Section 13-354, Article X, Chapter 13, of the Code of the City of Salisbury, relating to parking limited to thirty minutes. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 13-354, ARTICLE X, CHAPTER 13, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, RELATING TO PARKING LIMITED TO THIRTY MINUTES.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 2, and is known as Ordinance 2016-02.)

ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT

Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) Engineering Manager Jason Wilson, Senior Engineer Jeff Jones, and SRU Director Jim Behmer addressed Council regarding the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Implementation Project. Mr. Behmer noted staff initially presented the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Implement Project to Council at its Retreat in 2015.

Mr. Wilson explained SRU serves 22,000 customers through water meters, and he pointed out approximately 500 water meters are changed annually. He informed Council the average meter is 17 years old and some of the oldest meters are almost 50 years old. He noted SRU is approximately 12,000 meters behind on its meter change outs. He added the water meters are currently read manually each month.

Mr. Wilson stated in 2012 SRU sent out a Request for Qualification to evaluate Automated Meter Reading (AMR) technologies and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) solutions. He noted five metering companies were considered and Badger Meter was selected as the best AMI solution for SRU.

Mr. Wilson indicated China Grove was chosen as the pilot project, and in 2014 1,800 meters were changed to Orion ME Transmitters. He stated 1,767 meters are now drive-by meters and the read time reduced from 128 hours to 12 hours. He noted the system can be changed from drive-by to a fixed network, and hourly data is available. He stated in 2015 the remaining meters in China Grove were upgraded, and he noted 56 percent of the accounts show an increase in the water usage because of the improved accuracy.

Mr. Jones indicated the China Grove pilot project showed an eight percent average increase in revenue due to the new 5/8 inch meters. He added based upon the test data there should be a volume-weighted annual average revenue increase of approximately 4.2 percent.

Mr. Wilson reviewed the return on investment for the project:

- Meter technology
 - Longer life cycle
 - No accuracy fall-off
 - Alarms for meter tampering and leaks
 - Uniform reading periods
- Operational efficiencies
 - Streamline account final billing
 - Water production audits
 - Staffing reduction
 - City currently employs seven meter readers
 - Three meter readers will be reclassified to Meter Mechanic and Customer Service Technician
 - Four meter reading positions will be eliminated
 - 10 percent savings based on current meter reading costs
- Sustainable practices/green technology
 - Proactive leak detection
 - Smaller carbon footprint
 - More information which leads to better planning

Mr. Wilson explained the Financial Return on Investment (ROI):

| | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Total Project Costs | | \$7,158,429 |
| Additional Annual Revenue | \$784,564 | |
| Meter Reading Costs Center Annual Savings | \$228,653 | |
| Annual Service Fees (\$.81/month/endpoint) | (\$190,784) | |
| Total Annual Revenue and Expense Impact | | \$822,433 |
| Years to Pay Back | | 8.7 |

Mr. Wilson pointed out a meter change is needed. He noted the pilot program in China Grove has been successful and allows SRU to provide enhanced customer service, make improved system management decisions, and provide sustainable practices.

Mr. Behmer explained SRU is planning a phased implementation that will take place over three fiscal years and will begin with the larger meters.

Councilmember Hardin pointed out it will take three fiscal years to implement the changes, and he asked if the return on investment is immediate or after the three fiscal years. Mr. Jones explained the money would not be spent upfront, but would include a staged withdrawal for expenses. He added the full amount would not be expended until the third fiscal year.

Mr. Behmer commented the phased implementation would include retirements so meter reading employees will not lose their jobs. He added SRU is losing revenue through water leaks, and being able to detect and fix the water leaks may prevent future rate increases.

Councilmember Post pointed out 56 percent of the new meters show an increase in water usage that customers will pay for through higher bills. He asked when older meters break or operate less efficiently if the revenue is lost completely. Mr. Wilson indicated most meter changes are due to stopped meters and once the meter is changed the revenue can be recaptured. Mr. Post asked how SRU will know if a new meter has a battery fail. Mr. Wilson noted SRU will receive data when a battery is low.

Mr. Behmer pointed out the new water meters will help Customer Service staff calculate leak adjustments. Mr. Post asked if a customer will be able to view their water usage online each day. Mr. Jones noted customers will be able to view their hourly water usage.

Mr. Post indicated larger test customers have been able to reduce their water cost while residential customers will pay more for actual water use. Mr. Wilson pointed out the automated water meters will capture actual use. Mr. Jones noted the automated meters will allow residential and commercial customers to monitor their water use. Mr. Behmer noted it currently it takes up to six weeks to find a water leak that can be quickly detected with an automated metering system.

Mr. Post asked if water rates will be reviewed once accurate information is captured. City Manager Lane Bailey stated water rates will be examined as part of the 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan and the budget process. He noted Council has an opportunity to set the water rate each year during budget planning.

Councilmember Miller noted automated meter reading is green, has a cost recovery, and extends the meter's lifespan. He added the system is portable allowing SRU to use multiple brands of automated water meters, and the system will pay for itself.

Mayor Alexander stated the new system will allow business and residential customer to monitor their water usage. She pointed out everyone benefits from water conservation.

Mr. Miller asked staff to report back to Council throughout the process. Mr. Behmer noted staff will report back to Council and work with the Communications Department to notify customers before their water meters are changed.

Mayor Alexander asked if SRU received feedback from China Grove customers regarding the pilot program. Mr. Wilson noted the program has been well received, and he pointed out Customer Service received eight calls regarding the automated water meters during the 22-day meter installation. He commented there have been a few complaints, and he added customers are very pleased when staff alerts them to a potential water leak before the bill is received.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell commended staff for the ROI provided for this project, and she suggested it be used as a model for future ROIs.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** to adopt an Advanced Metering Infrastructure Capital Project Ordinance in the amount of \$7,200,000. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 3, and is known as Ordinance 2016-03.)

