

Salisbury, North Carolina  
July 17, 2007

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Susan W. Kluttz, Presiding; Councilmen William (Bill) Burgin; William (Pete) Kennedy; Mark N. Lewis; City Manager, David W. Treme; City Attorney, F. Rivers Lawther, Jr. and City Clerk, Myra Heard.

**ABSENT:** Mayor Pro Tem Paul B. Woodson.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Kluttz at 4:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Councilman Lewis.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Mayor Kluttz recognized all visitors present.

## **ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Mayor Kluttz noted the following change to the Agenda:

Omit item 12 – Council to consider an appointment to the Historic Preservation Commission.

## **CONSENT AGENDA:**

### (a) Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Special meeting of July 2, 2007 and Regular meeting of July 3, 2007.

### (b) Group Development Site Plans

Approve the following group development site plans:

- G-12-00 Pinnacle Office Park Phase III, 310 & 320 Jake Alexander Boulevard, West
- G-03-86 Salisbury Marketplace, 2120 Statesville Boulevard
- G-09-07 Artz Properties, 1504 Jake Alexander Boulevard, West

Mayor Kluttz noted a change to the Minutes of the Special meeting of July 2, 2007. She pointed out that the list of Metropolitan Coalition Mayors in attendance at the press conference held July 2, 2007 included Scotland Neck Mayor Robert Partin. She noted that Mayor Partin is not a member of the Metropolitan Coalition but was present as President of the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as amended. Mr. Burgin seconded the motion. Messrs. Burgin, Kennedy, Lewis, and Ms. Kluttz voted AYE. (4-0)

## **REQUEST FROM LIVINGSTONE AND CATAWBA COLLEGES**

City Manager David Treme indicated that he and Transit Manager Rodney Harrison met with representatives from Livingstone and Catawba Colleges regarding extended bus routes for students. He recognized Mr. State Alexander from Livingstone College who noted that this is a joint effort between the Colleges to provide transportation for students which he feels will also have a positive impact on the environment. Mr. Alexander stated that he believes this will be a win-win situation for both the students and local merchants.

Councilman Kennedy indicated that he has met with Mr. Harrison who has already implemented a few of the changes in the bus schedules and he supports the request. Mr. Alexander noted that this will be a trial effort to see if the routes work and if they are successful a more formal agreement can be implemented.

Mayor Kluttz stated that she feels this is a wonderful idea for the local merchants, the environment, and for all of the students. She added that Council encourages citizens to ride the bus and this works well with Council's plan.

Mr. Treme commented that the fixed bus route typically ends at 6:30 p.m. but the plan is to extend the time for the routes from the Colleges until approximately 9:30 p.m. to give students an opportunity to shop, see a movie, or dine out. He added that this might require an increase in the funds needed for Transit; however, he would like to put the plan in place to see if it works and then address the funding needs.

Councilman Burgin stated that he feels this is a good idea and it will be exciting to see the leadership of young adults who can show that the City can be navigated without the use of a car.

### **NORTH MAIN STREET SMALL AREA PLAN**

(a) Ms. Janet Gapen, Senior Planner, presented the North Main Street Small Area Plan to Council. She noted that the purpose of the Plan is to provide recommendations for land use and infrastructure that are in alignment with the neighborhood's vision for its future. She reviewed the planning process for developing the Plan and stated that the process included:

- Trolley tour
- Neighborhood assessment by residents
- Photographic survey conducted by residents
- Committee meetings to discuss livability issues and concerns
- Design workshop

She stated that from these meetings and workshops they determined the most valued features of the neighborhood:

- Attractive neighborhood
- Historic architecture
- Racial and socioeconomic diversity
- Mature trees and landscaping
- Close to downtown and to City Park

The most pressing challenges include:

- Amount of rental property
- Vacant or rundown homes and businesses
- Need for pedestrian/bicycle accommodations
- Traffic conditions (North Main Street)
- Appearance issues
- Crime

Ms. Gapen reviewed the existing conditions for the area and noted that it is an important Gateway into the City of Salisbury. She stated that the neighborhood has

several landmarks such as Henderson Independent High School, John Steele House, and City Park. She reviewed the existing land use and indicated that it is overwhelmingly residential with a large area of light industrial and warehouse uses. She noted that there are office uses on West 13<sup>th</sup> Street and North Main Street and storage and warehousing on East 12<sup>th</sup> Street and East 14<sup>th</sup> Street. She added that this area is also an area in transition and pointed out the percentage of land uses for the area:

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>%</u>
Single-family	117	52%
Storage/Light Industry	43	19%
Vacant land	35	15%
Institutional	10	4%
Office	5	2%
Retail	5	2%
Multi-family	2	<1%
Parking	0.7	<1%

She indicated that the zoning for the area is consistent with the land uses. She pointed out some elements of the proposed Land Development Ordinance which would have an impact on the neighborhood. These included:

- New district for Historic Neighborhoods
- Supports mixed uses
- Architectural standards for new construction
- Residential infill standards

Ms. Gapen noted that the neighborhood includes a Historic District that is listed on the National Register and has local designation as a Historic District.

Ms. Gapen reviewed residential ownership patterns:

<u>2007 Tenure</u>	<u># Units</u>	<u>%</u>
Single-family – Own	217	43%
Single-family – Rent	211	42%
Two-family	52	10%
Multi-family (does not include house conversions)	24	5%

*Source: Rowan County tax data*

She noted that a neighborhood’s stability can be affected when the percentage of renter occupied housing equals or surpasses that of owner occupied and pointed out that this is not the highest percentage of renter occupied housing that exists in the City. Ms. Gapen stated that housing conditions vary throughout the neighborhood but there is a prevalence of homes that are in a fragile or poor state of repair on North Main Street. She indicated that the neighborhood representatives discussed the physical characteristics of North Main Street at great length. She noted that the pavement width of North Main Street is

exceptionally wide and there is aging infrastructure, such as sidewalks, that are in need of repair.

Ms. Gapen referred to CITYgreen, a software program that analyzes trees canopy and open space, and noted that the neighborhood has forty-nine (49) percent coverage for tree canopy. She added that this is considered good to high.

Ms. Gapen noted that the neighborhood has several thriving small businesses that are compatible with the neighborhood but there are also vacant buildings suitable for adaptive reuse.

Ms. Gapen then presented the recommendations of the plan:

1. Build Neighborhood Identity
  - Define and enhance the “Gateways”
    - Medians
    - Landscaping
    - Alternative paving
    - Public art
  - Capitalize on the neighborhood’s railroad heritage and other history to help build neighborhood identity
  - Encourage creative, adaptive reuse of the neighborhood’s unique, historic architecture and landmarks now vacant
  - Work with the Branding & Wayfinding Committee to develop unique signage for the neighborhood which expresses its unique appeal
  - Continue to broaden participation among homeowners, landlords and renters in neighborhood organizations
  - Strengthen ties between the Henderson Independent High School and the neighborhood
2. Expand Transportation Network
  - Study possibilities for changes to North Main Street to make it more conducive for pedestrians and bicyclists
    - Reduced lanes
    - Medians
    - Crosswalks
    - Bicycle lanes
    - On-street parking
    - Roundabouts
  - Install new sidewalk on West Miller Street between North Main Street and City Park
  - Repair existing sidewalks as needed. Priorities include:
    - West Henderson Street
    - North Main Street

- Ensure that new street patterns that may be created through redevelopment respect the existing pattern of predominantly gridded streets
3. Improve Neighborhood Services & Amenities
    - Support and encourage the redevelopment of the neighborhood core between 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> streets
      - Neighborhood-scale
      - Mixed uses
      - Adaptive reuse
      - Open space or pocket park
      - Quality services and amenities
    - Promote existing tax credits that are available for historic commercial buildings
    - Consider a commercial façade and/or landscape grant program
    - Establish a corridor overlay district to ensure that land uses and development patterns are compatible with the neighborhood character
  4. Increase Trees and Open Space
    - Consider incentives or grant program for landscaping to help reduce “sea of pavement”
    - Focus tree plantings along North Main Street. Priorities include:
      - Gateway to Downtown
      - Area between 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> streets
  5. Improve Housing Conditions
    - Expand housing code enforcement activities
    - Continue promoting the local Historic Preservation Incentive Grant program
      - Grants do not have to be repaid
      - Fifty (50) percent of project cost up to \$2,500
      - Seventy-five (75) percent of project cost for low to moderate income applicants
    - Expand the National Register Historic District and promote the use of state historic tax credits for residential rehabilitation projects
    - Explore feasibility of other approaches to improving housing:
      - Housing commission
      - Rental occupancy permitting program
      - Prevention of demolition by neglect ordinance
  6. Improve Neighborhood Appearance
    - Adopt ordinance regulating parking on front lawns
    - Explore possibilities for burying existing utilities along North Main Street as part of any substantial redevelopment project
    - Expand enforcement capabilities concerning overgrown lots, porch furniture, yard debris

