

Salisbury, North Carolina
November 16, 2021

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Karen K. Alexander, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Al Heggins, Council Members William Brian Miller, David Post, and Tamara Sheffield; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; City Clerk Kelly Baker; and City Attorney J. Graham Corriher.

ABSENT: None.

In response to the State of Emergency declaration related to the spread of COVID-19 and to limit physical interactions and the potential spread of COVID-19 the Salisbury City Council met electronically. 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.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt the Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Alexander proclaimed the following observances:

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE	November 20, 2021
INTERNATIONAL SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE LOSS DAY	November 20, 2021
SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY	November 27, 2021
SURVIVORS OF HOMICIDE VICTIMS AWARENESS MONTH	November 20 – December 20, 2021

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the Regular meeting of November 3, 2021.

(b) Budget Ordinance Amendment- Neighborhood Stabilization Program

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$197,000 to appropriate proceeds from the sale of 712 South Jackson Street to the Neighborhood Stabilization program.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021-2022 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE REVENUE FROM SALE OF HOME.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 159, and is known as Ordinance 2021-68.)

(c) Sale of Parcel

Authorize the sale of parcel 007-165, located in the 1700 block of North Long Street, in the amount of \$800 to Rowan Funeral Services.

(d) Budget Ordinance Amendment – FEMA Grant

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$110,909 to appropriate a FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021-2022 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE FEMA GRANT FUNDS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 160, and is known as Ordinance 2021-69.)

Thereupon, Councilmember Sheffield made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

Ms. Pam Bloom thanked Mayor Pro Tem Heggins for her service to the community and congratulated newly elected council members.

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

HOME AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS

Housing Planner Candace Edwards presented information regarding the HOME-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) funds of \$525,000. She pointed out the funds will provide assistance to those who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, and other vulnerable populations by providing housing, rental assistance, supportive services, and non-congregate shelter. She noted funds will be administered through the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) HOME Investment Partnerships Program. She noted the City will receive \$487,247 for grant project allocation and \$38,693 for administration costs.

Ms. Edwards pointed out four eligible uses of the HOME-ARP funds include:

- Production or preservation of affordable housing
- Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA)
- Supportive services, homeless prevention services, and housing counseling
- Purchase and development of non-congregate shelter housing

Ms. Edwards explained HUD requires an allocation plan to include a consultation, public participation, a needs assessment and gap analysis, and submission of a completed plan for approval. She shared a timeline for submitting the funding application to HUD.

Councilmember Sheffield thanked Ms. Edwards for her presentation. She asked how the public will receive applications. Ms. Edwards stated an application link will be available on the City's website, staff will post a Public Notice with application information, and information will be posted on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME webpage. She noted the timeframe for spending the funds is 2030.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins thanked Ms. Edwards for her presentation. She asked who is eligible to submit an application. Ms. Edwards commented entity and community resource groups that provide new affordable housing are able to apply, but not those needing home rehabilitation. Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked if the HOME-ARP funding is separate from the ARP funding. Ms. Edwards agreed.

Councilmember Sheffield asked if the HOME-ARP funding is available if organizations want to create temporary housing or assist with shelters. Ms. Edwards stated it is a possibility, but the funding is meant to be used for a more permanent solution.

Councilmember Post noted the biggest issue regarding evictions is related to homelessness. He suggested an eviction program be developed for someone to attend court to provide information regarding rental or mortgage assistance. Ms. Edwards commented she will reach out to local agencies to see who might be interested in providing information at the courthouse.

Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing after due notice to receive comments regarding the use of HOME-ARP funds.

Ms. Raeshawn Palmer, Director of Community Relations at Rowan Helping Ministries, explained various programs available to the community do not address housing and services to reduce homelessness. She asked Council to consider funding Miracles on the Horizon Finding Pathways Home Project to expand transitional and permanent housing and fund the Rowan County Detox and Treatment Center being developed through a County-wide collaborative.

