REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell, Council Members Karen Kirks Alexander, and William Brian Miller; Interim City Manager John Sofley; 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 meeting was called to order by Mayor Woodson at 4:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Councilmember Miller.

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.
RECOGNITION KNOX MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPALS DR. LATOYA DIXON AND DR. MICHAEL WAIKSNIS

Mayor Woodson welcomed Knox Middle School Principals Dr. Latoya Dixon and Dr. Michael Waiksnis to the City. He noted Council is committed to the Rowan-Salisbury School System and its students.

Dr. Dixon and Dr. Waiksnis thanked the community for the warm welcome they have received. Ms. Dixon explained co-principals are a new concept to many citizens. She noted she has worked with Dr. Waiksnis for 10 years, and they have an established sense of professional and personal trust. She added she and Dr. Waiksnis are ready for the students to return to class, and they are excited to co-principal at Knox Middle School. She emphasized she and Dr. Waiksnis are committed to the students they serve.

Dr. Waiksnis stated he and Dr. Dixon agree that focus on student achievement is critical to student success. He added Knox Middle School students must be prepared for high school and college. He pointed out tremendous physical changes have taken place on the Knox Middle School campus. He added there have been parent and student meetings over the summer, and the sixth grade open house will be the first large event for he and Dr. Dixon.

Mayor Woodson invited Dr. Dixon and Dr. Waiksnis to address Council at its annual Future Direction and Goal Setting Retreat to be held in February 2015, and he wished them the best as co-principals at Knox Middle School. He noted Council is excited about all that is taking place within the Rowan-Salisbury School System. He thanked Dr. Dixon and Dr. Waiksnis for addressing Council, and he wished them the best.

Councilmember Miller stated Council is very excited to have Dr. Dixon and Dr. Waiksnis at Knox Middle School, and he noted Council is looking forward to partnering with Knox Middle School.

Councilmember Alexander thanked Dr. Dixon and Dr. Waiksnis for all they do for the students at Knox Middle School.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Woodson proclaimed the following observance:

SENIOR CITIZENS DAY August 21, 2014

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 5, 2014.
(b) **30th Annual Future Directions and Goal Setting Retreat**

Adopt February 12-13, 2015 as the dates for the 30th Annual Future Directions and Goal Setting Retreat.

(c) **Budget Ordinance Amendment – Police Department Asset Forfeiture Funds**

Adopt a Budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2014-2015 budget in the amount of $8,740 to appropriate Police Department Asset Forfeiture funds.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2014-2015 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE FORFEITURE FUNDS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 24 at Page No. 92, and is known as Ordinance 2014-27)

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell 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)

**LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP AMENDMENT CD-03-2014 HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS**

Planning and Development Services Manager Preston Mitchell addressed Council regarding a request to establish a Conditional District Overlay to permit the development of a 90-room Holiday Inn Express. Mr. Mitchell displayed an aerial photograph of the property, and he pointed out its location adjacent to East Innes Street, Arlington Street and Interstate 85. He noted the parcel is adjacent to the Courtyard by Marriot, Shell Service Station, and Blue Bay restaurant. He explained the request is to rezone approximately two acres, one parcel, by:

- Maintaining the existing Highway Business (HB) base zoning district
- Establishing a new Conditional District Overlay to allow development of a 90-room hotel

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the Master Plan, and he pointed out the hotel will be centrally located with parking on three sides. He added the building will front Marriott Circle and face the Courtyard by Marriott. He displayed an artist rendering of the proposed four-story hotel.

Mr. Mitchell displayed photographs of the property, and he pointed out the parcel was previously developed. Mr. Mitchell explained due to limited space the interconnecting driveway and the retaining wall may be dismantled and rebuilt during construction. He emphasized the interconnecting driveway will reopen.
Mr. Mitchell explained the Conditional District Overlay:

- Floating overlay zone
- Master Plan is required
- Allows alternative design
- Certain provisions of the Land Development Ordinance (LDO) may be altered or removed
- Conditions may be added at time of approval
  - Recommended by staff and the Planning Board
  - Adopted by Council
  - Agreed upon by petitioner

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the Conditional District alternatives:

- 24 parking spaces shown as compact and labeled with a C
  - 16-feet deep instead of 18-feet
- Four-story building
  - 3-story building is maximum in HB
- Existing drive aisle will be 22-feet near compact spaces
- No second inter lot connection is proposed
  - Required per Chapter 10 Section 10.6
    - Providing direct connection to Marriott Circle and private inter lot connection to Courtyard by Marriott

Mr. Mitchell pointed out the Technical Review Committee (TRC) and staff agreed that interconnectivity is being provided. He reviewed the Master Plan and noted the points of ingress and egress. He noted the property is zoned HB with CMX zoning along East Innes Street and the East Innes Gateway overlay. He explained the property does not fall into the East Innes Gateway overlay. He added the property is in the HB zoning district which includes Cracker Barrel, the adjacent shopping center and Walmart.

