

Salisbury, North Carolina
April 19, 2011

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Susan W. Kluttz, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell, Councilmen William (Pete) Kennedy, William Brian Miller, and Paul B. Woodson, Jr.; City Manager David W. Treme; Deputy City Clerk Kelly K. 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 meeting was called to order by Mayor Kluttz at 4:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Councilman Woodson.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Kluttz recognized Boy Scout Patrick Day from Troop 442. She invited Mr. Day to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag. She thanked Mr. Day and noted that the City is very proud of him.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Kluttz welcomed all visitors present.

RECOGNITION OF SALISBURY HIGH SCHOOL LADY HORNETS BASKETBALL TEAM

Mayor Kluttz recognized the Salisbury High School Lady Hornets Basketball team for winning the North Carolina 2A Basketball State Championship. She noted some members of the team were unable to attend because of a previously scheduled track meet. She read a Proclamation proclaiming April 19, 2011 as Salisbury High School Lady Hornets Basketball Day. She then presented a framed copy of the Proclamation to Coach Chris McNeil, Assistant

Coaches Mallory Hodge and Osbourne Fields, and the team members present. She also recognized Principal Dr. Windsor Eagle

Mayor Kluttz congratulated the team commenting they continue to make Council proud.

RECOGNITION OF CITY OF SALISBURY EMPLOYEES FOR HEALTHIEST EMPLOYERS OF GREATER CHARLOTTE 2011

Ms. Karen Ingram, HR Analyst II; Mr. Steve Smith, Nurse Practitioner; and Ms. Vickie Eddleman, Street Lighting Technician addressed Council regarding the Charlotte Business Journal's 2011 Healthiest Employers of Greater Charlotte Awards. Ms. Ingram explained the City received first place in the Medium Business Market, and this award was a great honor made possible by an employee team effort. Ms. Ingram stated Mr. Smith guides employees with treatment and advice in obtaining better health. She stated employees have embraced quarterly Wellness Initiatives in the Believe Achieve Program, championed by Ms. Eddleman. Ms. Ingram informed Council over 98% of employees have elected to participate in the health insurance wellness plan by agreeing to health risk appraisals and following a healthy life plan. She stated the City strives to offer a health insurance plan that makes wellness a top priority. Ms. Ingram commented these efforts are paying off for the City and its employees as recognized by the Charlotte Business Journal. Ms. Ingram stated the award will be placed in the Wellness Clinic.

Mayor Kluttz presented the award to Ms. Ingram and congratulated all City employees for this achievement.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Kluttz proclaimed the following observances:

CIVITAN AWARENESS MONTH	April 2011
BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH	May 2011

Mayor Kluttz noted 2 members of the Civitan Club are members of Salisbury City Council; Mayor Pro Tem Maggie Blackwell and Councilman Brian Miller.

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 5, 2011 and the Special Meeting of April 5, 2011.

(b) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Hurley Park

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2010-2011 budget in the amount of \$12,000 to appropriate donations for Hurley Park.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 23 at Page No. 29, and is known as Ordinance 2011-16.)

Thereupon, Councilman Woodson made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilman Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Mses. Blackwell and Kluttz voted AYE. (5-0)

TEMPORARILY CLOSE THE 100 BLOCK OF NORTH MAIN STREET FOR A BRICK STREET LIVE OUTDOOR CONCERT EVENT

(a) Community Planning Services Director Joe Morris and Police Chief Rory Collins addressed Council regarding a request to close the 100 block of North Main Street for a Brick Street Live concert event. Mr. Morris noted Council received a presentation from Miller Davis Studios at its April 5, 2011 meeting regarding the concert series. He indicated one of the events is proposed to take place in the 100 block of North Main Street, Saturday, August 27, 2011. He stated an application for the street closure was submitted to the Police Department where staff reviewed the request and noted several conditions in order to be compliant with state and local regulations.

