

Salisbury, North Carolina  
December 6, 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. Mayor Alexander asked for a moment of silence prior to the meeting to honor those who lost their lives to violence over the weekend in the City. The invocation was given by Councilmember Miller. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alexander at 5:00 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

**RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Mayor Alexander welcomed all visitors present.

## **RECOGNITION – ORDER OF THE LONG LEAF PINE RECIPIENTS**

Mayor Alexander explained the Order of Long Leaf Pine is the highest award given by the Governor of North Carolina to a citizen. She stated the award is presented to people who have demonstrated exemplary service to the State and their communities and made a significant impact and strengthened North Carolina.

Mayor Alexander recognized 2016 recipients of the Order of the Long Leaf Pine: Ms. Dari Caldwell, Mr. Rodney Cress, Ms. Kaye Brown Hirst, Judge John Holshouser, Mr. Terry Osborne, Dr. Rob Robertson, Ms. Janet Ward Black, and Dr. Jimmy Jenkins.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

(a) Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Regular meetings of November 15, 2016 and the Special Meeting of November 18, 2016.

(b) 2017 Council Meeting Dates

Adopt the 2017 schedule of regular Council meeting dates.

(c) Contract – Weathergard

Award a contract to Weathergard in the amount of \$203,400 for the installation of a new roof on the Head Start building located at 1400 West Bank Street.

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

## **2016 BLOCKWORK**

Housing Advocacy Commission (HAC) Chair Barbara Perry, and retired Urban Design Planner Lynn Raker provided an update on the 2016 BlockWork held October 22, 2016 on National Make a Difference Day. Ms. Perry pointed out the City partnered with Livingstone College, the Historic Salisbury Foundation (HSF), the HAC, and the Community Appearance Commission (CAC) on the 6<sup>th</sup> annual BlockWork. She thanked Council, City Manager Lane Bailey, and private donors for their support of the event which took place in the 800 and 900 blocks of West Monroe Street.

Ms. Perry recognized site managers Lou Manning, Sue McHugh, Josh Canup, Doug Black, Mark Whitman, Brian Pfaff, Creth Holman, Steve Raker, Fred Pizzardi, Geof Wilson, Karl Sale, Sean Findle, River Lowe, C.J. Peters, Jon Leach, and Alfred Wilson. She thanked City staff, neighborhood residents, area students, and members of the community for their work on the project. She added over 200 volunteers worked throughout the day on masonry and electrical repair, painting, landscaping, carpentry, and roofing.

Ms. Raker reviewed the work that was completed on individual properties. She thanked the sponsors and everyone who worked to make the project a success:

- Apple Ugly
- Better Loafing
- Bimbo Bakeries USA
- Biscuitville
- Cables and Volts Cont.
- Cheerwine
- Chick-fil-A
- College Barbeque
- F&M Bank
- Frito Lay
- Karl K. Sale
- Krispy Kreme
- Lowes Home Improvement
- Mean Mug Coffee Co.
- Medina Roofing and Construction
- Rodney Queen
- Rowan Memorial Park
- Sherwin-Williams Paint Store
- Glen Upp
- Godley's Garden Center and Nursery

Mayor Alexander thanked Ms. Perry and Ms. Raker for all they do for BlockWork and the City.

### **ROWAN CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU INITIATIVE**

Councilmember Hardin noted he met with Rowan Convention and Visitors Bureau (CBV) Director James Meacham and invited him to share the CVB's initiative and how it could benefit the City.

Mr. Meacham reviewed the structure of the CVB, and he noted board members are appointed equally by the City and the County. He pointed out the CVB also manages the Rowan Arts Council, the Trolley System, the Gateway Building, and Community Branding. He stated the CVB focuses on growth and community support through visitor spending. He explained the CVB is funded through taxes and fees collected from local hotels. He added the goal of the CVB is to increase visitor related revenues through incentivized visitation, group sales and recruitment, partner support, product investment and enhancement, and community branding and engagement. He presented a video regarding Community Branding.

Mr. Hardin asked Mr. Meacham how the CVB's investment impacts the rest of the City. Mr. Meacham stated it does not impact the rest of the City or directly solve community problems, but provides funding that allows Council to make decisions that help solve problems in the community and support community programs.

