

Salisbury, North Carolina
September 1, 2015

REGULAR MEETING

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

ABSENT:

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The invocation was given by Councilmember Alexander. 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.

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 18, 2015.

(b) Tourism Development Authority Officers

Approve the appointment of Bill Burgin as Chairman and John Ketner as Vice-Chairman for the Salisbury Tourism and Cultural Development Commission.

(c) Budget Amendment – Hurley Park Donations

Approve a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2015-2016 budget in the amount of \$3,230 to appropriate recreation donations.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2015-16 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE RECREATION DONATIONS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 68, and is known as Ordinance 2015-31.)

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

MORGAN RIDGE REUSE PROJECT

Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Director Robert Van Geons discussed a project in the early stages of development known as the “Morgan Ridge Building Reuse Project.” He explained if it is successful in obtaining additional funding, it will be brought back to Council as an economic development project. He noted prior to making application for funding from the North Carolina Department of Commerce, an endorsement from the City is needed.

Mr. Van Geons explained the project is a brewery and restaurant and would create approximately 12 jobs for the brewery and 10 full and part-time for the restaurant.

Thereupon, Ms. Alexander made a **motion** to adopt an authorizing Resolution by the City of Salisbury for the North Carolina Department of Commerce Building Reuse Program “Morgan Ridge Building Reuse Project.” Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

Councilman Miller pointed out this Resolution allows an application for a grant and if received Mr. Van Geons will bring the project back to Council for approval.

AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF SALISBURY FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE BUILDING REUSE PROGRAM “MORGAN RIDGE BUILDING REUSE PROJECT.”

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 15 at Page No. 19, and is known as Resolution 2015-16.)

SECOND READING - CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR TAXI OWNERS

Police Chief Rory Collins addressed Council regarding the second reading for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Taxi Owners for Mr. Archie Shavers, doing business as Safety Taxi, Incorporated.

Chief Collins stated the Police Department conducted an investigation regarding Mr. Shaver's request to add a third vehicle to the business and found that Mr. Shavers meets the criteria to receive the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

Councilmember Alexander asked if a background check is performed on each taxi driver. Chief Collins responded that each driver and vehicle are investigated.

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a **motion** to approve the second reading for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Taxi Owners for Archie Shavers, DBA as Safety Taxi, Inc. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

DRIVEWAY VARIANCE – 109/111 NORTH LEE STREET

City Engineer Wendy Brindle addressed Council regarding a request for a driveway variance. She indicated the request involves the Gateway Building parking lot which is a public lot owned by the City. She pointed out one of the businesses that will use the lot in the near future is the New Sarum Brewery. She noted in December 2014 Council approved a Relocation and Expansion Agreement with New Sarum Brewery and one of the items discussed was a new driveway from Lee Street. Mr. Brindle noted City Code only allows two driveway openings per street to serve businesses and a variance is needed to allow the third drive from North Lee Street.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Engineer to grant a variance of the City Code, Sections 22-73(e), for a driveway permit for 109/111 North Lee Street. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ENGINEER TO GRANT A VARIANCE OF THE CITY CODE, SECTIONS 22-73(E), FOR A DRIVEWAY PERMIT FOR 109/111 NORTH LEE STREET.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 15 at Page No. 20, and is known as Resolution 2015-17.)

PROJECTION OVER A PUBLIC ALLEY – 322 EAST COUNCIL STREET

Traffic Engineering Coordinator Vickie Eddleman presented a request for a projection over a public alley located between 322 and 310 East Council Street. She pointed out the request is for security lighting for the Cheerwine Building. She noted staff believes all requirements have been met in accordance with City Code, and the lighting will not obstruct motorists view. Ms. Eddleman stated the light fixture will extend approximately 8 inches from the building and will be mounted at a height of 16 feet.

Ms. Eddleman indicated the Historic Preservation Commission has approved the request. She noted a second request will be coming to Council regarding awnings on the building.

