

Salisbury, North Carolina  
March 30, 2023

## **SPECIAL MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Karen K. Alexander, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield, Council Members Harry McLaughlin, and Anthony Smith; City Manager Jim Greene, Jr., City Clerk Connie B. Snyder; and City Attorney J. Graham Corriher.

**ABSENT:** Council Member David Post.

Salisbury City Council held a Town Hall regarding the City Council Election Process. The Town Hall took place at the Civic Center located at 315 South Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue. Mayor Alexander opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.

City Attorney Graham Corriher and Administrative Services Director Kelly Baker served as moderators. Mr. Corriher explained the process for changing the City Charter to affect the municipal election process. He noted the General Assembly has given Council the authority to:

- Make stylistic changes to the name of Salisbury and its governing board
- Change the terms to either two or four years
- Change the size of Council from three members to no larger than 12 members
- Change the mode of election to include districts, wards and at-large members
- Change from nonpartisan to partisan elections
- Change the method of selecting its Mayor
- Form of government
  - Mayor – Council
  - Council – Manager

Mr. Corriher reviewed the timeline and explained the process for Council initiated municipal Charter changes and changes subject to a referendum. He then reviewed the terms used by Rowan County municipalities and municipalities across the state of similar size.

Mr. Corriher noted the questions for consideration:

- Should Council have two or four year terms?
- Should Council terms be staggered?
- Should the size of Council be expanded?

Mr. Corriher explained the process for implementing staggered terms, and he noted the top two vote getters would receive four-year terms and the other remaining councilmembers would receive two-year terms.

There was discussion among attendees. Suggestions included:


- Changing the election process back to what it was
- Keeping the number of Councilmembers as low as possible
- Four year terms which would increase efficiency
- Taking time to make a decision
- Term limits

Mr. Corriher explained only the General Assembly can implement term limits. Ms. Baker noted the information collected at the Town Hall Sessions will be brought back to Council for its consideration.


## ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Smith. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield and Councilmembers McLaughlin and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.



Karen Alexander, Mayor



Connie B. Snyder, City Clerk