Mr. Meacham stated visitors spent \$160 million in Rowan County in 2015 which generated \$5.15 million in local tax revenue. He indicated there are 1,360 jobs in hospitality and lodging in Rowan County, and the average hotel room is \$90 with a 69.3% room occupancy rate. He explained a new hotel would generate approximately \$100,000 in fees and revenues annually for the City through:

- Property tax of \$33,600 paid to the City
- Local sales tax of approximately \$48,220 divided between Rowan County and the City
- \$42,000 to \$48,000 in water and sewer revenue
- 20 to 25 full or part-time jobs

Mr. Meacham stated in 2016 the CVB awarded 31 grants for a total of \$130,000. He added the grants generated 3,088 room nights and had an overnight visitor-related economic impact of \$1.25 million. He pointed out 1.5 million visitors have been reached through CVB marketing and programming.

Mayor Alexander thanked Mr. Meacham for his presentation.

### **CELEBRATION EVENTS – 200 YEAR ANNIVERSARY FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Fire Chief Bob Parnell explained the Salisbury Fire Department will celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017. He noted the Salisbury Fire Department was founded December 8, 1817, when 34 citizens pledged \$415 to protect the City from fire.

Chief Parnell stated as part of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration open houses will be held at City fire stations, a history of the Salisbury Fire Department will be presented, and neighborhood block parties will take place throughout the City. He noted in 2017 the Fire Department hopes to break ground on Fire Station 6, receive two new fire trucks, install a history plaque to mark the location of the City's first fire station, and unveil a fully restored 1941 ladder truck that was used by the City. He added a parade will take place Friday, December 8, 2017 to commemorate the Fire Department's 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Mayor Alexander thanked Chief Parnell for the presentation, and she noted Council is looking forward to the celebrations.

### **MEMORIAL PARK CEMETERY COLUMBARIA FEES**

Public Services Director Tony Cinquemani and Cemetery Manager Linda Davis addressed Council regarding columbaria fees. Ms. Davis explained a 96 niche columbaria will be installed in Memorial Park Cemetery and ready for interments by January 1, 2017. She noted each niche will hold two cremation urns.

Ms. Davis stated bid packages were sent out and staff awarded the contract to Winecoff Memorials at \$19,500, which is within the budgeted amount of \$42,000.

Ms. Davis noted private cemeteries, municipalities, and churches were contacted regarding their columbaria niche fees. She explained private cemeteries charge \$2,300 to \$4,000, municipalities charge \$995 to \$2,000, and area churches charge \$500 to \$2,000 for columbaria niches. She added municipalities charge approximately \$150 for weekday urn interment.

Ms. Davis noted staff recommends columbaria niche fees of \$1,350 for City residents, \$1,550 for non-city residents, and \$150 for weekday urn interment.

Councilmember Post asked where the columbaria will be located. Ms. Davis stated the columbaria will be located in Memorial Park Cemetery on the right when entering the cemetery from Innes Street.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell asked if the columbaria has room to grow. Ms. Davis indicated there is space for additional columbaria at the Cemetery.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending the 2016-17 Budget Ordinance of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina to approve columbaria fees for Memorial Park Cemetery. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

**ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016-17 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROVE COLUMBARIA FEES.**

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 67, and is known as Ordinance 2016-42.)

### **STREET RENAMING**

City Engineer Wendy Brindle introduced GIS Coordinator Levi Coldiron, who recently assumed the duties of street naming and renaming, to Council. Mr. Coldiron explained the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) completed construction of a new underpass to align Mooresville Road at South Main Street. He noted the newly constructed roadway and a leftover remnant of Klumac Road must be renamed to meet Rowan County 911 requirements.

Mr. Coldiron commented staff mailed notifications to residents and property owners along the former Klumac Road making them aware of the address change, and staff received one response. He pointed out the Technical Review Commission (TRC) approved the naming proposal that would require 15 properties to change their address to Quality Street to follow 911 standards. He noted staff also proposes renaming the 100 block of Klumac Road to South Fulton Street which would not impact area property owners.

Mayor Alexander stated she received a letter from a business owner on Klumac Road who believed changing the street name would impact her business and its deliveries. She asked if staff had another option Council could consider.

