REGULAR MEETING

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

ABSENT: City Clerk Diane Gilmore.

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Heggins at 6:12 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CHANGE TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Heggins noted the following change to the Agenda:

Add – Announcement that Community Planning Department will be accepting applications for Blockwork until June 15, 2019.
ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Post made a motion to adopt the Agenda with the presented change. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Heggins welcomed all visitors present.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor to proclaim the following observances:

DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY DAY       June 4, 2019
OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY DAY           June 4, 2019
WEAR ORANGE DAY                        June 7, 2019

Mayor Heggins read and presented the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Day proclamation to members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Mayor Heggins read and presented the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Day proclamation to members of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Mayor Heggins read and presented the Wear Orange Day proclamation to Ms. Teresa Rowell.

PRESENTATION

Mooresville Commissioner Barbara Whittington presented the City of Salisbury a plaque on behalf of the Town of Mooresville for its support following the death of Mooresville Police Officer Jordan Sheldon who was killed in the line of duty.

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Regular meeting of May 7, 2019 and the two Special meetings of May 7, 2019.
(b) **Budget Ordinance – Joint Operations funds**

Adopt an Ordinance amending the FY2018-2019 budget in the amount of $5,000 to appropriate Joint Operation Funds from the United States Secret Services.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2018-2019 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE JOPS SECRET SERVICE FUND.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 28 at Page No. 152, and is known as Ordinance 2019-27.)

(c) **Budget Ordinance – Police Department Donations**

Adopt an Ordinance amending the FY 2018-2019 budget in the amount of $3,166 to appropriate Police Department donations.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2018-2019 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE POLICE DEPARTMENT DONATIONS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 28 at Page No. 153, and is known as Ordinance 2019-28.)

(d) **Budget Ordinance – Axon Enterprises**

Adopt an Ordinance amending the FY 2018-2019 budget in the amount of $71,169 to complete Phase 2 of the integrated video and audio capture system from Axon Enterprises.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2018-2019 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE GENERAL FUND REVENUES FOR INTERVIEW CAMERAS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 28 at Page No. 154, and is known as Ordinance 2019-29.)

(e) **Sole-Source Purchase – ImageTrend, Inc.**

Approve a sole-source purchase from ImageTrend, Inc. for an amount not to exceed $28,000 for the purchase of a software record management system.

(f) **Budget Ordinance – Federal Emergency Management Agency**

Adopt an Ordinance amending the FY 2018-2019 budget in the amount of $69,870 to appropriate Federal Emergency Management Agency Grant Funds.
ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2018-2019 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE FEMA GRANT

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 28 at Page No. 155, and is known as Ordinance 2019-30.)

(g) **Budget Ordinance – Parks and Recreation Donations**

Adopt an Ordinance amending the FY 2018-2019 budget in the amount of $5,000 to appropriate Parks and Recreation donations.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2018-2019 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. 28 at Page No. 156, and is known as Ordinance 2019-31.)

(h) **Budget Ordinance – West End Sign Donation**

Adopt an Ordinance amending the FY 2018-2019 budget in the amount of $9,439.02 to appropriate donations from the Blanche and Julian Robertson Family Foundation for the West End Sign.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2018-2019 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE DONATION FOR WEST END SIGN.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 28 at Page No. 157, and is known as Ordinance 2019-32.)

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mayor Heggins opened the floor to receive public comments.

Mr. Steven Williamson stated he would like to see Council members recuse themselves when they have a personal or invested interest in an outcome, such as the pickleball issue. He questioned if neighbors have been asked about the impacts of pickleball.

Ms. Margaret Lipe commented her family has played on the City’s tennis courts for years. She suggested pickleball could help generate revenue in the City, but added she does not agree with removing tennis courts that are utilized by the community.
Mr. Jon Post stated he supports pickleball and believes if there are free classes it could help the sport grow. He commented he would like to see permanent pickleball nets be available and suggested converting two tennis courts into pickleball courts using available private funds. He noted if the conversion is not completed the private funds would be returned to the donors and the tennis courts would remain empty.