Ms. Gapen concluded by reading the mission statement developed by the neighborhood. It states, "The North Main Street neighborhood is a vibrant, progressive, safe, pedestrian-friendly neighborhood and important residential gateway to downtown that, embraces the history and cultural diversity of its residents, takes pride in its historic architecture and tree-lined streets, reflects a spirit of friendship, respect and neighborliness, and offers a high quality of life for its residents.

Ms. Gapen indicated that funds were budgeted for some of the projects for the North Main Street Small Area Plan and reviewed the proposed improvements for the fiscal year:

- Streetscaping Improvements
  - Install crosswalks on North Main Street at Henderson, Miller, Steele, 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Streets
  - Sidewalk replacement – 100 block of West Henderson Street
  - Install new sidewalk on West Miller Street to City Park
  - Plant street trees along North Main Street:
    - Near the neighborhood core
    - At the downtown gateway

Councilman Burgin commented that there is a great deal of wonderful ideas in the Plan and he is hopeful that most of the ideas can be accomplished over time. He added that he thinks there are many ideas in the Plan that will make the North Main Street area exciting.

(b) Mayor Klutz convened a public hearing, after due notice and advertisement thereof, to receive comments regarding the North Main Street Small Area Plan.

Ms. Pat Sylvester, North Main Street Neighborhood Association, thanked Council for the support given to the North Main Street neighborhood. She commented that the neighborhood has had many challenges but with Council's guidance, weathered all of them. She noted that most of the items requested by the neighborhood and listed in the Plan are not very costly and they hope Council will approve their implementation. Ms. Sylvester stated that grants for painting are greatly needed as many of the homes are older and occupied by older residents who need assistance in restoring their homes' appearance. She commented that there has been a great deal of activity in the 1600 block of North Main where houses are being restored adding a great deal to the neighborhood. She added that she hopes this feeling of renewal will spread from that block.

Mr. Dick Sylvester, 820 North Main Street, stated that he thinks the Plan developed by City staff is excellent. He commented that one aspect of the Plan that he has concerns about is to prohibit parking on lawns in front of the homes. He added that he feels this is an admirable thing to do but he feels it would penalize homeowners over the entire City for the few houses that are tenant occupied. He stated that he feels it would be unattractive to have all of the cars parking end to end down Main Street in front of the homes. Ms. Sylvester commented that he feels the hidden issue behind the

problems in the neighborhood is landlords and not tenants. He stated that space should be provided at the rear of the property for cars and there is no reason a tenant should have to park in front of the property. He added that he feels there needs to be a code of responsibility that landlords must follow.

There being no one else present to speak, Mayor Kluttz closed the public hearing.

Mayor Kluttz stated that it is very exciting to see this Plan beginning to happen and she hopes the money allocated for projects in this year's budget can be leveraged with grants and incentives to partner with the neighbors. She added that she feels just beginning the process will be an encouragement to others to begin as well. She congratulated and applauded everyone who participated in the development of the Plan.

Councilman Lewis noted that one of the items addressed in the Plan is distressed housing. He stated that there are some residents who want to make improvements to their homes but are financially unable and the grants will be helpful. He added that there are also residents who own homes who do not care about its appearance and this gets into a nuisance ordinance issue which is a City-wide problem.

Councilman Kennedy indicated that he attended one of the neighborhood meetings during the development of the Plan and saw the excitement of the residents about the possibilities. He stated that he really likes what they have developed. He noted that he hopes Council will adopt the North Main Street area as it did the Park Avenue, West End, and Jersey City neighborhoods. He added that he feels if the Community Development Corporation is involved this area can be turned around completely.