Thereupon, Ms. Alexander made a **motion** to approve a projection over a public alley located at 322 East Council Street in accordance with Sections 22-18 and 22-19 of the City Code. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

(a) Amtrak Lease

City Manager Lane Bailey indicated staff has been negotiating with Historic Salisbury Foundation (HSF) and Amtrak to keep Amtrak service in the community. He noted two leases have been presented to Council to meet this need. He explained the first lease is between the City and HSF for the portion of Salisbury Station currently leased by Amtrak. He stated the City would then sub-lease the property to Amtrak. Mr. Bailey noted prior to the City entering the negotiations, HSF and Amtrak had reached an impasse in negotiations, and Amtrak was scheduled to cease service August 29, 2015. He pointed out there is a small cost to the City, but staff is currently working with partners to help absorb the cost. He recommended Council approve both leases.

Councilman Miller noted the amount of the City's lease is a bit more than that of Amtrak, and the City will be filling the gap where HSF and Amtrak could not reach an agreement in their negotiations.

Mr. Bailey stated the lease agreement is for five years, and in the initial year the City will pay HSF \$18,000 for the lease. He noted the City will receive \$15,000 from Amtrak each year during the five year period. He stated there is an escalated clause in the lease with HSF of 2.5 percent, and the City will also cover utilities, insurance and maintenance for the facility. Mr. Bailey stated staff is continuing discussions with North Carolina Rail about projects that would increase passenger rail service to the community.

Mr. Miller pointed out the justification for the lease is to keep the passenger rail service in Salisbury along with the tourism possibilities, and he agrees with the leases.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to approve a lease with the Historic Salisbury Foundation as presented. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to approve a lease with Amtrak at the Salisbury Station as presented. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

(b) ICMA Local Government Management Fellowship Program

City Manager Lane Bailey informed Council Salisbury has been selected to host two Fellows through the International City County Manager Association (ICMA) Local Government Management Fellowship Program. He stated the two Fellows will be from Southeast Asia and will be in the community from October 10 through November 7, 2015. He explained the Fellows will look at how local government functions in the United States, and these individuals have a specific interest in sustainability. Mr. Bailey noted it as honor for Salisbury to have been chosen and more information will be provided in the future.

(c) Community Job Fair

City Manager Lane Bailey stated that the Community Job Fair held earlier today was a great success with over 400 people participating. He noted the hope is to hold the event every six months, but a larger location will be needed.

Mayor Woodson recognized Ms. Dee Dee Wright who shared her excitement about the results of the Job Fair. She stated the feedback she received as she spoke to people at the event was positive in regards to their needs being met.

Human Resources Director Ruth Kennerly stated the workshop was well attended, and there was great representation from the workforce. She noted the event was successful because of the joint effort from all involved. She thanked Ms. Wright for her work at the event and for being a part of a positive solution. She noted she will follow-up with employers to determine how many positions were filled as a result of the Job Fair.

Mayor Woodson asked if there is a particular area of the workforce where employees are needed.

Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission Director Robert Van Geons stated there were representatives from all sectors of the workforce, and he noted all have jobs to be filled. He added creating the jobs in the community is only part of the issue, but the jobs must be filled by members of the community to impact economic growth.

(d) All-American City Update

City Manager Lane Bailey indicated Rowan County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Elaine Spalding, Assistant City Manager Zack Kyle and Councilmember Karen

Alexander recently attended the 2015 All-American City awards in Denver, Colorado. He noted Salisbury won the award in 1961, and it would be fitting for the City to apply again.

Mr. Kyle indicated the All-American City awards are sponsored by the National Civic League and focuses on civic engagement. He explained cities from throughout the country attend to present three projects that show their community's involvement. He stated the program would be great for Salisbury because there are so many wonderful organizations and events taking place in the community.

Councilmember Alexander stated she was impressed with how engaged the citizens who made the presentations from each community were. She added she believes Salisbury has plenty of initiatives that would be worthy of winning. Councilmember Miller commented the challenge will be to limit the initiatives to only three.

Mr. Bailey indicated there will be a meeting September 14, 2015 to begin the new application process. He noted cities have until mid-December to submit their applications. He added applicants are notified in February if they are selected, and the winners are announced in June 2016. He reiterated that the award is a community award rather than an award for the City organization.

