

Salisbury, North Carolina
March 17, 2015

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Presiding; Council Members Karen Kirks Alexander, William (Pete) Kennedy, and William Brian Miller; Interim City Manager John Sofley; City Clerk Myra B. Heard; and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Woodson at 4:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Councilmember Miller.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Woodson welcomed all visitors present.

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Recessed Meeting of February 18, 2015, the Special Meeting of February 19-20, 2015, and the Regular Meeting of March 3, 2015.

(b) Temporary Use of Public Right-of-Way – 100 West Liberty Street

Extend the right-of-way use permit for temporary closure of the eastbound lane of traffic, street parking, and sidewalk in the 100 block of West Liberty Street through April 13, 2015.

Thereupon, Ms. Alexander made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Ms. Alexander voted AYE. (4-0)

TEXT AMENDMENT – TA-07-2014 RELATED TO HOME OCCUPATIONS

Planning and Development Services Manager Preston Mitchell addressed Council regarding Land Development Ordinance Text Amendment TA-07-2014, to revise provisions of Chapter 2 (Districts), Chapter 3 (Additional Use Standards), and Chapter 18 (Definitions) of the City Code related to Home Occupations. He explained Home Occupation is defined as a business operated out of a citizen's home.

Mr. Mitchell reviewed single-family home occupation as referenced in the Land Development Ordinance (LDO):

- An occupation or profession conducted within a single-family dwelling unit by a residing family member that is incidental to the primary use of the dwelling as a residence. Home Occupations are small and quiet non-retail businesses generally invisible from the front, seldom visited by clients, requiring little parking, little or no signage, and having one or two employees

Mr. Mitchell stated the residential character of the area must be maintained. He added the goal is to help a business grow while maintaining and protecting residential areas. He reviewed the process for obtaining Home Occupation:

- Apply for a business license at the One-Stop-Shop
 - Staff will determine if the Home Occupation is permitted
 - Fire inspection may be required
- Zoning inspection
 - Signature required
- Permit/License
 - Issue zoning permit
 - Issue business license

Mr. Mitchell explained the Planning Department will partner with Code Services to conduct inspections prior to the issuance of a Home Occupation license. He added the proposed text amendment requires equipment and tools be stored in a basement or garage if left at the residence.

Mr. Mitchell explained Home Occupation is permitted with standards in Rural Residential (RR), General Residential (GR), Urban Residential (UR), Historic Residential (HR), Residential Mixed-Use (RMX), Institutional Campus (IC), and Traditional Neighborhood Development (TND) districts. He explained RMX marks the beginning of commercial zoning, but it includes residential neighborhoods that must be maintained. He noted the proposed text amendment will allow Home Occupation with standards in Open Space Preserve (OSP), Hospital Services (HS), and Manufactured Home Development (MHD) districts. He pointed out Home Occupation is not allowed in Neighborhood Mixed-Use (NMX), Corridor Mixed-Use (CMX), Downtown Mixed-Use (DMX), Highway Business (HB), Light Industrial (LI) and Heavy Industrial (HI) districts because single-family homes are prohibited.

Mr. Mitchell indicated the Planning Board used the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) guidelines to determine the gross living area of a home. He noted the proposal would allow:

- One home occupancy business
 - Maximum 300 square feet of the gross living area
 - No basement or garage maximum
- More than one home occupancy business
 - Maximum 500 square feet or 30 percent of the gross living area
 - No basement or garage maximum

Councilmember Alexander stated the square footage for Home Occupation is currently listed in the Code, and the proposed text amendment would clarify it. Mr. Mitchell added the current Code allows the lesser of 500 square feet or 30 percent of the gross living area. He commented the proposed text amendment would keep the existing language, eliminate the basement and garage from the calculation, and allow an additional 200 square feet for more than one home occupancy business.

Mr. Mitchell stated the proposed text amendment would lower the maximum square footage for one home occupancy business by 200 square feet, and keep the maximum square footage at 500 square foot for multiple home occupancy businesses.