Mr. Burgin noted that there is activity on this end of town and he would encourage people who want to make investments and improvements to look at this area because the momentum is starting to build. He added that he feels the City can assist by updating the infrastructure needs and he is excited about the possibilities.

Mayor Kluttz noted that if someone is interested in receiving information regarding tax credits for historic houses they can contact Janet Gapen in the Planning Department at any time.

(c) Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a **motion** to adopt the North Main Street Small Area Plan as presented. Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. Messrs. Burgin, Kennedy, Lewis, and Ms. Kluttz voted AYE. (4-0)

Mr. Lewis commented that this Small Area Plan is the most comprehensive he has seen and congratulated staff for their outstanding work.



**INNOSPEC GRANT PROJECT**

Mr. Matt Bernhardt, Assistant City Manager for Utilities, introduced Mr. Kaushik Vashee, Site Manager for Innospec, and reviewed a grant project for Innospec Performance Chemicals:

- Manufactures chemicals for personal care, cosmetics and industrial markets
- Currently has a three hundred thousand (300,000) square foot facility adjacent to I-85 in Spencer
- Forty-five (45) full-time employees
- Planned expansion will add eighteen (18) more full-time employees

Mr. Bernhardt noted that the Innospec expansion requires water and reviewed the water extension project:

- Proposed expansion will exceed capacity of existing well system
  - Existing wells are starting to pump sand
  - Projected increase in use of approximately ten thousand (10,000) gallons per day (over existing use)
  - Fire protection (sprinkler) system required for facility expansion
- Project calls for extension of approximately three thousand three hundred (3,300) feet of twelve (12) inch water main along Hinkle Lane – adjacent to I-85
- Estimated project cost - \$405,000

Project Budget:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Funding</u>
NC Rural Center Grant	\$168,750
Community Development Block Grant-Economic Development	\$216,000
*Local match (required 5% of project total)	<u>\$ 20,250</u>
Project Total	\$405,000

\*Note: Local match provided by Innospec

Mr. Bernhardt then provided a project summary:

- Adds at least eighteen (18) new jobs in Spencer and Rowan County
- Adds to tax base and employment of Spencer and Rowan County
- No direct cost for Spencer (they serve as grant applicant – Salisbury-Rowan Utilities will manage project)
- Improves fire protection and provides safe water for Innospec

Mr. Bernhardt indicated that a pre-application has been submitted to the North Carolina Rural Center in order to make its June meeting and the application has been approved.

Mr. Bernhardt noted that this is one of three (3) successful partnerships and reviewed the projects to date:

<u>Partners</u>	<u>Project Cost</u>	<u>Grant Funding</u>	<u>Projected Job Retention</u>	<u>Projected Job Creation</u>
Sunshine Mfg/Rockwell	\$1,000,000	\$987,500	64	24
RDH Tire/Rowan County	\$700,000	\$665,000	--	24
Innospec/Spencer	\$405,000	\$384,750	--	18
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,105,000</b>	<b>\$2,037,250</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>66</b>

Mayor Kluttz thanked staff for putting the grants together.

Mr. Vashee indicated that his company appreciates the opportunity provided by Salisbury-Rowan Utilities to obtain funding for this project. He added that obtaining the water will be vital for the company's job retention.

Councilman Kennedy congratulated staff and noted that the Community Development Block Grant funds are coming through Spencer and will not come from Salisbury's funds, which have been allocated.

**AWARD CONTRACT FOR SLUDGE REMOVAL AT GRANT CREEK AND TOWN CREEK WASTEWATER FACILITIES**

Mr. Jim Behmer, Utilities Engineering Manager, introduced Mr. Don Garbick, Pease and Associates, and noted that Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) made a presentation to Council during its Retreat in February 2006 recommending a wastewater capital project. The project would delay the need for building a new \$80 million wastewater treatment plant by investing in the existing facilities in order to extend their operational lifespan. He added that as part of the improvements Council approved a contract to purchase a belt press for the Town Creek Facility in May 2007. He presented two (2) contracts for Council's consideration that will complete the \$8.4 million capital project.

