

Salisbury, North Carolina
March 15, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield, Presiding; Council Members Harry McLaughlin, David Post, and Anthony Smith; Interim City Manager Brian Hiatt, City Clerk Kelly Baker; and City Attorney J. Graham Corriher.

ABSENT: Mayor Karen K. Alexander.

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield at 6:00 p.m. A moment of silence was taken.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Thereupon, Councilmember McLaughlin made a **motion** to adopt the Agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield voted AYE, Councilmember McLaughlin voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor to proclaim the following observances:

ARBOR DAY

March 18, 2022

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the special meeting of January 27-28, 2022 and the regular meeting of March 1, 2022.

(b) Voluntary Annexation – Oxford Station

Receive the Certificate of Sufficiency and adopt a Resolution setting the date of the public hearing for April 19, 2022 for the voluntary annexation of Oxford Station consisting of 79.21 acres located on Map 321 Parcel 079 located on Old Mocksville Road.

RESOLUTION SETTING THE DATE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE QUESTION OF THE ANNEXATION OF OXFORD STATION, PURSUANT TO GENERAL STATUTE 160A-31.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 15-16, and is known as Resolution 2022-11.)

(c) Contract Extension – Interim City Manager

Approve a contract extension for Brian Hiatt to serve as Interim City Manager and advisor to the new City Manager through April 30, 2022.

(d) Public Hearing – Economic Incentive

Set a public hearing for April 5, 2022 to receive comments on a proposed economic incentive for a Trammell Crow Company project located on Henderson Grove Church Road.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield voted AYE, Councilmember McLaughlin voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield opened the floor to receive public comments.

Mr. Andrew McDonald and Mr. Peter Day from True Homes addressed Council regarding ways to cut cost for future housing developments.

Ms. Whitney Peckman spoke in support of bringing the Gate City Coalition and Cure Violence Model to assess crime in the City and County.

Ms. Pam Bloom indicated she would like more information on the difference in training between Cease Fire and the Cure Violence programs.

Dr. Susan Lee noted she also supports Cure Violence to address and reduce the systemic root causes of violence in the community.

Ms. Mary Frances Edens expressed her support of trained community members, such as those participating in the Cure Violence program, to assist with de-escalation tactics and to model appropriate behaviors.

Mr. Jonathan Barbee spoke in favor of funding existing City programs instead of funding outside programs such as Cure Violence to reduce crime in the City.

Mr. Jeff Sharpe indicated Cure Violence is well regarded and its success is well documented.

Ms. Mary Walker expressed her support of the Cure Violence model and its ability to reduce gun violence.

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

DOWNTOWN SALISBURY SOCIAL DISTRICT

Downtown Development Director Sada Stewart Troutman addressed Council regarding the proposed Downtown Salisbury Social District. She explained social districts are geographic zones where patrons can enjoy an alcoholic beverage purchased from a participating ABC permitted establishment using special cups. She noted management of the Social District would be provided by Downtown Development in cooperation with other City departments. She explained business owners are not required to participate and do not have to allow the Social District cups in their establishments.

Ms. Troutman reviewed the Social District boundaries as proposed at Council's March 1, 2022 meeting which included most of the Municipal Service District (MSD). She stated the Downtown Salisbury Social District will operate from 12:00 p.m. through 12:00 a.m. and staff believes current City employees can support the proposed district safely. She commented marketing and promotion will be a collaboration between Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI) and staff. She noted rules and obligations will be accessible on signs, store windows, and the special cups.

Ms. Troutman noted staff recommends the boundaries of the Social District and the hours

and days of operation remain as proposed. She pointed out Council's questions at its previous meeting led to conversations with community religious groups who did not feel the need to oppose the social district. She added staff requests Council reach a consensus on the proposed Downtown Salisbury Social District so the final Ordinance can be approved at its April 5, 2022 meeting with an effective start date of May 1, 2022.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield convened a public hearing after due notice regarding the proposed Downtown Salisbury Social District.