Chief Collins indicated there are several stipulations necessary for the event from a safety and accessibility standpoint. He noted North Main Street is a thoroughfare and also serves as a detour route in the case of a traffic event on Interstate 85. He stated because of this, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) must authorize the closing and one condition required by NCDOT is in the event of an accident on Interstate 85, the organizers must be able to quickly move the stage and clear the street so it can be used as a detour. Chief Collins stated NCDOT also requires one police officer to be stationed at each end of the closure for its entire duration. He added he thinks it would be appropriate for the event organizers to have two additional police officers onsite during the event, and this would be at the cost of the concert organizer.

Chief Collins stated he thinks it is important the stage be placed just before the intersection of Main Street and Council Street in order to allow Council Street to remain open for traffic.

Chief Collins indicated the application for the event initially requested it last until 12:00 midnight, but he thinks it is more appropriate for it to end at 11:00 p.m. and the concert organizer has agreed.

Councilman Woodson asked if businesses in the area have been notified about the closure. Chief Collins responded the event organizer was requested to make contact with each of the business owners in the 100 block of North Main Street, which they did, and it appears

everyone was in favor of the closure. He added the organizer also contacted the residents of the Plaza to make them aware of the event and today's public hearing.

Councilman Miller noted the concert ends at 11:00 p.m. but the street remains closed until 6:00 a.m. because it takes several hours to remove the stage. He asked what NCDOT considers a reasonable time to reopen the street if an accident should occur and the Main Street detour is needed. Chief Collins indicated Long Street serves as a secondary detour and if an accident should occur, Long Street can be used until Main Street can be reopened. He added Long Street is not the ideal detour because of the number of lanes, and he would hope Main Street could be reopened relatively quickly.

(b) Mayor Kluttz convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding temporarily closing the 100 block of North Main Street for a Brick Street Live Outdoor concert event.

Mr. Randall Barger, stated he represents Miller Davis Studios and requested Council's approval to close the street. He stated in regards to the tear-down of the stage, the fastest it could be done is approximately three hours. He added it will take longer to put the stage in place than to take it down. He stated he has personally spoken to the area business owners and everyone is excited to have an event on this end of town. Mr. Barger noted letters were also sent to residents of the Plaza, but no responses were received. He stated Miller Davis will do whatever is necessary to make the event successful and meet all requirements.

There being no one else present to speak, Mayor Kluttz closed the public hearing.

Mr. Woodson stated his initial reservation about the request was because he thought the stage would be placed near the Plaza, but when he found out the stage will be at the other end of the street and that the business owners support it, he supports the request. He added he thinks this will be a great event for Salisbury.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated she is also in favor of the request and although she heard from a few citizens, those issues have been worked out and it seems to be a positive event for the City.

(c) Thereupon, Mr. Woodson made a **motion** to temporarily close the 100 block of North Main Street from 12:00 a.m. Saturday, August 27, 2011 until 6:00 a.m. Sunday, August 28, 2011 to accommodate the Brick Street Live Outdoor concert event. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Mses. Blackwell and Kluttz voted AYE. (5-0).

TARGETED TRANSIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

(a) Transit Manager Rodney Harrison and Public Services Director Tony Cinquemani updated Council regarding a Targeted Transit Assistance Program grant.

Mr. Harrison indicated at Council's April 5, 2011 meeting, it was agreed for staff to move forward in submitting a Targeted Transit Assistance Program grant application. He pointed out the grant is being requested to help support the Lash Drive Connector project. He noted several options for service presented in Council's agenda packet materials and stated staff recommends Option C, which offers three days of service. He noted the service in this option will be offered by current vehicles with Salisbury Transit and will provide a direct connection to the transfer station downtown. He stated this will be more convenient for passengers to reach their destinations and new service will be offered to Rowan Regional Medical Park on Julian Road, RoMedical and the Kohl's shopping center. Mr. Harrison stated staff thinks Option C is the best option and will position Salisbury Transit to expand its service in the future. He pointed out this application will only request funds from the state, and funding may not be approved.

(b) Mayor Kluttz convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding Targeted Transit Assistance Program Grant Application.

