REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell; Council Members Karen Kirks Alexander and William Brian Miller; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; City Clerk Myra B. Heard; and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

ABSENT: Councilmember William (Pete) Kennedy.

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

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.

FORMER COUNCILMEMBER KAREN YOUNG

Mayor Woodson asked for a moment of silence to honor former Councilmember Karen Young.
Mayor Woodson noted the City of Salisbury lost a pioneer when Karen Young passed away June 3, 2015 because she was the first woman elected to City Council. He indicated Ms. Young was initially appointed to fill a vacant seat on Council in 1968, and in 1969 she won election and retained her seat. He added she took her oath of office as the first female elected to City Council on June 2, 1969. He pointed out Ms. Young stated that one of her proudest moments while serving on City Council was being the deciding vote that saved a piece of property from becoming a parking lot. He commented today that property is the home of Hurley Park, and it was indeed a great moment in the City’s history.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

(a) **Approval of Minutes**

Approve Minutes of the Regular Meetings of May 19, 2015 and June 2, 2015, and the Recessed Meeting of June 8, 2015.

(b) **Budget Ordinance Amendment – Parks and Recreation Grants**

Adopt a Budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2014-2015 budget in the amount of $5,000 to appropriate Parks and Recreation grants.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2014-15 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE PARKS AND RECREATION GRANTS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 30, and is known as Ordinance 2015-19)

(c) **Amendment – Employee Health Care Fund**


(d) **Street Closure – Hall Street**

Receive a petition to close a portion of Hall Road and adopt a Resolution setting a public hearing for July 21, 2015.

RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED CLOSING OF HALL STREET, AND SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING FOR JULY 21, 2015.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 15 at Page No. 11, and is known as Resolution 2015-10)
Thereupon, Ms. Alexander made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

Z-01-2015 230 ANN STREET

Planning and Development Services Manager Preston Mitchell addressed Council regarding Land Development District Map Amendment Z-01-2015. He explained the petitioner is requesting to rezone one parcel, located at 230 Ann Street, from Urban Residential (UR) to Residential Mixed-Use (RMX).

Mr. Mitchell reviewed a map of the area, and he noted the surrounding UR and General Residential (GR6) zoning. He stated the request is consistent with the Eastern Gateway Area Plan, and he pointed out neighboring properties with RMX zoning. He indicated the stakeholders along this corridor support RMX zoning which allows adaptive reuse of the residential area.

Mr. Mitchell displayed a photograph of the property, and he pointed out its location at the intersection of Ann Street and Faith Road. He noted the property is a single-family, one-story residence that is for sale. He stated the petitioner is planning to purchase the property and convert it into a professional office.

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the permitted uses for RMX zoning and pointed out it is ideal for neighborhoods that transition into urban areas. He explained ground signage allows for a maximum 32 square foot sign that can be 5 feet high.

Mr. Mitchell referenced Vision 2020 Plan Policy N-11:

- Architecturally compatible, residentially scaled office and institutional development may be permitted to locate along the sides of neighborhood planning areas. Under specified conditions, this policy may be applied to the conversion of pre-existing residential properties located along major streets where, due largely to traffic exposure, homes have become unsuitable for residential occupancy. In such instances, adaptive reuse of existing residential structures shall be viewed more favorably than demolition and new construction

Mr. Mitchell then referenced Eastern Gateway Area Plan Special Policy Area B:

- Special Policy Area B (SP-B) encompasses the section of Faith Road from Gold Hill Drive to Jake Alexander Boulevard under the Urban General (UG) Future Land Use Man (FLUM) classification…residents along and adjacent to this section of Faith Road want to preserve the character and scale of development along this section of the roadway. Redevelopment must be limited to adaptive reuse of existing structures for professional offices or new construction of house building types for professional offices or residential up to four units per house type
Mr. Mitchell stated the Planning Board met on June 9, 2015 and voted unanimously to recommend approval.

(b) Mayor Woodson convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding Z-01-2015.

Ms. Crystal Vanhoy, 114 Chippewa Trail, China Grove and Ms. Tasha Hall, 1055 Ribelin Road, addressed Council in support of the rezoning request. Ms. Vanhoy explained the salon where she and Ms. Hall currently work is being sold, and they are looking for a new location to continue their business.