Ms. Jenny Lee, Executive Director at Rowan County United Way, commented a Health and Human Services Needs Assessment conducted in 2019 identified substance use, mental health disorders, and healthy lifestyle behaviors as the top three areas in community needs. She explained information regarding the upcoming Rowan County Detox and Treatment Center. She asked Council for its consideration for funding.

Ms. LaTanya Hardy, the Director at S&H Youth and Adult Services, noted the greatest challenge in Rowan County is homelessness. She pointed out it is important to establish affordable housing and provide substance use services for those who struggle with mental and substance disorders in addition to homelessness. She asked Council for its consideration on funding the Miracle on the Horizon Capital Project.

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

Ms. Edwards explained Rowan Helping Ministries, Rowan County United Way, and the S&H Youth and Adult Services will work conjunctively on the proposed program.

Council commended all three groups for working in partnership with each other and bringing their ideas together, and she noted it could be a model for the future.

2020-2021 DOWNTOWN SALISBURY, INC. ANNUAL REPORT

Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI) Chair Gianni Moscardini and Interim Director Latoya Price addressed Council regarding DSI's annual report. Ms. Price reviewed the history of DSI and its partnership with the City. She added DSI is funded by the Municipal Service District (MSD) tax. She explained the DSI Board functions as a non-profit that receives staffing assistance from the City.

Ms. Price noted in the past year 21 downtown businesses opened, 7 businesses closed, and 7 business expanded. She stated 27 businesses had interior up-fits and 10 businesses had façade improvements with a private investment of approximately \$8 million and public investment of \$2 million. She reviewed promotions and events, and she pointed out some events were cancelled due to COVID-19.

Ms. Price indicated in the past year 54 full-time and 54 part-time jobs were created in the downtown. She added 15 full-time and 8 part-time jobs were lost, and she noted 3 residential units were developed. She stated DSI has four committees: Economic Vitality, Design, Promotions, and Organization. She added an Empire Redevelopment Task Force was created to review proposals from developers and it selected developer Brett Krueger for the Empire project.

Mr. Moscardini stated exciting things are happening in the City. He explained DSI implemented new committees including one that will address downtown parking. He referenced the Wells Fargo building, and he noted construction should be completed by the end of next year. He added the redevelopment of the Empire Hotel will bring hotel rooms and residential apartments to the area. He pointed out 10 residential apartments are under construction on Council Street, the Thread Shed Building will include 7 apartments, and an additional 5 apartments are being constructed at the corner of Innes and Lee Streets.

Mr. Moscardini thanked Ms. Price for her work as Interim DSI Director, and introduced incoming DSI Director Sada Stewart who will assume her role on November 29, 2021. Ms. Stewart stated she is excited to assume her role as director. She noted she is very passionate about downtown and eager to see what the future holds for downtown promotion and development.

Mayor Alexander and Council welcomed Ms. Stewart to DSI, and thanked Ms. Price for her work as Interim Director.

UPDATE – BROWNFIELD ASSESSMENT GRANT

Cardno Brownfields Practice Lead Joe Morici and Community Planning Services Director Hannah Jacobson addressed Council regarding accomplishments of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfield Assessment Grants the City received. Ms. Jacobson noted Cardno is an environmental and engineering consulting firm that helped implement the City's Brownfield Program.

Mr. Morici noted the Salisbury Brownfields Program began in 2014 with a \$400,000 EPA Brownfield Assessment Grant. He added a second assessment grant was awarded in 2018 for \$300,000. He explained the assessment grants allowed the City to look at properties throughout its jurisdiction to conduct assessments and redevelopment planning. He explained the assessment grants do not allow for cleanup, which is included in a separate cleanup grant. He stated the City has been awarded two assessment grants and in 2020 was awarded a \$500,000 EPA Brownfield Cleanup Grant for the Kesler Mill site.