Mr. Coldiron noted an alternate proposal was considered by TRC, but it is not in accordance with 911 addressing standards. He explained Klumac Road would turn at the newly created intersection which would allow the residents and businesses to keep their current address. He pointed out Mooresville Road would change to Klumac Road without a stop condition. Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell noted she asked Police Chief Jerry Stokes and Fire Chief Bob Parnell if the configuration would be an issue, and they did not believe it would. Mayor Alexander commented under the alternate proposal Klumac Road would not require a name change.

Mr. Coldiron pointed out staff recommends the 100 block of Klumac Road change to South Fulton Street regardless of the proposal Council selects.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to allow the remnant of Klumac Road to remain noted as Klumac Road and to name the newly constructed section Mooresville Road and to change the 100 block of Klumac Road to South Fulton Street. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comment.

Ms. Mae Carroll, Commander JC Price American Legion, 1103 Old Plank Road, thanked Council for its work to keep the City viable. She commented the community is scared, but everyone wants to resolve the problems. She stated the community must come together and not work in isolated groups. She recommend creating a Crime Prevention Commission to address the issues that plague the City, and she suggested Councilmember Hardin serve as a liaison to the commission.

Ms. Carolyn Logan thanked Councilmembers Post and Hardin for all they do for the City. She stated she has attended Council meetings for months, and her concerns have fallen on deaf ears.

Ms. Susan Lee, 1042 Loganberry Lane, requested Council suspend the use of no-knock warrants, which could serve as a first step to restoring trust in the community. She pointed out last month's no-knock warrant resulted in a death, created fears among many citizens, and confirmed a growing distrust. She asked Council to suspend the use of no-knock warrants.

Dr. Nan Lund, 419 Eastwood Drive, referenced an investigation by the ACLU regarding excessive militarization of police agencies. She pointed out para-military policing increases the risk of violence and results in tragedies for civilians and police officers. She then referenced research from the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF). She commented protecting police officers from physical and emotional harm is at the heart of PERF's work. She urged Council to consider the research and suspend no-knock warrants in the City.

Ms. Ann Cantrell, 208 Maupin Avenue, reiterated what had been said about no-knock warrants. She noted she is the parent of a disabled adult child who could not follow a police officer's commands. She pointed out a disabled person could respond in a way that appears aggressive, and they could be harmed or killed.

Ms. Mary Frances Edens, 619 Laurel Valley Way, stated changes are needed to improve the relationship between the Police Department and the community. She indicated trust could be improved by eliminating no-knock warrants. She referenced cases in other states where no-knock warrants were executed at the wrong address. She commented no-knock raids put citizens and police in imminent danger and destroy trust in the community.

Ms. Keisha Brown, 606 East Franklin Street, commented police officers knocked on her door last week, but they were at the wrong house to serve a warrant. She noted if her husband had gone to the door with his firearm he could have been shot. She stated police officers should never come to the wrong address with their guns drawn. She added she supports the police department, but something must be done to ensure police officers go to the correct location when serving a warrant.

Pac Man stated the City should redirect its focus and energy. He added the community cannot focus on the old, but must turn its attention to the new and the future. He noted people must forgive each other and move forward.

Ms. Sherry Odie, 311 Scott Road, indicated she was part of a vigil for the young man who lost his life during the execution of a no-knock warrant. She requested the City focus its attention on reaching young people where they are. She pointed out there is nothing for young people to do in the City, and more things are needed in the community to keep young people off the streets. She added she works with a group that goes into the community every month, and the group needs Council's support.

Mr. Thomas Cusoff and Mr. Kevin Fray, 508 East Innes Street, addressed Council. Mr. Cusoff referred to We Got Next, a basketball game that pairs the Elks Lodge and Project Bridge members against Rowan County law enforcement. He commented the game is intended to bridge the gap in the community, and proceeds will benefit Nazareth Children's Home and Rowan Helping Ministries. He stated the next step will be to hold a Know Your Rights symposium and then follow up with free criminal expungements and a job fair. He invited Council to the basketball game to be held December 17, 2016 at Catawba College from 1:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. He commented tickets are \$5.

