REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Karen Kirks Alexander, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell; Council Member Kenneth Hardin; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; Deputy City Clerk Kelly Baker, and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

ABSENT: Council Members William Brian Miller, and David Post, and City Clerk Myra B. Heard.

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The invocation was given by Mayor Alexander. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alexander at 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Alexander led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Alexander welcomed all visitors present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Alexander noted the following change to the Agenda:

Postpone — Council go into a closed session concerning an economic development matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4).
PROCLAMATION

Mayor Alexander proclaimed the following observance:

NATIONAL NURSING HOME WEEK May 14-May 20, 2017

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the Regular meetings of April 18, 2017.

(b) Ryan Street Waterline Project

Award a contract in the amount of $175,177.50 to RDR, Inc. for the Ryan Street Waterline Upgrade Project.

(c) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Hurley Park Foundation Donation

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2016-2017 budget in the amount of $1,000 to appropriate a donation from the Hurley Park Foundation.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016-2017 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE DONATIONS FOR HURLEY PARK.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 26 at Page No. 42, and is known as Ordinance 2017-27.)

(d) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2016-17 budget in the amount of $22,848 to appropriate revenues received from a 2016 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016-2017 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE 2016 BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 26 at Page No. 43, and is known as Ordinance 2017-28.)

(e) Municipal Service District Grant – 108 East Council Street

Approve a request for a Municipal Service District Grant in the amount of $10,000 to Tiffany Kwok for repairs at 108 East Council Street.
Temporary Art Piece – Piano at the Square

Adopt a Resolution of support for a temporary art piece, consisting of a decorated piano, on the southwest corner of Innes Street and Main Street.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING TEMPORARY ART INSTALLATION AT INNES AND MAIN STREETS.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 15 at Page No. 7, and is known as Resolution 2017-05.)

Thereupon, Mr. Hardin made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Mr. Hardin and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (3-0)

UPDATE – SALISBURY POLICE CHIEF

Salisbury Police Chief Jerry Stokes addressed Council regarding Police Department staffing. He noted the Police Department has 14 vacancies that he hopes to fill with candidates who are in the hiring process. He stated May 14-20, 2017 is National Police Week and May 15, 2017 is Peace Officers Memorial Day. He indicated a Memorial Service will be held on May 18, 2017.

Chief Stokes reviewed a comparison of first quarter crime statistics for 2017 and 2016, and he noted an 11.6% reduction in overall reported crime. He explained drug crime is rarely reported by citizens and is usually discovered as a result of the Police Department’s proactive efforts. He pointed out one homicide took place in the first quarter of 2017 as opposed to two homicides in the first quarter of 2016. He noted an increase in 2017 weapon offenses, and he explained the majority of weapon offenses are gun related crimes.

Councilmember Hardin asked if stolen weapons are filtering into the City as a result of pawn shop and gun store robberies in other areas. Chief Stokes stated stolen weapons do turn up in the City, but he noted he does not have specific cases to reference.

Chief Stokes commented he is hopeful the crime reduction trend in the City will continue. He noted patrol officers have been encouraged to embrace community policing which could also contribute to the reduction in crime.

Chief Stokes pointed out the quarterly call volume has decreased by 12.8%, and he noted traffic stops are no longer one of the top five police calls.

Chief Stokes referenced the current beat configuration, and he reviewed three proposals to modify the beat configuration and promote community policing. Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell clarified the goal is to create a balance among the districts. Chief Stokes agreed.
Mr. Hardin stated he recently participated in a panel discussion with Captain Melonie Thompson. He commended Captain Thompson for her responsiveness which helps build relationships with the community. He recognized Sergeant Corey Brooks for his engagement with his neighbors and his work to promote community relationships.