Mr. Archie Reid, Laurel Pointe Apartments, stated he is activity coordinator for Laurel Pointe apartments and also serves as a member of the Transportation Advisory Board. He stated the Lash Drive Connector will offer public transportation for seniors and people with disabilities, which will enable them to maintain their independence and quality of life. Mr. Reid noted Lash Drive is a diverse community and includes elderly, disabled, low-income, and single-family households. He stated the Lash Drive community includes Crosswinds and Fleming Heights, which are apartments for seniors; the Laurels of Salisbury and Salisbury Gardens, which are assisted living facilities; and the Lakewood and Laurel Pointe apartments. Mr. Reid commented the Lash Drive Connector will give residents access to the fixed-route bus lines. He pointed out the nearest bus-stop is one mile away, which is a hardship for residents. He stated the Lash Drive Connector will address transportation needs for the community and assist in maintaining the quality of life for residents.

Mr. William Peoples, 522 North Fulton Street, stated when Council decided to buy property and build the Community Park on Hurley School Road, there was a commitment that there would be public transportation to the park. He commented if the transportation had been provided to the park as promised, it would cross the Lash Drive area and create an ideal opportunity to provide service to Lash Drive. He stated he stills wants public transportation to the Community Park. Mr. Peoples noted the Westcliffe neighborhood has been annexed but does not have public transportation. He stated with the current price of gas, he thinks ridership will increase if the service is expanded.

There being no one else present to address Council, Mayor Kluttz closed the public hearing.

Councilman Woodson addressed several citizens in the audience and asked if they were in favor of the request. One of the citizens indicated she and the others present were from the Lash Drive Community, and they hope the City receives the grant.

Mayor Kluttz asked those in the audience who are in favor of the grant to raise their hands. Approximately eight citizens raised their hand. Mayor Kluttz also asked those who oppose the grant to raise their hands, and no hands were raised.

Mr. Woodson stated he thinks Council will do what it can and hopes it can receive the grant.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell noted Mr. Harrison indicated staff recommends Option C, but the information in Council's agenda packet stated Option A – No service was recommended. Mr. Harrison stated the materials in Council's packet were in error, and staff recommends Option C.

Ms. Blackwell noted several residents have stated they have to provide a car seat to use the Lash Drive Connector because of the size of the shuttle bus. She added the resident then has to carry the car seat for the remainder of their trip which is burdensome to manage. She asked if it is possible to provide a car seat in the shuttle bus or if there are other options to accommodate residents with children. Mr. Harrison responded he will perform additional research in regards to providing a car seat due to the variety and legality of the seats. He stated this issue has also been voiced to staff, and he is looking at options to help address it.

Councilman Kennedy noted Option C lists two amounts, one with no assistance and the other will assistance. He asked what will happen if the grant is not received. Mr. Harrison stated the grant is 50% federal and 50% local share, and if there is no assistance the figure shown will be the total cost for the service without any assistance from the federal government. He noted for FY2012 the true cost to provide the service will be \$58,200, but with grant assistance it will be \$29,100 to offer the service to the Lash Drive community.

Mayor Kluttz indicated if the grant is not received the service will become a part of Council's budget discussion as to whether Council wants to fully fund the service. Mr. Harrison agreed.

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution seeking permission to apply for Targeted Transit Assistance Program grant funding and to enter into an agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to provide necessary assurance and required local match. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Meses. Blackwell and Kluttz voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION SEEKING PERMISSION TO APPLY FOR TARGETED TRANSIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT FUNDING AND TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PROVIDE NECESSARY CERTIFICATION AND THE REQUIRED LOCAL MATCH.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 14 at Page No. 10, and is known as Resolution 2011-10.)

PRESENTATION FROM SALISBURY-ROWAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION REGARDING 2011-2012 BUDGET REQUESTS

Mr. Robert Van Geons, Executive Director of the Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission (EDC), presented the EDC's 2011-2012 budget request. Mr. Van Geons thanked Council for its continued support and noted the EDC realizes this is a challenging economic period. He noted the EDC has cut its budget and requests \$62,548, which is an approximate 10% reduction from the amount requested and funded last year.

