

Salisbury, North Carolina
February 17, 2010

SPECIAL MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Susan W. Kluttz; Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell; Councilmen William Brian Miller and Paul B. Woodson; and Deputy City Clerk Kelly Baker.

Members of Salisbury City Council met at 3:00 p.m. in the J. Newton Cohen Room in the County Administration Building located at 130 West Innes Street for a joint meeting with members of the Rowan County Board of Commissioners, municipal Mayors and the Chairman of the Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education. Members of the County Commission present were: Chairman Carl Ford, Vice-Chairman Chad Mitchell, and Tina Hall, along with Clerk to the Board Carolyn Athey. Others present at the meeting were Mayor Bob Misenheimer, City of Kannapolis; Mayor Jody Everhart, Town of Spencer; Mayor John Steel, Town of Cleveland; Mayor Beau Taylor, Town of Rockwell; Mayor Keith Deal, Town of Faith, Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education Chairman Jim Emerson and Rowan County Library Director Jeff Hall. Chairman Ford provided the invocation.

Mayor Kluttz reviewed the history that led to the Salisbury-Rowan READS program held during the summer of 2009. She noted that during City Council's 2009 Retreat Dr. Suzanne Morse spoke to Council regarding a correlation between third-grade reading scores and drop-out rates. She indicated that from that presentation the County and City met and agreed that the most pressing issue faced by the Boards was helping at-risk children.

Mayor Kluttz asked each Mayor to share their reactions from the programs that were held in their community. The Mayors each spoke about the importance of reaching children early in order to help them be successful and to stress the importance of reading for children. They also noted that the events also served as community events and brought many people together in a positive environment.

Library Director Jeff Hall stated that over 300 library cards were issued at the five events and there were more than 1,500 who attended. He asked the group to consider

tying this year's program into the Summer Reading Program offered through the Rowan Public Library.

Mayor Kluttz asked if everyone supported holding the events again this summer and if each community would like to plan their event or how Salisbury might help. By consensus, the Mayors and County Commissioners agreed to hold the summer reading program again this year.

Members discussed possible dates for the events and Jeff Hall suggested starting earlier this year in order to allow the children to participate in the Library's Summer Reading Program. The dates discussed by those present were: June 17, 2010, June 22, 2010, July 1, 2010, July 8, 2010 and July 17, 2010.

A question was raised regarding funding for the event and it was noted that the City and County shared the expense last year at approximately \$5,000 each.

Discussion was held regarding the need to reach those children most in need and how to coordinate the events. It was decided that the Mayors will discuss the coordination of the events at the March 5, 2010 Mayors meeting held at the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce. Chairman Ford also agreed to attend the meeting in order to finalize dates and coordination efforts.

The Board of Commissioners took formal action to participate in the events at the same funding level as last year.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** to authorize the funds for the Salisbury-Rowan READS program at the same level as last year. Mr. Woodson seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller, Woodson and Mses. Blackwell and Kluttz voted AYE. (4-0)

Mayor Kluttz asked the other Mayors to consider appointing a contact person to work with Public Information Manager Karen Wilkinson to coordinate the events. She noted that Ms. Wilkinson will order the books to be distributed and will work with the community's designated person.

Councilman Woodson left the meeting at 4:12 p.m. Councilman Miller left the meeting at 4:17 p.m.

Mayor Kluttz informed the group that North Carolina received only a small portion of Federal Stimulus money for the Yadkin River Bridge replacement, rather than the \$300 million anticipated. She noted that she was in contact with State officials this afternoon and they have a back-up plan in place to pay for the bridge replacement and that more information will be forthcoming from the State.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Susan W. Kluttz, Mayor

Myra B. Heard, City Clerk