Ms. Karen Hobson stated she supports the proposed Social District with reservations. She indicated the district is too broad, and she expressed concern regarding the hours of operation. She suggested reducing the proposed district to the street line so it does not include alleys and back parking lots.

Mr. Tom Overcash questioned if the Social District would increase public drunkenness. He added Council must determine if the proposal will be good for the City.

Ms. Cheryl Goins, downtown property owner and resident, stated the proposed Social District will create a revenue source for downtown businesses who have suffered during the pandemic. She read a list of downtown merchants that support the proposed social district

Ms. Chris Ostel, owner of the Fish Bowl and Touch a Great Tattoo, stated he supports the request with some hesitation. He added his businesses will participate during special events such as the Cheerwine Festival, but he would not let a patron walk out of his business at 11:00 p.m. on a week night with a drink because the chance for drunk driving is too great.

Ms. Samantha Hapsel, downtown business owner, noted the proposed Social District is a great opportunity for the City. She referenced other cities that have passed social districts, and she pointed out the majority of those cities reported no major incidences. She asked Council to approve the proposed social district.

Ms. Tiffany Day, owner of Shugs, expressed her support of the proposal which could promote activity and patronage between downtown businesses.

There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield closed the public hearing.

Councilmember Post questioned how the proposal will impact the City. Ms. Troutman stated there is no expected impact to the City. Interim City Manager Brian Hiatt explained, based on information from other municipalities and the plans for the proposal, staff believes the Social District can be handled with current staffing levels. He added staff can review and make changes if needed. He pointed out Kannapolis has a Social District and an active downtown, and they do not anticipate the Social District creating a need for additional staff in their city.

Councilmember Post pointed out most restaurants in Salisbury close at 10:00 p.m., and he questioned if the Social District should operate until midnight on weekdays. He indicated he has

received calls from citizens who expressed concerns about the Bell Tower Green Park being included in the Social District and the weekday hours being too late.

Ms. Troutman explained the hours are uniform because staff felt it would be easier for the general public. Councilmember Post stated he would support Social District weekend hours until midnight and weekday hours until 10 p.m. which matches restaurant hours.

Councilmember Smith pointed out staff has done its due diligence. He commented conversations have taken place and staff has worked to come up with a solution. He added cities are having to use creative means to mitigate some of the challenges that come out of the pandemic and he supports the request.

Councilmember McLaughlin noted Council discussed the possibility of reducing the boundaries and hours of operation. He stated small businesses were affected by the pandemic and the proposed Social District is intended to help businesses make up for lost revenue. He added the proposed Social District would provide an opportunity for people to come together, especially during special events, and browse other businesses. He stated he has concerns regarding the hours of operation at Bell Tower Green Park and families that may encounter someone that has had too much to drink. He pointed out the statistics from surrounding communities are from the winter months and in the summer months more people are outside and drinking tends to increase. He suggested restricting the boundaries and having limited hours at the park.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield asked if any downtown businesses are open after 10:00 p.m. during the week. Ms. Troutman indicated Fish Bowl and Shugs are open past 10:00 p.m. on week days. Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield pointed out a lot of work has gone into the proposal, and she added staff has spoken to churches in the proposed district who do not have a perceived problem with the proposal. She noted she is a member of YSUP Rowan and has concerns regarding the use of clear cups. Ms. Troutman pointed out there are many non-clear cup options that could be used in the proposed social district. Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield pointed out the idea is to promote downtown and Council seems to be in consensus regarding the hours of operation and possibly reviewing the map.