**Z-01-2017 – CATAWBA COLLEGE**

Development and Code Services Manager Preston Mitchell addressed Council regarding Land Development District Map amendment Z-01-2017. He explained the request is to rezone multiple parcels along North Park Drive and Duke Circle to Institutional Campus (IC) and to rezone multiple parcels along both sides of Grants Creek and at the terminus of East Corriher Street and Lilly Avenue to Open Space Preserve (OSP) zoning.

Mr. Mitchell reviewed a map of the proposed rezoning, and he pointed out the residential zonings in the area. He stated Catawba College is the petitioner, and he explained the majority of the College campus is zoned IC, including the preserve. He added staff is working with the College to convert the entire preserve to OSP zoning.

Mr. Mitchell noted the College owns or has agreements in place for 11 of the 18 properties, or 61%, of the properties, that are included in the proposed rezoning. He clarified the proposal would rezone the area to IC, and it would allow Catawba College to adaptively reuse homes or to physically expand the campus in the future.

Mr. Mitchell stated the Planning Board sent the request to a legislative Committee for further review. He explained the original request included properties along North Park Circle and Hidden Hill Lane and the 200 block of Summit, Lantz, Brenner, and Brawley Avenues and one-half of the 500 block of Summit and Lantz Avenue and King Street. He pointed out the 500 block of King Street contains an overflow parking lot the College uses for games and other events. He noted the College owns the entire 200 block of Hidden Hill Road, which contains the historic Heath-Hill House and predates the City’s Zoning Ordinances. He commented the College is planning to convert the Heath-Hill House from residential to office space which would reduce the number of students in the area.

Mr. Mitchell indicated the Planning Board heard from neighbors who expressed their concerns, and Catawba College ultimately agreed to rescind the rezoning request for much of the area. He noted the amended rezoning includes properties along the north margin of North Park Avenue Drive, all properties within the area of Duke Circle, three properties at the terminus of East Corriher and Lilly Avenues, and approximately 10 properties along Grant’s Creek.

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the use matrix and permitted uses for OSP and IC zoning. He stated the area is identified in the older neighborhood section of the Vision 2020 Plan. He noted the Planning Board determined the request in not inconsistent with the Vision 2020 Plan and is consistent with the environmental quality, neighborhoods, and school statements of the Plan. He added the Planning Board recommends approval of the amended petition.
Mayor Alexander explained, due to the absence of Councilmembers Brian Miller and David Post, Council will proceed with the public hearing and vote at its May 16, 2017 meeting.

(b) Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding Z-01-2017.

Mr. Nelson Murphy, Catawba College Executive Vice-President for Finance and Operations, 1105 Hidden Hill Road, explained the initial request was reduced in response to neighborhood concerns. He stated the request includes properties along North Park Drive and Duke Circle, and he pointed out Catawba College owns 61% of the properties. He indicated the remaining properties are owned by four property owners who did not express any concerns regarding the proposed rezoning. He pointed out the proposed rezoning is contained by Grants Creek and Innes Street. He pointed out the College’s Master Plan does not include tear-down intent for the area. He stated the intent is to be mindful of the neighborhood while supporting College growth.

Mayor Alexander asked about the land Catawba College is devoting to open space. Mr. Mitchell stated approximately 135 acres of open space was noted in the public hearing advertisement. Mayor Alexander asked if the acreage is in addition to the noted preserve. Mr. Mitchell clarified the acreage does not include the preserve. He noted approximately 100 acres would be rezoned to OSP, not including the current preserve. Mayor Alexander thanked Mr. Murphy for the College’s commitment to the environment.

Ms. Renee McNutt, 311 Lantz Avenue, stated she is concerned the proposed rezoning includes citizens’ personal homes. She explained the rezoning would limit the number of prospective buyers if the owner decides to sell their home. She commented the City will lose approximately $23,000 in property taxes annually by allowing the rezoning.

City Manager Lane Bailey clarified the rezoning would not impact tax status, and he explained the property use dictates tax status.