Mr. Mitchell pointed out the recommendation from the Planning Board is that outdoor storage not be allowed in the open space preservation in GR, UR, HR, HS, and TND districts. He noted equipment associated with a Home Occupation must be fully contained within a basement or accessory structure. He added the RMX, IC, and MHD districts would allow outdoor storage in the rear yard with complete visual separation from public streets and adjacent residential properties. He commented outdoor storage in RR district would be permitted in any part of the yard and would require screening if it is against a street or adjacent to another residential property.

Mr. Mitchell explained the proposed text amendment clarifies oversized commercial vehicles or trailers. He noted the current definition in the Code states oversized commercial vehicle shall include any vehicle, except pickup trucks, or trailer that bears a commercial license plate, and:

- Has more than two axles or four tires
- Is designated to carry more than fifteen passengers, including the driver
- Weighs more than 10,000 pounds with or without a load
- Requires hazardous materials placards
- Is more than nine feet in height
- Is more than 22 feet in length

Ms. Alexander stated the proposed text amendment refers to a trailer as a separate utility trailer. Mr. Mitchell agreed.

Mr. Mitchell noted the Planning Board formed a legislative committee to consider the details of the proposal, and on February 24, 2015 voted to recommend approval of the proposed text amendment.

Councilmember Kennedy asked if oversized vehicles have always been referenced in the Code. Mr. Mitchell explained the current language refers to non-commercial vehicles only and lacks clarity. He added the proposed text amendment refers to oversized commercial vehicles as defined by the municipal Ordinance shall not be permitted.

Councilmember Miller asked what prompted the proposed text amendments. Mr. Mitchell explained there have been multiple unrelated instances of Home Occupation in historic districts and well-established single-family residential areas where tools and equipment have been left in the yard.

Mayor Woodson asked if there has been an increase in Home Occupations. Mr. Mitchell stated staff has seen an increase in established businesses moving from commercial locations to home occupancy. He commented many established businesses downsized during the recession and no longer needed a commercial location. He added many of these businesses operate out of their home and store equipment on the property which can impact a neighborhood.

Mr. Mitchell noted approximately one year ago staff noticed Home Occupations operating in rental housing. He explained a policy was established requiring a letter from the property owner allowing Home Occupation in rental property.

(b) Mayor Woodson convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding TA-07-2014.

Mr. Joe Morris, 600 West Henderson Street, asked Council to support the proposed text amendment which will enhance neighborhoods. He explained property values are declining and people can purchase lower priced housing and move their business into the City. He noted the proposed text amendment acknowledges incompatible land uses creeping into the City. He indicated a petition was submitted to the Mayor's office in support of the proposed text amendments. He explained property values in the City are decreasing, and the City will no longer be able to afford essential services unless efforts are made to protect neighborhood residents who invest in the City. Mr. Morris commented there are over 700 vacant houses within the City. He added the City must take an aggressive approach to condemnation, acquisition and rehabilitation of vacant houses which decline over time. He stated the community should work together to make vacant and underutilized properties available to potential home buyers. He asked Council to work to improve housing, expand Code Enforcement, and support public education and safety. He thanked Council for considering the proposed text amendment.

Clyde, 220 East Bank Street, stated the proposed text amendments are an invasion of privacy. He noted people are moving out of the City because of the rules, fees and taxes. He pointed out it would be outlandish to go into someone's home and measure the square footage of their property. He asked if the proposed text amendment would mean an antique dealer is not allowed to display antiques throughout their home. He questioned if an artist would be allowed to exhibit paintings for sale in the basement, or if a landscaper would be allowed to have flowers in their front yard. He commented some citizens will not want to live in the City if they are not allowed to have a Home Occupation.

Ms. Anne Lyles, 409 East Bank Street, noted she is a member of the Housing Advocacy Commission (HAC) and served on the Committee that worked on the proposed text amendment. She stated the City has housing issues. She pointed out using residential property for Home Occupation will put additional strain on the property and could cause additional decline. She indicated definite requirements are needed for Home Occupations so undue stress is not put on residential property.

Mayor Woodson commented Council is working to increase Code Enforcement's presence in the City and plans to hire an additional Code Enforcement Officer.