Ms. Troutman noted the proposed Social District hours are from 12:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. seven days per week with hours at Bell Tower Green Park from 5:00 p.m. until closing 365 days per year. She pointed out there will be times when the City may need to suspend the Social District and that is provided in the Ordinance. She asked Council for its recommendations. Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield noted the hours need to be consistent and easy to understand. Councilmember McLaughlin suggested it would be easier to start small and expand. He added the goal is to benefit business and have a minimal impact on the community

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield asked if Council would like to keep the hours from 12:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. except for the Bell Tower Green Park which would operate from 5:00 p.m. until closing. Councilmember McLaughlin suggested adjusting the start time for the park from 5:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. to accommodate daylight savings time. City Attorney Graham Corriher indicated the proposed Ordinance needs to be revised to reflect the closing time for the Bell Tower Green Park. Ms. Troutman noted the park closes at 10:00 p.m. in the summer and 6:00 p.m. in the

winter. Parks and Recreation Director Nick Aceves explained this is the first year of operation for the Bell Tower Green Park and staff decided upon a 6:00 p.m. closing time and after the first winter staff will have a better understanding of the winter hours and when the foot traffic decreases.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield requested clarification regarding the proposed start times for the Social District at the Bell Tower Green Park. Ms. Troutman indicated the Social District for the park would begin at 5:00 p.m. in the winter and at 6:00 p.m. during other times of the year.

Ms. Troutman reviewed an updated map of the proposed Social District that includes all ABC permitted bars and restaurants and most downtown retail options. Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield noted she does not want Social District patrons walking through alleys, and she suggested removing the Integro parking lot from the proposed district.

Councilmember Post asked if maps will be available where patrons get their cups. Ms. Troutman agreed, and she noted printed and web access maps will be available along with maps on the door of participating businesses.

There was discussion among Council regarding the Social District boundaries and the Rowan Museum. Chief Stokes explained if the museum has a special event that includes alcohol, Social District patrons could not bring their cup into the event. Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield commented if Rowan Museum chooses to participate in the Social District North Main Street would need to be included in the boundaries.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield noted moving the boundary from the alley up to Church Street and the Rowan Museum are the boundary issues Council needs to address. Ms. Troutman pointed out there seems to be a consensus among Council on the Social District hours, boundaries, and cups and there are questions regarding the sidewalk in the 200 block of North Main Street.

Mr. Corriher suggested bringing the item back to Council at its April 5, 2022 meeting for final approval. He pointed out the Social District is scheduled to take effect on May 1, 2022 and adopting the Ordinance on April 5, 2022 should not create a delay.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield thanked Ms. Troutman, Mr. Corriher, and the committee for their work on the social district.

VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION – HENDERSON GROVE CHURCH ROAD

City Engineer Wendy Brindle and Planning Director Hannah Jacobson addressed Council regarding the voluntary annexation of 44.672 acres located on Tax Map 407 Parcels 014 and 015 on Henderson Grove Church Road and adopting an Ordinance amending the Land Development District Map to rezone the parcels from Rowan County Zoning – I-85 Economic Development District to Salisbury Zoning – Light Industrial (LI) District.

Ms. Jacobson explained the first consideration for Council will be the voluntary annexation and the second consideration would be the rezoning. She displayed a map of the area, and she

noted the site is located between I-85 and North Carolina Highway 29/South Main Street and between Peach Orchard and Henderson Grove Church Roads. She noted staff reviewed the petition and found it to meet N.C.G.S. 160-58.1.

Ms. Jacobson stated the site is currently under Rowan County zoning. She explained the intent is to allow for large scale development opportunities that take advantage of the interstate access through transportation and warehousing uses. She added the applicant, Trammell Crow Company, is requesting Light Industrial zoning which is most comparable to the Rowan County zoning.

Ms. Jacobson noted the request before Council does not include a site plan. She reviewed the allowed uses: limited office, vehicular repair, and entertainment, and she pointed out the majority of uses are manufacturing, wholesale, and storage. She commented the intended use of the parcels is for wholesale and distribution. She stated Planning Board held a courtesy hearing on February 22, 2022 and voted unanimously to recommend approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield convened a public hearing after due notice regarding the proposed rezoning of Tax Map 407 and Parcels 014 and 015 on Henderson Grove Church Road.