Mr. Mitchell noted HB zoning is intended for intense commercial development. He pointed out the developer will provide an internal sidewalk system that connects to surrounding public sidewalk systems. He emphasized the property will include good pedestrian connectivity.

Mr. Mitchell indicated the property is in the Sign Overlay B zone, which is the area at the three major interchanges that allow high-rise pylon signs. He noted all uses other than hotel will be prohibited on the site.

Mr. Mitchell noted there are no specific applicable Vision 2020 policies addressing infill redevelopment of previously developed lots. He added large-scale commercial development must connect to major roads. He stated the proposed development adjoins Interstate 85 and East Innes Street and is not adjacent to residential areas. He added the City has a policy of encouraging quality investment by removing development impediments.
Mr. Mitchell stated the Planning Board held a courtesy hearing on June 22, 2014 and unanimously recommended approval.

(b) Mayor Woodson convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding CD-03-2014.

There being no one to address Council, Mayor Woodson closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Miller pointed out the investor is developing a second property due to the success of his first property, the Courtyard by Marriott, which has been consistently filled since it opened. He noted there was a shortage of hotel rooms in the area that appealed to businesses travelers. He added the hotel will contribute to the bed tax which promotes tourism and improves the local tax base. He indicated the lot is esthetically pleasing and the alternatives the petitioner requested are reasonable.

Mr. Miller stated the City Council hereby finds and determines that adoption of an Ordinance to rezone the property as described herein by establishing a Conditional District Overlay is not inconsistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan, and that adoption of the Ordinance is reasonable and in the public interest. Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a motion to adopt an Ordinance amending the Land Development Ordinance and the Land Development District Map of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina, by rezoning one parcel at unnumbered Marriott Circle, approximately two acres by establishing a Conditional District Overlay to permit the development of a 90-room hotel, identifying the development documents, identifying permitted uses; identifying the development conditions; providing an effective date; and for other purposes. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE AND THE LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, BY REZONING ONE PARCEL AT UNNUMBERED MARRIOTT CIRCLE, APPROXIMATELY TWO ACRES BY ESTABLISHING A CONDITIONAL DISTRICT OVERLAY TO PERMIT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A 90-ROOM HOTEL, IDENTIFYING PERMITTED USES; IDENTIFYING THE DEVELOPMENT CONDITIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 24 at Page No. 93-95, and is known as Ordinance 2014-28)
PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE COLLEGE OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATICS

Councilmember Alexander provided a brief history of Fibrant, noting the concept originated when Councilmember Kennedy brought back the idea from a National League of Cities conference nearly a decade ago. She noted the City was losing its manufacturing jobs and looking to embrace technology job growth. She stated a committee was formed to study the possibility of a broadband utility in the City. Ms. Alexander noted after several years of study, when the economy was strong with steady growth, the plans were developed for implementation. She added a state of the art facility was constructed, and staff worked to build the customer base and increase reliability. She explained as the customer base expanded, financial stability improved.

Ms. Alexander stated after his election Mayor Woodson focused on leveraging resources for the utility and increasing financial stability. She pointed out new and expanded businesses located to the City, including Integro Technologies who built a $4 million facility downtown.

Ms. Alexander noted during this time the College of Data Science and Informatics at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC) created a program that focused on data as an economic tool. She stated in May 2014 she attended a Harnessing Big Data Conference in Charlotte which featured UNCC and business entities from across the world presenting the latest trends to harness the power of big data.

Ms. Alexander stated representatives from UNCC wish to present Council with an opportunity to partner with the College of Data Science and Informatics. She added the partnership would allow the College to use Fibrant’s assets for grant funding and research. She added the City could benefit from student internships and access to startup companies that are working with the College.