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

Mr. Mitchell stated he was contacted by a citizen who expressed concerns regarding the proposed rezoning and future rezonings along Faith Road. He indicated he explained the Eastern Gateway Area Plan to the citizen and recommended she contact the petitioners. He commended the petitioners for reaching out to the citizen to address her concerns prior to the meeting.

Ms. Alexander stated the City Council hereby finds and determines that adoption of an Ordinance to rezone the property described herein, as requested, is reasonable, in the public interest, and consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan and Eastern Gateway Area Plan based on the following:

1. The petition is consistent with Vision 2020 Policy N-11 as it recommends adaptive re-use and architecturally-compatible, residentially-scaled professional offices and institutional uses along neighborhood planning areas; and
2. The petition is consistent with Eastern Gateway Special Policy Area B as it recommends preservation of the character and scale of development along this section of Faith Road while allowing adaptive re-use of pre-existing residential structures for professional offices.

Thereupon, Ms. Alexander made a motion to adopt an Ordinance amending the Land Development District Map of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina, by rezoning one parcel at 230 Ann Street from Urban Residential (UR8) to Residential Mixed-Use (RMX). Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, REZONING ONE PARCEL AT 230 ANN STREET FROM URBAN RESIDENTIAL TO RESIDENTIAL MIXED-USE.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 31, and is known as Ordinance 2015-20)
UPDATE – PARKING ALONG RIDGE AVENUE AND SOUTH FULTON STREET

Traffic Engineering Coordinator Vickie Eddleman explained at a previous Council meeting staff recommended the removal of two parking spaces along Ridge Avenue at South Fulton Street due to safety concerns. She stated Council approved the restriction and requested an in-depth parking study of the area.

Ms. Eddleman noted Council also requested information regarding parking on both sides of South Fulton Street. She explained the width of South Fulton Street will not allow two parallel parking lanes and two through lanes. She pointed out the street is 34-feet at its widest and narrows to 32-feet just beyond the marked parking spaces.

Ms. Eddleman stated parking is restricted on both sides of Ridge Avenue between Crosby and New Streets, but there are no safety concerns that warrant the restriction. She indicated staff contacted area property owners, beginning with Wiley School Apartments, to ask if they would support parking along Ridge Avenue in this area. She commented the apartment complex does not support parking on the south side of the street, because private parking is provided for the tenants. She added parking on the south side of the street could hinder emergency personnel needing access to the complex that is home to aging and disabled veterans. She noted the apartment complex supports parking on the north side of the street.

Ms. Eddleman indicated the north side of the street is residential, and she pointed out area residents could better use the proposed parking spaces. She stated letters were mailed to the four residential property owners who would be affected by the change. She noted two of the residents signed letters in support of the proposed parking change, but the other two property owners did not reply to the letter. She explained removing the parking restriction on the north side of Ridge Avenue, between Crosby and New Streets, would provide 245 feet of additional parking, or 11 unmarked parking spaces.

Ms. Eddleman explained when a citizen requests a parking change, it must be supported by the majority of property owners in the area. She added three of the five property owners support the proposed change. She stated staff recommends Council remove the parking restrictions along the north side of Ridge Avenue between Crosby and New Streets.

Ms. Eddleman noted staff provided a parking lot layout to the owner of the commercial building that would improve efficiency in the gravel parking lot. She added staff will paint temporary parking lines that will mark 30 parking spaces.

Ms. Eddleman reviewed the parking study:

- Neighboring Elm, Wiley, Johnson, and Harrison Streets are not wide enough to allow parking on both sides of the street
- Crosby Street has the maximum allowance of parking on both sides of the street
  - Parking is restricted at the bus stop near Ridge Avenue
- South Fulton Street was evaluated and one marked parking space was added at the intersection of South Fulton Street and Ridge Avenue
• Staff provided a parking layout to better use the private parking lot that services the businesses of concern
  o Staff will install temporary lines in the gravel parking lot
• Local property owners support parking on the residential/north side of Ridge Avenue between Crosby and New Streets
  o A gain of 11 unmarked parking spaces

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated the parking study was requested for a business two blocks away from Wiley School Apartments, and the 11 parking spaces will not help the new business owner. She noted the business owner had parking spaces when she leased the property, but she did not have the parking spaces on opening day. She added she will support the request, but it does not resolve the parking problem for the new business.