Mr. Chris Kouri noted the proposed distribution center will have significant economic impacts for the City. He pointed out the current I- 85 Economic Development zoning allows for a distribution center. He stated the annexation will bring City services to the area, and the request would create uniformity among the three parcels.

Mr. Woody Coley stated he works with Trammell Crow Company, and he pointed out I-85 is an important channel for distribution from Atlanta to Washington. He noted Exit 72 has opportunities for distributors to locate close to the work force, creating jobs and allowing products and services to move up and down I-85.

Mr. Greg Welsh indicated the site's proximity to the interstate and the availability of infrastructure make it a great fit for the proposed warehouse. He noted the project will bring the extension of the water main to Henderson Grove Church Road and will serve as a catalyst to development in the area.

There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield closed the public hearing.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance to extend the corporate limits of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina, to include 44.672 acres, Tax Map 407 Parcels 014 and 015 (partial), Henderson Grove Church Road. Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmember McLaughlin, Councilmember Post, and Councilmember Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, TO INCLUDE 44.672 ACRES, TAX MAP 407 PARCELS 014 AND 015 (PARTIAL), HENDERSON GROVE CHURCH ROAD.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 67-69 and is known as Ordinance 2022-17.)

Mr. Smith stated the City Council hereby finds and determines that adoption of an Ordinance to rezone the property described herein, as requested, is consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan due to the proposed petition, site characteristics, surrounding development pattern, and observations provided by City planning staff, identifying the policies that support the petition. Thereupon, Councilmember Smith made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending the Land Development District Map of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina, rezoning Tax Map 407 Parcels 014 and 015 (partial) from Rowan County zoning I-85 Economic Development District to the City of Salisbury Light Industrial approximately 44.672 acres upon annexation. Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmember McLaughlin, Councilmember Post, and Councilmember Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, REZONING TAX MAP 407 PARCELS 014 AND 015 (PARTIAL) FROM ROWAN COUNTY ZONING I-85 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT TO THE CITY OF SALISBURY LIGHT INDUSTRIAL APPROXIMATELY 44.672 ACRES UPON ANNEXATION.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 70 at Page No. and is known as Ordinance 2022-18.)

VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION – CLONINGER INVESTMENTS, INC.

City Engineer Wendy Brindle requested Council consider the voluntary annexation of Cloninger Investments, Inc., consisting of 3.234 acres located on Map 400 Parcel 053 at 645 Julian Road, effective June 30, 2022. Ms. Brindle pointed out the parcel is located on Julian Road between Jake Alexander Boulevard to the north and I-85 to the south.

Ms. Brindle explained the proposed annexation is considered a contiguous annexation because the City limits are across the street. She added N.C.G.S. allows the City to cross a public right of way for a contiguous annexation and once the annexation is complete the parcel will be considered part of the primary City limits. She stated the item was noticed in accordance with N.C.G.S. 168-3, and she requested Council hold the public hearing and consider the annexation.

Councilmember McLaughlin asked if any citizen expressed concern regarding the proposed annexation. Ms. Brindle noted no one has expressed concern. She stated the plan is to construct a 20,000 square foot body shop for Cloninger Ford. She noted the body shop would generate approximately \$18,000 in property tax revenue in the coming fiscal year and at the request of the petitioner the annexation would not be effective until June 30, 2022.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield convened a public hearing after due notice regarding the voluntary annexation of Cloninger Investments, Inc.

There being no one to address Council, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield closed the public hearing.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance to extend the corporate limits of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina, to include 3.234 acres, Tax Map 400 Parcel 053, Cloninger Investments, Inc. located at 645 Julian Road. Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmember McLaughlin, Councilmember Post, and Councilmember Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, TO INCLUDE 3.234 ACRES, TAX MAP 400 PARCEL 053, CLONINGER INVESTMENTS, INC. LOCATED AT 645 JULIAN ROAD.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 71-72 and is known as Ordinance 2022-19.)

LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP AMENDMENT – HARRISON ROAD

Planning Director Hannah Jacobson noted Z-01-2022 is a request to rezone approximately 128.17 acres from Heavy Industrial zoning to General Residential (GR-6). She displayed a map of the area, and she pointed out the property is split-zoned with the majority of the parcel already zoned GR-6.