There being no one else to speak, Mayor Woodson closed the public comment session.

Mayor Woodson asked Mr. Mitchell to address Clyde's concerns.

Mr. Mitchell pointed out existing language in the Code states, "Except for equipment or materials of a type and quantity that could reasonably be associated with the principal residential use, outdoor storage of Home Occupation elements including but not limited to tools, products, machinery, materials and waste are prohibited." He explained the language is already in the Code. He pointed out enforcement of the Ordinance requires reasonableness and common sense. He noted the Code Enforcement Officer, who inspects the property prior to issuance of a permit or based upon a complaint, must use judgment to enforce the Code and determine what can be reasonably associated with the home as personal equipment and what can reasonably be associated with the business. Mr. Mitchell emphasized the home is a residence first and the

business is secondary. He pointed out Code Enforcement has the authority to inspect a property to ensure the square footage requirements are upheld. Mr. Mitchell stated flowers may grow naturally on a property, and if they happen to be associated with the Home Occupation it would be defined differently than a tool or piece of equipment in the yard.

Councilmember Alexander clarified an inspection would not be conducted until a citizen requests a Home Occupation permit and license, and the limitations for the business would be explained to the property owner at that time. Mr. Mitchell agreed. He noted when a citizen requests a Home Occupation permit, staff explains an inspection of the property will take place. Mr. Mitchell emphasized Home Occupation must be incidental to the primary use. He explained if the One-Stop-Shop received a complaint that a citizen was clearly operating a business from their home, an inspection could occur outside of the initial permit process. Ms. Alexander pointed out the business would be operating illegally without a business license. Mr. Mitchell stated that is correct, and he noted inspections outside of the normal application process would be rare.

Ms. Alexander pointed out if a home owner with a Home Occupation has equipment on the property a hedge around the equipment would be required. She asked if the requirement had been clarified. Mr. Mitchell stated the requirements were linked to the LDO and cross-referenced to existing Ordinances, which require complete visual separation. He noted either vegetation or fencing can be used and must provide complete visual separation.

Ms. Alexander stated the text change is for clarification and not to rewrite the Code. Mr. Mitchell agreed. Ms. Alexander noted the proposed text amendment allows more control over outdoor storage of tools and equipment. Mr. Mitchell stated the proposed text amendment further defines terms that are currently in the Ordinance. He noted the current Ordinance states non-commercial vehicles are permitted while the proposed text amendment defines oversized vehicles and trailers.

Ms. Alexander asked if a garage used for business storage must have a door. Mr. Mitchell stated the Code does not mandate a garage must have a door. Ms. Alexander pointed out a garage door could be critical to neighborhood safety. She asked if Council could consider adding a requirement for a door to the proposed text amendment.

Councilmember Miller noted an Ordinance will not meet the need of every situation. He stated the goal is to protect neighborhood integrity and property values. He commented common sense in the application and enforcement of the proposed text amendment is critical.

Ms. Alexander pointed out most garages face the street, and buffering is required along the sides and back to protect the neighborhood. She questioned if neighbors across the street should have to view an open garage full of construction material. Mr. Miller asked if Council could respond if it receives a complaint regarding a garage without a door. He pointed out Council supports home-based businesses, but the business should not interfere with the livability of a neighborhood.

Councilmember Kennedy asked if the proposed text amendment addresses a business that is located in one section of town but stores materials at second residence. Mr. Mitchell noted the situation is addressed under the Nuisance Ordinance.

Mr. Mitchell pointed out the Code states a Home Occupation should not be visible from any dwelling or street. He explained outdoor storage requires complete visual separation, and a Home Occupation cannot be visible from the outside of the home.

Ms. Alexander stated she is satisfied outdoor equipment must have complete visual separation.

Mayor Woodson pointed out the State discontinued the privilege license tax which will cost the City approximately \$325,000 annually, and if sales tax revenue is shifted from the City to other communities, additional revenue will be lost. He added the Hold Harmless funding of approximately \$700,000 was also lost last year.