Mr. Behmer pointed out that SRU has used a team approach for developing bids for the improvement projects and they are on schedule and within budget. He noted that bids were received for the removal of sludge from the digesters at Grant Creek and for the removal of sludge in the aeration basins at Town Creek. BIO-NOMIC Services, Inc. of Charlotte, North Carolina submitted the lowest bid at \$284,383. He stated that SRU recommends Council award the contract to BIO-NOMIC Services, Inc.

Thereupon, Mr. Lewis made a **motion** to award a contract in the amount of \$284,383 to BIO-NOMIC Services, Inc. for the removal and disposal of sludge at the

Grant Creek and Town Creek Wastewater Facilities. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Burgin, Kennedy, Lewis, and Ms. Kluttz voted AYE. (4-0)

### **AWARD CONTRACT FOR GRANT CREEK AND TOWN CREEK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS**

Mr. Jim Behmer, Utilities Engineering Manager, presented the second general construction contract and noted it is the major component of the Grant Creek and Town Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project. He explained that competitive bids were received and that all bids were under budget estimates. He stated that the lowest base bid was submitted by Wharton-Smith, Inc., of Sanford, Florida in the amount of \$5,347,000. He stated that staff recommends Council award the contract to Wharton-Smith, Inc.

Mr. Don Garbick, President of Pease and Associates, stated that due to the low price of concrete Pease and Associates was able to obtain a bid that was under the estimated budget.

Thereupon, Mr. Burgin made a **motion** to award a contract in the amount of \$5,347,000 to Wharton-Smith, Inc. for the Grant Creek and Town Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Burgin, Kennedy, Lewis, and Ms. Kluttz voted AYE. (4-0)

### **PRESENTATION FROM RISK MANAGEMENT**

City Manager David Treme noted that Councilman Pete Kennedy serves on the Board of Directors of Interlocal Risk Financial Fund of North Carolina (IRFFNC) who, in association with the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM), provides risk insurance to the municipalities throughout North Carolina.

Mr. Richard Kelly, Risk Manager, stated that the City solicited a review from the North Carolina League of Municipalities Department of Risk Management. He presented a letter from Mr. Robert G. Haynes, Associate Director of Risk Management and Member Services for the League, which applauded the City's exemplary risk management programs.

Mr. Kelly presented the City's 2006-2007 Risk Management review. He pointed out that vehicular accidents experienced a slight increase to six (6) in 2007 as compared to five (5) in 2006. The total cost of vehicular accident claims increased from \$5,263 in 2006 to \$51,865 in 2007, due to three vehicular accidents resulting in total losses.

Mr. Kelly explained that in 2006 the City experienced a total of thirty five (35) third party claims as compared to thirty-three (33) claims in 2007. The City adjusted thirty (30) of the claims in-house successfully defending and denying twenty-four (24),

calling on IRFFNC to process only three (3) of those claims. He indicated that the total funds paid out due to these claims amounted to \$2,972, which is a slight increase from last year's claims paid of \$1,575. He added that the subrogated claims received by the City for damages to property, equipment or due to vehicular accidents, decreased from \$80,166 in 2006 to \$73,945 in 2007.

Mr. Kelly stated that insurance premiums paid to IRFFNC for general liability, auto, property, public officials, law enforcement and electronic coverage increased by three (3) percent from \$298,393 in 2006 to \$305,451 in 2007. He explained that the increase is due to the addition of new property such as the new Fire Station #4 and equipment, new Police patrol units and new heavy equipment in Public Services. This amount also includes a deduction of \$34,693 incentive credit the City received for an exceptionally good record.

Mr. Kelly noted that personal injuries in 2007 increased by two (2) to a total of twenty (20) while costs decreased by sixteen (16) percent from \$54,550 in 2006 to \$45,793 in 2007. He pointed out that Workers Compensation premiums through Central Carolina Insurance Agency amounted to \$46,176 in 2006 and increased to \$48,400 in 2007. He recognized Salisbury-Rowan Utilities for winning the City Manager's Safety Award for the best overall personal injury record, and the Street Division for the best overall vehicular accident record. He added that fifteen (15) divisions were injury free and fifteen (15) divisions were free of vehicular accidents during 2006-2007. He concluded by reviewing the 2006-2007 Risk Management activity throughout City departments.