Ms. Alexander read comments from Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Constituent Relations Betty Doster:

- UNCC is the region’s public university in research
- Enrollment this fall will reach over 27,000 students including nearly 500 from Rowan County
- 2,700 UNCC alumni live in Rowan County including Councilmember Alexander, Kennedy, and Miller and former Councilmember Burgin
- Chancellor Phil Dubois visited Salisbury to address Rotary and noted the strong bonds between the College and the community
- UNCC and Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (RCCC) enjoy a partnerships that includes transfer students and programs
- The partnership before Council is an economic development partnership to grow jobs in the community
- UNCC’s business incubator was brought to Salisbury by Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission (EDC) Executive Director Robert VanGeons to promote entrepreneurship in the community
- Big Data is the newest program at UNCC and is aligned with industries that use data analytics in their business decisions.
- Companies are working with UNCC to find potential employees and for data research.
- UNCC is looking to partner with the City.

Ms. Alexander introduced UNCC College of Computing and Informatics Executive in Residence Olin Broadway, Senior Project Manager Rick Hudson, Director of Development Marjorie Bray, Partners Program Coordinator Maryalicia Johnson, and Dean and Professor of the College of Computing and Informatics Dr. Yi Deng.

Ms. Johnson stated Dr. Deng was the visionary leader who brought the program into fruition, and he works closely with the Chancellor’s office to ensure the program’s success. She emphasized the program is a top priority for UNCC. She explained the Business Partners Program focuses on recruiting. She noted the College of Computing and Informatics is:

- Recognized leader of technology education and research for the 21st Century
- Engine for local industry and economy
- Innovative and market leading

Ms. Johnson stated the Business Partners Program is a key economic development tool for the College. She noted the goal is to create Information Technology (IT) talent for high-value, high-wage companies. She added this is the talent Council is working to attract to the City for technology focused companies such as Integro Technologies. She explained the College of Computing and Informatics is the:

- Largest in North Carolina for IT graduates by enrollment and one of the largest in the nation.
- Over 25 percent of the total technology enrollment for the University of North Carolina System.
- Twice as many graduates annually as the next five largest universities in the region combined.

Ms. Johnson noted UNCC is a research powerhouse and is looking to partner with a focus on major clusters in data visualization and analytics, cyber-security/privacy, bioinformatics and genomics, human-centered computing. She added a key component is the Data, Science and Business Analytics (DSBA) initiative. She explained the program is a strategic vision to provide maximum impact for companies looking to combine the science and business of data. She pointed out a new Professional Science Master’s (PSM) degree in Data Science and Business Analytics (DSA) will be offered fall 2014.

Dr. Deng noted UNC Chancellor Phil Dubois’ top priority is to position UNCC as an engine for economic development in the region. He added the College of Computing and Informatics is at the forefront of the movement. He explained the College’s major focus is to be the driving technology force for scale, depth, quality, and variety. He indicated the College is the prominent supplier of talent and international capital for technology in the region. He stated
the College would like to partner with the City and focus on bringing high-tech jobs to the region.

Ms. Johnson emphasized the potential partnership with the City will focus on making the region a hub for big data talent and jobs. She stated the College teams up with businesses and local municipalities to meet the needs for future talent in the region. She added Dr. Deng’s goal is for students to have at least one internship, ensuring students from UNCC are competitive in the work force.

Dr. Deng explained the program serves a dual purpose:

- To fill a major gap between existing talent and technology and to retain the talent for local industries
- To partner with industries to train students through internships and experiences that will make them more competitive in the job market

Ms. Johnson noted the proposed partnership would allow staff to meet the students, work with the College at career fairs and information sessions to recruit the students to the City, and introduce the students to the City and all it has to offer. She explained the partnership levels are based on the size of the organization, and the City would be a Mega Partner since it has between 101 to 1,000 employees. She indicated the partnership is on a subscription basis.

Councilmember Miller noted the City made a substantial investment in Fibrant to become a Gig City. He added the goal of Fibrant is to promote economic development, and Council must let the world know of its Gig City status. He stated the City needs to build relationships with the students and the employers looking for the students. He emphasized if students and potential employers are gathering in a specific place, the City needs to be there. Mr. Miller stated the immediate benefit to partnering with the College will be internships with the City, Fibrant, and with other businesses in the community. He stated Council wants to leverage what the College has to offer, and he is very excited about the potential partnership.

Ms. Alexander stated she met with Mr. Kennedy, and he is very excited about the proposed partnership.

Mayor Woodson noted the City must reinvent itself to stay competitive in the current economy and recruit talent to the area. He noted he did an hour-long radio show Gigabit Nation with Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell last week. He emphasized Council is working to promote the City as a Gig City.