Interim City Manager John Sofley stated the loss of privilege license is being appealed. He explained businesses can be registered, which is critical for fire and police protection, but the City cannot charge a privilege license.

Mr. Miller stated the City Council hereby finds and determines that adoption of an Ordinance to amend the Land Development Ordinance of the City of Salisbury, as underlined or stricken herein, is reasonable, in the public interest, and not inconsistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan because according to the proposed amendment, the specific request, and observations provided by City Planning staff, there are no policies directly supportive of, or objectionable to, the proposal. Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 2 (Districts), Chapter 3 (Additional Use Standards), and Chapter 18 (Definitions) of the Land Development Ordinance of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina, related to single-family home occupations. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller, Kennedy and Woodson, and Ms. Alexander voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 2 (DISTRICTS), CHAPTER 3 (ADDITIONAL USE STANDARDS), AND CHAPTER 18 (DEFINITIONS) OF THE LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, RELATED TO SINGLE-FAMILY HOME OCCUPATIONS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 10-14, and is known as Ordinance 2015-07)

Mayor Woodson noted the Ordinance could be amended if changes are needed. He added Council does not want to make it difficult to do business in the City.

SPECIAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

Mayor Woodson opened the floor to receive presentations from Special Community Organizations regarding 2015-2016 City Budget requests.

Mr. Anthony Johnson, Founder and Director of the Mini Funk Factory Marching Band, explained the Band began at Overton Elementary School as a drumline and became a marching band in 2011. He noted the Mini Funk Factory Marching Band left Overton Elementary School in 2013. He stated the Mini Funk Factory Marching Band has 62 members from 6 area schools: Overton Elementary School, Knox Middle School, Isenberg Elementary School, Koontz Middle School, North Middle School, and Hanford-Dole Elementary School, and he pointed out the Band became a nonprofit in January 2015. He explained the students need new uniforms. He added the group has applied for a \$6,000 grant and would appreciate any funding the City could provide. He stated the total budget for the project is \$31,000, and he added the Band is holding a fundraiser.

Ms. Dee Dee Wright, 418 South Caldwell Street, requested an increase in salaries for fire and police personnel. She stated salary increases would allow the City to be competitive and retain police officers.

There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Woodson closed the floor.

CONTRACT – MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC.

Purchasing Manager Anna Bumgarner and Telecommunications Manager Terry Buff addressed Council regarding a sole source contract in the amount of \$1,117,808 with Motorola Solutions, Inc. Ms. Bumgarner explained North Carolina General Statutes allow local governments to purchase from a sole source when a product is available from only one source or will standardize existing equipment.

Mr. Buff noted the City upgraded its public safety radio system in April 2014. He added the system went live with public safety and included the master site, prime site, and one remote site. He added in December 2014 two additional sites were added making the system a five-site system.

Mr. Buff explained the warranty on the prime and master sites will expire April 1, 2015. He added the proposed contract includes software upgrades and maintenance for six years. He noted a major upgrade will take place every two years, and software enhancements will be completed quarterly.

Ms. Bumgarner noted the total cost of the contract is \$ 1,117,808 to be paid over six years. She added the payments are not equal every year.

Councilmember Kennedy asked if the contract is included in the City Budget. Interim City Manager John Sofley stated the contract will be included in next year's budget. He indicated the contract is for maintenance on the prime site, and there is a separate contract with Motorola Solutions, Inc. for the four remote sites that the County will fund.

Mayor Woodson clarified the contract will be included in the FY2015-2016 Budget. Mr. Sofley agreed and noted the contract will be included in the budget for six subsequent years.

Councilmember Miller questioned what will happen when the contract expires. Mr. Sofley commented the City will consider another contract after the proposed contract expires. He pointed out the City used the original equipment for 12 years. Mr. Miller stated the equipment will be seven years old at the end of the contract. Mr. Buff agreed, and he indicated the equipment will be upgraded for an additional two years at that time and should be good for seven to eight years.

Mayor Woodson asked if the majority of the upgrade was for software. Mr. Buff stated a large portion of the contract is for software, and he noted the software upgrade for the master site and the prime site is \$120,000 per year.

