

Salisbury, North Carolina  
November 1, 2016

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Karen Kirks Alexander, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell; Council Members Kenneth Hardin, William Brian Miller, and David Post; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; City Clerk Myra B. Heard, and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

**ABSENT:** None.

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

## **RETIREMENT – POLICE K9 JACK**

Police Chief Jerry Stokes addressed Council regarding Officer J.W. Martinez and 10-year old retired K9 Officer Jack. He stated Jack has been a valuable asset to the police department assisting in drug seizures and arrests.

Officer Martinez noted Jack did an outstanding job during his eight years of service to the City. He commented four arrest are credited to Jack in the last two years. He added he is looking forward to bringing Jack home to his family.

Mayor Alexander thanked Officer Martinez for welcoming Jack into his home and for their service to the City.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** to approve the retirement of Police Service K9 Jack and gifting him to his handler Officer J. W. Martinez. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

### **PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Alexander proclaimed the following observance:

INDIAN/NATIVE AMERICAN RECOGNITION MONTH                      November 2016

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

(a)     Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Regular meetings of October 4, 2016 and October 18, 2016.

(b)     Budget Ordinance Amendment – Parks and Recreation Donations

Adopt a Budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2016-2017 budget in the amount of \$14,937 to appropriate Parks and Recreation donations.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016-2017 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE PARKS AND RECREATION DONATIONS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 63, and is known as Ordinance 2016-38.)

(c)     Budget Ordinance Amendment – Water and Sewer Asset Inventory Grant Funds

Adopt a Budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2016-2017 budget in the amount of \$260,000 to appropriate Water and Sewer Asset Inventory Grant funds.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016-2017 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE A WATER AND SEWER GRANT.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 64, and is known as Ordinance 2016-39.)

(d) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Downtown Revitalization Grant Funds

Adopt a Budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2016-2017 budget in the amount of \$94,340 to appropriate Downtown Revitalization Grant funds.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016-2017 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE A DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION GRANT.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 65, and is known as Ordinance 2016-40.)

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

**KNOX MIDDLE SCHOOL INITIATIVES**

Knox Middle School Principal Dr. Michael Waiksnis addressed Council regarding current initiatives at Knox Middle School. He noted North Carolina has a low performing school list which initially included the bottom 5% of State schools. He commented Knox Middle School has been on the list since 2008, but was removed from the list due to student academic growth. He pointed out school grades are based upon 80% achievement and 20% growth.

Dr. Waiksnis reviewed Knox Middle School’s performance growth for 2015 and 2016:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Math	80.6%	85.2%
Reading	58.4%	94.1%

Dr. Waiksnis noted Knox Middle School received a D grade for its performance, which is up from the F grade it received the previous year. He noted school staff is not satisfied with the grade, but they are pleased with the progress that has been made.

Dr. Waiksnis reviewed Knox Middle School’s Growth Index, and he pointed out the school received “Exceeds Growth Level,” which is the highest level awarded by the State. He added the school received a 3.87% growth index in 2015 and a 4.06% growth index in 2016. He commented Knox Middle School had the highest growth index among middle schools in its district. He noted in 2015 the class of 2022 had 14 students come in at grade level, and in 2016 the same class has 29 students at grade level. He stated in 2015 the class of 2021 had 17 students who came in at grade level, and in 2016 the same class has 31 students at grade level.

Dr. Waiksnis explained Lexile Scores show a student's reading level, and he pointed out each grade has shown growth from 2015 to 2016. He noted in the last two school years Knox Middle School has seen a 33% reduction in student absences and is on pace for a 47% reduction in teacher and staff absences.

Dr. Waiksnis indicated Knox Middle School staff participated in Capturing Kids Hearts training. He explained the training helps teachers connect with their students, and he commented from 2015 to 2016 there has been a sharp reduction in teacher referrals.

Councilmember Hardin thanked Dr. Waiksnis for the approach he uses with the students. He asked if the data presented includes the retest period. Dr. Waiksnis noted the data contains both the test and retest periods. Mr. Hardin pointed out a 35.7% increase in reading levels. He asked what measures the school has taken to ensure the student's reading success continues. Dr. Waiksnis noted Knox Middle School uses Achieve 3000 which is used by the entire district. He stated staff and teachers have worked to create a culture of literacy at Knox Middle School that includes classroom libraries in addition to the Media Center and one-on-one time with students. He added the focus is on reading and helping teachers become better teachers of reading.