Dr. Deng emphasized UNCC is working to promote not only Charlotte but the entire region. He added talent is the key to recruiting technology-driven businesses to local communities, and there is a substantial talent pool at UNCC the City can tap into.

Ms. Johnson noted UNCC would be honored to partner with Salisbury, one of only 12 Gig Cities in the nation.
Mayor Woodson pointed out Salisbury has gig capabilities throughout the City. He added Council hopes to move Fibrant into the County in the future.

Ms. Alexander indicated the partnership will need an investment of $5,000 from Council.

Interim City Manager John Sofley noted if Council agrees by consensus, staff will work on an agreement to partner with UNCC.

Mr. Miller stated he would like the EDC to have access to the partnership.

Mr. Sofley noted he would like to discuss with the College how the partnership will work for the City and the local businesses it serves.

Ms. Alexander stated she received an email from Mr. Hudson who met with Salisbury resident Mr. Jeff Michael, of the Urban Institute. She noted the Urban Institute is interested in the data in regard to its Traffic Management System. She emphasized there are many areas of possible research that could be coupled with grant opportunities for the City and the College. She added this is the beginning of a potentially rewarding partnership. She thanked Ms. Johnson for her presentation.

By consensus, Council agreed to the partner with the UNCC College of Computing and Informatics.

Mayor Woodson thanked the members of UNCC for their presentation.

**UPDATE – DIXONVILLE-LINCOLN MEMORIAL PROJECT**

Urban Design Planner Lynn Raker and Mr. Fred Evans, Chair of the Dixonville-Lincoln Cemetery Memorial Committee, addressed Council regarding the Dixonville-Lincoln Memorial Project. Mr. Evans noted the plan was developed by the Dixonville Cemetery Task Force who worked with faculty and students from North Carolina A&T State University. He acknowledged Mr. Perry Howard, Coordinator of the Landscape Program at North Carolina A&T University, and Mr. Chris Harrison, North Carolina A&T graduate for their individual donations of time and talent.

Mr. Evans displayed an artist rendering and site plans for the Dixonville-Lincoln Cemetery Memorial Project and the surrounding areas. He pointed out the Parks and Recreation Department developed a Master Plan for eventual consolidation of recreation facilities, including a new pool, possibly at the Civic Center. He explained the current Lincoln Park pool could transition into open space to be used in conjunction with the Dixonville-Lincoln Cemetery Memorial Project. He thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for its upgrades to the Lincoln Park Pool making it an asset to the community.
Mr. Evans reviewed an aerial photograph of the former Lincoln School site. He noted:

- Students crossed the cemetery on their way to school
- Cemetery and school were at the center of community life
- Long-range goal to redevelop the site into an economic generator for the community

Mr. Evans stated the Committee has spoken to Mt. Calvary Church, the current owner of the former Lincoln School site, who may be interested in selling the property. He pointed out the site of the former Dixonville Baptist Church currently houses First Calvary Church. He explained the former Dixonville Baptist Church was:

- Razed during urban renewal in the 1960s
- Plan suggests the site could be identified in some way
  - Grassy area marking the footprint or a historical marker

Mr. Evans noted a proposed view from South Long Street/Old Concord Road, and he pointed out the sight-line that provides a clear view of the cemetery. He stated the second phase of development will include an internal plaza and commemorative sculpture.

Mr. Evans explained the Committee’s primary focus is Phase I which fronts Old Concord Road. He noted the project will include:

- Granite columns engraved with names, dates, and historical images arranged in a timeline
- Granite columns before a patterned walkway, with steps ascending to the cemetery
- Low-maintenance ornamental grasses
- Subtle lighting
- Appropriately-scaled trees
- Memorial columns and steps

Mr. Evans pointed out a different material other than granite may be used to reduce costs. He reviewed the proposed cost of the project:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phase 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Phase 2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$348,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Evans noted ground penetrating radar was used to determine where people are interred. He displayed an aerial photograph of the site from 1956 and another from 2009. He explained the Urban Renewal Project realigned Long Street and Old Concord Road changing the character of the neighborhood in 1964 and 1965. He pointed out Committee members participated in the Innes Street Long Street Complete Streets Corridor Study. He indicated the study recommends installing high visibility crosswalks with pedestrian signals at Monroe Street intersection, curb bulb-outs, landscaped median and a possible bike lane on Long Street with some on-street parking near the Cemetery.
Mr. Evans stated on April 11, 2014 the Committee held “Lighting the Way.” He announced a Fish Fry fundraiser will be held August 26, 2014 at the Civic Center. He pointed out other fund-raising events will take place throughout the year. He asked Committee members in the audience to stand and be recognized.

