

Salisbury, North Carolina
November 1, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Karen K. Alexander, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield, Council Members Harry McLaughlin, David Post, and Anthony Smith; City Manager Jim Greene, Jr., City Clerk Kelly Baker; and City Attorney J. Graham Corriher.

ABSENT: None.

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RECOGNITIONS

BlockWork 2022

City Manager Jim Greene recognized Planning Department staff for its tremendous work in planning and implementing the BlockWork event that took place on October 22, 2022. Urban Design Planner Alyssa Nelson provided a review of the 2022 BlockWork event and shared photos and a video from event. She thanked the sponsors and volunteers who worked to make BlockWork a success.

Public Works Recognition

Mayor Alexander read a letter from a resident commending employees in the Public Works Department for their excellent work regarding water meter issues. She recognized Mr. Chad Jennings, Mr. Matdiel Garrido, Mr. Kenny Gullette, and Mr. Johnny Hawkins for the great work they do for the City, and she noted the letter stated they exhibited the utmost courtesy and professionalism.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Thereupon, Councilmember Smith made a **motion** to adopt the Agenda as presented. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor to proclaim the following observances:

INDIAN AND NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH	November 2022
NAACP FREEDOM FUND BANQUET DAY	November 5, 2022
TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE	November 20, 2022

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Approve Minutes of the special meeting of October 10, 2022 and the regular meeting of October 18, 2022.

(b) Right-of-Way Encroachment

Approve a Right-of-Way encroachment by AT&T for the installation of aerial and directional bore duct on Industrial Avenue in accordance with Section 11-24(27) of the City Code, subject to approval by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

(c) Voluntary Annexation – Julian Road

Receive a request for the voluntary annexation of 12.179 acres on Tax Map 400 Parcels 009 and 042 located on Julian Road and adopt a Resolution instructing the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the request.

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO INVESTIGATE A PETITION RECEIVED UNDER G.S. 160A-31, FOR VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION OF TAX MAP 400 PARCELS 009 AND 042, 12.179 ACRES LOCATED ON JULIAN ROAD.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 73, and is known as Resolution 2022-52.)

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

Mr. Ronnie Smith thanked Council for its support of the Salisbury Police Foundation and for its support of the flag pole placement at the Bell Tower Green Park. He reviewed results from a survey regarding where the flag pole should be installed, and he asked Council to consider those suggestions.

Mr. Tim Coffey, President of Salisbury Pride, thanked Council for providing the Transgender Day of Remembrance Proclamation and for its support to the Salisbury Pride community.

Ms. Nan Lund, on behalf of Women for Community Justice, read a statement regarding women's health and asked Council to consider support it.

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

SPECIAL USE PERMIT – 529 WEST INNES STREET

Mayor Alexander indicated a Special Use Permit (SUP) has been requested for the property located at 529 West Innes Street to permit a commercial child care center for 30 or fewer children.

Councilmember Post indicated he had a lunch meeting approximately two months ago and proponents lobbied for the proposed child care center. He stated he does not have a preconceived notion, and he asked if he needed to be recused from the hearing. City Attorney Graham Corriher stated Mr. Post does not need to be recused. He requested the record note Mr. Post answered the question regarding whether he can fairly decide the case. He pointed out if anything that is relevant to the case was learned from conversation at the lunch meeting it must be disclosed to Council.

Mr. Corriher stated Council must follow the proper procedures for a quasi-judicial hearing which is required by the Land Development Ordinance (LDO). He pointed out a commercial child care center is allowed in the zoning district, but the proposal must come before Council to consider special circumstances that may need to be addressed.

Mr. Corriher explained in deciding an SUP Council follows quasi-judicial hearing procedures. He added the purpose of the hearing is to gather evidence to determine if the application is consistent with the standards set forth in the LDO. He noted in making this decision

Council may not consider personal opinion or speculation. He pointed out the only evidence that Council is allowed to consider is evidence that is competent and material and directly related to the issue of whether the application complies with the standards in the Ordinance. He indicated the only evidence that Council is allowed to consider is competent and material and directly related to the issue of whether the application complies with the standards in the LDO.

