

Salisbury, North Carolina
December 05, 2017

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 Diane Gilmore, and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

ABSENT: None.

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The invocation was given by Pastor Glenwood Oats, Associate Pastor at Cornerstone Church. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alexander at 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Police Honor Guard presented Colors and led all those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Alexander welcomed all visitors present. She recognized former Mayors Bill Stanback and Paul Woodson; former Mayor Pro Tem Pete Kennedy and Councilmember Pam Coffield; Rowan County Commission Chairman Greg Edds, Vice-Chairman Jim Greene and Commissioner Judy Klusman; Rowan-Salisbury School Board Chairman Josh Wagner and School Board Member Alisha Byrd who were in the audience.

RECOGNITION OF RETIRING COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Alexander presented statues of the Bell Tower to Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell and Councilmember Hardin and thanked them for their service to Council and the City.

REMARKS FROM RETIRING COUNCIL MEMEBERS

Councilmember Hardin recognized his colleagues for their support during his time on Council. He thanked City Manager Lane Bailey for his professionalism and willingness to answer questions and address concerns. He thanked citizens for allowing him to serve on Council, and he noted he believes he has made an impact on the community. He thanked Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell for the guidance and support he received as a new Councilmember.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell recognized Council for its service to the community. She stated in 2003, after a walk through her neighborhood, she noticed the homes were occupied by older residents, and she wanted to build a park in hopes it would attract young families to the neighborhood. She noted she worked with the property owner, the City, and elected officials and with their support and guidance a park was created. She noted everyone must work together to make ideas happen in the City.

Mayor Alexander thanked the citizens for their support during her time as Mayor, she commended groups that work quietly every day to help the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell seconded by Councilmember Hardin. All Council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

NEW COUNCIL CONVENES

Ms. Karen Kirks Alexander, Ms. Alvena (Al) Heggins, Mr. Brian Miller, Mr. David Post, and Ms. Tamara Sheffield, who were elected as City Council members in the November 7, 2017 regular municipal election for a two-year term, assembled in the Council Room of City Hall, 217 South Main Street, at 5:00 p.m. on December 5, 2017 for the purpose of being inducted into office.

City Clerk Diane Gilmore administered the oath of office to the recently elected Council members.

Councilmember Brian Miller, as the senior member of Council, served as Temporary Chair to preside over the meeting for the purpose of electing a Mayor.

Temporary Chair Miller opened the floor for nominations for the office of Mayor for the City of Salisbury. Councilmember Post nominated Alvena (Al) Heggins for the office of Mayor. Ms. Alexander seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Messrs. Miller and Post, and Mses. Alexander, Heggins and Sheffield voted AYE. By unanimous vote of the Council, Al Heggins was elected Mayor for a two-year term beginning December 5, 2017.

Mayor Heggins asked her husband Isaac and family members to join her as she took the oath of office. She also asked a Spanish translator to assist. The oath of office of Mayor was administered to Al Heggins by City Clerk Diane Gilmore.

Mayor Heggins opened the floor for nominations for the office of Mayor Pro Tem.

Councilmember Alexander nominated David Post to serve as Mayor Pro Tem. Mr. Miller seconded the nomination. Messrs. Miller and Post, and Mses. Alexander, Heggins and Sheffield voted AYE. By unanimous vote of the Council, David Post was elected Mayor Pro Tem for a two-year term beginning December 5, 2017.

The oath of office of Mayor Pro Tem was administered to David Post by City Clerk Diane Gilmore.

REMARKS FROM NEW COUNCIL

Mayor Heggins opened the floor for comments from newly elected Council members.

Councilmember Sheffield thanked the citizens for electing her to office and stated she is looking forward to working with the City and the County. She thanked former Councilman Hardin for his service and former Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell for her leadership and guidance. She thanked her wife Maryja Mee and friend Heather Spivey, for their encouragement to run for office. She recognized the deceased Ms. Jamie Moomaw and her father-in-law Mr. Mee.