Mayor Woodson thanked the Committee members for their work on the project. He asked how many graves are in the area. Ms. Raker stated 489 names have been identified but many more are thought to be buried in the Cemetery.

Mr. Evans pointed out the Cemetery’s full story has not been revealed. He thanked Ms. Betty Dan Spencer for her research and generating the list of those interred in the cemetery. Mayor Woodson asked about the age of the Cemetery. Ms. Raker stated the first known burial was Ms. Mary Valentine in 1850, but she added others could precede that date.

Mayor Woodson thanked Mr. Evans for the update and all he does for the community.

WAYFINDING SIGNAGE

Rowan County Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) Chair Bill Burgin and Executive Director James Meacham addressed Council regarding the proposed Wayfinding Signage. Mr. Burgin thanked Council for its support of the CVB through the occupancy tax, which funds marketing and capital projects, and for allowing the CVB to work with City staff when needed.

Mr. Bill Burgin noted Wayfinding Signage is a capital investment that will help visitors and citizens find local points of interest. He indicated the CVB funds other capital projects such as Christmas decorations, the purchase of two trolleys, investments in the Gateway Building and capital projects such as the Lee Street Theater.

Mr. Meacham noted the Wayfinding Signage Package is ready to send to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT). He noted a signage system:

- Improves navigation
- Increase awareness of key locations, sites, and attractions
- Creates a greater sense of place
- Provides a consistent and uniform sign system
- Improve visitor and citizen experiences

Mr. Meacham explained in 2006 Council adopted a goal to have a Wayfinding Signage System. He noted the proposed plan is a three-phase system:

- Phase 1
  - Innes Street from Interstate 85 to Statesville Boulevard
  - Downtown
- Phase 2
  - Jake Alexander Boulevard from Interstate 85 to Statesville Boulevard
  - Statesville Boulevard to Innes Street
• Phase 3
  o Julian Road from Jake Alexander Boulevard to Old Concord Road
  o Old Concord from Julian Road to Arlington and Innes Streets

Mr. Meacham noted there will be a total of 53 directional signs, 6 parking signs and 47 vehicular and pedestrian signs. He emphasized the system is:

• Funded through CVB occupancy tax
  o Requesting staff assistance with sign installation
  o Capital funds are set aside annually to cover maintenance
• System designed by Buzz Bizzell, a Wayfinding Signage Consultant in North Carolina
  o Reviewed by staff and the CVB

Mr. Meacham recognized City Engineer Wendy Brindle, Engineering Technician Vickie Eddleman, and Community Planning Services Director Janet Gapen for their work on the project and their support of the CVB.

Mr. Meacham displayed photographs of the proposed signage. He pointed out the images on the signs are from the community and emphasized every aspect of the signs was considered. He pointed out signs in the NCDOT right-of-way must be for public facilities. He noted private businesses cannot be listed on the signs, and the language is very specific to NCDOT standards. He stated downtown, shopping, arts, or lodging can be listed in general terms. He explained the universal H was included on hospital signs so travelers from other countries could identify the hospital.

Mr. Meacham explained each proposed sign will require NCDOT review and approval. He added Wayfinding Signage systems are flexible and changes can be made to the proposal. He noted signs can be taken down and replaced with new signs as changes take place in the City.

Mr. Meacham displayed photographs of the proposed vehicular signs. He explained the signs stop at the City limits but can direct drivers to other areas such as Dan Nicholas Park and the Transportation Museum. He reviewed the dimensions of the downtown signs, and he pointed out the system has received a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) from the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). He noted more than 20 signs are proposed for downtown. He explained NCDOT is more flexible in the downtown area and allows specific names due to pedestrian traffic. He added the focus of the language is narrowed on vehicular signs in the major thoroughfares, and emphasized City street signs are given more flexibility regarding the language that is used.