Ms. Spalding described the inspiration of seeing diverse groups of citizens talking about what made their community special. She noted North Carolina has had several cities recognized with the All-America Cities award, and the award has been listed on their business and marketing materials. She stated a conference call with the National Civic League on September 14, 2014 at 1:00 p.m., and information about the application timeframe will be shared.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) 2015-2016 Historic Preservation Incentive Grants

Mayor Woodson announced applications are being accepted for the 2015-2016 Historic Preservation Incentive Grants. The matching grants are available on a competitive basis for exterior projects on owner-occupied homes in the four residential local historic districts: North Main Street, Brooklyn South Square, West Square, and Ellis Street Graded School. Applications are available by calling (704) 638-5324. All applications must be received by September 30, 2015.

(b) Brown Bag Lunch Jam

Salisbury Parks and Recreation will host the "Brown Bag Lunch Jam" concert series at Eastern Gateway Park every Wednesday from 12:00 noon until 1:30 p.m. beginning September 2 through September 30, 2015. Bring a lunch and enjoy some of Salisbury's best local talent. This event is free and open to the public.

(c) Fibrant Press Conference

Mayor Woodson announced a press conference regarding a collaboration between Fibrant, technology partner Calix, and Catawba College will be held Thursday, September 03, 2015 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Tom Smith Auditorium in the Ketner School of Business at Catawba College located at 2300 West Innes Street. Individuals who like to attend are asked to register online at www.fibrantguest.eventbrite.com or by calling 704-638-5304. Mayor Woodson announced Governor Pat McCrory will be in attendance.

(d) Appreciation for Police Officers

Mayor Woodson expressed his concern regarding recent activity across the nation involving police officers and noted he and Council appreciate what Salisbury's Police officers do for the City. He stated they are often called upon to make quick decisions in the line of duty, and he wants all officers to know Council supports them and wants to make sure they remain safe.

Mayor Woodson then recessed the meeting until 5:30 p.m.

RECONVENE – JOINT MEETING WITH ROWAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO RECOGNIZE THE LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL WORLD SERIES CHAMPIONS

Mayor Woodson reconvened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and invited the Rowan County Board of Commissioners to join Council at the dais. Commissioners present were Chairman Greg Edds, Vice-Chairman Jim Greene, Commissioner Judy Klusman and Commissioner Mike Caskey. Commissioner Craig Pierce joined the meeting by telephone.

Chairman Edds noted it was a good day for the City and the County, and he thanked Council for hosting the County Commissioners.

Mayor Woodson also recognized School Board Chairman Josh Wagner, and School Board members Dean Hunter, Susan Cox, and Chuck Hughes as well as Superintendent Dr. Lynn Moody.

Mayor Woodson read a proclamation honoring the Rowan Little League Softball World Series Champions. The County Commissioners also presented a proclamation honoring the team. A video featuring highlights from the winning game was shown, and members of each board took an opportunity to congratulate the team and thank them for being outstanding ambassadors of Salisbury and Rowan County.

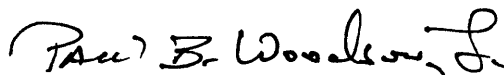
Chairman Edds announced team jerseys signed by each team member will be given to each board, and they will be hung in the respective buildings to honor the team.

Members of the team recognized were: Kaylin Dowling, Allison Ennis, Caylie Keller, Caitlin Mann, Kali Morton, Taylor Sanborn, Megyn Spicer, Liza Simmerson, Jaden Vaughn, Taylor Walton, Ellie Wilhelm, and Ellen Yang and coaches Steve Yang, Eric Dowling, and Rob Hales.

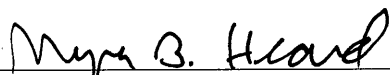
Mayor Woodson announced a hotdog dinner and Cheerwine had been prepared for the team, and he invited all those present to attend.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Blackwell seconded by Ms. Alexander. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.



Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Mayor



Myra B. Heard, City Clerk