Councilmember Miller thanked former Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell and Councilman Hardin for their service to the community. He noted Council had a closed session with former Council members and current Council members that promoted communication, and he looks forward to serving the next two-years with Council. He thanked former Mayor Alexander for her service to the community during her time as Mayor.

Mayor Pro Tem Post congratulated Mayor Heggins. He commended former Mayor Alexander and former Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell for their service. He thanked the voters and encouraged everyone to attend the Council meetings.

Councilmember Alexander thanked City staff for going above and beyond the call of duty to support Council.

Mayor Heggins thanked the community for its support. She noted the diversity of this Council, and she stated Salisbury's diversity is a strength that will push the community forward. She recognized her siblings and cousins who were in attendance. She noted her late mother and father worked tirelessly for civil rights. She recognized her church family at Sandy Ridge and her children for their love and support. She also recognized City Manager Lane Bailey, City Clerk Diane Gilmore, Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Baker, and Attorney Rivers Lawther for their guidance. She commended her husband Isaac for his support and patience. She stated the citizens of Salisbury are courageous, and she looks forward to continuing to celebrate their diversity. She acknowledged the diversity on Council including the first openly gay Councilmember, first Jewish Mayor Pro Tem, and the first African American female Mayor.

RESOLUTION HONORING MARGARET A. (MAGGIE) BLACKWELL

Mayor Heggins asked Council to consider adopting a Resolution of Recognition honoring former Mayor Pro Tem Margaret A. (Maggie) Blackwell.

Thereupon, Mr. Post made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution honoring the service of Mayor Pro Tem Margaret A. Blackwell. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander, Heggins and Sheffield voted AYE. (5 -0)

RESOLUTION HONORING THE SERVICE OF MARGARET A. BLACKWELL

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 15 at Page No. 18, and is known as Resolution 2017-15)

Mayor Heggins read the Resolution and presented a framed copy to Ms. Blackwell.

RESOLUTION HONORING KENNETH L. HARDIN

Mayor Heggins asked Council to consider adopting a Resolution of Recognition honoring former Councilmember Kenneth L. Hardin.

Thereupon, Mr. Post made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution honoring the service of Councilmember Kenneth L. Hardin. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander, Heggins and Sheffield voted AYE. (5 -0)

RESOLUTION HONORING THE SERVICE OF KENNETH L. HARDIN.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 15 at Page No. 19, and is known as Resolution 2017-16)

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the Regular meetings of November 21, 2017.

(b) 2018 Council Meeting Dates

Adopt the 2018 schedule of regular Council meeting dates.

(c) Pool Hall Permit

Receive an application from Ms. April Anglin, for a permit to operate a pool hall located at 612 South Main Street, and to set a public hearing for January 02, 2018.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Heggins opened the floor to receive public comments.

Ms. Lilliana Spears commended past Councilmembers for allowing the Hispanic community a voice. She requested the new Council continue to be involved in the Hispanic community.

Ms. Gabriela Fisher stated she disagreed with the private group that did not allow the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) Pride group to participate in the Holiday Caravan Parade. She requested the City not allow a private group to decide who can or cannot participate in parades.

Ms. Donna Odrosky stated she is the current president of the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (P-FLAG) chapter. She addressed Council regarding an event that took place during the Holiday Caravan Parade. She stated participants on the parade float were removed from the parade due to the rainbow clothing they wore, and she welcomed conversation to resolve this matter.

Ms. Georene Jones stated she represents the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Lutherans who work statewide to help those in need. She presented Mayor Heggins and Councilmember Sheffield a book titled *Bridges to Sustainable Communities*. She requested the public be a voice for those in need.

Mr. Josh Wagner, Chairman of Rowan-Salisbury School Board, commended Council for its willingness to serve and wished them well.

Ms. Mary Ponds congratulated the new Councilmembers, and she recognized the diversity on Council. She challenged Council and the community to work together. Mayor Pro Tem Post recognized Ms. Ponds as a former Mayor of Granite Quarry who held office for 16 years and served 14 years as Mayor.