Mr. Hardin pointed out Knox Middle School has had a 33% reduction in student absences, and he asked what has contributed to the reduction. Dr. Waiksnis noted building a connection with students and following up with them is critical to their success. He added he believes student absences have improved because students feel connected to the school. He noted he also believes the reduction in teacher and staff absences is due to the supportive environment. He explained there is a school-wide discipline plan that clearly states consequences for improper behavior. He noted there is flexibility in the plan, but being consistent is important to student and teacher success. Mr. Hardin thanked Dr. Waiksnis for all is doing for Knox Middle School.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated the atmosphere at Knox Middle School is very different, and the hallways are orderly and students are respectful. She pointed out the change in atmosphere could also contribute to the positive change in numbers. She thanked Dr. Waiksnis for his work at Knox Middle School.

Councilmember Miller asked for an update regarding the proposed extended school day and accelerated course options. Dr. Waiksnis explained the school applied for a School Improvement Grant from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, but the request was denied. He added the school hopes to implement an extended school day in the future, but funding is an issue. He commented a Saturday program where students can receive additional instruction is being considered. He stated Knox Middle School currently offers five accelerated courses with high school credits.

Councilmember Post asked how many students are in each grade. Dr. Waiksnis stated each grade has approximately 200 students. Mr. Post pointed out 14 of 200 sixth grade students, or approximately 5%, were reading at grade level in 2015. Dr. Waiksnis agreed. Mr. Post asked for clarification regarding academic growth. Dr. Waiksnis explained academic growth compares student's end of year scores with previous year's scores to determine improvement.

Dr. Waiksnis pointed out Knox is working with its feeder elementary schools to prepare students for middle school. Mr. Miller asked if early education intervention is needed in the community. Dr. Waiksnis pointed out early education intervention is needed everywhere.

Mayor Alexander thanked Dr. Waiksnis for his leadership, and all he does for the students at Knox Middle School. She commended Council for its commitment to Knox.

Dr. Waiksnis thanked Council for its confidence in him and Deputy Principal Chris McNeil, and he recognized the teachers and staff who work to ensure the school's success.

## **SALISBURY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION PROGRAM AND GOALS**

Salisbury Community Development Corporation (CDC) Executive Director Chanaka Yatawara explained the CDC was created by the City to help revitalize neighborhoods. He added the CDC contracts with the City of Salisbury, Rowan County, and the Town of East Spencer to provide neighborhood revitalization that includes Homeownership and Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Programs. He explained the Homeownership Programs prepares people for home ownership through:

- New construction
- Acquisition and rehabilitation of existing homes
- Homebuyer Education Seminars
- Down payment assistance

Mr. Yatawara added the Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program:

- Consists of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program funds that are available for owner-occupied rehabilitation
- The home must be in sub-standard condition and need repairs to meet the minimum housing code
- CDC staff works with Code Enforcement Officers to identify sub-standard housing
- Funds are provided to families as a low interest loan or as an income-based grant

Mr. Yatawara reviewed down payment assistance:

- Eligible families who complete the Homeownership Program and purchase a home within Rowan County could receive down payment assistance if they meet income eligibility requirements
- Funds are provided by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency and the HOME Consortium

Mr. Yatawara then reviewed the program qualifications:

- Must be a first time homebuyer
- Must be willing to save \$1,000 toward a down payment
- Income below 80% of the median income
- Complete the Homebuyer Education Program

Mr. Yatawara noted the income guidelines are provided by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He added CDC staff uses the guidelines to qualify applicants for the Homeownership and Owner-occupied Rehabilitation Programs.