Mr. Miller requested LED street lights be placed on a future Agenda with an ROI comparison.

DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL INTENT – FIRE STATIONS

Finance Director Teresa Harris stated Council previously approved a contract with Ramsey, Burgin, and Smith Architects to review sites for two fire stations. She explained the City will issue debt, and it needs a Resolution in place to reimburse any expenses it incurs before the debt is issued.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution of the City of Salisbury to declare the intention to reimburse the issuer from the proceeds of a tax-exempt financing for certain expenditures to be made in connection with acquisition of property and construction of fire stations. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion.

Councilmember Post asked about the costs of the project. Mayor Alexander stated the Resolution is needed so any money spent can be included when the debt is issued. Ms. Harris pointed out the Resolution contains a \$1 million cap. City Manager Lane Bailey added the debt should come in under \$1 million. He explained the Resolution is for the preliminary work, and he pointed out the architectural firm's biggest job will be to evaluate sites for the fire stations. He noted the biggest expense will be the purchase of property, and Council would make that decision.

Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY TO DECLARE THE INTENTION TO REIMBURSE THE ISSUER FROM THE PROCEEDS OF A TAX-EXEMPT FINANCING FOR CERTAIN EXPENDITURES TO BE MADE IN CONNECTION WITH ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY AND CONSTRUCTION OF FIRE STATIONS.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 15 at Page Nos. 2-3, and is known as Resolution 2016-02.)

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Planning Board

Upon a motion by Ms. Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Miller and with Messrs. Hardin and Post and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Planning Board to fill an unexpired term.

Mr. Eric Phillips

Term Expires 03/31/17

Councilmember Miller noted Mr. Phillips does not live in the City, but he owns a business inside the City limits which qualifies him to serve as a regular member of the Planning Board. Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell agreed.

Councilmember Post pointed out the Planning Board could be comprised of people who do not live in the City. Ms. Blackwell added Council would not allow that to happen.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

(a) **Audit Follow-up**

City Manager Lane Bailey noted he will work on a date for members of Council to meet with staff to discuss the audit. He added the information will be brought before Council during a future meeting.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) “Community Conversations”

Mayor Alexander announced the City of Salisbury will host the first in a series of “Community Conversations” to be held Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. The event will take place at Outreach Christian Ministries located at 722 West Horah Street. Citizens will have an opportunity to share their concerns and hear from City Manager Lane Bailey and staff regarding City services.

(b) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration

Mayor Alexander announced the W.G. “Bill” Hefner V.A. Medical Center will host a celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday Friday, January 15, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. The celebration will be held in the Social Room, Building 6 at the Hefner V.A. Medical Center located at 1601 Brenner Avenue.

(c) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade

Mayor Alexander announced the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade will be held Saturday, January 16, 2016. The parade will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the corner of Liberty Street and North Main Street and will end at the Civic Center located at 315 South Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. Following the parade, activities celebrating Dr. King will be held from 12:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Civic Center.

(d) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Mayor Alexander announced a celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday will be held Monday January 18, 2016 at 9:30 a.m. at Soldiers Memorial AME Zion Church at the Friedman’s Cemetery.

(e) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Awards

Mayor Alexander announced Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church will host the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Awards Sunday, January 17, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. The Awards will be held at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church located at 1920 Shirley Avenue.

(f) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast

Mayor Alexander announced the Salisbury-Rowan Human Relations Council will host the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast, Monday, January 18, 2016 at 7:00 a.m. The Breakfast will be held at the J. F. Hurley YMCA, 828 Jake Alexander Boulevard. Tickets are \$10. To purchase tickets or for additional information please call 704-638-5217.

(g) “The Path to Lincoln School”

Mayor Alexander announced the Dixonville-Lincoln Memorial Task Force will host a dedication of “The Path to Lincoln School” sign kiosk, in memory of former Task Force Chairman Fred Evans, Monday, January 18, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. beginning at the new kiosk at Dixonville Cemetery located at 110 Old Concord Road. A reception will follow in the Fellowship Hall of First Calvary Baptist Church located at 400 South Long Street.

(h) Fulton Heights Neighborhood Dog Issue

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell announced the Fulton Heights neighborhood has an issue with two vicious dogs. She thanked Code Services, the Police Department, and Rowan County Animal Control, on behalf of the neighborhood, for their work to find the dogs. She asked anyone who sees the dogs to call 911.

Councilmember Hardin thanked City Manager Lane Bailey and staff for participating in the Community Conversations which will help bridge relationships in the community.

Mr. Hardin also thanked the Dixonville Cemetery Committee and the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for working with the Evans family with patience and sensitivity.

(I) Father Daughter Dance

Mayor Alexander announced the 20th Annual Father Daughter Dance will be held Saturday, February 6, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. The dance is for girls ages 4 to 13 and their fathers. Tickets are limited to 325 people and must be purchased in advance. Tickets are \$8 for the father and \$6 for the daughters, and can be purchased at Parks and Recreation facilities. For more information call (704) 216-PLAY.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Alexander requested Council go into a closed session to consult with an attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3).

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to go into closed session to consult with an attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3). Mr. Post seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** for Council to return to open session. Mr. Post seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

Mayor Alexander announced no action was taken in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Post seconded by Mr. Miller. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.



Karen Kirks Alexander, Mayor



Myra B. Heard, City Clerk