Councilmember Alexander noted safety is the most important issue. She stated the two parking spaces that were eliminated created a safety problem for school buses and City transit buses making the turn from South Fulton Street onto Ridge Avenue. She added walking one or two blocks for parking is reasonable.

Ms. Blackwell agreed safety is critical. She added she does not think 11 parking spaces two blocks away will resolve the parking issue for the new business.

Councilmember Miller asked how many additional parking spaces would be created by striping the gravel parking lot. City Manager Lane Bailey pointed out one parking space was added along Ridge Avenue so the total loss was only one parking space. Ms. Eddleman noted more than one parking space would be added to the total parking. Mr. Miller noted in his opinion the striping would create between two and six additional parking spaces. He commented the property owner has a responsibility to provide parking for the businesses in the building.

Mr. Miller noted the primary issue seems to be changes were made during the opening of the business. He indicated this was not intentional, and he pointed out the business has been given support through additional parking spaces. He noted the property owner should mark the parking spaces in the parking lot which would increase efficiency at a minimal cost. He added he understands Ms. Blackwell’s frustrations, but Council has done all it can to provide additional parking short of widening Fulton Street. He pointed out staff has worked to find extra parking spaces, but many of the roads are too narrow for additional on-street parking. He added area residents may use the parking spaces being opened on Ridge Avenue that are closer to their homes which will free parking spaces closer to the business.

Ms. Blackwell pointed out downtown business owners want parking spaces in front of their business. She noted she will vote in favor of the proposed parking changes, but she does not think the issue has been resolved.

Mayor Woodson suggested sending the item to a Committee that could meet with Ms. Eddleman and possibly walk the area. Mr. Miller pointed out the physical environment cannot change, and he added he thinks the solution would be the same. Mayor Woodson commented he wants to be sure Council is doing the right thing. Ms. Blackwell added downtown businesses
demand parking in front of their businesses. Mr. Miller agreed with Ms. Blackwell, and explained there are four lanes of traffic in the downtown, and parking on both sides of the street makes it easier to accommodate downtown businesses.

Ms. Alexander asked how many parking spaces are directly in front of Mean Mugs Coffee Shop. Ms. Eddleman stated there are three parking spaces in front of the business. Ms. Alexander pointed out downtown merchants generally also have three parking spaces in front of their businesses.

Mr. Miller indicated the area businesses complement each other, and he pointed out their customers may not use the parking lot at the same time. He noted Mean Mugs Coffee Shop might be busier in the morning, while the adjoining restaurant would cater to a lunch and dinner crowd. He added he believes the proposed solution will work.

Ms. Alexander thanked Ms. Eddleman for her efforts.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a motion to adopt an Ordinance amending, Section 13-338, Article X, Chapter 13, of the Code of the City of Salisbury, relating to parking prohibited at all times. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 13-338, ARTICLE X, CHAPTER 13, 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. 32, and is known as Ordinance 2015-21)

2015 SALISBURY CITIZEN’S ACADEMY

City Clerk Myra Heard, Assistant City Manager Zack Kyle, and Deputy Clerk Kelly Baker addressed Council regarding the 2015 Salisbury Citizens Academy. Ms. Heard noted she, Mr. Kyle, and Ms. Baker serve as the Steering Committee for the Citizen’s Academy, and she thanked Council for adopting the Citizen’s Academy as one of its goals. She also thanked the Management Team and individual departments for their work to make the Citizen’s Academy a success.

Ms. Heard noted by hosting the Citizen’s Academy Council hoped to:

- Promote diversity of the citizens who participate
- Build transparency and trust between the community and the City
- Encourage citizens to become more involved with local government
- Inspire future leaders for service on the City’s Boards and Commissions
Ms. Heard noted many of the goals were achieved during last year’s Citizen’s Academy. She pointed out Council has appointed 25 percent of the 2014 Citizens Academy participants to serve on a Board or Commission.

Ms. Baker stated the classes met every Thursday at different City facilities beginning at City Hall with an introduction to local government. She added Council members participated in the class, and information was shared regarding the Council/Manager form of government and the roles of the City Manager and the City Clerk. She noted the second night was hosted by Community Planning and Engineering, and participants went through the process of opening a business, while learning about other issues covered by the departments. She commented the class also toured Engineering and saw how traffic engineers program and monitor traffic signals. Ms. Baker indicated the class repaired a pot hole during its time at Public Services, used various pieces of heavy equipment, and rode on a City bus to tour the Transit facility and Fleet garage. She stated Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) gave the class a tour of the Water Treatment Plant, demonstrated sewer cameras, and explained how water meter taps and fire hydrant hydraulics work.