Ms. Cindy Abell, 2106 Robin Road, referred to Catawba College’s Master Plan, and she pointed out the College proposes to use a home adjacent to hers for maintenance material. She added she is concerned her property could be rezoned at a future date. She also expressed concerns about traffic in the area.

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

Mayor Alexander stated Council will postpone deliberation until its May 16, 2017 meeting.

Mr. Mitchell pointed out three parcels owned by Catawba College at the End of East Corriher Street and Lily Avenue which will also be included in the OSP rezoning.

Thereupon, Mr. Hardin made a motion to table the deliberation until May 16, 2017. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Mr. Hardin and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE.

(3-0)
Ms. Blackwell noted Council heard from Catawba College in January regarding student housing and debris in the area. She asked the College to take care of this area.

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

There were no appointments.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

Mr. Gerald Pinckney stated he was shot 16 times in August and is disabled. He added he requested help from the City, but he has not received any assistance. He noted his father was robbed last week, and it took 45 minutes for the Police Department to respond to the call. He indicated gang activity in the area has increased and he does not agree with the crime reduction statistics.

Ms. Dee Dee Wright thanked Chief Stokes for the data she received regarding crime that has taken place at Walmart. She clarified she requested data regarding the police man-hours spent on Walmart shoplifting calls. She thanked Mr. Bailey for responding to the lighting issues on Arlington Street and Old Concord Road.

Ms. Regina Dancy referenced a WSOC report which stated no-knock warrants were mainly used for police officer safety. She questioned the safety of residents in the home that may not be the intended target of no-knock warrants. She asked Council to suspend the use of no-knock warrants in the City.

Ms. Dora Mbuwaysango asked Council to suspend the use of no-knock warrants so people will be able to trust police officers and feel safe and protected.

Ms. Carolyn Logan requested a moment of silence in memory of Ayanna Allen, and she stated the child and her family have been forgotten. She indicated the City is in a state of crisis. She asked about funds the City received to address gang violence.

Mr. Todd Paris thanked Council for its support of the Municipal Service District Grant for Wong’s restaurant. He referred to the crime statistics, and he noted fewer police officers will issue fewer reports. He asked for clarification regarding the crime statistics.

Mayor Alexander noted sign-in for public comment is allowed until the start of public comments. She agreed to make an exception and allow Mr. Michael Kirksey to address Council.

Mr. Michael Kirksey stated the City’s hiring practices do not match the demographics of the community. He stated the City should hire more African American people. He asked why the City hires workers from outside the City and State.
There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Alexander closed the public comment session.

CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS

(a) Police Compensation

City Manager Lane Bailey stated staff will present the recommended budget to Council at its May 16, 2017 meeting. He noted the recommended budget includes a Council-recommend salary increase for police officers that would become effective July 1, 2017. He explained salary increases are recommended for all City employees and would be effective December 1, 2017.

Mr. Bailey explained the City cannot restrict its hiring to the corporate limits. He pointed out the City works to hire the best people. He agreed with Mr. Kirksey that the organization should look like the community.

(b) Railroad Quiet Zone

City Manager Lane Bailey thanked City Engineer Wendy Brindile and Project Manager Deb Young for their work on the City’s quiet zone designation which was approved by North Carolina Rail. He explained engineers are required to sound their alarm as they approach the Depot and as needed, but those who live along corridors should notice an improvement. He thanked the community for its patience.

(c) Water Agreement

City Manager Lane Bailey stated the City has been in discussion with Rowan County regarding water agreements. He presented the water agreements to Council for its consideration. He reviewed the agreement for operation of the Northeast Rowan Water system. He stated Assistant City Manager John Sofley and Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) Director Jim Behmer have worked on the agreement, which was reviewed by an environmental attorney and City Attorney Rivers Lawther. He explained the City would charge the County a basic fee of $6,000 per month to operate the system, and he noted repairs would require an additional charge. He pointed out the system is for the Dukeville area where well water quality is an issue. He recommend Council approve the agreement.