Ex Parte Disclosure

To ensure that there are no conflicts of interest, Mr. Corriher asked Council the following questions:

- Does any member of Council have a fixed opinion on this matter that is not susceptible to change? Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers Post, Smith, and McLaughlin, and Mayor Alexander all stated they did not have a fixed opinion on the matter that is not susceptible to change
- Has any member of Council had any ex-parte communication about the subject matter of this request with the applicant other than Councilmember Post having disclosed his ex parte communication earlier? Councilmember McLaughlin stated he spoke to Ms. Stephanie Alston regarding the possibility of a commercial facility at the proposed location. He advised her to listen to the audio of the previous SUP for a commercial child care facility to familiarize herself with the procedure. Mr. Corriher asked Mr. McLaughlin if he could fairly decide the case. Mr. McLaughlin indicated he could. Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmember Smith, and Mayor Alexander all stated they had not had any ex-parte communication about the subject matter of the request with the applicant.
- Does any member of Council have a close familial, business, or other associational relationship with the applicant? Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers Post, Smith, and McLaughlin, and Mayor Alexander all stated they do not have a close familial, business, or other associational relationship with the applicant.
- Does any member of Council have a financial interest in the outcome of this matter? Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers Post, Smith, and McLaughlin, and Mayor Alexander all stated they do not have a financial interest in the outcome of this matter.

Public Hearing

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive testimony regarding SUP-02-2022. She indicated anyone who wished to provide testimony must be sworn in.

Mayor Alexander administered the oath to Senior Development Services Specialist Jessica Harper.

Ms. Harper stated the petitioner, Ms. Stephanie Alston, has requested an SUP to operate a commercial child care center located at 529 West Innes Street. She indicated LDO 2.7.C Use Matrix requires an SUP/Conditional District (CD) for commercial child care centers operating in the Residential Mixed-Use (RMX) zoning district.

Ms. Harper referenced Chapter 18 of the LDO that defines commercial child care center as an individual agency or organization providing supervision or care in a non-residential environment where at any one time there are three or more preschool aged children or nine or more school aged children receive child care.

Ms. Harper displayed a map of the area, and she noted the property's proximity to South Caldwell and West Innes Streets. She presented street view photographs of the property, and she pointed out the proposed entrance and exit for dropping off and picking up children. She explained parents will enter from West Innes Street, travel through the parking lot, and exit onto South Caldwell Street. She stated the applicant is proposing an adjacent playground area. She reviewed a floor plan of the building, and she pointed out the day care will not occupy the entire structure which will be shared with another tenant.

Ms. Harper presented the standards for decision required for the SUP:

1. The use meets all required principles and specifications of the Ordinance and any adopted land use plans and is in harmony with the general purpose and intent and preserves its spirit; and
2. The proposed plan as submitted and approved will be visually and functionally compatible to the surrounding area; and
3. The public health, safety and welfare will be assured and the proposed development will not substantially injure the value of adjoining property and associated uses if located where proposed.

Ms. Harper then presented supporting evidence submitted by the applicant:

1. The use will provide child care support to the surrounding community
2. The existing exterior of the facility will remain in its current state
3. The child care will be licensed and abide by state regulations and will be subject to an inspection prior to operating as well as unscheduled inspection for continued compliance
4. Additional standards to be completed prior to operation:
 - Minor interior renovations for classrooms
 - Playground with a fenced enclosure
 - Mold, HVAC, electrical, and plumbing inspections
 - Building, fire and sanitation inspections

Mayor Alexander asked about the other tenant that will occupy the building and how the other business would be separated from the proposed day care facility. Ms. Harper indicated the facilities will be separated by a wall. Mayor Alexander asked if Council should consider the other use in the building since it is next to a child care facility. Ms. Harper explained Council's focus is on the part of the building that will be used for the child care facility.

Mayor Alexander administered the oath to Ms. Stephanie Alston and Mr. Jerry Davis.

Ms. Alston stated Brighter Beginnings Childcare Center will provide 24-hour child care to Salisbury and Rowan County. She noted currently there are no 24-hour commercial child care centers within Rowan County. She added the goal is to provide parents who have non-traditional work hours have a child care option. She indicated the center will offer an option for parents to drop their children off for up to four hours while they take care of appointments or run errands.

