

Salisbury, North Carolina
May 4, 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.

RECOGNITION OF VIEWERS

Mayor Alexander welcomed all viewers.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Alexander noted the following changes to the Agenda:

Add – Exercise is Medicine Month Proclamation.

Add – Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Proclamation.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

RECOGNITION OF FIRE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Fire Chief Bob Parnell shared information regarding recent lifesaving rescues made by members of the Fire Department.

Chief Parnell indicated on February 19, 2020 Firefighter Jacob Vodochodsky and another Firefighter repelled to rescue a man who fell 70 feet to the ground from the Interstate 85 Bridge over the Yadkin River.

Chief Parnell stated on May 24, 2020 Firefighters Lauran McCullough, Michael Freeman and Morgan Atkinson saved a 7-year-old girl from a storm drain/catch basin on the 200 block of North Clay Street.

Chief Parnell commented on November 14, 2020 Firefighters Spencer White, Cory Orbison, Jared Hoke, Caleb Renner, William Parris and Battalion Chief Nicholas Martin saved three persons after their kayaks overturned in the swollen Yadkin River. He shared a video showing the rescue and the danger involved.

Chief Parnell stated on March 26, 2021 Firefighters Halsey Hoosier, Andrew Woodall and Battalion Chief Nicholas Martin saved a young man from rushing water in Third Creek.

Mayor Alexander and Council expressed their gratitude to all of the Fire Department personnel involved in the rescues and for all the Department does to protect citizens.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Alexander proclaimed the following observances:

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK	May 2-8, 2021
NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER	May 6, 2021
NATIONAL SKILLED NURSING CARE WEEK	May 9-15, 2021
NATIONAL PREVENTION WEEK	May 9-15, 2021
NATIONAL POLICE WEEK	May 9-15, 2021
PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY	May 15, 2021
ARMED FORCES DAY	May 15, 2021
BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH	May 2021
EXERCISE IS MEDICINE MONTH	May 2021

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the Special Meeting of April 20, 2021 and the Regular Meeting of April 20, 2021.

(b) Budget Ordinance Amendment – BlockWork

Adopt a budget Ordinance Amendment to the FY2020-2021 budget in the amount of \$11,800 to appropriate donations received for BlockWork.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020-2021 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE DONATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND FOR BLOCKWORK.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 81, and is known as Ordinance 2021-27.)

(c) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Water and Sewer Fund

Adopt a budget Ordinance Amendment to the FY2020-2021 budget in the amount of \$400,735 to appropriate connection fees and miscellaneous revenues in the Water and Sewer Fund.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020-2021 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE CONNECTION FEES AND MISCELLANEOUS REVENUES IN THE WATER AND SEWER FUND.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 82-83, and is known as Ordinance 2021-28.)

(d) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Sale of Assets Online

Adopt a budget Ordinance Amendment to the FY2020-2021 budget in the amount of \$137,880 to appropriate the Sale of Assets-Online in the General Fund.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2020-2021 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE SALE OF ASSETS – ONLINE IN THE GENERAL FUND.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 84, and is known as Ordinance 2021-29.)

(e) Agreement Extensions – North Carolina Department of Transportation

Authorize the City Engineer to accept agreement extensions with the North Carolina Department of Transportation regarding Schedules A (Signs), B (Markings and Markers), C (Traffic Signals), and D (Computerized Traffic Signal System).

Thereupon, Councilmember Post 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. Regina Dancy shared her concerns regarding Police actions in the traffic stop of a Ms. Stephanie Bottoms and questioned their use of force.

Ms. Mary Walker stated the video from 2019 is not what the community expects from local law enforcement.

Ms. Whitney Peckman expressed concerns for Police interactions with an older, African American woman and its impact on community relations.

Reverend Olen Bruner encouraged change to laws he believes are outdated and continue to hide racial injustice.

Ms. Susan Lee discussed the need for racial and diversity training for Police Officers.

Ms. Jackie Miller shared her concerns of the use of force in the incident with Ms. Bottoms and noted the Black and brown community fear the Police.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins suggested Council hold a work session with the City Manager and Police Chief to review the Use of Force Policy. She encouraged Council to make a statement regarding the actions of officers that it will not tolerate.

RIGHT-OF-WAY CLOSING – 300 BLOCK OF HARREL STREET

City Engineer Wendy Brindle indicated at its April 6, 2021 meeting Council adopted a Resolution of Intent to permanently close an unimproved right-of-way referenced as Lloyd Street, in the 300 block of Harrel Street. She reviewed the location of the unimproved right-of-way on a parcel adjacent to Interstate 85.