Ms. Jacobson pointed out GR-6 zoning allows a maximum density of six units per acre. She stated the parcel is located within the City's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) and a petition has been filed for voluntary annexation.

Ms. Jacobson reviewed the permitted uses, and she noted the intent of the applicant is for a single-family subdivision. She pointed out the proposal is consistent with policies of the vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan, specifically the Housing Vision Statement and Policy N-18. She added Planning Board held a courtesy hearing on February 22, 2022 and voted unanimously to recommend approval.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield convened a public hearing after due notice regarding Z-01-2022.

Mr. Adam Fiorenza indicated the proposed project is his first in Salisbury, and he requested Council approve the proposed rezoning.

There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield closed the public hearing.

Councilmember McLaughlin asked if any citizens have expressed any concerns regarding the proposed rezoning. Ms. Jacobson stated she has not received any citizen concerns.

Councilmember Post asked about the size of the proposed homes. Mr. Fiorenza noted the homes will be single-family and range from 1,800 to 4,000 square feet. Councilmember

McLaughlin asked how many homes are being proposed. Mr. Fiorenza stated 228 homes are being planned for the development.

Mr. Post stated the City Council hereby finds and determines that adoption of an Ordinance to rezone the property described herein, as requested, is consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan due to the proposed petition, site characteristics, surrounding development pattern, and observations provided by City planning staff, identifying the policies that support the petition. Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending the Land Development District Map of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina, rezoning Tax Map 450 Parcel 001 from General Residential /Heavy Industrial to General Residential approximately 128.17 acres. Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmember McLaughlin, Councilmember Post, and Councilmember Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, REZONING TAX MAP 450 PARCEL 001 FROM GENERAL RESIDENTIAL /HEAVY INDUSTRIAL TO GENERAL RESIDENTIAL APPROXIMATELY 128.17 ACRES.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 73 and is known as Ordinance 2022-20.)

RECESS

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield requested Council take a five-minute recess.

CURE VIOLENCE INITIATIVE

Greensboro Gate City Foundation Program Manager Ingram Bell and Councilmember Anthony Smith addressed Council regarding the Cure Violence Initiative

Councilmember Smith referenced the deaths of Ariana Allen and Treasure Feamster who lost their lives because of gun violence. He noted many others have fallen victim to gun violence, and community members have advocated for a creative way to address it.

Councilmember Smith stated the Cure the Violence Initiative is gaining support in the community. He noted during the last several years the City has taken multiple approaches to addressing violence including: Project Safe, a Mental Health Model, and Cease Fire.

Ms. Bell explained Cure Violence stops the spread of violence by using the methods and strategies associated with disease control:

- Detecting and interrupting conflicts
- Identifying and treating the highest risk individuals
- Changing the social norms

Ms. Bell noted trained interrupters and outreach workers help prevent shootings by identifying and mediating potentially lethal conflicts in the community. She explained when violence takes place trained interrupters and outreach reach workers are on the scene immediately and work to prevent retaliation. She commented the interrupters and outreach workers are from the community and work to build relationships so they can ask people to put their guns down.

Ms. Bell stated the Cure Violence team constantly mediates, and she explained each outreach worker has a caseload of 15 to 20 people. She added the outreach workers also assist participant's family members, children, and significant others, by helping family members find jobs, work with probation officers, and go to court with participants. She indicated in addition to conflict mediation the program works to find jobs for felons.

Ms. Bell explained Cure Violence works with participants on a three month plan, a six month plan, and a yearly plan that helps with housing and food assistance, life skills, job readiness, resume building, violence support groups, access to community resources, youth programming, career shadowing, anger management classes, teen court support, and community sports programs. She noted Cure Violence also hosts community events such as food bank drives, truck-or-treat events, and blanket drives. She stated Cure Violence focuses on areas of Greensboro that have a high crime rate or a high rate of homicides and the entire team works with participants to take them out of their environment.