Ms. Alston stated the facility will have services that focus on mental health, and she explained if the services are offered at a young age it can help children become thriving adults. She noted the target market is families with non-traditional work hours and the services are offered to preschool aged children. She added the mission is to provide a holistic child-focused early learning center that helps children develop socially, physically, emotionally, and cognitively under the care and guidance of highly-trained professionals. She noted since there are no 24-hour child care facilities in Rowan County, parents who work non-traditional hours can miss out on opportunities due to lack of child care .

Councilmember Post asked about the size of the classrooms and how many children will be allowed at the facility. Ms. Alston noted the classrooms are slightly bigger than office space, and she noted a media room will be included in the facility. She pointed out a wall was removed to increase the size of Classroom 4. She stated the small classrooms will house seven to 10 children and the larger classrooms will hold up to 15 children. Mr. Post clarified there will be a total of four classrooms. Ms. Alston agreed. Mr. Davis noted the classroom size is regulated by the state and is part of the daycare licensing process.

Councilmember Post asked about the playground area. Ms. Alston explained the size of the playground area would be determined by how many students are outside at any given time. Mr. Post asked if the playground area will be grass. Ms. Alston agreed.

Councilmember Smith stated the use of the space is changing, and he asked what Council should address beyond the state's licensing process. Mr. Corriher explained Council's concern is the three standards for decision required for the SUP that are included in the LDO. Mr. Smith pointed out there is a private school nearby and the use is compatible with the area.

Mr. Davis stated he is a commercial real estate broker with Century 21 with approximately 20 years of experience. He pointed out there are several vacant properties in the immediate area, and he noted any commercial property that is left vacant will become a detriment to the community. He indicated there is a school next door to the proposed child care center. He added there are vacant properties across the street that are starting to deteriorate, and the proposed daycare facility will be an asset for the area regarding neighboring property values.

Mayor Alexander noted Mr. Davis has testified that the proposed child care facility in this building would benefit adjacent property values, and it would also be compatible with the neighboring school. Mr. Davis agreed, and he pointed out real estate agents are often asked about school and child care situations when people are considering relocating their home or business to a community. He commented child care is a problem in the area and having an additional licensed daycare will be an asset for the City.

Deliberation

Mayor Alexander noted deliberation will include asking supplemental questions. She opened the floor to receive questions from Council. There were no additional questions from Council.

Thereupon, Councilmember Smith made a **motion** to find the following Finding of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

1. The property is located at 529 West Innes Street. It consists of an approximately 0.44 acre lot with an approximately 3,053 square foot existing commercial building and an existing paved parking lot.
2. The property is currently zoned RMX, which allows commercial child care centers subject to City Council issuing a Special Use Permit.
3. The applicant proposes to add a fenced-in playground facility at the rear of the facility.
4. The property is in close proximity to a residential neighborhood and will provide convenient access for nearby residents using the child care services.
5. The child care center is subject to building, fire, sanitation, mold, HVAC, electrical, and plumbing inspections prior to opening.
6. The child care center is subject to additional regulations of the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education.
7. Based on the testimony provided by an expert witness, using the property for a commercial child care center will not substantially injure property values in the area.

And, based on those Findings of fact, the following Conclusions of Law:

1. The use meets all required principles and specifications of the Ordinance and any adopted plans and is in harmony with the general purpose and intent and preserves its spirit.
2. The proposal as submitted and approved will be visually and functionally compatible to the surrounding area.
3. The public health, safety and welfare will be assured and the proposed development will not substantially injure the value of adjoining property and associated uses if located where proposed.

Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

Thereupon, Councilmember Smith made a **motion** to issue a Special Use Permit to permit a commercial child care center at 529 West Innes Street.

Councilmember Post questioned why an SUP is needed for a commercial child care facility. Mr. Corriher explained the SUP is a requirement of the LDO and staff is reviewing the need for the requirement.

Mayor Alexander asked if a future use at this site would need to come before Council. Mr. Corriher indicated a by-right use would not need to come back before Council and a child care facility is now among the list of acceptable uses for the parcel.

Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

Council thanked Ms. Alston for investing in the City and its children

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield pointed out a 24-hour child care facility will meet a need in the community.

VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION – HAWKINSTOWN ROAD

City Engineer Wendy Brindle presented information regarding the voluntary annexation of Hawkinstown Road. She noted the voluntary annexation has to take place prior to construction completion so the final plat can be recorded. She reviewed the annexation map and explained it follows state statutes. She noted the property value upon completion will be \$39.7 million and the City will receive \$288,000 per year in property tax revenue.

Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing after due notice regarding the voluntary annexation of 32.61 acres located on Hawkinstown Road.

Ms. Dee Dee Wright asked if the proposed annexation is close to The Reserve and what the responsibility of the property owner would be due to flooding. Ms. Brindle noted there is a 100 year flood plain shown on the site plan which has to meet the City's flood plain development requirements and Ordinances.

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

Councilmember Post asked about the lot widths and setbacks. Ms. Brindle explained the site plan indicated 40 foot by 110 foot and a mixture of 30 foot by 100 foot lots. Mr. Post commented that does not leave a lot of room in between houses including and will limit the space for parking vehicles. Ms. Brindle noted some of the house will have garages. Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield pointed out houses in her area are really close and it does not seem to cause problems.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance to extend the corporate limits of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina, to include 32.61 acres located on Hawkinstown Road Tax Map 324 Parcel 060. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDINANCE TO EXTEND THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, TO INCLUDE 32.61 ACRES LOCATED ON HAWKINSTOWN ROAD Tax Map 324 Parcel 060.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 188-190, and is known as Ordinance 2022-73.)

UPDATE – JUMP AND RUN BRANCH WATERSHED STUDY

Interim Public Works Director Chris Tester stated on August 31, 2020 the Jump and Run Branch Watershed observed significant flooding during an afternoon thunderstorm. He noted the rainfall created flooding for residents of the Wellington Hills Apartments, Hazeltine Court and Spyglass Hill Place. He introduced Mr. David Perry, engineer with WithersRavenel.

Mr. Perry provided an overview of the Jump and Run Branch Watershed study which reviewed ways to mitigate the risk of another flood. He shared pictures from the 2020 flood. He commented in addition to concerns of the homes in the area, there are risks of erosion which can impact stream stability and sediment in the channel.

Mr. Perry noted models were used to evaluate information was gathered from a nearby rain gauge which took run-off from future development into consideration. He indicated increasing stream capacity through grading, adding regional detention sites to detain water upstream, and possibility property buyouts were investigated.

Mr. Perry indicated rainfall observed from the rain event indicated the flooding could have been caused by a blocked culvert. He stated culvert maintenance is a concern, but the data used to develop the model was based on a rain gauge located five miles away which could have had a different intensity of waterfall.

Mr. Perry pointed out optional improvements to mitigate flooding in the area include upstream regional detention sites with large dry ponds to detain water during large storm events, but he noted the ponds would require large footprints and would be costly. He explained widening the channels and creating flood benches adjacent to the channel would help create additional capacity of water flow. He indicated both options would have minimal impact in the model water surface elevation during a 100 year storm.

Mr. Perry pointed out the homes should not be flooded above the finished floor elevation plain, and he added it is not certain what happened during the flooding event besides a possible blockage in the culvert. He recommended the City monitor the culvert for blockages, but not necessarily take other action. He suggested general stream bank stabilization could be completed in phases with funding and property access.

Mayor Alexander asked if grants are available. Mr. Perry agreed. Mr. Tester noted most grants available are for stream bank stabilization rather than infrastructural repair.

Mayer Alexander asked if there would be an advantage to adding another culvert. Mr. Perry noted the study indicated another culvert would not have had a significant impact on the water surface elevation around the town homes.

Councilmember Post asked if stream bank stabilization is the best approach. Mr. Perry noted stream bank stabilization would not change the water surface elevation or the risks to adjacent properties, however it would be a significant benefit in terms of pollutant discharge in the waterways.

Councilmember Smith asked if there has been a similar flooding event. Mr. Tester noted he is not aware of similar event, and he will gather additional information. Mr. Smith suggested looking at what other cities are doing regarding how to mitigate flooding in the area. Mr. Tester noted he will get the information from Mr. Perry to compare rainfall from the flooding event until now.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield asked if bank stabilization can be completed in phases. Mr. Perry agreed, and he added any work the City is able to engage with stream stabilization would benefit the channel.