Mr. Burgin noted the CVB worked on the Wayfinding Signage System for many years. He stated it is a substantial investment that will improve the City experience. He pointed out the signs will be the first thing many visitors see when they enter the City.
Mr. Meacham reviewed the request before Council:

- Adopt the Wayfinding Signage System as submitted
- Officially submit the system to NCDOT for its consideration
- Authorize staff to oversee and manage the installation process for the signage system in partnership with the CVB

Mr. Meacham stated the total cost of the project is $190,000. He noted the first phase is fully funded at $91,000 with additional monies to be used for the second phase. He explained there is additional cost associated with completing the project in phases. He added $10,000 will be set aside annually to cover maintenance, damage or any changes that need to be made to the system.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated in addition to reducing clutter the system will reflect community pride and will give a consistent look and feel throughout the City. She asked Mr. Meacham to review the size and scale of the signs.

Mr. Burgin stated the signs are tall enough for pedestrians to walk under. Mr. Meacham explained the signs meet NCDOT height regulations and mimic the United Stated Highway System used by the Town of Mooresville. He noted the bottom of the sign is 85 inches from the ground on pedestrian signs. He added the width of the sign is 36 inches and the signs are 48 inches high. He explained the signs are from a standard template NCDOT allows communities to use. He explained the bottoms of vehicular signs are 7-feet from the ground, but the apex of the post is 14-feet high and approximately 5-feet in width.

Ms. Blackwell pointed out many of the isolated signs will be taken down. Mr. Meacham stated in some places two existing signs that are completely different have been consolidated into one sign. He added NCDOT typically supports sign consolidation because it reduces sign clutter and maintenance costs.

Ms. Blackwell noted the name of the hospital has changed since the onset of the project. She asked if the correct name will be listed on the hospital sign. Mr. Meacham stated Novant is not allowed on the hospital sign because it would be too specific and a private business. Ms. Blackwell asked if the hospital is aware that its name could not be on the sign. Mr. Meacham stated he would make sure they are aware.

Mayor Woodson stated he looks forward to seeing the signs throughout the City.

By consensus, Council agreed to support the Wayfinding Signage System and asked Interim City Manager John Sofley to direct staff.

Mr. Sofley asked Council for a motion to approve the plan and direct staff to proceed pending NCDOT approval.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a motion to approve the plan as submitted and proceed to NCDOT with request for approval. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)
Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a motion to allow Interim City Manager John Sofley to make engineering staff available for the implementation of the plan in coordination with the CVB. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

Mayor Woodson thanked Mr. Meacham and Mr. Burgin for their presentation.

SIDEWALK ENCROACHMENT – 200 BLOCK OF WEST INNES STREET

Planner Catherine Garner stated the Engineering Department received a request for a sidewalk encroachment to allow the construction of new stairs at St. John’s Lutheran Church. She explained the request is for a one-foot encroachment onto the sidewalk right-of-way in the 200 block of West Innes Street.

Ms. Garner displayed photographs of existing conditions and pointed out damage to the stairs. She noted the property line and its proximity to the sidewalk. She stated the proposed plan would replace the existing stairs while maintaining the architectural style of the property. Ms. Garner explained the church is adding a landing area at the top of the stairs to address safety concerns.

Ms. Garner explained the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) approved the plan and a letter of liability has been received from the church. She added staff is waiting on North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) approval.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a motion to approve a sidewalk encroachment in the 200 block of West Innes Street in accordance with Section 22-19 of the City Code subject to North Carolina Department of Transportation approval and receipt of Letter of Liability from the property owner. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT CDGB AND HOME GRANTS

Senior Planner Trey Cleaton and Community Planning Services Director Janet Gapen addressed Council regarding the 40th anniversary of the United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and HOME Grants. Mr. Cleaton explained the grants help communities across the nation:

- HUD provides annual grants to cities, counties and states
  - Tied to a Five-Year Consolidated Plan that Council reviews annually

- Purpose is to develop strong communities by:
  - Providing decent housing
  - Creating a suitable living environment
- Expanding economic opportunities
- Improving quality of life
- Principally for persons of low and moderate income

Mr. Cleaton reviewed the CDBG eligible activities used by the City:

- Property acquisition/demolition of blighted structures
- Housing rehabilitation
- Community centers
- Public sidewalks
- Parks and public facilities
- Health and human services (including homeless in the community)

Mr. Cleaton noted staff works closely with the Community Development Corporation (CDC) who administers CDBG and HOME funds. He indicted the HOME grants are geared toward affordable housing and residential structures. He noted land is purchased using CDBG funds and construction is completed using HOME funds. He displayed photographs of homes that were constructed using CDBG and HOME funds in the Park Avenue Neighborhood, West End Neighborhood, and Jersey City Neighborhood.