Thereupon Ms. Blackwell made a motion to approve the agreement between the City of Salisbury and Rowan County for the operation of the Northeast Rowan Water System. Mr. Hardin seconded the motion. Mr. Hardin and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (3-0)

Mr. Bailey explained the second agreement would allow the City is to sell water to the County, and he noted the City would charge its normal rates for the water. He stated the County would pay the City $50,000 in advance for a flushing credit, and he explained the amount of the credit would be reduced annually. He added the agreement has been reviewed by staff and the City’s legal counsel.
Thereupon Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** to approve the agreement for the delivery and purchase of water between the City of Salisbury and Rowan County for the Northeast Rowan Water System. Mr. Hardin seconded the motion. Mr. Hardin and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (3-0)

Councilmember Hardin announced Mr. Keion Adams was recently drafted by the Pittsburg Steelers. He noted Mr. Adams was a great student at Salisbury High School, and he will represent the City well.

Mr. Hardin also recognized Parks and Recreation Director Nick Aceves, Planning and Development Services Director Janet Gapen, and Assistant City Manager Zack Kyle for their work on a vocational certification program. He stated the group will meet with Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (RCCC) to further develop the project.

**MAYOR ’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) **Community Job Fair**

Mayor Alexander thanked Ms. Dee Dee Wright for her work on the Community Job Fair. She noted it was a very successful day.

(b) **Bench Dedication**

Mayor Alexander announced the Dixonville-Lincoln Memorial Task Force will host a bench dedication in memory of former Task Force member Floyd Kerr Friday, May 5, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. The event will begin at the new sign kiosk at Dixonville Cemetery located at 110 Old Concord Road. A reception and light lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall of First Calvary Baptist Church, 400 South Long Street. Parking will be available in the parking lots adjacent to Lincoln Pool and First Calvary Baptist Church, and trolleys will provide transportation from the parking lots to the kiosk and then return to the church. The public is invited to attend.

(c) **Outdoor Movie Event**

Mayor Alexander announced the Human Relations Council, in partnership with Parks and Recreation, will host a free outdoor movie Saturday, May 6, 2017 from 8:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. at Spencer Library Park located at 300 4th Street in Spencer. The event is sponsored by the Hispanic Coalition, a sub-committee of the Human Relations Council, and will feature the movie “The Book of Life.” Participants are encouraged to bring a chair or blanket, and concessions will be available for purchase. For more information please call 704-638-5217.
(d) Middle School Prom

Mayor Alexander announced Parks and Recreation will host its annual Middle School Prom Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. All middle school students in Rowan County are welcome to enjoy an evening of dancing, photos and a good time with friends. Refreshments will be served and photo packages will be available for purchase. Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance. For more information or to purchase tickets please call 704-216-PLAY.

(e) Let’s Get Connected Day

Mayor Alexander announced the Human Resources Commission will host Let’s Get Connected Day Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Rufty-Holmes Senior Center located at 1120 South Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. Dedication of the 11th Peace Pole will be held at 910 South Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. The event is a multicultural festival that includes music, dance, circle of prayer, children’s activities and a free hotdog lunch. Participants are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. For additional information please call 704-638-5217.

(f) North Main Street Resurfacing

Mayor Alexander announced the North Carolina Department of Transportation will be resurfacing North Main Street from the railroad tracks to the northern City Limits this summer. The City will hold a meeting for the North Main Street area on Monday, May 15, 2017 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm in the conference room at City Park to discuss options for re-striping in conjunction with the resurfacing.

CLOSED SESSION

This item was postponed.

CORRECTION FOR WATER AGREEMENT

City Manager Lane Bailey clarified the operational fee for the City-County water agreement is $4,500 per month rather than $6,000.

Thereupon Ms. Blackwell made a motion to approve the amended amount. Mr. Hardin seconded the motion. Mr. Hardin and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (3-0)
ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Blackwell seconded by Mr. Hardin. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Karen Kirks Alexander, Mayor

Kelly Baker, Deputy City Clerk