Mr. Van Geons stated the City's investment in the EDC has generated several projects including Henkle Corporation's expansion adding 103 jobs and \$23.7 million of new tax base; Norandal \$7 million investment creating 25 new jobs; and the recruitment of TurnKey Technologies. He indicated the EDC has expanded its marketing efforts for the Rowan County Airport and will continue to partner with existing employers in order to facilitate job creation and expansion of the tax base.

Mr. Van Geons noted the proposed budget designates three sources to promote and leverage the City's investment in Fibrant. He commented he believes the EDC can be very successful in recruiting investment and job creation around this asset.

Mr. Van Geons stated the EDC has worked with hundreds of projects since it began in 1985 and currently there are more than 75 businesses operating in Rowan County that were directly engaged by the EDC. He added these businesses will employ over 7,300 workers, pay taxes equal to \$.08 of the County tax rate, provide \$2.7 million of municipal tax revenue, and provide nearly \$400,000 for the local fire districts.

Mr. Van Geons pointed out this year's allocation, if approved, will be below the 2004-2005 levels of funding for the EDC.

Mayor Kluttz thanked Mr. Van Geons for all he and the EDC do for the City.

PRESENTATION FROM "SPECIAL COMMUNITY EFFORTS GROUPS" CONCERNING 2011-2012 BUDGET REQUESTS

Mayor Kluttz opened the floor to receive requests from special community efforts groups.

Ms. Kaye Hirst, Director Rowan Museum, and Mr. Dick Huffman, Chair of the Rowan Museum Board of Directors, addressed Council regarding a FY2011-2012 budget request. Ms. Hirst displayed photographs of various programs and events held at the Museum. She stated one of the major goals of the Rowan Museum is education and noted they provide five summer history programs for students. She stated the Museum provides adult education through the History Club and through its 14-week History Course. Ms. Hirst stated over 6,000 students visit the Museum free of charge. She commented the Museum is very proud to be the stewards of Salisbury's history.

Mr. Huffman thanked Council for its past support. He referred to a recent Charlotte Observer article that indicated support for museums has decreased, while visitation has risen. He noted the article indicates the median admission price for museums is \$7.00. Mr. Huff commented this is the situation Rowan Museum finds itself in as fundraising efforts have been more difficult while attendance has increased. He pointed out the Museum does not charge admission and is a private museum funded through private funds.

Mayor Kluttz indicated Council is very grateful for all the Rowan Museum does for the community.

Mr. Roy Johnson, President North Carolina Transportation Museum Foundation, informed Council that the State's reduced tax revenue and budget priorities appear certain that the operating funding for the Transportation Museum will be greatly reduced or eliminated. He noted because of this reduction the Museum Foundation requests Council increase its support of the Museum up to a level of \$10,000. He thanked Council for its past support which has allowed the Museum to be more aggressive in its marketing. Mr. Johnson stated the result of the marketing is estimated to have an economic impact on the area of \$8.64 million. He noted the Museum has been operated very conservatively, and it has no long-term debt.

Mr. Mark Brown, Marketing Director for the Transportation Museum, stated the money appropriated from Council will be targeted to billboard advertising. He commented the billboard advertisements reach a very large population, and this year the Museum will place a billboard at Exit 52 and Exit 72 on Interstate 85. He noted this will allow commuters between Concord and Charlotte to see the Museum's message on a daily basis. Mr. Brown stated all of this is with the purpose to draw visitors to the Museum and to spend their money in Salisbury and Rowan County.

There being no other special community efforts groups present to address Council, Mayor Kluttz closed the floor for comment.