Mr. Morici reviewed a timeline for the Kesler Mill site, and he pointed out the initial assessment began in 2013. He added after the grant was awarded in 2014 a full site assessment was conducted regarding soil, ground water, asbestos, and debris piles. He commented visioning sessions with the community also took place. He indicated in 2019 the City assumed ownership of the site, but it did not assume the environmental liability associated with the property. He explained the agreement with the North Carolina Brownfields Program limits the City's liability regarding on-site contamination. He noted once the City acquired the site it applied for a cleanup grant which was awarded May 2020, and the project began in October. He indicated a community meeting will take place November 18, 2021, and debris removal will begin November 29, 2021. He added debris removal will take approximately six weeks, and once it is complete options for the site will be considered.

Mr. Morici referenced priority sites in the area including the Duncan/Monroe Street School, City Consignment Building, Star Cleaners, and other sites throughout the City that included a Phase I assessment. He noted the EPA measures progress by a few metrics:

- The City completed 34 assessments
 - Over 30 acres of sites
- Assisted five sites in starting the North Carolina Brownfields Program
- Leveraged over \$101 million for redevelopment
 - \$54 million is active or completed
 - \$47 million in future development

Ms. Jacobson referenced the City Consignment Building located at 419 South Main Street, and she noted its redevelopment was initiated through work being done with the Brownfield Assessment Grant. She explained the \$15 million project will rehabilitate the existing structure and add 64 multi-generational, mixed-income residential units. She commented the builder is working to have the building listed on the National Register. She added the builder received a Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Section 202 grant and is working to secure other financing sources.

Council thanked Mr. Morici and Ms. Jacobson for their presentation and their work on the projects which are vital to the community.

City Attorney Graham Corriher addressed Council regarding the City Consignment Building. He explained a portion of funding for the project would involve bonds from the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency. He stated the City has an opportunity to issue bonds on behalf of the developer, and he clarified there would be no cost, debt, or liability to the City. He noted it

is a way for the City to support the project. He added the developer would hire bond counsel to represent the City and to draft and review the documents. He stated he will present a Resolution of Support to Council for consideration at its next meeting. He noted the developer has to apply and be approved for the project and the bond issuance would take place in the spring.

Councilmember Post pointed out the \$15 million cost of development would be similar to the development cost for the Empire Hotel. He questioned if similar financing could be available for the Empire Hotel where the City could assist without assuming liability.

REVISIONS TO DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INCENTIVE GRANT PROGRAM

Planning Director Hannah Jacobson addressed Council regarding proposed revisions to the Downtown Revitalization Incentive Grant Program. She noted the grants are designed to stimulate private investment in downtown properties with an emphasis on downtown residential development. She reviewed the four types of Downtown Revitalization Grants:

- Building Rehabilitation Grant
 - Offers 25% cost share up to \$50,000 for activities to stabilize, preserve and upgrade buildings
- Residential Production Grant
 - Offers \$7,500 per residential unit created up to \$97,500
- Residential Utilities Grant
 - Offers 50% cost share up to \$25,000 to cover cost associated with water/sewer taps, meter packages, and backfill devices for residential use
- Fire Suppression Grant
 - Offers 50% cost share up to \$25,000 for projects to expand the back alley fire loop system

Ms. Jacobson explained the grants are available individually or can be layered for a maximum award of just under \$200,000. She stated the largest grant awarded was \$150,000 for the O.O. Rufty Building located on East Innes Street. She noted 12 projects have been completed since 2014. She explained the City has invested approximately \$1 million which has leveraged \$12.4 million in private investment and increased the net tax base by \$4.8 million. She pointed out the City collects over \$62,000 annually in property and MSD tax from the projects. She indicated 23 new residential units have been created and the downtown population increased by 40 to 45 residents. She pointed out 12 new restaurants/retail spaces and 24 new office spaces have been created.

Ms. Jacobson stated the Building Rehabilitation Grant promotes stabilization, preservation and reuse of existing buildings by offsetting the costs of permanent improvements including windows, floors, roofs, façade and building systems such as electrical, plumbing and HVAC. She noted staff recommends a building be at least 30 years old to qualify for a Building Rehabilitation Grant.