Ms. Constance Stanton, 521 Confederate Avenue, stated as a retired physician she was compelled to speak out regarding threats to public health and safety. She pointed out gun ownership is prevalent in the community, and it increases the likelihood of gun violence during the execution of a no-knock warrant. She referenced the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment, and she requested information regarding the use of no-knock warrants be made public.

Minister Latasha Wilkes noted no-knock warrants pose a risk to police officers and citizens. She asked that no-knock warrants be suspended in Rowan County. She read a letter from Mr. Ferguson Laurent Jr's brother asking the community to remember Mr. Laurent. She suggested holding one large back to school event to show young people the community can work together.

Mr. Alexander Clark indicated he was a victim of a no-knock warrant in the past. He added elected officials have a duty to constituents, and they have the authority to suspend the use of no-knock warrants. He stated young black men suffer when they are subjected to these type of warrants.

Ms. Ann Sidolly, Cedar Farm Road, noted she does not support no-knock warrants. She pointed out police officers and citizens are put in danger when a no-knock warrant is executed. She requested that the policy be terminated as soon as possible.

Mr. Preston Wallace, 1016 Locke Street, stated he has witnessed crimes, but when he calls he does not want police officers coming to his home. He suggested police officers be required to work with youth activities. He stated Parks and Recreation Centers need to be opened and staffed. He added community problems should be dealt with immediately.

Ms. Liliana Spears, Mooresville Road, noted the City has a gang problem. She pointed out the City has nothing for young people to do. She questioned how the resources for gang prevention are being spent. She commented the community must work together to make a change.

Mr. Todd Paris commented the City of High Point does not use no-knock warrants, and Council could set a policy to eliminate them. He referenced the shootings that took place over the weekend, and he stated the City had 207 police department employees in 2007. He added the Police Chief says the department is down by 20%. He added the City must hire more police officers and offer them competitive pay, and the community must support the Police Department.

Mr. Miko Martelli, 1110 North Jackson Street, asked the City to suspend the use of no-knock warrants. He stated if the Police Department expects citizens to work with investigators it must build trust within the community. He commented no-knock warrants increase the risk for everyone involved, and eliminating them would let the community know the Police Department seeks their trust.

Ms. Rhonda Kearns, 105 North Long Street, stated North Carolina does not have a self-protection law, but citizens have a right to defend their property. She added no-knock warrants are dangerous and lead to police officers and citizens being shot.

Ms. Michelle Gray, 227 Mitchell Avenue, noted many citizens are afraid to sign a petition because they live in fear of retaliation, and a no-knock warrant brings the violence to their door. She asked Council to suspend the use of no-knock warrants in the City.



Ms. Al Heggins, 1210 Old West Innes Street, submitted a petition from Women for Community Justice. She read the petition which requested an end to the no-knock warrant policy, additional funds to increase police staffing, additional training, recruitment of police officers that represent the make-up of the community, community policing, and encouraged other elected officials to follow Council's proactive lead.

Ms. Tamara Sheffield noted at Council's last meeting a citizen stated her children were afraid to play outside. She stated citizens need Councilmembers to listen to them and then develop and implement plans. She commented the City needs to take action regarding literacy in the community. She added Council must make sure the Police Department is properly staffed and funded and Fibrant is successful. She pointed out the City needs vocational training and jobs that match its workforce.

Ms. Dee Dee Wright, 418 South Caldwell Street, stated Council will get the same results if it keeps doing what it has always done. She noted Council has been told in the past that there is a gang problem in the City, and she hopes this time Council will listen.

Mr. Sean Henderson, 501 Elm Street, commented he has been in the City for six years and is involved in children's lives. He requested Council reconsider the no-knock policy. He commented many kids eat breakfast and lunch at school, and then they do not eat for the rest of the day. He pointed out the little things are drawing kids into gangs.

Mr. Latonya Harrison, 309 East Fisher Street, asked how long citizens will have to endure the gun violence. She added she believes the Police Department knows who is committing the crimes, because the community knows.

Ms. Linda Hunt, referenced the Gang Summit that was held in the City several years ago, and she pointed out no gang members were present. She suggested forming a mentor program, and she added many in the community cannot get a job because of their prior criminal record. She then suggested bringing gang members to the table, and suspending the no-knock warrant. She noted a different approach is needed with millennials, and the City needs people who understand how to approach them.