ORDINANCE DIRECTING HOUSING INSPECTOR TO ARRANGE DEMOLITION OF STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 307 SOUTH INSTITUTE STREET

Code Services Manager Chris Branham addressed Council regarding a request to demolish a structure located at 307 South Institute Street. Mr. Branham reviewed the Minimum Housing compliance process:

- Preliminary investigation
- Notice of Hearing letter
- Public Hearing
- Findings of Fact letter
- Compliance date
- City Council adopts an ordinance
- Dwelling is demolished and owner is billed for the cost

Mr. Branham displayed a map of the property and noted its location near Livingstone College and Monroe Street. Mr. Branham reviewed the timeline for the structure:

- April 7, 2009 – Complaint and notice of hearing letter sent to property owner
- April 20, 2009 – Hearing held, no one attended
- September 24, 2009 – Findings of Fact letter sent to owner
- October 30, 2009 – Original compliance date, owner had been contacted before this date via telephone and expressed interest in demolishing it on his own; therefore, following the abandoned house delay in the Code of 365 days, the next compliance date was set for April 20, 2010, which was one year from the original hearing date
- May 2010 – owner contracted, no change to property, owner requested Fire Department to look at house to use as a training burn
- May 25, 2010 – Fire Department confirmed that it did not meet training requirements due to being too close to surrounding dwellings and due to structural failures on the interior
- March 18, 2011 – called and left owner a message stating that they would have until March 23, 2011 to reply or case would be taken to Council for an Ordinance to demolish
- April 6, 2011 – talked with owner on the telephone and he stated that someone would be contacting Code Services regarding cleaning the property, but no contact was ever made

Mr. Branham displayed several photographs of the property and pointed out it is close to an occupied dwelling that has children's play equipment in the back yard. He added the structure poses a major safety hazard to the area with proximity of children and the college. He noted the inside of the structure is much worse than its outside appearance and contains a basement that has completely fallen in.

Mr. Branham reviewed the Minimum Housing Compliance Process:

- Section 10-53. Failure to comply with order – “the inspector shall submit to the city council an ordinance ordering the inspector to cause such dwelling to be repaired, altered, improved or vacated and closed and removed or demolished, as provided in the original order of the inspector”
- Section 10-58. Costs of repairs, demolition to constitute lien – “The cost of abatement will be filed with the county and collected as unpaid taxes if not paid within first 30 days”

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell asked to confirm that once the Ordinance is adopted the owner cannot make any further promises to repair the structure in order to restart the calendar and delay the demolition. Mr. Branham confirmed this is correct. He stated the bid process has already been completed and the demolition will most likely be completed this week.

Councilman Woodson commented it appears this will help the neighborhood, and he supports the demolition.

Thereupon, Mr. Woodson made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance directing the Housing Inspector to have demolished the structure located at 301 South Institute Street, Salisbury, NC, it being unfit for human habitation and deteriorated to unsafe conditions. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Mr. Kennedy stated this house has been in disrepair for 10 years, and it is time for it to be removed. Ms. Blackwell clarified the address is 307 South Institute Street and not 301. Mr. Branham confirmed. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Mses. Blackwell and Klutz voted AYE. (5-0)

AN ORDINANCE DIRECTING THE HOUSING INSPECTOR TO HAVE DEMOLISHED THE STRUCTURE LOCATED AT 307 SOUTH INSTITUTE STREET, SALISBURY, NC, IT BEING UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION, AND DETERIORATED TO UNSAFE CONDITION.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 23 at Page No. 30, and is known as Ordinance 2011-17.)

LEASE CONTRACT WITH NEW CINGULAR WIRELESS PSC, LLC (AT&T)

Telecommunications Manager Terry Buff indicated the City has been approached by AT&T's New Cingular Wireless regarding the lease of property from the City. He stated the property is located at the water tank at 405 North Jackson Street. He noted AT&T will lease property beside the tank along with antenna space on the tank for a rental fee of \$1,500 per month. He stated the initial term will be for five years, with three five year renewal terms. He indicated AT&T has met all requirements, and he requested Council approve the lease.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** to approve a lease contract with New Cingular Wireless PSC, LLC (AT&T) for a five year initial term, with three additional five year renewal terms based upon mutual agreement, to lease approximately 500 square feet of property located at 405 North Jackson Street. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Mses. Blackwell and Klutz voted AYE. (5-0)