Mr. Treme pointed out that the City has a Safety Committee comprised of employees who review all accidents and injuries involving City staff or equipment. He expressed his appreciation for the outstanding work Mr. Kelly performs for the City and added that he thinks the City has one of the best programs in the State.

Councilman Kennedy stated that he can attest to the City's program and thinks Mr. Kelly and Ms. Kim Treece do a wonderful job. He indicated that the City of Salisbury has one of the best teams in the State.

Mayor Kluttz thanked Mr. Kelly and Ms. Treece for their prevention efforts and thanked the City employees for their excellent safety record.

### **APPOINTMENT TO THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

This item was postponed until the August 7, 2007 Council meeting.

## COMMENTS FROM THE CITY MANAGER

### (a) Planning Board

Council received the Planning Board recommendations and comments from the July 10, 2007 meeting.

### (b) South Square Streetscape Improvement Project Update

Ms. Lynn Raker, Urban Design Planner, updated Council on the South Square Streetscape Improvement Project. She stated that the contractor has installed conduit under the sidewalk; installed lamp base poles; installed some brick sidewalks; installed tree pits; and Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) has upgraded the water connections. She noted that the contractor is in the process of demolition of the sidewalks on the south side of the street and constructing a decking system over a basement that extends from the Watkins Building. She indicated that the contractor is continuing to work with SRU in the repair and upgrade of the water services.

Ms. Raker stated that the road bed is being prepared for the final grade and proof roll, which will be followed by an application of a two (2) inch asphalt base for the brick pavers. She explained that due to exposed manholes the street will be closed the nights of July 16 and 17, 2007.

Mayor Kluttz thanked Ms. Raker for the project update.

### (c) Purchase of Property – 603 North Fulton Street

City Attorney Rivers Lawther stated that City Council authorized the purchase of property located at 603 North Fulton Street in a previous Closed Session. He explained that the property has some residual contamination from a former City fueling facility that was adjacent to the property. He indicated that if someone purchased this property, the City could be required to remediate the soil at a cost of \$175,000 or more; however, if the City purchased the property it would not be required. He pointed out that the property was in foreclosure with a value of over \$70,000 and the City was able to purchase the property for \$58,000. Mr. Lawther requested that Council formally approve the purchase.

Thereupon, Mr. Lewis made a **motion** that the City of Salisbury purchase the property located at 603 North Fulton Street for \$58,000. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Burgin, Kennedy, Lewis, and Ms. Kluttz voted AYE. (4-0)

### (d) Fire Inspection of Rowan County Schools and Fire Department Information

City Manager David Treme noted that City Council passed a Resolution in 2006 to assist Rowan County by allowing the Salisbury Fire Department to conduct fire inspections of Rowan County schools at no cost to the County.

Fire Marshall Terry Smith stated that the North Carolina Fire Codes requires that all public schools be inspected two (2) times per year, and as Mr. Treme explained, the City entered into an agreement with Rowan County to conduct the fire inspections of all Rowan County Schools. He noted that the schools were inspected in December 2006 and again in June 2007, and pointed out that this has fulfilled the fire inspection obligation to Rowan County.

Mr. Treme stated that Rowan County will be notified that the agreement has been met and the school inspections will be turned back over to them.

Mayor Kluttz extended her congratulations and appreciation for the job Battalion Chief Smith does for the City, adding that inspecting thirty-two (32) schools is not an easy job.

Councilman Kennedy stated that he attended the Fire Department's Award Ceremony and learned that the Fire Department saved four (4) to (5) lives by being first responders to an accident and commended the Department for this achievement. Mr. Treme indicated that the City and the County are working on an agreement to locate an ambulance station adjacent to the fire station to reduce call time in the City and reduce the City's first responder calls.

(e) Ellis Volunteer Fire Department

City Manager David Treme reported that he has signed an agreement with the Ellis Volunteer Fire Department to provide fire services in the new annexation area along Hawkinstown Road.

(f) Fire Department Insurance Rating Inspection

City Manager David Treme informed Council that the North Carolina Rating Bureau has completed the Salisbury Fire Department inspection to determine the Fire Department's Insurance rating. He noted that the results will not be released for some time and commended the Fire Department staff for their work and cooperation during the inspection.