Mr. Greene pointed out funding would be an issue, but the City can look for grant opportunities. He complimented Mr. Tester and his team for their hard work checking culverts prior to the Hurricane.

UPDATE – DRAFT 2040 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Planning Director Hannah Jacobson presented the Draft Forward 2040 Comprehensive Plan, and she added the plan is now available for public review. She thanked members of the Steering Committee and staff for their dedicated work on the plan.

Ms. Jacobson stated the Forward 2040 Comprehensive Plan is a process to determine a community's long term aspirations related to community development. She added purposes of the plan include:

- Guiding rezoning decisions
- Offering an opportunity to listen and involve the community.
- Demonstrates the community's position
- Advises the expenditure of public funds
- Guides a private investment
- Provides a framework for strategic action plans
- Provides the foundation for the modernization of city's land development regulations

Ms. Jacobson explained the Comprehensive Plan serves as a policy guide but does not replace zoning. She commented the Comprehensive Plan covers the entire planning jurisdiction, including City limits, but it is not a small area plan that offers more detail. She noted the Comprehensive Plan does not serve as a policy guide for everything, but it is a land use plan that

covers a comprehensive set of disciplines including transportation, economic development, and sustainability. She stated a Comprehensive Plan is required by law.

Ms. Jacobson reviewed the Forward 2040 building blocks, and she commented the plan begins by laying the foundation with data, research, and community input.

Ms. Jacobson reviewed the adopted vision statements noting they form the framework for the rest of the plan.

Ms. Jacobson commented the Comprehensive Plan now includes a growth strategies map which serves as a big-picture vision that communicates priorities. She added the Comprehensive Plan also includes a future land use map, which is different from a zoning map. She explained the future land use map identifies the desired development pattern; however, the goal is for the zoning map and future land use map to look more similar over time.

Ms. Jacobson stated the Draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan Draft is available for review at www.salisburync.gov/forward2040.

Ms. Jacobson commented there would be opportunities for public engagement, including four large-format community meetings to begin in early December and extend through January. She stated the Planning Department will also host a presentation to City Boards and Commissions. She added the City website has a form created for community members and organizations to request a presentation from a City Planner and 15 slots are available. She explained the Planning Department would also attend pop-up events through November and December to share information about the plan. She noted office hours would also be available for those who want a one-on-one conversation.

Councilmember Smith thanked everyone who was involved with the creation and implementation of the 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield stated it is exciting to see some of the same committee members who were part of the 2020 Comprehensive Plan being a part of the 2040 Plan.

GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Finance Director Wade Furches asked Council to consider adopting an amended Grant Project Ordinance to transfer unexpended American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds to the General Fund.

Mr. Furches provided a summary of the ARPA funds and explained between May 2021 and April 2022, revisions were made to the rules and regulations of ARPA funds. He added the final regulation adopted on April 1, 2022 offered a standard allowance for revenue loss of up to \$10 million. He stated recipients who select the standard allowance can use that amount for general government services with streamlined reporting requirements. He summarized with this rule the funds could now be used to supplant general fund expenditures.

Mr. Furches stated staff recommends Council consider approving the standard allowance for the remaining use of its unexpended ARPA funds. He added staff worked with Centralina Council of Governments to identify necessary policies and spending options. He commented using the standard allowance funds will simplify the City's federal reporting requirements and allow flexibility in spending and in meeting federal deadlines.

Mr. Furches explained if Council chooses to amend the grant project, it will allow the City to transfer unexpended funds from the Special Revenue Fund to the General Fund. He stated the money would be used to supplant public safety expenditures and the remaining funds would be used for projects Council previously approved.

Mr. Furches stated the total City allocation was \$7,227,329 and \$1,473,815 has been spent to provide premium pay to City employees. He reviewed a list of items Council selected to fund with ARPA monies during the FY2023 budget. Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield clarified the City already has access to the funds, but needs to move the funds to an account for easier access and reporting. Mr. Furches agreed.

City Manager Jim Greene explained the project list equals approximately \$4 million for the projects Council previously approved. He stated there is still \$1.7 million that is unallocated and Council will need to approve before the funds are spent.

Mr. Furches stated staff will continue to update Council and reports on ARPA spending.