Ms. Mary James stated she supports a pickleball facility but not at City Park. She pointed out the tennis courts need resurfacing and have not been maintained and the youth programs need to be revived. She noted the United States Tennis Association (USTA) has up to 50% in grant funds available. She suggested using other locations to install pickleball courts.

Ms. LuAnn Nordine commented the tennis court conversion has caused a rift in the community, and she pointed out funds are budgeted to resurface the tennis courts. She added tennis is not a dying sport and she is disappointed that staff did not reach out to tennis players for feedback regarding the proposed tennis court conversion. She noted parking at City Park is limited and noise from pickleball may disturb the neighborhood.

Mr. Dick Osman stated he resides in Charlotte and is a district ambassador for the United States of America Pickleball Association. He added pickleball builds community and contributes to player’s mental and physical well-being. He noted there is a growing demand for pickleball and the proposed tennis court conversion.

Ms. Renee MacNutt referenced the statue Fame and read an article written by a Kannapolis pastor regarding statues.

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

PROPOSED BUDGET

City Manager Lane Bailey commented a proposed budget was provided to Council at a previous meeting and since then the Rowan-Salisbury School System (RSSS) has submitted a request for funding. He announced Council will hold a Special meeting Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. for a budget work session regarding the proposed budget. He pointed out Council will need to hold a public hearing at tonight’s meeting to receive feedback from the public regarding the proposed budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Post asked if the public would be allowed to speak during the Special meeting on June 11, 2019. Mr. Bailey commented the meeting is a work session for Council and it would be Council’s discretion whether to allow public input.

Mr. Bailey stated the City Clerk’s office has a copy of the proposed budget and an electronic copy is also available. Mayor Heggins asked if the proposed budget has been added to the City’s website. Mr. Bailey agreed.
(b) Mayor Heggins convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 proposed City Budget.

Ms. Mary James stated the City Manager recommended lowering the tax rate with an annual savings of approximately $200,000. She requested Council not lower the tax rate and allocate the savings toward resurfacing the tennis courts and implementing pickleball courts. She pointed out the City’s Fund Balance is 35% and the state requires 8% of the City’s budget be reserved for emergencies, and she asked if there were plans for the savings.

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

2019 DRAFT ANALYSIS OF IMPEDEMENTS TO FAIR HOUSING CHOICE REPORT

Human Relations Manager Anne Little stated the public hearing for the 2019 Draft Analysis of Impediments (AI) to Fair Housing Choice Report is part of the 30-day comment period which is open until June 25, 2019. She explained it is a required step toward the completion of the five-year update for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) AI to Fair Housing Report. She stated the purpose of the public hearing is to receive comments to include in the final draft of the report be sent to HUD. She noted Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) made a presentation at Council’s May 21, 2019 meeting that included the 2019 draft report of impediments, action plan, recommended strategies, and identified the 2014 impediments for improvement.

Ms. Little stated impediments identified in 2014 included improvements such as the Housing Advocacy Commission (HAC) implementing fair housing incentives, the creation of a Fair Housing Committee, partnerships with the Salisbury Housing Authority, locally funded and occupied rentals, housing rehabilitation programs, and a 2018 contract with Legal Aid of North Carolina to conduct testing to help address housing issues in Salisbury. She pointed out there has been progress since 2014, but there is more to be done to ensure the community has protection and opportunities relating to fair housing. She noted copies of the draft report are available on the City’s website and at public locations and additional comments can be submitted to staff.

(b) Mayor Heggins convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding the 2019 draft Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice Report.

Ms. Renee MacNutt referenced a state law regarding fair housing and the ability for local leadership, of any type, to make changes to the existing state law in order to add protected classes. She asked if a Fair Housing Ordinance should be adopted to allow Council to make legal changes. She then asked if it is against the law for the City to add classes to protect against discrimination.