Mr. Cleaton explained the funds can be used for the development of public infrastructure and community centers. He reviewed projects that have taken place in the City:

- The West End Community and Business Center which provides office space for the CDC and public meeting space for the community
- The Cannon Park in the Park Avenue Neighborhood built in 2001
- The Park Avenue Community Center renovations were completed in 2002 and provides meeting space for the community and houses the Park Avenue Redevelopment Corporation
- The Jersey City Park – Jersey City Neighborhood presented in 2003
- Renovations to the Jersey City Neighborhood entrance

Ms. Gapen stated housing is the top priority for the City with an emphasis on rehabilitation for current home owners. She recognized CDC Executive Director Chanaka Yatawara who was in the audience, and she noted the CDC has been an important partner in housing rehabilitation for the last 12 years. She explained the City coordinates the projects while the CDC provides support for families, coordinates homebuyer education programs, assists with mortgage options, bids the projects and works with the contractors. She emphasized the City is proud of its relationship with the CDC and looks forward to partnering on future activities.

Mayor Woodson thanked Mr. Yatawara for all the CDC does for the City, and he thanked staff for the presentation.
Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) Engineering Manager Jason Wilson stated the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is planning a project on Highway 52 between Granite Quarry and Rockwell. He displayed a map of the area, and he pointed out NCDOT is planning to close Gold Knob Road and realign Crescent and Anthony Roads in Rowan County.

Mr. Wilson explained the realignment will require relocation of six existing water services, relocation of fire hydrants, one for which the City will be responsible, and approximately 50 linear feet of 12-inch delta water line. He noted the projected cost to the City will be $13,730 to be budgeted in the coming fiscal year.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a motion to authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute an agreement with North Carolina Department of Transportation regarding the reimbursement by Salisbury-Rowan Utilities for the estimated cost of $13,730 to adjust and/or relocate public water utilities in conjunction with NCDOT Project W-5316. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

This item was postponed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Woodson opened the floor to receive public comment.

Clyde, 200 block of East Bank Street, stated he hoped there would be a public hearing regarding the Wayfinding Signage System. He noted he attended each meeting, but he was never allowed to participate. He added he called the consultant and requested to meet with him to share his ideas and concerns, but the call was never returned. He noted the public has not been allowed input regarding the signs, which are computer generated art by an out-of-town consultant. He stated he is concerned the signs will include mistakes. He pointed out the date on the seal in Council Chambers should have 1755 instead of 1753. He added the public was never allowed to preview the signs.

Ms. Emily Perry, 101 Treetop Court, stated she is concerned the Salvation Army has sole rights to the Miller Recreation Center. She noted the Center should be open to other agencies for after-school and summer programs. She pointed out only two of the 13 programs listed for Miller Recreational Center on the City website are operational. She indicated four African-Americans have been fired from the Parks and Recreation Department in the last two years. She emphasized the Parks and Recreation Department employees have a close relationship with City youth and the community. Ms. Perry requested an examination of the Parks and Recreation
Department. She asked if the Human Resources Director position was advertised and what were the job qualifications. She noted she has heard from numerous employees who were dismissed and claimed to have been harassed, suspended, or mistreated. She called for an investigation of the Human Resources Department regarding hiring practice and treatment of employees.

Mr. Williams Peoples, 522 North Fulton Street, asked what would happen if a tragedy like the one that happened in Missouri took place in the City. He stated Council does not listen to its citizens. He emphasized complaints brought before Council should be investigated. He noted the City is run with taxpayer’s money. He stated the issues regarding the former City Manager and his severance package have not been addressed and citizens are frustrated. He asked why the number of people doing the work has decreased while the workload and the tax base has increased. Mr. Peoples challenged Council to go into the neighborhoods and examine the overgrown conditions. He questioned who would maintain medians in the Long Street corridor if they are constructed. He asked Council if it is really listening to the citizens or if it will take a tragedy for Council to establish dialogue with its citizens. He questioned the purchase of a park outside the City limits when City property is not maintained.

Ms. Sharon Freeman, 156 Mahaley Avenue, stated she is concerned about the Miller Recreation Center. She noted she manages the Salisbury Drill Team, but her program may have to be dismantled since the team can no longer practice at the Miller Recreation Center. She added between 20 and 60 youth participated in the program but there is nowhere for the children to rehearse. She noted the Salisbury Drill Team gives children structure and a place to go. She pointed out the children depend on her for guidance and have nowhere to go so they are returning to the streets. She stated what happened in Missouri is real and tragedies can happen anywhere.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated the Salisbury Drill Team is a great program that is very active in the community. She asked Interim City Manager John Sofley and Assistant City Manager Zack Kyle to work with Ms. Freeman.