Ms. Veleria Levy stated she represented Avita Pharmacy and welcomed the diversity on Council. She stated Avita Pharmacy is a supporter and advocate for the health and well-being of every member of its community. She explained the Holiday Caravan Parade organizers pulled participants off the Avita Pharmacy float due to their rainbow colored attire. She thanked Council for allowing her to address this matter.

There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Heggins closed the public comment session.

COUNCIL LIASION FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

By consensus, Council agreed to the table Council Liaison appointments until its January 02, 2018 regular meeting to review scheduling.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

(a) **Employee Holiday Luncheon**

City Manager Lane Bailey noted a Holiday Luncheon for all City employees will take place Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at the Civic Center from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. He invited Council members to attend the luncheon.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) **Fire Departments Dedication Historical Marker**

Mayor Heggins announced the Salisbury Fire Department will host the dedication of a historical marker to honor the Fire Department's 200 years of service to the citizens of Salisbury. The dedication will be held on Friday, December 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. near the 100 Block of East Innes Street and is open to the public.

(b) **Salisbury Fire Department 200th Celebration Parade**

Mayor Heggins announced the Fire Department will hold its 200th Celebration Parade Friday, December 8, 2017 from 7:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. The Parade will begin on North Main Street at Kerr Street and will conclude at South Main and Monroe Streets. The parade will honor the work and dedication of the Salisbury Fire Department and its members, and is also for the enjoyment of citizens

(c) Free Rides with Santa

Mayor Heggins announced the Visitor's Center in Downtown Salisbury will host free rides with Santa and the Grinch on antique fire trucks Saturday, December 16, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

HOLIDAY CARAVAN DISCUSSION

Mayor Pro Tem Post recognized the comments expressed during public comment in regards to the Holiday Caravan Parade. He requested staff look into the issue.

City Manager Bailey explained the City has no involvement with the Holiday Caravan Parade or the decisions that were made. He noted the previous Council adopted a revision to the parade section of the Special Use Permit Ordinance which would allow groups to have parades and events at little cost. He noted these events require a significant amount of City staff support. He commented that if members are in disagreement a potential solution could be to revisit the idea that Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI) or another department host the parade. He indicated staff is looking at the cost of hosting a Christmas parade if the event was organized in-house.

Councilmember Miller asked if the City contributes to the Holiday Caravan Parade. Mr. Bailey stated no contributions are made to the event, but Public Services and Police provide services for the event.

Councilmember Alexander stated the Ordinance was written to require regulations that would set standards for all groups.

Mayor Pro Tem Post commented Council could consider the Parks and Recreation Department and Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI) to host events like the Holiday Caravan Parade and requested that Council revisit the possibility of coordinating future events within the City. Councilmember Sheffield requested the City communicate with the Town of Spencer before making decisions.

Mayor Heggins asked if a conversation had taken place with the Holiday Caravan Committee. Mr. Bailey stated no conversation has taken place, and staff is working to gather information about the cost of hosting a parade. Mayor Heggins stated she agreed with Mr. Bailey when he noted staff support is a cost to the City. Mayor Heggins asked if this support by City staff could be considered as an in-kind contribution.

Councilmember Miller referenced the Special Permit Ordinance and suggested the Committee reconvene at the beginning of the New Year. Mayor Pro Tem Post stated he wants Council to revisit the Special Event Permit Ordinance at the beginning of the New Year.

CLOSED SESSION

Thereupon Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to go into closed session concerning a personnel matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6). Mayor Pro Tem Post seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

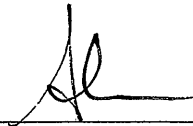
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Thereupon Councilmember Alexander made a **motion** to return to open session. Mayor Pro Tem Post seconded the motion. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

Mayor Heggins reported no action was taken during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Miller seconded by Councilmember Sheffield. All Council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.



Al Heggins, Mayor



Diane Gilmore, City Clerk