Thereupon, Councilmember McLaughlin made a **motion** to adopt a Grant Project Ordinance amendment for the City of Salisbury American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE AMENDMENT FOR THE CITY OF SALISBURY AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021: CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 191-192, and is known as Ordinance 2022-74.)

Communications Director Linda McElroy provided a presentation on a dedicated ARPA website. Ms. McElroy stated the Communications Department created a website to allow residents to review information regarding the ARPA funds. She added the website includes links to Council's priorities, the total funding amount, an ARPA funding timeline, project status updates, and additional resources. She displayed the webpage to Council and pointed out the webpage can be accessed at www.salisburync.gov/ARPA.

Mayor Alexander thanked the Communications Department for the creation of the webpage and for all it does for the City.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Graham Corriher had nothing to report to Council.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Jim Greene announced Police Chief Jerry Stokes will retire the end of year with over 38 years in public safety including over six years as Police Chief with the City. He commented Deputy Police Chief Brian Stallings will serve as Interim Police Chief upon Chief Stokes' retirement. He noted he will work closely with the Police Department, the Management Team, the community and partners to have an open and engaging process in hiring the new Police Chief. He indicated the City will hire a consultant or a recruitment company to assist in the process, and he will provide an update once he gets more information.

Mr. Greene pointed out Council's Retreat will take place in January. He provided Council with a draft topic list and requested Council to review and provide any changes, additions, or questions to him. He noted the tentative theme is "Partnerships and Progress."

Mr. Greene pointed out he will speak with Mr. Ronnie Smith regarding the placement of the flag at Bell Tower Green Park. He pointed out Council asked the Bell Tower Green Advisory Board to make recommendations of where it should be placed, staff agreed with the site and it was selected based on infrastructure and other issues. He noted the next step is to take the recommendation of the installation site to the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for review.

Mayor Alexander noted the recommendations were received from a professional designer, and she indicated the flag pole will be installed across from the street from the library at the entrance of the park. Mr. Greene pointed out there were hopes to get it installed by Veteran's Day but that will not happen since it has to be reviewed by the HPC.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Smith commended staff for working collaboratively. He noted there has been commitment shown that the community will continue to work together no matter where the country is headed.

Councilmember McLaughlin noted he has had the opportunity to work with many different public officials, public figures and significant people, and he pointed out the City has remarkable individuals working for the community which makes Council's job easier. He added the City can achieve great things no matter what is going on around us.

Councilmember Post thanked Mr. Greene for how well the Agenda was prepared for a smooth meeting. Mr. Greene thanked staff for its great work it does for the City.

MAYOR PRO TEM'S COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield thanked everyone who volunteers for BlockWork each year. She pointed out former Interim City Manager Brian Hiatt and former City Manager Lane Bailey worked at the event and showed their support to the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield thanked the Parks and Recreation Department and all those who made the Halloween Fun Fest and the 4th Annual Wolfstock at the Dog Park events a success.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield noted the Communications Department received two awards at the Queen City Public Relations Society of America event for the work they do to provide information to citizens.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield thanked Mayor Alexander for continuing to recognize and embrace those who face adversity in the City specifically in the transgender community

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

Mayor Alexander thanked Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield for her hard work at BlockWork and for serving as the Council liaison to the Community Appearance Commission (CAC).

Mayor Alexander announced the Neighborhood Leaders Alliance will host a Litter Forum on Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. The event will be held at the Civic Center located at 315 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. All residents of Salisbury are invited to discuss issues and solutions related to litter in our City.

Mayor Alexander requested Council reappoint Mr. David McCoy to the ABC Board to serve another three year term.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Post, Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voting AYE, the following re-appointment was made to the ABC Board.

Mr. David McCoy

Term Expires 7-31-2025

Mayor Alexander thanked staff for its great work during the Halloween Event.

CLOSED SESSION

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to go into closed session concerning a personnel matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6). Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION


Mayor Alexander reconvened the meeting in open session.

Mayor Alexander commented Council completed the City Attorney's annual review and evaluation. She noted the review was excellent, and she thanked Mr. Corriher for his service to citizens, staff and Council.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Post. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.



Karen Alexander, Mayor



Kelly Baker, City Clerk