Ms. Dee Dee Wright, 418 South Caldwell Street, noted she is concerned that only two programs are operational at the Miller Recreation Center. She indicated she has asked how the Salvation Army received sole use of the Miller Recreation Center but the question has not been answered. She indicated the Salvation Army is a church program, and she pointed out other churches in the City have programs but were not offered the Miller Recreation Center. Ms. Wright stated she asked Assistant City Manager Zack Kyle for a copy of the City’s Diversity and Recruitment Policy. She noted in 2013, 46 percent of City employees were white, 32 percent were black, and 10 percent were Hispanic. She stated as of July 24, 2014, 74 percent of City employees were white, while the African American employees have been reduced by 16 percent and the Hispanics employees were reduced by 6 percent. She stated the Salisbury Police Department trains officers who leave for better opportunities. She pointed out in the last four or five months, four Police Officers left the department to work for the Sheriff’s Department. Ms. Wright stated someone must ask questions regarding policing and the Miller Recreation Center. She pointed out the officers who left have not been replaced. She emphasized Council must listen to the citizens particularly in the West End. She noted a black officer was sent to the West End, but the community needs to get to know white officers also.
Ms. Blackwell stated she, Mayor Woodson, Mr. Kyle and staff met with 12 citizens from the West End community. She noted at the meeting questions, concerns, and potential solutions were identified. She added the information was given to Mr. Kyle and his staff who promised to bring the information back to the citizens before the end of September. She emphasized Council hears the citizen’s concerns and is working to develop a plan.

Mr. Floyd Kerr III, 525 East Fisher Street, stated he retired from the Parks and Recreation Department. He asked why Parks and Recreation staff are working out of the City Office Building on a day shift. He noted children are being pushed into the streets because there are no activities for them. He added the Parks and Recreation Center is not always open when it is supposed to be. He emphasized Parks and Recreation is a service organization that should be open on nights and weekends. Mr. Kerr stated the Parks and Recreation Department needs a director that can make the department work. He pointed out Community Park has been open for 13 years and should be self-sustaining. He noted the Parks and Recreation needs to return to its former glory.

Reverend Olin Brunner, 901 South Jackson Street, stated his church received a bill from Fibrant with notice of a free upgrade for residential customers. He noted his church is a non-profit business that receives 15 x 2 speeds for $55 per month. He said he spoke to a Customer Service Representative and was told business service is more expensive. He pointed out businesses pay more for the service and should have additional bandwidth. Reverend Bruner referenced a property at 219 Chestnut Street that burned over a year ago. He asked how long before the property is considered blight. He noted the roof is gone and no one is working on the property.

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

INTERIM CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS

(a) Police Officers

Interim City Manager John Sofley noted the City is in the process of hiring additional Police Officers and should only be down one officer by the end of the week.

(b) Programs at the Miller Recreation Center on the City Website

Interim City Manager John Sofley stated staff will review the City’s website and any programs that are not currently offered will be removed.

(c) Fibrant Business Customers

Interim City Manager John Sofley pointed out Fibrant has a different schedule and service level for business and residential customers. He explained the cost structure and service level is based upon the demands of business and residential customers.
Mayor Woodson asked Mr. Sofley to make sure there are ample employees to keep the City streets clean. Mr. Sofley noted open positions have been advertised and some have been filled which should make a difference going forward.

**MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) **Fish Fry Fundraiser**

Mayor Woodson announced the Dixonville-Lincoln Memorial Task Force will host a Fish Fry Fundraiser Tuesday, August 26, 2014 at the Civic Center located at 316 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue. Eat-in or take out will be available from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Tickets are $10.00 each and may be purchased at the Visitor’s Center, the City of Salisbury One-Stop-Shop, the Civic Center, and other park centers or by calling 704-638-5242.

(b) **Triple Threat Camp Graduation**

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell announced she attended the graduation of Triple Threat Camp held at City Park Recreation Center. She noted 60 young ladies ages 10 and under participated in a six-week program where they learned dance, gymnastics, and theater. She indicated the program had a circus theme, and the girls attended for $40 per week. She thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for its work and noted the event was a huge success.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Alexander seconded by Ms. Blackwell. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Mayor

Myra B. Heard, City Clerk