Mr. Yatawara stated the Homebuyer Education Program covers:

- Advantages and disadvantages of homeownership
- Preparing a household budget
- Understanding a credit report
- Qualifying for a home loan
- Closing on a loan
- Taking care of a new home and preparing for maintenance

Mr. Yatawara pointed out when the CDC purchases land or dilapidated houses in the City, it increases the City's tax base. He reviewed CDBG expenditures by area from 1998 through 2014:

- West End Neighborhood \$992,547.99 or 34%
- Jersey City Neighborhood \$507,423.05 or 17%
- Park Avenue Neighborhood \$824,822.80 or 28%
- East End Neighborhood \$232,628.10 or 8%
- Non-revitalization areas City-wide \$379,371.13 or 13%

Mr. Yatawara noted the Foreclosure Prevention Program was implemented in 2003 with the closing of Pillowtex. He added the program is funded by the North Carolina Foreclosure Prevention Fund, and it provides foreclosure prevention counseling, reverse mortgage counseling, and loan modifications.

Mr. Yatawara noted the consequences of foreclosure for the community:

- Property deterioration
- Property abandonment
- Loss of neighbors and community cohesiveness
- Potential for vandalism
- Reduction in property values and tax base

Mr. Yatawara reviewed the Foreclosure Prevention Program Funding:

- 2,206 default clients were seen from 2008 to 2016
  - Hardest Hit Fund, through the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency, has assisted 378 families in Rowan County
    - Approximately 65% of clients have been Rowan County residents
- Total assistance to date is \$7,280,320 or \$19,000 per family
  - To qualify an applicant must have lost their job through no fault of their own and be receiving unemployment
  - Good credit is required prior to the hardship
- United Way has distributed \$272,000 to 305 Rowan County residents through the Lay-off Assistance Program

Councilmember Hardin asked how the information is distributed. Mr. Yatawara noted the information is sent to local churches, neighborhood leaders, promoted at neighborhood meetings, and advertised on Access 16. Mayor Alexander pointed out information is sent to City and County governments. Mr. Hardin asked about participation rates. Mr. Yatawara noted approximately 12 families per year complete the program.

Councilmember Miller asked if access to financing or qualified buyers is a greater hindrance to the CDC's success. Mr. Yatawara explained the CDC was taken out of the Charlotte Metropolitan Statistical Area several years ago and the median income dropped significantly. He indicated the maximum income for a family of two is \$33,000, and he noted if two people are working they do not qualify for down payment assistance.

Mr. Miller pointed out when the CDC makes upgrades in a block, surrounding neighbors make improvements to their homes. Mr. Yatawara noted if CDC funds were not restricted by income guidelines, the CDC could assist more families.

Mayor Alexander thanked Mr. Yatawara for his presentation.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comment.

Ms. Cassandra Cunningham, 2015 Rosemont Street, noted land owned by Mr. John Leatherman was cleared at the end of Rosemont Street, and 15 loads of rock were brought into the site. She stated the driver sped through the neighborhood and used private driveways to turn around. She indicated the driver told her the rocks were to build a road for Mr. Leatherman to run a landscaping business from the site. She asked what the neighborhood could do if this happens again. She questioned if big trucks have unlimited access to the neighborhood. She presented photographs to Council and requested guidance.

Mayor Alexander asked City Manager Lane Bailey to have staff contact Ms. Cunningham.

Mr. Tony Hoty, 229 South Long Street, asked about the projected start date for the South Long Street Road Project. He referenced the Complete Street Study by Design Workshop completed May 2014 which recommends reconnecting and revitalizing the Brooklyn South Square neighborhood. He noted Clyde's donation to the Rowan Museum may lead to the addition of a Civil War tourist attraction in the area. He asked if tractor trailer traffic will be permanently rerouted to Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue between East Innes Street and Old Concord Road, after the project is completed. He then asked if progress is being made on the railroad quiet zone between Klumac Road and the Depot. He requested an update on the yellow abandoned home in the 300 block of South Long Street.

Ms. Carolyn Logan, noted Council should answer questions presented during public comment. She commended Mr. Hardin for his work in the community and his support of the West End neighborhood. She stated there has been an increase in break-ins and robberies in the City. She asked what is being done to keep the people safe, and she noted crime in the City must be addressed.

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

### **SPECIAL EVENT PERMITTING ORDINANCE**

Police Chief Jerry Stokes addressed Council regarding proposed changes to Chapter 22 of the City Code related to Parades, Picket Lines, and Group Demonstrations. He reviewed the proposed changes to the Code, and he explained he proposes to expand definitions. He noted the goal is to differentiate between special events and demonstrations that may relate to First Amendment rights.