Ms. Jacobson explained the Residential Creation Grant is a combination of the Residential Production and the Utilities Grant and is designed to promote development of new residences by offsetting a portion of infrastructure costs. She reviewed the proposed maximum match of \$10,000 per unit, which is more than the current \$7,500 per unit. She pointed out the development costs would increase from \$50 per square foot to \$75 per square foot to remain consistent with increased construction costs and to ensure substantial upgrades of residential units.

Ms. Jacobson noted the Fire Suppression Grant encourages the use and expansion of back-alley fire lines capable of serving multiple buildings and preventing catastrophic fire loss. She indicated the grant would only be available if the back-alley fire system is already accessible and would provide \$2 per square foot of protected area. She displayed a map of the back-alley fire loop system, and she explained several years ago Salisbury Rowan Utilities (SRU), the Fire Department, and downtown stakeholders mapped out a system that would allow connection and serve the most people.

Ms. Jacobson indicated the current guidelines include generic review criteria. She noted staff is proposing implementing a scoring rubric to determine if the projects applying for funds meet the objectives and goals of the grant. She explained projects would get points for:

- Visibility and Impact: presence on blocks on major streets
- Street Level Activation: number of restaurant, retail or entertainment spaces created
- Historic Status: contributing resource to the historic district
- Residential Units: number of residential units created/rehabilitated
- Affordability: number of units affordable to households earning 80% of Area Median Income or less created/rehabilitated
- Green Building Elements: inclusion of solar panels, green roofs, rain water cisterns
- Publicly Visible Art Installations: installation of murals, sculptures, and other forms of art visible to the public
- Grant to Investment Ratio: maximum eligible grant/total investment
- Fire Protection: number of buildings served by a fire loop expansion

Ms. Jacobson noted staff is proposing a Review Committee that would use the scoring rubric to review applications and provide a recommendation to Council for its consideration. She added staff is proposing the committee include seven members that reflect the demographics of the City:

- Local architect, engineer, contractor (who is not involved in any application)
- Downtown business owner or resident (who is not involved in any application)
- Member of the Chamber of Commerce's Minority Business Council
- Member of DSI Economic Vitality Committee
- Member of Historic Preservation Commission
- Finance Department staff
- Salisbury Rowan Utilities staff

Ms. Jacobson noted staff recommends establishing a grant cycle which would give staff a chance to notify those who may be interested in the funding opportunity. She reviewed the proposal for a typical year:

- September/October call for applications
- December application deadline/review committee recommendations
- January public hearing/Council awards

Ms. Jacobson pointed out the schedule would help determine how much money staff will need to advance to the next year's budget. She stated if the amendments are adopted those interested in the incentive grants can contact staff to set up a pre-application meeting as required by the grant. Councilmember Sheffield asked if money was allocated for the grants in the prior year's budget, and she then asked if the money was used or if it was rolled over into the current year. Ms. Jacobson noted in 2019 five projects had a budget request that exceeded the budgeted amount. She explained the projects were awarded and spread out over a two-year budget cycle using 2019 and 2020 funds. She noted the City received the Paul Bruhn Grant for historic revitalization which helped with incentives for downtown development.

Councilmember Sheffield requested clarification regarding the fire loop system. Ms. Jacobson noted few people have taken advantage of the fire loop system and staff would like to incentivize the process to help build the system. She clarified the intent is a cost share so more people can benefit. Ms. Sheffield asked if there is a cap on the Fire Suppression Grant. Ms. Jacobson explained Fire Suppression Grant funds come from the Water Sewer Fund and a budget amendment is required for every grant approved. SRU Director Jim Behmer explained if there was an application that served multiple buildings the money would be taken out of Fund Balance with Council's approval. He clarified the applications are not capped.