City Attorney Graham Corriher explained the City is restricted and limited in its options as it relates to protected classes because of a newly passed state law that prevents local governments from setting and implementing anti-discrimination and employment policies. He stated he believes the CCOG was trying to explain that there are ways to ensure protections are extended as far as Council desires. He noted he could return to Council with a better analysis of
protected classes. Mayor Heggins agreed, and she thanked Mr. Corriher for all he does for the City.

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

**PICKLEBALL**

Parks and Recreation Director Nick Aceves presented information regarding the tennis courts at City Park. He introduced Parks and Recreation Program Manager Sam Wilborn and City Park Recreation Coordinator Teri Shaw.

Mr. Aceves pointed out he started with the City in November of 2015. He explained the budget was already set for the fiscal year and it included a request to resurface tennis courts at City Park. He added he has made subsequent requests for resurfacing the courts until the current fiscal year when he requested the lights at City Park be replaced because it has become a bigger issue at the park. He indicated needs are prioritized and other issues took priority over resurfacing the tennis courts.

Mr. Aceves commented installing a pickleball facility at the Civic Center was researched about a year and a half ago, but the projected cost was $80,000 and funds were unavailable at the time due to other needs. He noted he submitted a grant request two years ago to the United Stated Tennis Association (USTA) for resurfacing the tennis courts. He pointed out a letter of interest was received from the USTA, but matching funds were not available from the City. He commented the grant also required youth lines to be added to the courts.

Mr. Aceves pointed out the Parks and Recreation Department was contacted in August 2018 about private funding for the conversion of two tennis courts into pickleball courts. He indicated the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board discussed the proposed conversion of two tennis courts at City Park, and it was unanimously approved. He added the pickleball project was discussed in November 2018 and April 2019 with no objections other than the proposal of shades being added to the courts. He indicated no complaints have been received by the Parks and Recreation Department or at City Park regarding the temporary pickleball courts.

Mr. Aceves stated the department is a trending industry and pickleball is a growing trend. He commented the tennis courts are being used, but all six of them are not used enough to maximize the facility such as Hall Gym is maximized with three basketball courts, a volleyball court, and three pickleball courts. He added it is common for sports to share court lines. He noted no complaints were received when temporary pickleball lines were installed at City Park.

Mr. Aceves pointed out other facilities are maximized, and he referenced the racket ball courts at the Civic Center that were converted into a facility for martial arts classes, rooms in the bottom of the Civic Center that were converted into Facilities Maintenance offices, and the City Park Teen Room that was originally a weight facility and is now used for ping pong, rentals, and meetings.
Mr. Aceves noted the department held two public information gathering sessions regarding the overall Master Plan and another one will take place during the Juneteenth event. He commented pickleball was mentioned, but tennis was not.

Mayor Heggins asked how many participants attended the meetings. Mr. Aceves commented there were nearly 150 participants at the meetings and 1,000 survey responses were received from a phone survey. Mayor Heggins asked if the same questions were asked during each meeting. Mr. Aceves agreed.

Mr. Aceves pointed out Hall Gym has pickleball players waiting to play three times a week, and he noted the players must share the courts with other sports and programs. He indicated pickleball players are required to bring their own net and equipment to use the facilities at City Park.

Mr. Aceves presented Council with three options: to move forward with the proposed project at City Park and convert two of the tennis courts into pickleball courts, resurface the current tennis courts and build a stand-alone pickleball facility at Civic Center, or to not proceed with either proposal.

Mr. Aceves pointed out converting the two tennis courts into pickleball courts at City Park would create an additional amenity for various users, save on maintenance costs and staffing, and increase park usage. He added the Public Services Department provides maintenance for the Parks and Recreation facilities, and it would place a strain on staffing if another facility was added without an additional staff member. He indicated a loss of two tennis courts would occur and the other four tennis courts would still need to be resurfaced. He reiterated a USTA grant could be applied for, but the City would be required to place youth lines on the courts.