Chief Stokes indicated he is also proposing a change in scheduled rates. He referenced Section 22-146 of the City Code which would allow Council to designate a City-sponsored event. He explained the current Ordinance requires a 72-hour notice which can create issues for staff. He pointed out the City also needs to recover some of its expense for these events. He added City-sponsored events could be supported at a level Council feels appropriate.

Chief Stokes presented the proposed deadlines and fee schedules for various events. He pointed out currently there are no application fees and a shorter window for demonstrations. He indicated staff wants to make sure there is enough notice for staff to prepare for organized events. He added the proposal includes a permit fee and organizers would be required to pay for certain City services.

Chief Stokes pointed out staff used information from other cities to create a plan it feels would better serve the community. He added staff wants to incorporate the same amount of notice for the City that is given to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for road closures.



Chief Stokes reviewed the proposed event application, and he noted the application includes a fee and deadline schedule. He added the application also explains what type of City services would be needed for certain events and the fees involved. He added organizers are required to notify neighbors of their event, and the deadline period would be extended by 30 days.

Chief Stokes stated special events in the City have increased, and he commented the proposal before Council would allow the City to recover the expenses it incurs.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell thanked Chief Stokes for his work on the proposal. She stated she appreciates having no fee for demonstrations, and she noted demonstrations are often held in response to an event. She encouraged Chief Stokes to reconsider the 30-day required lead-time, and she noted timeliness is key for a demonstration.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell pointed out a general street closure is \$25, and neighborhoods would pay \$50 for neighborhood event street closures. She added neighborhoods could request a right-of-way closure and pay \$25, rather than paying \$50 for a neighborhood event. She added larger neighborhood events, such as the Halloween event at Fulton Heights, could warrant \$50 because additional support is needed but small neighborhood events should not cost \$50. She suggested pricing levels for neighborhood events.

Councilmember Post agreed with Ms. Blackwell, and he noted it could be difficult to provide a 30-day notice for a demonstration.

Councilmember Miller thanked Chief Stokes for his work on the proposal. He asked staff to work with citizens as they adjust to the potential changes.

Mayor Alexander questioned the late fee. She suggested collecting the funds before the permit is issued. She asked if a damage deposit should be considered. Chief Stokes clarified the late penalty is for a late application fee.

Mr. Post questioned if Council should have the authority to waive fees. City Manager Lane Bailey clarified Council could designate an event as a Community Event, and no fees would be involved. Mr. Miller pointed out additional guidelines are needed because of the many events held in the City.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** to set a public hearing for November 15, 2016 to receive comments from the public regarding revisions to the City's special event permitting ordinance. Mr. Post seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

Mayor Alexander stated the document will be available on the City's website for public review. She thanked Chief Stokes for the presentation.

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**Human Relations Council**

Upon a motion by Ms. Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Messrs. Hardin and Post, and Ms. Alexander voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the City-section of the Human Relations Council to fill an unexpired term:

Ms. Lilliana Spears Term Expires 03/31/17

**Historic Preservation Commission**

Upon a motion by Mr. Post, seconded by Mr. Hardin, and with Mr. Miller, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Historic Preservation Commission to fill an unexpired term:

Mr. Jonathan Chamberlin Term Expires 03/31/18

**CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS**

(a) First Quarter Financial Report

City Manager Lane Bailey asked Financial Services Director Teresa Harris to present the first quarter financial update.

Ms. Harris referenced property tax values for the first quarter and noted \$2.817 million is budgeted, \$2.684 million had been billed, and \$2.841 million is projected to be billed.