Ms. Baker noted during the session hosted by Infrastructure Services and Fibrant, the class visited the Customer Service Center, the Telecommunications area, and the Network Operation Center. She commented the class also spliced fiber and learned about Fibrant installations. She noted during the visit with Parks and Recreation the class went through the ropes course, painted on the graffiti wall, operated parks maintenance vehicles, and created a basketball roster for a recreation league. She noted the Police Department hosted a Saturday session, and participants were introduced to patrol operations, criminal investigations, and the street crimes unit, and given a demonstration by the K-9 unit and the Special Response Team. She added the class was fingerprinted and had their mug shots taken. She stated the class toured the 911 Center and saw the facility in action. Ms. Baker stated the Fire Department hosted a training session where the jaws-of-life were used to open a car, the class entered the training tower that was filled with artificial smoke, and they got to go up in the platform truck.

Mr. Kyle noted the final session prior to graduation was hosted by the Human Resources Department. He explained the class played Wheel of Fortune to showcase services provided by Human Resources to employees and citizens. He noted the second part of the session was with the Finance Department and the class prepared and balanced a budget. He added during the final session Ms. Barbara Perry shared her experience serving on the City’s Boards and Commissions and the impact her service has had.

Mr. Kyle stated Citizen Academy graduates could not miss more than two sessions to be eligible for graduation, and he noted 16 members of the Citizens Academy successfully completed the program. He stated Mr. Bill Burgin served as keynote speaker for the graduation and spoke about servant leadership.

Ms. Heard noted participants completed a questionnaire after each session to provide feedback. She read quotes from the class, and she noted applications are being accepted for the 2015 Citizen’s Academy which will meet for 10 sessions:
• Every Thursday beginning September 10, 2015 through November 5, 2015
• From 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at various City facilities
• 20 participants ages 16 and up
• Apply online at www.salisburync.gov or call the City Clerk’s office 704-638-5224
• Applications must be received by July 17, 2015

Mayor Woodson stated the Citizen’s Academy was very successful. He invited 2014 Graduate Roy Bentley to speak about his experience in the 2014 Citizen’s Academy.

Mr. Bentley stated the Citizen’s Academy was interesting and opened his eyes to the challenges faced by City staff. He added the classes were very informative, and the departments were fantastic hosts. He encouraged anyone who may be interested to apply for the 2015 Citizen’s Academy.

APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Councilmember Alexander noted the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board voted to appoint Ms. Beth Foreman to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Mr. Woodson, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voting AYE, the following appointment was made to fill an unexpired term on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board:

Ms. Beth Foreman Term Expires 03/31/16

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Woodson opened the floor for public comment.

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

CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS

(a) Budget Ordinance Fiscal Year 2015-2016

City Manager Lane Bailey reviewed the recommended budget for FY2015-2016. He added Assistant City Manager John Sofley and Transit Director Rodney Harrison worked with the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to address issues regarding the transition from a rural transit system to an urban transit system. He indicated additional issues may need to be addressed after the budget is adopted. He thanked Concord City Manager Brian Hiatt for helping the City with its transition. He explained the Concord Transit System was the only urban transit
system in the Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and he pointed out additional urban transit systems have been added to the MPO, but the funding has not changed.

Mr. Bailey stated a memo in the packet explains the changes in the recommended budget. He noted the changes reflect the actions Council agreed upon at its Budget work session last week. He pointed out a change in the section regarding the Municipal Service District (MSD) tax levy. He indicated Council wanted to remain revenue neutral for the MSD, and the number should be .176 instead of .175.

Mr. Bailey noted if Council is satisfied, he recommends approval of the recommend budget.