Councilmember Sheffield thanked staff for its work on the proposals. She stated she is pleased staff included affordability residential housing units and the committee structure.

Councilmember Miller questioned the weighting of the rubric categories, and he asked if they are equal. He agreed with Councilmember Sheffield regarding inclusion of affordable housing, and he indicated he does not want to create a new zone in the community that only receives affordable housing. He stated it is important for the downtown to have market-rate rent which creates opportunities for additional projects.

Ms. Jacobson noted the same scoring system is used for the Paul Bruhn Grants, and she added staff did not receive any applications for the affordable housing portion. She stated affordable housing is expensive to net operating income so staff gave it more points. She added it is important and expensive to install back alley fire loops so staff gave them a higher weight. She noted it is expensive to install grease traps and kitchen equipment so staff gave more points to restaurant spaces than to retail and office space. Mr. Miller pointed out the weighting can make a difference regarding what type of projects the City receives.

Councilmember Miller referenced the subcommittee structure, and he asked how the committee members be will identified. Ms. Jacobson noted staff anticipated working with the board chairs to determine a list of names to be presented to Council for its consideration. Mr. Miller pointed out the commitment will be per grant cycle commitment and not a year-long commitment. He suggested Council receive a report annually regarding the program.

Councilmember Post requested clarification regarding the increased tax base. Ms. Jacobson explained staff considered the pre-construction and post-construction property tax values to determine the increased tax base. She added she has questions regarding how the downtown mixed-use projects are assessed.

Councilmember Post asked if staff anticipates additional money being required for the grants. Ms. Jacobson noted since the program began in 2014 there has been \$150,000 budgeted for each fiscal year. She noted in some years the amount has been exceeded to award projects that align with the goals of the Downtown Revitalization Grant. She noted there are typically two substantial rehabilitations each year that would benefit from the grant. She added she will monitor the trends which will be reflected in the budget proposal.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins thanked Ms. Jacobson and staff for their work on the proposal and for all they do for the City.

Thereupon, Councilmember Sheffield made a **motion** to approve amendments to the Downtown Revitalization Incentive (DRI) Grant Program. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

DEMOLITION – 918 NORTH MAIN STREET

Code Services Manager Michael Cotilla presented information regarding the structure located at 918 North Main Street. He noted the structure is located within the North Main Historic District, and it suffered significant fire damage in 2006. He stated orders of compliance for minimum housing standards have been issued on three occasions since 2016. Mr. Cotilla indicated the property was last discussed at the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) meeting held July 23, 2020. He stated the HPC voted to delay the demolition for 365 days to allow the property owner to bring the house to minimum standards. He stated the property owner indicated work would begin immediately but no permits have been issued and no work has been completed. He added Code Services has had to abate the property on three separate occasions due to the owner's noncompliance.

Mr. Cotilla reviewed photographs depicting the dilapidated state of the structure. He pointed out the owner was notified of the potential demolition on August 5, 2021, but there was no response. He noted the cost of the demolition will be \$11,500 which will be placed as a lien on the property.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance ordering the demolition of a dwelling unit unfit for human habitation located at 918 North Main Street in the City of Salisbury, North Carolina. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

AN ORDINANCE TO ORDER THE DEMOLITION OF A DWELLING UNIT UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION LOATED AT 918 NORTH MAIN STREET IN THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 161-162, and is known as Ordinance 2021-70.)

ASHTON MANOR, PHASE II

City Engineer Wendy Brindle addressed Council regarding S-07-21, Ashton Manor Phase II, located off of Sunset Drive. She noted the subdivision has remained partially complete for many years and is one of the last subdivisions permitted under the old City Code. She explained Council approved the plat for Phase I during the summer, and the developer is now working on Phase II. She indicated the developer needs to obtain final plat approval in order to close on several of the lots before the end of the year. She stated the developer has posted a bond to ensure completion of the work, and once all final as-built drawings and certifications are received staff will return to Council to accept maintenance of the streets, establish stop conditions, and begin a one year warranty period.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to approve final subdivision plat S-07-21 for Ashton Manor, Phase II. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Graham Corriher referred to a Resolution of support for the application of a Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He noted the grant would be used to fund \$30 million in improvements to the Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) pump station. Mr. Corriher pointed out this has been a problem for some time and the grant could help resolve the issue by building a new pump station that meets all of the requirements of the license issued to Cube Hydro.