Mr. Laron Roseboro stated he is a violence interrupter and outreach worker. He explained he works to show people there is another way through his personal example and experiences. He added the people know his past and want to know what he is doing now which allows him to open up about Cure Violence.

Mr. John explained he used to be part of the problem, but is now working to be part of the solution. He noted Cure Violence works with participants daily to show them a different way

Mr. Bibi stated he is 24 years old and lost his best friend to gun violence. He credited Cure Violence with helping him turn his life around. He pointed out in his community many dads are absent and it is important to have male role models.

Mr. Roger indicated he is not part of the group, but he supports it. He stated he was convicted of a felony when he was younger and it is important to have a strong person to push and motivate others to get them where they need to be.

Councilmember Post asked if being a violence interrupter is a paid position. Ms. Bell agreed, and she pointed out the workers are able to have conversations with drug dealers and tell them there is another way. She noted it is important to have a credible messenger who can guide a person in the right direction. She indicated the violence interrupters are powerful because they have been on the wrong side and work with participants one-on-one and have their best interest at heart. She added the process works because it gets to the root of the problem. She indicated the program has been operational for three years and crime in the targeted area decreased by 15%.

Councilmember Post asked about the size of the team and who funds the program. Ms. Bell noted the Greensboro City Council funds the program that employs seven people. She explained the funding includes a fee that goes to Cure Violence which has a data base that operates year round. She added there is constant support from other cities that have Cure Violence such as Chicago and Durham.

Councilmember McLaughlin noted the City has programs such as Cease Fire and Project Safe Neighborhood. He stated Cease Fire works with the Police Department through violence interrupters and mediators, and Project Safe Neighborhood helps offenders find jobs. He indicated the missing piece is funding

Ms. Bell explained as Program Manager she is the only one on her team that has contact with the Police Department. She added Cure Violence does not provide information to the police because they would lose their credible messenger component. She clarified Cure Violence works to mediate a potential incident that could happen.

Councilmember McLaughlin noted Cease Fire and Project Safe encompasses the entire City and Cure Violence focuses on particular areas. He asked if the surrounding areas in Greensboro have seen an increase in violence. Ms. Bell stated the violence has not spread outside of the Cure Violence radius, but violence has increased due to COVID-19.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield thanked the members of Cure Violence for their presentation.

Councilmember Smith thanked the members of Cure Violence for their presentation and for all they do in their community. He explained the first stage is to secure funding for an assessment with Cure Violence Chicago. He stated Gemstones Academy has submitted a grant request with the Blanche and Julian Robertson Foundation to fund the assessment. He indicated once funding is secured the Cure Violence team will provide an assessment to determine what this could look like in Salisbury.

UPSET BID – 1200 BLOCK WEST FISHER STREET

City Engineer Wendy Brindle provided an update regarding the upset bid process for Tax Map 005 Parcels 143 and 144 located in the 1200 block of West Fisher Street. She recommended Council consider rejecting all bids received during the upset bid process.

Ms. Brindle pointed out the two parcels are approximately .6 acres with a combined tax value of \$34,062. She indicated the initial bids started at \$1,500 and the current bid is \$3,000 with a requirement to raise the bid 10% of the first \$1,000 and then 5% of the remainder.

Ms. Brindle stated once a bid is received a notice has to be advertised which includes a 10 day waiting period for other bids to be received. She noted the cost of each notice is approximately \$160 and per State Statute those fees are added to closing costs for the winning bidder.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield asked about setting a floor for the bids. Ms. Brindle commented Council can set a floor for the bids. City Manager Brian Hiatt agreed, and he noted staff can get further information about setting a floor and come back to Council. Ms. Brindle agreed.