Thereupon, Ms. Alexander made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution authorizing a sole source contract in the amount of \$1,117,808 with Motorola Solutions, Inc. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Ms. Alexander voted AYE. (4-0)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT WITH MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, INC.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 15 at Page No. 6, and is known as Resolution 2015-05)

QUIET ZONE DESIGNATION

City Engineer Wendy Brindle explained staff has worked with the Federal Railroad Administration for the last several years to ensure supplementary safety measures and alternative safety measures are in place at existing at-grade railroad crossings. She noted the safety measures in place make the City eligible to be designated as a quiet zone. She stated at-grade separated crossings do not qualify for a quiet zone because the train does not blow its horn.

Ms. Brindle displayed a map of the area, and she pointed out the railroad and its proximity to Main and Innes Streets. She noted the quiet zone encompasses the highway-rail grade crossings at East Monroe, Council, and Kerr Streets. She indicated the quiet zone will be established from Klumac Road to Kerr Street. She explained the engineer has the discretion to blow the horn, and she pointed out the horns must be blown at the Depot. She stated the quiet zone will be effective March 30, 2015.

Councilmember Alexander clarified the train must blow its horn at the Depot. Ms. Brindle noted passenger trains are required to blow their horns when they approach and leave the Depot.

Councilmember Kennedy asked Ms. Brindle for an update on the grade separation at Klumac Road.

Ms. Brindle stated the work is on schedule to be completed October 2016. She explained the project is phased, and the railroad had to shift its tracks to allow contractors to work. She added work is currently being completed on the underpass, and she indicated during the time when it appeared no work was being done, the railroad was shifting and securing tracks so the underpass could be constructed.

Ms. Brindle explained work is being completed on the underpass, and when construction is finished the railroad will be able to shift the tracks to the final alignment and complete the bridge. She added once the bridge is complete construction will begin on the road to join the bridge and realign Klumac Road.

APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Alternate Methods of Design Commission

Upon a motion by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Mr. Woodson and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following reappointment was made to the Alternated Methods of Design Commission:

Mr. Bill Wagoner

Term Expires 3/31/18

Community Appearance Commission

Upon a motion by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Mr. Woodson and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Community Appearance Commission:

Ms. Levonia Curry

Term Expires 3/31/18

Upon a motion by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Mr. Woodson and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Community Appearance Commission:

Ms. Jane Creech

Term Expires 3/31/18

Upon a motion by Mr. Kennedy seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Mr. and Woodson and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following reappointments were made to the Community Appearance Commission:

Mr. Carlton Jackson	Term Expires 3/31/18
Mr. Karl Sale	Term Expires 3/31/18
Ms. Jessica Vess	Term Expires 3/31/18

Greenway Committee

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, and with Mr. Woodson and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Greenway Committee:

Mr. Edward Hirst	Term Expires 3/31/18
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Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Alexander, and with Messrs. Kennedy and Woodson voting AYE, the following reappointments were made to the Greenway Committee:

Mr. Darrell Blackwelder	Term Expires 3/31/18
Ms. Lisa Wear	Term Expires 3/31/18

Historic Preservation Commission

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Alexander, and with Messrs. Kennedy and Woodson and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following re-appointment was made to the Historic Preservation Commission:

Ms. Lisa Cartner	Term Expires 3/31/18
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Upon a motion by Ms. Alexander, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Messrs. Kennedy and Woodson voting AYE, the following appointments were made to the Historic Preservation Commission:

Ms. Elizabeth Trick	Term Expires 3/31/18
Mr. Tom Wolpert	Term Expires 3/31/18

Housing Advocacy Commission

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, and with Mr. Woodson and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following reappointments were made to the Housing Advocacy Commission:

Mr. Nathan Chambers	Term Expires 03/31/18
Ms. Greta Connor	Term Expires 03/31/18
Mr. Sean Meyers	Term Expires 03/31/18

Human Relations Council

Upon a motion by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Ms. Alexander, and with Messrs. Miller and Woodson voting AYE, the following appointments were made to the Human Relations Council:

Ms. Annie Boone-Carroll	Term Expires 03/31/18
Mr. Lorenzo DeBose	Term Expires 03/31/18

Hurley Park Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, and with Mr. Woodson and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following reappointment was made to the Hurley Park Advisory Board:

Ms. Laura Thompson	Term Expires 03/31/18
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Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, and with Mr. Woodson and Ms. Blackwell voting AYE, the following reappointments were made to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:

Mr. John Brunton, Jr.	Term Expires 03/31/18
Dr. Windsor Eagle	Term Expires 03/31/18

Planning Board

Upon a motion by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Mr. Woodson and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following reappointments were made to the Planning Board:

Mr. Shaun Brixey	Term Expires 03/31/18
Mr. Josh Canup	Term Expires 03/31/18
Mr. Randy Reamer	Term Expires 03/31/18

Upon a motion by Mr. Woodson, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Mr. Kennedy and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Planning Board:

Mr. Brandon Williams	Term Expires 03/31/18
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Transportation Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, and with Mr. Woodson and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following reappointments were made to the Transportation Advisory Board:

Mr. Gary Price	Term Expires 03/31/18
Ms. Laura Schmidt	Term Expires 03/31/18

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, and with Mr. Woodson and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following appointments were made to the Transportation Advisory Board:

Ms. Wendy Brindle	Term Expires 03/31/18
Ms. Cynthia Kaminski	Term Expires 03/31/18

Tree Board

Upon a motion by Mr. Kennedy, seconded by Mr. Miler, and with Mr. Woodson and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following reappointments were made to the Tree Board:

Mr. Rick Lewis	Term Expires 03/31/18
Ms. Gretta Saunders	Term Expires 03/31/18

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Kennedy, and with Mr. Woodson and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following reappointment was made to the Zoning Board of Adjustment:

Ms. Diane Scott

Term Expires 03/31/18

Mayor Woodson encouraged all citizens interested in serving on a Board or Commission to apply. He noted currently there are openings on the Human Relations Council and the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Woodson opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Carl Repsher, 8 North Road Circle, noted he volunteered at the Missions of Mercy Dental Clinic Friday, March 6, 2015. He explained his car was towed while he served at the Clinic, and it cost him \$135. He stated Mr. Frank Eason, Mr. David Setzer, and at least one client also had their cars towed during the dental clinic. He indicated the City has a serious crime problem, and he questioned why police resources were diverted to tow cars at a volunteer clinic. He explained he parked on Brenner Avenue and made sure he did not hinder anyone's access to their driveway. He added he does not understand why the area is a no parking/tow-away zone. He stated the "No Parking" sign is high on a post and partially hidden by a tree branch. He asked if staff could find a better way to communicate special events and make the most of police resources.

Mr. Sam Ketner, 428 Jake Alexander Boulevard, South, owner of Auto House automotive dealership, explained the Auto House is undergoing a major construction project for a \$4.5 million facility. He added the Auto House currently has 71 employees. He asked Council to consider a change to the Sign Ordinance that would allow an electronic message sign. He suggested a Conditional District (CD) Overlay on Jake Alexander Boulevard from Interstate 85 to Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. He noted the project will be complete in 2016 and an electronic sign is needed to relay information to customers. He pointed out he made a commitment to keep his business in the City, and he asked Council to consider amending the Sign Ordinance.

There being no one else to speak, Mayor Woodson closed the public comment session.

Mayor Woodson stated he thinks the Sign Ordinance should be reviewed to consider electronic signs. Councilmember Miller noted the request must go before the Planning Board.

Planning and Development Services Manager Preston Mitchell noted Mr. Ketner can submit a letter to Development Services, along with a check for \$600, to initiate the text amendment process. He added if Mr. Ketner believes the City should initiate the process it would go before the Technical Review Committee (TRC). He explained the TRC would review the proposal and send its recommendation to the Planning Board, who would most likely send it to Committee before making a recommendation to Council. He pointed out approximately one year ago the City initiated a request to examine electronic signage. He noted after nine months the Committee denied the request. He pointed out the Planning Board recommended not allowing additional electronic signage at this time.