**COUNCIL TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Kluttz opened the meeting for public comment.

Mr. Luke Halton, 322 East Council Street, stated that he is a 2001 graduate of Catawba College and has recently returned to Salisbury to develop the area in and around the Cheerwine Building. He pointed out that the area has a negative perception regarding growth and development due to street conditions, dilapidated buildings and mismanaged foot traffic. He noted that his objective is to begin a campaign to improve the perception

of Council Street between Depot Street and Long Street. He offered six (6) solutions to improve the negative perception:

- Complete utility work, repave and mark Council Street from Depot Street to Long Street
- Remove abandoned recycling center and replace with beautification project
- Install trash receptacles on the corners of Depot Street and Long Street
- Redirect foot traffic from Rowan Helping Ministries to the bus station
- All properties file "Premise Update Survey and Trespass Agreement" form
- Create historical inspired wall art along some of the buildings

Mr. Halton stated that he has spoken with area participants who support the objective. These participants include:

- Property Owners
  - Wallace Realty
  - Six (6) Cheerwine Building Residents
  - Ed Harris (owns three (3) commercial units in Cheerwine Building)
- Small Businesses
  - State Farm
  - Enerco
  - 315 Club
  - Rowan Bank
  - Vogue Cleaners
- Public Entities
  - City of Salisbury and Salisbury Police Department
- Private Entities
  - Historic Salisbury Foundation
  - Downtown Salisbury, Inc.
  - Rowan Helping Ministries

Mr. Halton stated that the obstacles to reach a new perception of the area include private money, existing City projects and unwilling participants. He indicated that he feels five (5) of the six (6) solutions are one-day projects that can be completed by the end of August 2007. He concluded by stating that in 2001 the Cheerwine Building restoration was a high-risk project that took great vision, capital and courage and he did not feel that much has improved since that time. He added that with help, he would like to continue to develop a Historic Downtown Salisbury.

There being no one else to address Council Mayor Kluttz closed the public comment session.

## **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) **Lord Salisbury Celebrates Summer**

Mayor Kluttz announced that the Lord Salisbury Celebrates Summer – 60's Night Out will be held Friday, August 3, 2007 from 5:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. in Downtown Salisbury.

(b) **Giordanna Crossroads Classic**

Mayor Kluttz announced that Salisbury will host the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Giordana Crossroads Classic bicycle race on Thursday, August 2, 2007 from 5:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. in downtown Salisbury.

(c) **Goodwill Career Connections Center**

Mayor Kluttz announced that she attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Goodwill Career Connections Center located at 1923 South Main Street and pointed out that this center was opened as a result of donations to the Goodwill retail center on Jake Alexander Boulevard. Mayor Kluttz stated that the center will offer free, personalized services to aid citizens who are searching for jobs.

(d) **Update on Gang Prevention Plan**

Mayor Kluttz noted that the Metropolitan Coalition held a press conference in Salisbury on July 2, 2007 with over eighty (80) people in attendance. She stated that she was invited to be a guest on Agenda Charlotte, an interview talk show with Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory. They discussed proposed State gang legislation, the Metropolitan Coalition, and other State legislation affecting cities, but with emphasis on encouraging the State to pass the gang legislation. She announced that she has been asked by Senator Malcolm Graham, who sponsored the Street Gang Prevention Act, to participate in a legislative press conference in Raleigh next week to urge passage of the legislation.

Mayor Kluttz stated that she and Councilman Kennedy plan to meet with the Salisbury-Rowan United Core Committee to develop a proposed action agenda to present to Council for consideration of adoption. She indicated that it will include Council's appointment of a committee to coordinate resources and volunteers. She noted that all Council members and the City Manager have agreed to serve as mentors and that City Manager David Treme is developing a personnel policy to allow staff members to also serve as mentors. She stated that a Mayor's Mentoring Program is also being developed to serve as a clearing house to match mentors with mentoring programs.

Mayor Kluttz stated that the Salisbury Police Department has been asked to present a recommendation to Council concerning a proposed curfew and added that new police officer positions assigned to gang activity have been approved in the 2007-2008 Budget.



Mayor Kluttz stated that the City continues to look for solutions to gang activity on many different levels and encourages the public to continue to support and help in the efforts.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Burgin, seconded by Mr. Lewis. All council members agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

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Mayor

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City Clerk