Ms. Harris stated General Fund revenue is at 34%, or \$14,430,445 of the projected \$42,097,846 received, and 23%, or \$9,626,087, expended. She reviewed the budget verses actual and variance for each department. She pointed out Information Technologies is 43% expended due to annual maintenance costs for hardware and software:

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
General Fund	\$9,626,087	\$42,097,846	\$32,471,759	22.9%
Water and Sewer Fund	\$4,569,788	\$23,129,034	\$18,559,246	19.8%
Broadband Fund	\$33,860,997	\$41,404,945	\$7,543,948	81.8%
Mass Transit Fund	\$273,226	\$1,696,848	\$1,423,622	16.1%
Stormwater Fund	\$201,439	\$1,380,498	\$1,179,059	14.6%

Ms. Harris reviewed the Water and Sewer Fund revenue for the first quarter and the monthly usage trend. She explained Water and Sewer Fund revenue is at 31% received, or \$7,103,178, of the budgeted \$23,129,034. She noted the Water and Sewer Fund is at 20% expended, or \$4,569,788. She also reviewed the Water and Sewer Fund by department.

Ms. Harris reviewed Fibrant revenues versus expenditures for the first quarter. She pointed out total revenues were at \$30,988,315 and expenditures were at \$33,860,997 which includes the recent refunding. She indicated revenues for the first quarter were at \$1,998,315 and expenditures were at \$1,817,284 minus the refunding. Mr. Post asked if Fibrant revenues were projected to be approximately \$8 million for the year since the first quarter is at approximately \$2 million.

Mr. Post clarified the revenue is listed on a cash basis. Ms. Harris agreed, and she pointed out the revenue is on a cash basis, but the programming expenditures lag behind because expenditures for September were paid in October. Mayor Alexander commented the quarter ended September 30, 2016.

Mr. Post asked if Fibrant is projected to generate \$8 million in revenue in the current fiscal year. Ms. Harris stated it could, and she explained revenues are reviewed on a monthly basis. She added Fibrant billing has remained consistent and services are being terminated for nonpayment.

Councilmember Miller asked if any unusual income events occurred in the first quarter. Ms. Harris stated there were no unusual events in the first quarter. She pointed out Fibrant is subsidized by the General Fund and the subsidy is considered Fibrant revenue. Mr. Miller asked if the funding from the General Fund is distributed in uneven installments that are timed with expenditure needs. Ms. Harris agreed. Mr. Post suggested the subsidy and Fibrant revenue be separated.

Ms. Harris explained Transit fare revenues are at 30%, or \$24,025, of the budgeted \$80,140, and expenditures are at 16%, or \$273,226, of the budgeted \$1,696,848 for the first quarter.

Ms. Harris reviewed Stormwater revenues for the first quarter. She noted revenue is at 25% billed, or \$345,481, of the budgeted \$1,380,498 and expenditures are at 15%, or \$201,438.

Mayor Alexander thanked Ms. Harris for her presentation.

(b) Nixle Demonstration

City Manager Lane Bailey noted the City launched a notification service called Nixle that provides a secure way to relay neighborhood-level information to community members who subscribe to the system. He asked Communications Director Linda McElroy to provide a demonstration to Council.

Ms. McElroy explained before staff looked at notification systems it considered the City's current communication methods: social media, the City website, billing inserts, Access 16 and Fibrant 17, the City newsletter, and flyers. She commented residents continue to miss information on City programs, services, and emergency notifications, and a mass notification system allows residents to choose how they receive information. She explained Nixle offers:

- Mass notification system
- No cost to residents

- Easy sign-up
- Tailored message notifications to resident's preference
  - Email, text, landline, and social media
- Opt-out availability
- Ability to receive emergency notifications only
- Opportunity to send tips to police department
- Spanish translation
- Links to social media and Google

Ms. McElroy noted Nixle has three levels: an alert in red that includes emergency notifications, an advisory, and a community event. She reviewed alerts, and she pointed out the Police Department can submit information and photos of suspects in an alert. She commented arrest information and mug shots can also be posted to Nixle. She noted each department has an administrator who can send notifications from desktop or a smartphone. She commented notification templates can be designed for messages that are distributed on a regular basis. She stated only Police Department staff will receive anonymous tips messages.