Mr. Corriher stated the grant application is due November 24, 2021, and Cube Hydro has provided a verbal commitment to participate by providing the 25% to 30% required match. He commented he is working with the company for a letter of commitment outlining its support. He added the Resolution before Council would provide Council's support for the application and authorize SRU Director Jim Behmer to submit the grant on the City's behalf.

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution of support for the City of Salisbury's 2021 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities grant application. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR CITY OF SALISBURY'S 2021 BUILDING RELIIENT INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITIES (BRIC) GRANT APPLICATION.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. at Page No. 37, and is known as Resolution 2021-30.)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Lane Bailey noted the Council December 7, 2021 meeting will be the organizational meeting of the new Council. He indicated COVID-19 numbers are improving, and he recommended Council meet in person for the newly elected members to take their oath of office. He stated staff will continue to follow all guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding capacity and wearing masks. He commented seats can be reserved for Council's family members and those who have an item on the agenda, but staff and the general public will be encouraged to attend the meeting virtually. He also recommended an item be included on the December 7, 2021 agenda for the new Council to discuss how it would like to move forward regarding virtual meetings. By consensus, Council agreed to meet in person December 7, 2021.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Post referred to Ashton Manor and the great developments that are taking place in the City.

Councilmember Post noted this is Councilmember Miller's last meeting, and he thanked him for his work during his tenure. Mr. Post indicated Councilmember Miller has been a well of intellectual infrastructure.

Councilmember Miller thanked Mr. Post and noted he has served the City in various roles for many years. He added it has been a labor of love. He commented many challenges have been faced over the years, and he hopes he is leaving the City in a better state.

Councilmember Sheffield thanked Housing Planner Candace Edwards for her work regarding housing and homelessness.

Councilmember Sheffield also encouraged everyone to shop downtown. She thanked Latoya Price for stepping in as Interim Downtown Development Director during a challenging period.

MAYOR PRO TEM COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins expressed her gratitude to staff for their outstanding work. She noted the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant is a tremendous opportunity to look at a viable way to replace the pump station.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins stated it has been an honor and privilege to serve on Council for the past four years, and she wished Mayor Alexander and Councilmembers Post and Sheffield well as they move forward.

Councilmember Post thanked Mayor Pro Tem Heggins for her work over the past four years.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

(a) The 'Tis the Season Spectacular Community Holiday Parade

Mayor Alexander announced the 'Tis the Season Spectacular Community Holiday Parade will take place Wednesday, November 24, 2021 beginning at 3:00 p.m. in Salisbury. Immediately following the parade there will be the Holiday Spectacular at Bell Tower Green from 4:00 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. The event includes live entertainment, a visit with Santa, family games and activities, a variety of food trucks and a tree lighting. The event is free and open to the public.

(b) Holiday Night Out Friday

Mayor Alexander announced Downtown Salisbury, Inc. will host Holiday Night Out Friday, November 26, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Shops and restaurants will stay open late and there will be live music, free crafts, hot cocoa and carolers.

(c) Small Business Saturday

Mayor Alexander announced Small Business Saturday will be recognized on November 27, 2021. Everyone is encouraged to support local business by shopping in-store and online with downtown merchants and dining in downtown restaurants to celebrate the season.

Mayor Alexander thanked Mayor Pro Tem Heggins for her service to the City as Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem.

RECESS

Motion to recess the meeting until Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom was made by Mayor Pro Tem Heggins. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE (5-0). The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.



Karen Alexander, Mayor



Kelly Baker, City Clerk