Mr. Aceves commented another option includes resurfacing the current tennis courts and building a stand-alone pickleball facility at the Civic Center. He indicated the facility would include six to twelve pickleball courts, adequate parking, bathrooms, high visibility from the road, would be an added amenity to the area, and would be in close proximity to Interstate 85. He noted six courts would cost $182,000 with lighting and $100,000 without lighting. He commented 12 courts would cost $304,000 with lighting and $150,000 without lighting. He recommended running conduit for lighting and building courts without lights, and he added funds for lighting could be requested or raised by pickleball players. He indicated this option would include project costs, maintenance costs, and place a strain on maintenance staffing due to the additional facility.

Mr. Aceves explained the last option is to not convert two of the tennis courts into pickleball courts nor resurface the tennis courts or build a stand-alone pickleball facility. He pointed out temporary pickleball lines will remain on the tennis courts without permanent nets and parking will stay the same. He noted the courts still need to be resurfaced, the facility will not be utilized as much and pickleball players will still have to continue to bring their own net to the park.

Mr. Aceves explained schools in the Rowan-Salisbury School System (RSSS) are allowed to use the tennis courts at no cost. He indicated private schools are charged a $25 fee for two courts with a maximum of $50 for four courts. Ms. Shaw added the cost includes play for the
entire day. Mayor Heggies noted some of the students that attend private schools live in the City and their parents pay taxes. Mr. Aceves agreed.

Mr. Aceves commented in fiscal year 2010-2011 a contracted tennis instructor paid the City $3,000 to teach tennis lessons. He noted to cultivate tennis the instructor fee changed to $600 a year and the City offered to pay for certifications for the tennis instructor.

Mr. Aceves noted the courts need to be resurfaced, but there are other priorities to be considered such as the floors at the Civic Center and Hall Gym, and the Fred M. Evans Pool that needs to be re-plastered.

Mr. Aceves commented the Parks and Recreation Department has received approximately $800,000 in grants since 2016 for facility and programming improvements which does not include the work staff has completed through donations, sponsorships, and grants.

Mr. Aceves pointed out according to Mr. Jon Post proceeds from pickleball tournaments will be donated for the overall upkeep of the facility. He added this option is a way to serve two demographics and offer programs to everyone. He welcomed anyone in the tennis community to volunteer and cultivate the program.

Councilmember Miller pointed out he does not believe Mr. Jon Post or Mayor Pro Tem Post are doing anything immoral or unethical and should not be castigated for making a donation. He noted there is a need to create opportunities for both sports. He asked City Manager Lane Bailey if it would be possible to combine court resurfacing with other projects in the budget. He added community members are passionate about both pickleball and tennis. He pointed out the Parks and Recreation Department does a tremendous job and it is up to Council to find a solution that meets the need of pickleball and tennis players.

Mayor Pro Tem Post stated he grew up playing tennis and when he was unable to play any longer he discovered pickleball at a Citizens Academy event at Hall Gym. He noted he donated money for the courts and matched another donor's donation.

Mayor Pro Tem Post indicated players wait in line to play pickleball at the YMCA on Wednesday nights and Sunday afternoons, and there are numerous players playing at the City Park courts. He pointed out the community is looking to become a certified retirement community and pickleball would be an asset. He explained he did not feel he needed to recuse himself unless Council asks him too as he does not have any financial interest in the decision.

Mayor Heggies asked Mr. Bailey to explore options to fund resurfacing the tennis courts and building a stand-alone pickleball facility at the Civic Center. Mr. Bailey agreed.

Mayor Heggies noted she does not believe Mayor Pro Tem Post or Mr. Post were trying to buy favors, and she added just because someone invests money in their community does not mean they are trying to receive favors in return.
Councilmember Sheffield commented she asked for the pickleball discussion to be delayed at the last meeting because she did not think it would be fair for Mayor Pro Tem Post not to be able to contribute to the discussion. She noted Mayor Pro Tem Post should be the one to decide if he can be part of the final decision.