APPROVING UPDATES TO THE UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS MANUAL

Engineering and Development Director Dan Mikkelson noted Council Goal 10.1 is to seek local permitting authority from the North Carolina Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources (NCDENR) to allow the City to issue permits for water and sewer extensions. He noted NCDENR has indicated the language in the City's Uniform Construction Standards Manual needs to be updated. He stated NCDENR updated its standards in 2006 and the changes are referred to as the 2T Standards. Mr. Mikkelson explained the proposed amendments to the City's Uniform Construction Standards Manual include the 2T language NCDENR has requested, along with revisions recommended by staff.

Mr. Mikkelson stated he distributed the recommended updates to three engineering consulting firms who have worked with the Construction Standards Manual to request feedback. He noted two firms responded and were supportive of the changes. He asked Council to consider adopting the proposed revisions.

Thereupon, Mr. Woodson made a **motion** to adopt the amendments in the Uniform Construction Standards Manual. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Councilman Miller asked if this is what the State is using in other places. Mr. Mikkelson responded this is correct. He added the 2T language is part of the State regulations, and the language in the City's Construction Standards Manual was less stringent than the NCDENR requirements. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Meses. Blackwell and Kluttz voted AYE. (5-0)

APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

This item was postponed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Kluttz opened the floor to receive public comment.

Mr. David Post, owner Salisbury Pharmacy, asked Council to reconsider its existing Sign Ordinance. He noted the current Ordinance prohibits the use of electronic signs, but exceptions have been created, and he would rather be treated the same as everyone else rather than asking for an exception. He indicated exceptions have been created for the Veterans Administration Hospital, the colleges, and gas stations. Mr. Post stated he would like the City to consider allowing electronic signs that could be changed one time per day. He indicated he is going to spend a lot of money on a new sign and would like to review the Sign Ordinance before he makes that commitment.

Councilman Woodson asked Mr. Post if he would like to have an electronic sign. Mr. Post stated he would prefer an electronic sign because it is very difficult to change the language on his current sign.

Ms. Mary Arey, 415 West Marsh Street, read a letter to Council regarding City-owned property located in her neighborhood. She noted the property is located at 615 South Ellis Street, and the West Square Historic District Residents of Old Salisbury Neighborhood Association would like Council to transfer the property to the Parks and Recreation Department so it can be used as a passive park. She indicated the property has served unofficially as a passive neighborhood park for many years, and the residents would be disappointed to lose this space. She added it provides a safe place for neighborhood children to play and urged Council to preserve the property as a passive park.

There being one else present to address Council, Mayor Kluttz closed the public comment session.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

(a) Approve 2011-2012 Council Goals and Outcomes.

City Manager David Treme presented for Council's information a draft copy of Council's Outcomes and Goals developed during the Future Directions and Goal Setting Conference. He noted he presents this for Council's information and there will be an opportunity during the budget process to review the Outcomes and Goals. He added when the FY2011-2012 budget is adopted the Outcomes and Goals can also be adopted.

(b) Police Reorganizational Plan.

Police Chief Rory Collins shared a reorganization plan for the Police Department that was implemented March 21, 2011. He reviewed the Mission Statement for the Police Department which states, "The Salisbury Police Department will provide quality law enforcement services with honest, fair, and ethical treatment of all," and stated the reorganization will allow the Police Department to provide a better quality service. Chief Collins commented as he started the process he received feedback from all personnel at the Police Department and was able to use a great deal of the feedback received.

Chief Collins stated he thinks there are three mandatory components for success:

- Suppression – the standard activity of all police agencies
- Intervention – working to turn those individuals around who have become involved in criminal activity
- Prevention – working to prevent individuals (mainly our youth) from crossing the line into criminal activity

Chief Collins noted the Police Department is active in the Project SAFE program which is aimed at addressing violent crime in the community. He stated officers are also in the school system to work with children through the D.A.R.E. program and the gang resistance program G.R.E.A.T. He commented this also allows youth to have a positive interaction with police officers.