Councilmember Miller read the cover memo for the record, “Attached is a summary of changes in my recommended budget, including some potential items we may wish to fund in the next fiscal year that are not currently budgeted. I would be remiss if I did not offer a word of caution that we are reducing our fund balance by almost 5 percent in one fiscal year; however, I think this still leaves us at a safe level. I am more concerned that we are replacing reoccurring revenue (the tax increase for the loss of the Privilege license tax) with non-reoccurring revenue (fund balance). This is something we will eventually have to address, and the longer we wait, the more difficult it may be.” He added he wanted to be sure Council did not want to do more than revenue neutral, and this is the time to have further discussion if it is warranted. He pointed out this is the time to make sure of Council’s intention, because its actions today may cause future increases to be more than Council is comfortable with.

Councilmember Alexander asked if changes in sales tax revenues could help the City’s budget in the coming fiscal year. Mr. Bailey stated if the Senate plan is approved, it would help the City. He pointed out the House has a different version of the plan. He added the Senate’s version of the plan would help with the concerns mentioned in the memo. He explained if there is no other form of revenue received other than sales tax, the loss of a permanent revenue source will have to be addressed. He commented the Fund Balance will not be reduced to the level he had initially anticipated. He cautioned reoccurring revenue is being replaced by one-time revenue. He added he is hopeful growth in sales tax revenue, property tax base, or revenue and fee increases will offset the loss of privilege license tax. He noted Council cannot continue to appropriate as much Fund Balance as it did in the coming fiscal year without consequences.

Ms. Alexander stated Council made its decision based upon projects such as the Central School Office Building and the downtown grants that come from the City’s Fund Balance. She added she does not think Council is being irresponsible by taking money from savings to promote investment in the community. She asked if grants could offset expenses in the recommended budget. Mr. Bailey pointed out staff is always looking for grants, but they are not a revenue stream to be counted on.

Mr. Miller stated the new retail development at the Summit Corporate Center is outside the City limits. Mr. Bailey agreed, and he pointed out in the current method of sales tax distribution, it does not matter where the retail development is located within the County. He explained many citizens believe sales tax dollars generated in the City go back to the City, but
the revenue goes to Raleigh, and it is sent back to the counties and disbursed county-wide. He added the majority of sales tax revenue generated, before the opening of the new retail center, is generated in the City and dispersed county-wide. Mr. Miller clarified revenue from the new development is not included in the recommended budget, and could provide additional funding. Mr. Bailey stated that is correct. Mr. Miller pointed out the development is expected to open by December 2015, which would provide revenue in the coming year.

Mr. Miller noted he wants to make sure Council agrees upon the recommended budget and realizes what it could mean for next year’s budget. He pointed out the budget increase is due to Legislative action, and increases in coming years will be due to Council’s actions. He emphasized if sales tax revenue does not increase, adjustments may be needed next year to recapture revenue that was cut by the Legislature.

Ms. Alexander stated since Council would be dealing with the budget before the end of the next fiscal year, it could use the Legislative argument because it would be in the fiscal year when the privilege license tax was taken. She commented Council believes sales tax revenue will increase, but she cautioned Council may have to tighten its belt in other areas.

Mayor Woodson pointed out spending increased from $36,000,000 to $40,000,000 in one year. He noted he spoke to Councilmember Kennedy, and he is fine with the recommended budget. He added Mr. Kennedy needs to be included if any changes are made to the recommended budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell agreed with Mr. Bailey that there were no good choices for the coming fiscal year, and Council chose the best option.

Thereupon, Ms. Alexander made a motion to adopt a Budget Ordinance of the City of Salisbury for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015 and ending June 30, 2016.

Mr. Miller made an amendment to the motion to include revenue neutral for the MSD. Mayor Woodson noted the change from .175 to .176. Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated paving issues need to be addressed in the coming fiscal year.

Mr. Bailey noted paving work will be completed in the coming fiscal year. He added during the Budget work session, Council requested staff provide a top 10 list of the streets that need paving.

Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)


(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 33-52, and is known as Ordinance 2015-22)
MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Movies in the Park

Mayor Woodson commented Movies in the Park is a great success. Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated Box Trolls was the featured presentation at the last Movies in the Park and everyone had a great time. She pointed out proceeds from the concession stand will go to the PAWS Park. She thanked staff for all it does to make Movies in the Park a success.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Woodson indicated a motion is needed to go into closed session concerning an acquisition of property as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(5).

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a motion to go into closed session concerning acquisition of property as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(5). Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a motion to return to open session. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

Mayor Woodson announced no action was taken in Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Miller seconded by Ms. Blackwell. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Mayor

Myra B. Heard, City Clerk