Mr. Brindle explained street and alley closings are regulated by General Statute 160A-299, and the closing of a street must not be contrary to the public interest, and no individual shall be deprived of reasonable means of ingress and egress to their property. She stated staff believes that these conditions have been satisfied.

b) Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding closing an unimproved right-of-way in the 300 block of Harrel Street.

There being no one to address Council, Mayor Alexander closed the public hearing and indicated comments regarding CD-01-2021 will be accepted for 24 hours from the close of the public hearing.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONCEPT PLAN AND CONSIDERATION FOR STATEWIDE SAFETY FUNDING

City Engineer Wendy Brindle addressed Council regarding a North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) concept plan for a U-turn bulb on Jake Alexander Boulevard near Morlan Park Road and a submission for consideration for statewide safety funding. She referenced a map of the area, and she pointed out Jake Alexander Boulevard and Morlan Park Road. She explained due to angle accidents at the intersection of the two roads NCDOT installed a median that allows drivers to turn left from Jake Alexander Boulevard onto Morlan Park Road, but will not allow a left turn from Morlan Park Road onto Jake Alexander Boulevard.

Ms. Brindle stated Morlan Park Road has served as a cut-through for drivers. She noted staff posted message signs at the end of Morlan Park and Faith Roads directing traffic and letting drivers know that they cannot turn left onto Jake Alexander Boulevard, but the efforts have been unsuccessful. She explained NCDOT cannot post no U-turns at this location because it is a legal maneuver.

Ms. Brindle noted NCDOT would like to construct a longer median that would include an apron so the U-turn could be made safely. She stated NCDOT is not requesting funds from the City, but requests its support so it can submit the project for statewide safety funding consideration.

Councilmember Sheffield indicated the neighborhood has been divided into two sections, and she asked if the concept plan will include the area near the railroad tracks. Ms. Brindle explained the data indicates the safety issue is east of Morlan Park Road. She pointed out with the railroad track on the western end there is limited space for an apron, and she noted she will contact

NCDOT regarding its plans for the area near the railroad tracks. Ms. Sheffield expressed concerns regarding the other side away from Morlan Park Road.

Thereupon, Councilmember Sheffield made a **motion** to support a concept plan by the North Carolina Department of Transportation for a U-turn bulb on Jake Alexander Boulevard and submission for statewide safety funding consideration.

Councilmember Miller asked if Council should request clarification regarding safety issues in the other direction before it proceeds with the motion. Ms. Brindle suggested as part of Council's support it could request consideration for the additional safety issues.

City Manager Lane Bailey clarified Ms. Brindle is suggesting Council amend the motion to support the proposal and consider the additional concerns. Mayor Alexander amended the motion to state while Council supports the request it is also requesting NCDOT consider the area near the railroad tracks. Ms. Sheffield agreed.

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)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME PROGRAM FUNDS FY2021-2022 DRAFT ACTION PLAN AND BUDGET

Housing Planner Candace Edwards presented the Draft FY2021-2022 Action Plan and Budget for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program Funds from the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She explained in FY2021-2022 the City will receive \$456,668:

- \$285,158 in CDBG funds
- \$25,000 in CDBG program income
- \$146,510 in HOME Program funds

Ms. Edwards noted the goals for the FY2021-2022 Action Plan:

- To increase supply of decent, affordable housing
- To improve public facilities and infrastructure
 - Lash Drive sidewalks
- To provide opportunities for home ownership
- To provide assistance to public service agencies
- To affirmatively further fair housing
- To effectively plan and administer programs

Ms. Edwards reviewed project activities:

Ms. Edwards then reviewed the HOME Program Budget:

Mayor Alexander asked about the funding in relation to previous years. Ms. Edwards indicated the funding is consistent with previous years.

Councilmember Post asked about the administration expenses for CDBG and HOME Program funds. Ms. Edwards noted CDBG administration funds are allocated to the City and HOME Program administrations funds are allocated to the Community Development Corporation (CDC).

Ms. Edwards indicated a public hearing was held March 4, 2021, and she stated the Annual Action Plan is available for public review. She commented a public input stakeholder meeting was held March 29, 2021 and a second meeting will take place May 6, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. She noted the Action Plan and Budget will be brought back to Council on June 1, 2021, and the plan will be submitted to HUD on June 4, 2021.

Ms. Edwards stated in FY2020-2021 \$46,393.82 was allocated for the Lash Drive Sidewalk Project and in FY2021-2022 \$17,569.18 was allocated to complete the project.

Mayor Alexander thanked Ms. Edwards for her presentation.