Chief Collins stated one project he is in the process of implementing is a Police Department sponsored mentoring program. He indicated he intends to have specific officers work directly with youth on a regular basis.

Chief Collins indicated the reorganization dealt mainly with leadership and supervision positions, and the addition of a street crimes unit. He stated the Department was asked to name the street crime unit and the name selected was the Police Intervention Team (P.I.T.) He commented crime statistics, information gathered from the field, and citizen input is used to

determine which areas the P.I.T. will concentrate its activities. Chief Collins stated since this team is dedicated as a street crime unit, it can begin addressing a problem the day it is reported. He pointed out prior to the reorganization it was hard for the officers to find time to address the issues while also responding to the 42,000 calls for service received last year. He added the reorganization was done with existing staff and no additional staff was hired.

Chief Collins noted the P.I.T has already made an impact after being in place one month and reviewed statistics:

- Drugs
 - 27 grams of Cocaine
 - 76 grams of Marijuana
 - 18 dosage units of illegal pills
- Weapons
 - 5 seized
- Arrests
 - 63

Chief Collins shared the Vision Statement for the Police Department, “Creating an environment in which citizens and visitors will feel safe in all parts of the City. Improving service to citizens and visitors through community partnerships and implementation of new practices and technology.” He stated it is important for the community to trust its police officers and he hopes through this new plan the trust from the community will be increased.

Mayor Klutz stated she is very impressed with work done by Chief Collins, and she thinks he is an excellent leader, and the City is fortunate to have him in this position. She commented she thinks Chief Collins’ experience with Project SAFE before he became Chief was very valuable because he learned first-hand the importance of community policing. She added she is also very impressed with the mentoring program because she thinks there is nothing more important for an at-risk child than to have a mentor, and she cannot think of anyone better than a police officer. She thanked Chief Collins for the work done with this reorganization and stated she is confident it will allow the Police Department to provide better service and make the City safer.

Councilman Kennedy commented he likes the idea of intervention explained by Chief Collins, and he would like to hear more about this at a later time. He thanked Chief Collins for returning to community partnerships.

(c) FY2011-2012 Budget Presentation

City Manager David Treme indicated he hopes to present the FY2011-2012 budget to Council at its May 3, 2011 meeting. He stated staff’s goal was to cut approximately \$2.7 million from the budget based on the current economy and to recommend a revenue neutral budget. He commented staff has been working very hard on the proposed budget since the Future Directions and Goal Setting Conference to put together the best value for the dollars available. He stated city governments typically follow the economy, and his experience has shown that when the

private sector begins recovery, it tends to be the year the City feels the residual effect of the economic downturn. He indicated service levels will have to be adjusted to the new reality of the new economy. Mr. Treme stated there have been position freezes, early retirement has been offered, and there has been a reduction in force, along with a realignment of the organization to prepare for the upcoming budget.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) 5th Annual Mother and Son Dance

The Salisbury Parks and Recreation Department will host the 5th Annual Mother and Son Dance Saturday, April 30, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Civic Center, 315 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue. Tickets are available at all Parks and Recreation Facilities.

(b) Relay for Life

The City of Salisbury Relay for Life team will be participating in the annual Relay for Life event to be held at the Rowan County Fairgrounds Friday May 13, 2011 starting at 5:00 p.m. All citizens are invited to attend this free event to support Relay for Life.

(c) Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell Request

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell requested Council schedule a conversation regarding information. She noted large corporations to small Parent-Teacher Association boards receive monthly financial reports, and she thinks citizens would be surprised that City Council does not. She stated aldermen in neighboring communities, as well as the County Commissioners receive these reports, and she would like to discuss Council receiving reports when the new budget begins. She asked this be placed on Council's agenda for the May 3, 2011 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Woodson. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:31 p.m.


Susan W. Kluttz, Mayor


Myra B. Heard, City Clerk