Ms. Trea Alexander, senior at West Rowan High School, indicated she has never seen police officer at her school interacting with students. She noted she only sees police officers when there is a drug arrest at school. She stated students need things to do to keep them off the streets.

Mr. Veleria Levy, 1064 West Lake Drive, thanked Council for allowing the community to voice their concerns. She noted she is a member of the Human Relations Council (HRC), and she pointed out the HRC should be doing more. She commented the money that goes to HRC events could be used to reach the population.

Mr. Kenneth Fox, East Spencer, indicated solutions to the problems the City faces are in An Analysis of Impediments Report from 2014.

Mr. Quson Brown, 508 East Fisher Street, stated he has heard many things that are heartbreaking. He added he can let citizens know of the programs he has been involved in and what the City has offered him. He noted the City offers many programs, but not enough people are aware of the programs. He asked Council to reconsider no-knock warrants.

Ms. Sue McHugh, 910 North Main Street, indicated she respects the Police Department. She added she has heard possible solutions from citizens who would be impacted by the proposed special event permit. She asked Council to step back and refocus. She commented a Remedial Action Plan is needed to give police and landlords an additional tool to be used in the community.

Ms. Jamie Kent, noted she works at Livingstone College with student athletes who want to work toward change in the City, but they are scared. She asked Council to recognize the student's fear, and she pointed out they have a lot to offer the City.

Councilmember Hardin asked if Council could comment during public comment period. He pointed out it is frustrating to listen and not be able to respond, and he thinks it is disrespectful to those who are speaking. He suggested Council revisit its public comment policy.

Councilmember Post agreed with Mr. Hardin. He referenced the Public Comment Policy, and he indicated he does not think the rules prohibit Council from responding. Mr. Hardin suggested the Public Comment Policy be discussed at Council's next meeting.

Councilmember Miller noted he does not disagree that Council needs to be interactive. He suggested Council hold town hall sessions prior to Council meetings that could be interactive. Mr. Hardin commented a town hall session would create another unnecessary layer.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated she believes Council has some latitude to respond, but the School of Government is concerned Council could get into debates with citizens. She stated a response is appropriate when citizens are finished speaking to affirm the speaker.

Mr. Post stated public comment is the most important thing that Council does. Ms. Blackwell agreed.

Mayor Alexander asked if public comments should be placed on the agenda at Council's next meeting. City Manager Bailey suggested putting public comment on the agenda, and requesting a representative from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government attend the meeting to offer guidance. Mayor Alexander stated public comment will be placed on the Agenda once Mr. Bailey hears back from the North Carolina School of Government.

Ms. Betty Jo Hardy, 415 Willow Road, asked Council to consider the no-knock warrant as soon as possible.

There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Alexander closed the public comment session. She asked City Attorney Rivers Lawther to update Council regarding the no-knock policy.

Mr. Lawther referenced a case from Fayetteville, North Carolina where the council adopted an ordinance to prohibit voluntary searches. He added the Attorney General issued an opinion that was used by a judge who restricted Fayetteville from enforcing the ordinance. He stated the Attorney General found search and seizure warrants are part of the State Statutory scheme, and individual municipalities do not have the authority to adopt an ordinance that would prohibit the use of tools given by General Statutes. He explained the City does not have the authority to adopt an ordinance against the use of a no-knock warrant, but he pointed out there are other avenues that a similar result could be accomplished through the Police Chief and City Manager.

Mr. Post pointed out no-knock warrants require a higher level of scrutiny, which includes the District Attorney and a judge signing off on the warrant. He added when the Supreme Court approved no-knock warrants in 1981 approximately 3,000 were issued annually. He commented in 2015 there were 80,000 no-knock warrants issued in the United States or approximately 25 per county per year. He pointed out Rowan County issued 5 no-knock warrants in the last three to four years. He noted Council must give thought to the implications of prohibiting the use of no-knock warrants.