RECESS

Councilmember Miller requested Council take a 10-minute recess.

SELECTIONS – PAUL BRUHN GRANT PROGRAM

Planning Services Director Hannah Jacobson noted in September 2020 the City was awarded a \$543,185 grant from the National Parks Service to create a sub-grant program to fund historic rehabilitations within the Salisbury Historic District. She added in November 2020 Council adopted program guidelines. She stated the goals of the program are:

- Substantial Rehabilitation
 - \$100,000 minimum investment in the property
- Grant will provide a 25% match to a 75% investment
 - Award up to \$150,000 in grant funding
- Selection criteria aimed at incentivizing projects that:
 - Activate the Bell Tower Green Park
 - Create residential units
 - Rehabilitate commercial units
 - Rehabilitate older structures
 - Install sprinkler systems
 - Add to the back-alley fire loop system
 - Create affordable housing
 - Contract with minority-owned or women-owned businesses
 - Substantially invest private funds

Ms. Jacobson reviewed a timeline for the project:

- Part A applications were due December 31, 2020
 - 9 applications were received
 - 8 applications met the criteria
- Part B applications were due April 22, 2021
 - 5 applications were received
- A review committee selection meeting took place April 27, 2021

Ms. Jacobson noted all five projects were funded at the full amount under program guidelines. She noted applications were received for:

- 121 West Innes Street the Holmes Building
 - Estimated capital investment \$112,365
 - Grant award \$28,091
- 133 South Main Street the Bell Block
 - Estimated capital investment \$2,200,000
 - Grant award \$150,000
- 212 West Liberty Street the Glenn Manse
 - Estimated capital investment \$145,000

- Grant award \$36,250
- 115 South Jackson Street the Wrenn House Historic Female Academy Building
 - Estimated capital investment \$1,300,000
 - Grant award \$93,780
- Pending project – applicant requested anonymity

Ms. Jacobson stated staff is requesting Council consider awarding \$458,091, and she pointed out approximately \$42,000 remains in surplus funding. She indicated staff anticipates a second call for applications will take place in the fall. She stated Fire Suppression Grants can be applied for separately and must be approved by Council. City Manager Lane Bailey added the pending project will be brought back to Council for its approval.

Councilmember Post asked about the funding procedure. Ms. Jacobson explained for Part B of the application process applicants submitted cost estimates for the projects. She noted the grant offers up to 25% reimbursement of eligible costs. She added the maximum grant award is \$150,000.

Councilmember Miller noted \$3.757 million in downtown investment will take place with \$308,000 in grant funding or 8.2% of the total investment. He added he supports the project, and he indicated the downtown can support additional residential units which will lead to a more vibrant downtown. He thanked staff for its work on the project and the investors who are willing to invest in the City.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to authorize the City Manager to execute contracts for the Paul Bruhn Grant Program for 212 West Liberty Street, 133 South Main Street, 121 West Innes Street, and 115 South Jackson Street totaling \$308,091. 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)

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Greenway, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Committee

Upon a motion by Councilmember Miller, and a roll call vote with Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins, and Councilmembers Miller, Post, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following reappointments and appointment were made to the Greenway, Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee:

Mr. Edward Hirst	Term Expires 3/31/2024
Ms. Amy Smith	Term Expires 3/31/2024
Mr. Kyle Whisenant	Term Expires 3/31/2024

Housing Advocacy Commission

Upon a motion by Councilmember Sheffield, and a roll call vote with Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins, and Councilmembers Miller, Post, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following appointments were made to fulfill vacancies on the Housing Advocacy Commission:

Ms. Barbara Sorel (Landlord)	Term Expires 3/31/2022
Ms. Judith Whitehead (At-large)	Term Expires 3/31/2023

Hurley Park Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Mayor Alexander, and a roll call vote with Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins, and Councilmembers Miller, Post, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following reappointments made to the Hurley Park Advisory Board:

Ms. Kathryn Davis	Term Expires 3/31/2024
Ms. Laura Thompson	Term Expires 3/31/2024

Transportation Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Councilmember Post, and a roll call vote with Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins, and Councilmembers Miller, Post, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Greenway, Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee:

Mr. George Benson	Term Expires 3/31/2024
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CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Graham Corriher had nothing to report to Council.

Mayor Alexander asked about Council's role regarding the litigation involving the Police Department. Mr. Corriher suggested communications regarding the case go through the Communications Department. He added if the City feels it needs to comment, it can work with Communications Director Linda McElroy, City Manager Lane Bailey, or himself.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins requested a work session with the City Attorney, City Manager, Police Chief and Council to review the Use of Force Policy and the analysis of the Use Force Policy and the K9 program.