Councilmember Sheffield noted the Consent Agenda for Council’s January 2, 2019 meeting listed a budget amendment for the Parks and Recreation Department for a $25,000 donation. She indicated the only information that was given to Council indicated the Parks and Recreation Department received a donation to support pickleball court renovation at City Park. She noted Council was unaware of the scope of the pickleball project.

Councilmember Sheffield asked if public comment is allowed during Parks and Recreation Advisory Board meetings. Mr. Aceves noted public comment is not listed on the Agenda, but people are provided time to speak. Councilmember Sheffield thanked Mr. Aceves and the Parks and Recreation Department for exploring options, and she thanked Mr. Bailey for placing a hold on the conversion to allow discussion to take place.

Councilmember Sheffield questioned if tennis nets remain up when pickleball is played, and she questioned if tennis could still be played if the pickleball nets remained on the courts. Mr. Aceves noted tennis nets remain in place during pickleball play and tennis is not played when pickleball nets are up. He explained in the proposed project, tennis nets will remain and the pickleball net posts will be in sleeves that can be easily installed and removed.

Councilmember Sheffield then asked how many tennis and pickleball courts are located in the City and the County. Mr. Aceves commented the City has six tennis courts and nine temporary pickleball courts, and he added the County has eight tennis courts and possibly six pickleball courts, but he is unsure of the exact number.

Councilmember Sheffield asked about the operating hours for the pickleball courts at City Park and the operating hours at the Civic Center. Ms. Shaw noted City Park court lights shut off at 11:00 p.m. Mr. Aceves added Hall Gym hours are three times a week between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. He pointed out the hours at the Civic Center vary each day depending on staff, but it is open until 8:00 p.m. He commented the Civic Center is closed on Sunday and hours can vary on Saturday if there is an evening event.

Councilmember Sheffield asked how the tennis courts are reserved and when tennis lessons are scheduled. Ms. Shaw explained the tennis instructor handles his own schedule, and the courts are only reserved if a lesson is scheduled. She clarified the reservation is for only one court. Councilmember Sheffield questioned why the City did not renew its USTA membership. Mr. Aceves explained there has not been a request for renewal since he has been with the City, but it could be renewed if requested.

Councilmember Sheffield noted pickleball is a growing sport. She thanked everyone for contributing to the pickleball discussion and wanting to be a part of the process.
Councilmember Alexander commented she is the Council liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and feels the pickleball conversation was open and clear. She added she does not think there was any intention to bypass the tennis community to install pickleball courts. She commented she is always in favor of leveraging available resources and maximizing City facilities to better serve the community. She added she does not think there was any ulterior motive from Mayor Pro Tem Post’s or Mr. Jon Post’s donation and it was an opportunity to give back to the community. She indicated there may have been limited maintenance on the tennis courts due to budget issues, but it is difficult to cover all the needs in the City.

Councilmember Alexander commended the work of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. She thanked everyone for their understanding and citizens who spoke of their passion for each sport during the public comment periods.

Mayor Heggins thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the great work they do for the community.

**RECESS**

Councilmember Miller made a motion to take a five minute recess and all Councilmembers in attendance agreed unanimously to recess.

The meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME PROGRAM FUNDS**

Planning Director Hannah Jacobson stated at Council’s May 7, 2019 meeting staff provided an overview of the City’s draft FY2019-2020 Action Plan and Budget for the expenditure of $454,219 from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program funds. She noted the draft was made available for a 30-day public inspection, a public comment period, and public input meetings were held on May 14, 2019 and May 30, 2019. She added Council had a general consensus regarding the goals and actions presented and no modifications were made to the draft that was provided to Council on May 21, 2019. She pointed out the public comment period will conclude on June 7, 2019, but staff request Council consider approving the action plan and budget in advance for final submission to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). She stated the City will receive $454,219 in CDBG and HOME Program funds, and she noted a bulk of the funds will be used for owner-occupied rehabilitation. She stated $50,000 will be allocated to the West End Sidewalk Project, $47,980 will support non-profit organizations, $64,003 will be used for general administration expenses, and $39,498.60 will pay the debt service at Park Avenue Center.