Ms. McElroy explained how to sign up for Nixle:

- Text Zip Code or SALISBURY to 888777
- Visit [www.nixle.com](http://www.nixle.com) for advanced settings
  - For Parks and Recreation information: text SBNCEVENTS to 888777
  - For Public Services waste collection: text SBNCWASTE to 888777
  - For SRU alerts: text SBNCWATER to 888777
  - General: text SALISBURY or MYSALISBURY to 888777
  - To receive Community messages, residents must log in to [nixle.com](http://nixle.com) to sign up for community messages via text to 888777
- Visit [www.salisburync.gov/Nixle](http://www.salisburync.gov/Nixle)
- Download OneBridge app

Ms. McElroy noted in order to be successful residents must sign up for the service. She added the City has a goal of 2,000 residential signups in one year. She stated questions can be directed to the Communications Department at (704) 638-4460 or [support@nixle.com](mailto:support@nixle.com).

(c) Rowan-Kannapolis ABC Board Audit

City Manager Lane Bailey presented Council with the Rowan-Kannapolis ABC Board Audit.

(d) Transit Capital

City Manager Lane Bailey explained when the Federal government looks at Transit capital it also includes maintenance and mechanics. He added the biggest item included in the Transit budget for capital is the Zonar System that allows citizens to check the bus location from their smart phone. He pointed out maintenance expenses are included in Transit capital.

## **COUNCIL'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### (a) Salisbury Neighborhood Action Group

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell announced the Salisbury Neighborhood Action Group (SNAG) provides an opportunity for citizen's to meet monthly with the Salisbury Police Department and hear crime statistics. She explained citizens can meet with police officers privately if they have information to share. She added the meeting will be held Wednesday, November 3, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Salisbury Police Department. She stated even month meetings will take place in the morning at the Salisbury Police Department and odd month meetings will take place at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Center at Brenner Crossing Apartments.

### (b) Broadband Conference

Councilmember Post stated he recently attended a Broadband Conference. He noted having broadband in the City is like having infrastructure, and without broadband a digital divide is created. He pointed out the world is moving toward public-private partnerships. He indicated cities smaller than Salisbury are installing broadband, and cities must invest if they want to keep up with technology. He commented many citizens support Fibrant.

## **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### (a) "Meet with the Manager"

Mayor Alexander announced the "Meet with the Manager" meetings are held the first Monday of each month. The next meeting will be held Monday, November 7 from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. in the first floor conference room at City Hall, 217 South Main Street. This is an open office hour for citizens to share their ideas or concerns regarding City services with the City Manager.

### (b) Veterans Day Parade

Mayor Alexander announced the Rowan County Veterans Council will host a Veterans Day parade Friday, November 11, 2016. The parade begins at the Veterans Administration Medical Center at 1:00 p.m. and reassembles for a downtown parade beginning at 2:30 p.m.

### (c) "Community Conversations"

Mayor Alexander announced the third in a series of "Community Conversations" will be held Monday, November 14, 2016 at Noble and Kelsey Funeral Home, 223 East Fisher Street. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. Residents will have an opportunity to hear from the City Manager and staff about City services, but more importantly, share their concerns with City staff on variety of topics including public services, transportation, crime and other issues within their neighborhoods.

(d) Bridge Maintenance

Mayor Alexander announced the City of Salisbury, in cooperation with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, will perform bridge maintenance and repairs on the bridges crossing the railroad on East Fisher Street and East Bank Street. Work is scheduled to begin Monday, November 7, 2016. The work should be complete by December 16. The 200 and 300 blocks of East Bank Street will be closed for the duration of the schedule and the 200 and 300 blocks of East Fisher Street will be closed intermittently during this time.

(e) Salisbury Neighborhood Action Group

Mayor Alexander announced the location of the Salisbury Neighborhood Action Group (SNAG) meeting scheduled for tomorrow, November 2, 2016, has been changed. In order to accommodate construction, the meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the Police Department instead of Brenner Crossing Apartments.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Alexander requested Council go into a closed session concerning an economic development matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4).

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to go into a closed session concerning an economic development matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4). Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

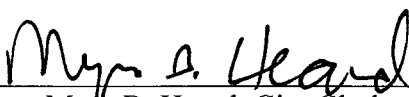
**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Thereupon, Mr. Post made a **motion** for Council to return to open session. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

Mayor Alexander announced no action was taken in closed session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Post seconded by Ms. Blackwell. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

  
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Myra B. Heard, City Clerk

  
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Karen Kirks Alexander, Mayor