Councilmember Post commented policies are set for people to do the right thing and occasionally someone does not do the right thing. He noted he trusts the City Manager, City Attorney and Police Chief, but he added he supports a work session if it is in the best interest of the City to provide transparency and accountability to the public.

Councilmember Miller pointed out he expects anyone working for the City to do the right thing no matter which department they work for. He noted he does not think Council needs a work session, and he suggested the Use of Force Policy report be provided to Council during a regular Council meeting since it is open to the public.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins requested the Use of Force Policy be provided to Council for review. She noted it can be discussed during a Council meeting or a separate work session, but she would like to dedicate time to the discussion.

Councilmember Sheffield commented she spoke with Mr. Bailey regarding the things that are taking place in the community and the need for culture shift. She asked Mr. Bailey to work with Police Chief Jerry Stokes on what has been done, and what will be done to work on a culture shift for the Police Department and what is taking place around policy review. She indicated she is in favor of having a discussion during either a work session or a regular Council meeting.

Mayor Alexander requested information be provided to Council and a meeting be set for the Police Chief to attend and answer questions.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Lane Bailey pointed out information will be provided to Council regarding the Use of Force Policy and statistics are in the Police Department's annual report. He indicated the information is also located on the City's webpage.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins requested the information regarding the Use of Force Policy be easy for the public to locate on the City website. Mr. Bailey commented he will speak to Communications Director Linda McElroy to ensure the information is readily available.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Post commented Fire Chief Bob Parnell's presentation and the work performed by the Fire Department is phenomenal.

Councilmember Post noted he spoke with City Manager Lane Bailey and City Attorney Graham Corriher about establishing a foundation for members of the Police and Fire Departments. He added the foundation could help recruit those interested in the departments and use funds to provide various things such as a workout center or a small gym. He asked Mr. Corriher if the foundation is available to receive funds. Mr. Corriher agreed, and he added he will speak with Police Chief Jerry Stokes to confirm the details and provide further information to Council.

Councilmember Sheffield thanked the Human Relations Council (HRC) and its subcommittee the Covenant Community Connection that hosted a Racial Wealth Gap Program. She thanked them for their hard work in developing and hosting the program.

Councilmember Sheffield thanked Ms. Lisa Wear for serving on the Greenway Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee, and she also thanked Ms. Barbara Perry for serving on the Housing Advocacy Commission (HAC) and for their great work over the years.

Councilmember Sheffield pointed out Communications Director Linda McElroy received the 2021 Chris Coulson Communicator of the Year Award by the North Carolina City and County Communicators.

MAYOR PRO TEM COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins thanked Council for discussing the Use of Force Policy meeting request.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins congratulated Communications Director Linda McElroy on her 2021 Chris Coulson Communicator of the Year award.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins thanked the Fire Department for their rescues, and she noted she is always inspired by the firefighters and the work they do. She then thanked staff for the great work it does for the City.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

Mayor Alexander announced a Peace Officers Memorial Service will be held May 14, 2021 at 11:30 a.m. at the Rowan County Court House front lawn located at 210 North Main Street. For additional information or questions, please contact Sergeant Daniel Lancaster at 704-638-2130.

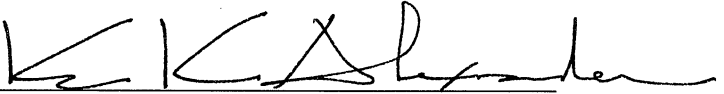
Mayor Alexander announced Salisbury Parks and Recreation will host the 25th Annual Father Daughter Dance for girls ages 4 through 13 and their fathers on Friday, May 14, 2021 and Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 6:00 until 9:00 pm at the Salisbury Civic Center. The 2021 event has been divided into two days due to current indoor capacity restrictions. Tickets are \$11 each and must be purchased in advance at www.salisburync.gov/play. For more information, please call (704) 216-PLAY.

Mayor Alexander announced Downtown Salisbury, Inc. will host the 8th Annual Wine About Winter event Friday, June 18, 2021 from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Tickets include a tasting pass, signature Wine About Winter tasting glass and a carrying bag. For ticket sales and detailed information visit www.downtownsalisburync.com or call (704) 637-7814. Tickets are \$22.50 in advance and \$30 the day of the event.

Mayor Alexander thanked the Fire Department for their rescue work. She thanked staff for its great work it does for the citizens and the City.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Miller. All Council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


Karen Alexander, Mayor


Kelly Baker, City Clerk