Mr. Miller stated each landowner has a right to have his case heard in the public process. He asked Mr. Mitchell to share the previous discussion with Mr. Ketner, and to work with Mr. Ketner to start the process.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

(a) Parking – 2100 Block Brenner Avenue

Interim City Manager John Sofley asked Police Chief Rory Collins to address the parking situation in the 2100 block of Brenner Avenue. Chief Collins noted police officers issued four parking citations on Friday, March 6, 2015 and also towed four vehicles from the 2100 block of Brenner Avenue during the Missions of Mercy Dental Clinic. He added the area is marked with three No-Parking/Tow-a-Way zone signs. He indicated on Saturday, March 7, 2015 no vehicles were towed from the area, but two parking citations were issued. He stated there was no need for enforcement on Sunday.

Chief Collins stated communication has taken place between the City, Catawba College, and the neighborhood regarding traffic and parking issues. He stated the City received many calls from area residents and College officials requesting enforcement for parking restrictions to include towing vehicles parked in tow-a-way zones. He pointed out most of the time officers do not know what events are taking place at the College, or if the parked vehicle is at a College event.

Chief Collins noted the event was geared toward helping those in need, but he pointed out if officers make decisions based upon the person who is in violation of the law, it will compromise the integrity of the Police Department.

Mayor Woodson asked if something could be worked out for next year to ensure parking is available for patients and volunteers.

Chief Collins stated two additional signs have been erected in the area since the incident occurred. He noted he traveled to the area and was able to see the signs clearly in the 2100 block of Brenner Avenue. He indicated as long as the Ordinance is in place, the Police Department must enforce it. He added his recommendation for future events is to use cones to bring attention to the signs in place, and he noted cones can be put out if the Police Department is aware an event is taking place.

Councilmember Miller asked if notification could be given prior to large events to make sure volunteers have maps of where to park. Chief Collins stated he would make sure Catawba College is aware of the situation.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) 7TH Annual Salisbury Sculpture Show

Mayor Woodson announced the 7th annual Salisbury Sculpture Show "Discover What's Outside" is being installed this week. 19 sculptures will be installed downtown and on the four college campuses. The selected artists represent five different states, as far away as Michigan and Connecticut. All installations will be completed by the end of day Friday and will be in place for the public to enjoy over the next nine months.

(b) Spring Spruce-up Week

Mayor Woodson announced during the week of March 23-27, 2015 Public Services will pick up old appliances, tires without rims (limit 5 per location) and extra bagged trash from residential customers. Residents should place the items at the curb on their regular collection day before 7:00 am. Building materials and electronics cannot be collected. This also marks the last week for loose leaf collection. For additional information or questions contact Public Services at 704-638-5260.

(c) Easter Egg Hunt and Community Fun Day

Mayor Woodson announced the Salisbury Parks and Recreation Department will hold an Easter Egg Hunt and Community Fun Day Saturday, March 28, 2015 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Kelsey Scott Park. The egg hunt will begin at approximately 12:30 p.m., and there will be games, a bounce house and quality time with the Easter Bunny. The event is free and open to the public.

(d) Reception – New City Manager

Mayor Woodson announced a reception will be held for new City Manager Lane Bailey Tuesday, April 7, 2015 at 3:00 p.m. at City Hall.

(e) Economic Development Community Forum

Mayor Woodson announced the Rowan County Community Forum will host an Economic Development Community Forum Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at the Agricultural Center located at 2727 Old Concord Road. Registration will begin at 7:45 a.m. and the forum will adjourn at noon. The public is invited to attend.

(f) Mayor's Spirit Luncheon

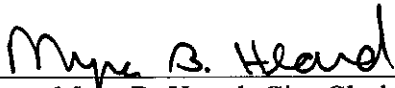
Mayor Woodson announced the Mayor's Spirit Luncheon will take place on Tuesday, March 31, 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Alexander seconded by Mr. Kennedy. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.



Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Mayor



Myra B. Heard, City Clerk