#### **PARKING RESTRICTION – 400 BLOCK PARTEE STREET**

City Engineer Wendy Brindle explained the Police Department received numerous complaints regarding parking along both sides of the 400 block of Partee Street. She noted, upon investigation, staff recommends restricting parking on the west side of Partee Street between Monroe and Horah Streets. She explained parking on both sides of Partee Street warrants a safety concern, so staff mailed letters of the recommendation to property owners and residents instead of circulating a petition. She indicated staff received two comments in support of the proposal.

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

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE X, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, RELATING TO PARKING PROHIBITED AT ALL TIMES.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 68, and is known as Ordinance 2016-43.)

#### **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

There were no appointments.

## CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

### (a) Fibrant Update

City Manager Lane Bailey requested the Fibrant update and Closed Session be deferred until January.

Mr. Bailey noted staff met with CTC, the City's consultants working with Fibrant, who suggested Council allow the Fibrant Director to adjust Fibrant rates as the market dictates.

Thereupon, Mr. Post made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending Appendix F – Fees, Article XI Fibrant of the Code of the City of Salisbury. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX F – FEES, ARTICLE XI FIBRANT OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 69-70, and is known as Ordinance 2016-44.)

### (b) Police Officers Update

City Manager Lane Bailey noted during the public comment session citizens referred to the number of police officers in the City. He stated the number of police officers is down, and staff is working to address the need. He introduced Pubic Safety Recruiter Scott Robinson, and he pointed out police officers from other agencies can receive a signing bonus of up to \$5,000, depending on their level of experience. He noted education bonuses are also given to police officers. He added staff is working to solve the salary issue, and he pointed out police officer salaries were increased last spring. He added the City could do more, but he does not feel salary is the only issue. He commented in the current times fewer people want to be police officers.

Mr. Bailey explained Police Chief Jerry Stokes is working on issues regarding de-escalation. He noted the Dolan Group, which is associated with North Carolina Basic Law Enforcement, is coming to the City in January to offer three, two-day sessions to teach de-escalation techniques to City police officers and anyone in the State or region who desires the training. He commented Chief Stokes sent three police officers to verbal judo training, which is also part of de-escalation, for a 40-hour course that trains the trainer. He reassured Council staff is working on the concerns expressed by the community.

Mr. Bailey suggested Council let the State Bureau of Investigation complete its investigation, before it considers no-knock warrants. He added he will speak with the League of Municipalities and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government regarding this issue.

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

### (a) Councilmember Hardin's Comments

Councilmember Hardin stated this has been a difficult time for the City. He noted there are people in the City and the community who are using this tragedy for gain. He pointed out the relationship between the black community and the Police Department did not deteriorate in the last five days. He indicated the City is using a small town approach to address big city problems. He added citizens want good police officers, and they are not against the Police Department. He pointed out to make a difference in the City everyone must work together.

### (b) Special Event Permit Committee Update

Councilmember Miller discussed scheduling a follow up date for the Special Event Permit Committee to meet. Councilmember Post described the previous meeting, and he indicated parades and races comprise the majority of the events. He pointed out races also require permission from the State which has its own lead times. Mr. Post and Mr. Miller agreed to meet December 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Park Avenue Center to discuss Parades and Races.

## MAYOR 'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

### (a) December Council Meeting

Mayor Alexander announced due to the Christmas Holiday, City Council will hold only one meeting in December. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

### (b) New Year's Eve at the Bell Tower Celebration

Mayor Alexander announced Salisbury Parks and Recreation will host New Year's Eve at the Bell Tower Celebration Saturday, December 31, 2016. Celebrate the start of 2017 as a community at Salisbury's historic Bell Tower located in Bell Tower Park. Festivities begin at 8:00 p.m. and will include light refreshments, live video feed from Times Square and the ringing of the bell at midnight. This event is free and open to the public.

### (c) Violence in the City

Mayor Alexander noted she has reached out to Mayors across the State, and she contacted the United States Congress of Mayors to find out what resources might be available regarding the gang issue. She added the League of Municipalities is working on issues regarding community violence which is taking place around the Country and the State. She pointed out Council takes crime in the City very seriously.

**CLOSED SESSION**

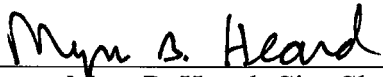
This item was postponed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Blackwell seconded by Mr. Miller. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.



Karen Kirks Alexander, Mayor



Myra B. Heard, City Clerk