Councilmember Post asked if the Salisbury Community Development Corporation (CDC) Executive Director Chanaka Yatawara has been contacted regarding the parcels. Ms. Brindle indicated staff's typical process is to contact him, but she will find out if he has been contacted about these parcels. Mr. Post pointed out he would rather the parcels be given to the CDC than sold for \$4,000 to \$5,000. He added giving the parcels to the CDC would not help the City gain funds, but it would help the CDC construct affordable housing on those lots.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield pointed out Council has several options, but the first step would be to stop the bid process. Mr. Hiatt agreed, and he noted staff will speak to Mr. Yatawara to see if the CDC is interested in the parcels and come back to Council with information regarding setting a floor for the bids.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to reject all bids received through the upset bid process for Tax Map 005 Parcels 143 and 144 located in the 1200 block of West Fisher Street. Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

AGREEMENT – MARTIN STARNES AND ASSOCIATES

Finance Manager Wade Furches asked Council to consider approving a four-year agreement with Martin Starnes and Associates CPA's to provide audit services for fiscal years ending June 30th, 2022 through June 2025.

Mr. Furches commented that the former agreement with Elliot Davis was to provide the City with one more year of audit services, however, Elliot Davis decided to remove themselves from all government audit services.

Mr. Furches noted that a request for proposal was issued for audit services and four proposals were received. He explained how each proposal was reviewed in two sections with the first section focusing on the technical qualifications of each firm. He informed Council from those four firms, three of them were selected to move forward to the second section.

Mr. Furches explained the second section included details on how the firms would complete the audit as well as the cost. He pointed out that Martin Starnes and Associates based in Hickory, North Carolina was the highest rated firm.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield stated after working with the same audit group for years, it is the perfect time for a change in addition to the need.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to approve a four-year agreement with Martin Starnes and Associates, CPAs to provide audit services for fiscal years ending June 30,

Mr. Daniel King

Term Expires 3/31/2025

Transportation Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Councilmember Smith, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voting AYE, the following reappointment was made to the Transportation Advisory Board:

Ms. Nan Buhurer

Term Expires 3/31/2025

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Graham Corriher had nothing to report to Council.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Interim City Manager Brian Hiatt had nothing to report to Council.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember McLaughlin thanked all presenters for their time and dedication.

Councilmember Smith expressed his gratitude to Ingram Bell and the Gate City Coalition for taking their time to present the Cure Violence Model to Council. He commented how grateful he is to have the public back in Council Chambers.

MAYOR PRO TEM'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

(a) Utility Payment Drop Boxes

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield announced the Salisbury Customer Service Center will phase out its utility payment drop boxes in Rowan County communities located outside the City limits on Friday, April 1, 2022. The drop box located at the City Office Building at 132 North Main Street will remain open. Residents who use the drop boxes outside of the City limits will receive individual correspondence in advance of the removal. Residents are encouraged to visit salisburync.gov/billpay to set up free electronic bill pay or contact the Customer Service Center at 704-638-5233 for additional bill pay options.

(b) Ring in Spring

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield announced Ring in Spring will be held Saturday, March 26, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Gateway Park located on the corner of East Innes Street and Depot Street. Photos with the Easter Bunny, spring crafts, snacks and family friend fun will be available. For more information please visit www.downtownsalisburync.com or call 704-637-7814.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield commented that Spring Spruce Up Week will take place April 4 through 8, 2022.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield recognized Meals on Wheels for their March for Meals program. She also thanked Partners in Learning for their work in the community.


Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield reflected on the Prevent Child Abuse Rowan program held by the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce. She stated she was grateful to learn more about the services provided by the Terrie Hess House for vulnerable communities.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield stated that Mayor Alexander is attending the National League of Cities Conference in Washington D.C. Mayor Alexander will be hosting meetings, receptions, and dinners with the North Carolina League of Municipalities Board members and Executive Leaders Delegation. Mayor Alexander will also meet with Strategic Council Consulting team who previously assisted the City in creating a strategic federal plan. She commented that Mayor Alexander will be working with Federal Congress and Senate Representatives to advocate for local and state needs.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.


Karen Alexander, Mayor


Kelly Baker, City Clerk