Ms. Jacobson stated HOME Program funds in the amount of $134,202 will be divided between owner-occupied rehabilitation and program administration.
Ms. Jacobson commented the first public meeting was held May 14, 2019 with nine attendees who had a general consensus on the goals, plans, action, and budget. She added the public suggested the City incorporate traffic calming treatments and street light concerns on Horah Street, demolition of deteriorated, vacant and abandoned structures, and sidewalks in the West End community.

Ms. Jacobson stated the second public meeting was held at the Park Avenue Center on May 30, 2019 and there were eight attendees who agreed with the City’s five draft goals and did not recommend any revisions. She noted the participants recommended incorporating transparency and a participatory park planning process and considering the needs of lower-income communities. She added it was suggested for more social interactions to create a better community, demolition of abandoned structures, improve regulations and design standards for high-quality housing, neighborhood cleanup programs and improved communication regarding bulk garbage collections.

Ms. Jacobson requested Council consider approving the revised action plan and budget for CDBG and HOME Program funds that staff will submit to HUD.

Mayor Pro Tem Post asked if approximately $400,000 in funds was received last year for exterior improvements in distressed neighborhoods. Ms. Jacobson agreed, and she noted those funds are included in a separate budget item implemented through the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). She noted CDBG and HOME Program are federal funds.

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to approve the FY2019-2020 action plan and budget for Community Development Block Grant and HOME Program funds. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

**RECYCLING PRACTICES**

Public Services Street Division Manager Craig Powers introduced Waste Collection Crew Leader Mark Pullium who addressed Council regarding recycling practices.

Mr. Pullium commented the goal is to educate the community to streamline garbage collections and decrease the amount of trash sent to landfills. He explained recycling is not what it was ten years ago and is now referred to as single-stream. He stated the National Sword Policy was passed in China that states recycling material must meet a strict contamination rate of .5% before China will accept it. He added the policy was created to help reduce China’s pollution.

Mr. Pullium pointed out plastic soda bottles that have not been rinsed out contaminate waste once it is compacted. He pointed out recycling cost has increased because of contamination to the collection stream. He noted the City has a 60% to 75% recycling participation rate inside its corporate limits, but he would like to see a 100% participation rate while reducing contamination. He recommended implementing a two receptacle recycling system to help eliminate contamination. He explained packaging that contains food must be rinsed, and he noted plastic bags entangle and shut down recycling equipment.
Mr. Pullium commented since China passed the National Sword Policy the recycling market has declined because acceptable materials have been restricted to tin, aluminum, cardboard, mixed-paper, and plastics graded one and two. He pointed out plastics graded three through seven are not a desirable material, but he explained the product is recyclable but there is no market and the likelihood of a buyer is low.

Councilmember Miller asked Mr. Pullium to provide an example of plastics graded one and two. Mr. Pullium stated grades one and two are detergent bottles, soda bottles, and milk jugs. Councilmember Miller asked for examples of plastics graded three through seven. Mr. Pullium stated those grades are single-use plastics such as the plastic bags that hold detergents.

Mayor Pro Tem Post asked if plastics grades one and two should be rinsed. Mr. Pullium agreed, and he noted if a material or packaging contains a product it should be rinsed.

Mr. Pullium commented glass products create a higher recycling cost because of the transfer expense of glass products. Councilmember Miller asked if glass should be recycled. Mr. Pullium stated it should not. Mr. Powers pointed out some communities have already banned glass from their recycling streams because of its negative value. Mr. Pullium explained to process a ton of recyclables cost approximately $120 and a ton of garbage taken to the landfill costs $38.

Mr. Pullium indicated some of the common contaminants are televisions, electronics, and small appliances, and he pointed out those materials should be taken to the Rowan County Recycling Processing Center located at 1102 North Long Street in East Spencer. He stated tires are collected by the City four times throughout the year as a courtesy to citizens. He commented textiles such as bedding, rugs, and carpets are best recycled by utilizing facilities that can reuse the materials. He stated building materials can be upcycled for projects or be taken to facilities to reuse or resell it to the public.

Mr. Pullium noted paper napkins, plates, cups, tissues, and polystyrene foam are not considered recyclable materials. He indicated the City collects yard waste Monday through Friday and offers free compost to citizens with weather permitting on Fridays at 1955 Grubb Ferry Road in Spencer. He pointed out most food items are 70% to 80% water and composted at some facilities, but it is not offered in Salisbury because the landfill cost is low. He commented recyclables should not be placed in plastic bags, and he added supermarket plastic bags should be returned to the supermarket because they have specialized processing equipment. He explained water hoses, Christmas lights and extension cords are recyclable at local facilities but are not designed for the 96-gallon recyclable collection bin. He pointed out inflatable swimming pools, rubber gloves and other rubber items are not considered recyclable.

Councilmember Miller asked how the public will know what types of recyclables are accepted. Mr. Powers stated the department is developing an education plan and working to provide community engagement. Councilmember Miller suggested attaching recycling information to the collection bins. Mr. Pullium commented recycling vendors have changed and recyclable items were listed on the collection cans. He pointed out the department participates in Earth Day on the Greenway and works with state environmental agencies to find resources for the community. He noted the market changed and recycling is no longer profitable. He pointed out
the recycling market is going to continue to increase, and he added before China initiated its policy it collected 80% of the world’s recycling. He stated there are no infrastructures in the United States able to take on the processing of recyclables. He commented staff continues to work with vendors and resources to ensure the best information is provided to the public.

Councilmember Sheffield thanked Mr. Powers and Mr. Pullium for providing a presentation and information at the Neighborhood Alliance Meeting.

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

City Attorney Graham Corriher indicated he had nothing to report to Council.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

(a) Resolution – North Carolina State Budget

City Manager Lane Bailey presented Council a Resolution relating to state funding for the Empire Project, and he pointed out developer Britt Weaver is in the audience to answer questions about the project. He recommended Council adopt the proposed Resolution and send it to the City's delegation for its consideration.

Councilmember Miller commented he believes it is important that Council advocate for the Empire Project at the state level. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmember Alexander agreed.

Mr. Weaver stated there are resources to help close the funding gap, and he pointed out he does not rely on grants or federal funding but believes the Resolution could help move the project forward. He indicated he is more confident regarding the project now than he was in the beginning, and he thanked Council for its support.

Thereupon, Councilmember Alexander made a motion to adopt a Resolution of support for inclusion of locally identified projects in the North Carolina State budget and seconded by Councilmember Miller. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR INCLUSION OF LOCALLY IDENTIFIED PROJECTS IN THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BUDGET.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 14, and is known as Resolution 2019-11.)
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Movies in the Park

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced The Salisbury Parks and Recreation Department will hold Movies in the Park on Friday, June 14, 2019 at City Park. The movie, A Dog’s Way Home, will begin at 9:00 pm. Concessions will be available for purchase. Bring a blanket or a chair and enjoy fun family time. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call (704) 216-PLAY.

Woofstock

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced the Salisbury Parks and Recreation Department in partnership with Dog PAWS will hold Woofstock on Saturday, June 15, 2019 at the Dog PAWS Dog Park located behind the Salisbury Civic Center from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. This event is a combination of activities beginning with the Fur Fun 5K Run at 10:00 a.m., music, pet vendors, and Every Snout Counts pet rescue information with the Salisbury Fire Department. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call (704) 216-PLAY.

Gallery Gallop

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced the Gallery Gallop, a celebration of art in downtown Salisbury will be held Friday, June 21, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. There will be live music, downtown gallery tours, and kid’s activities. Artists will be set up on the sidewalk alongside participating businesses downtown.

2019 Salisbury Citizen’s Academy

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced applications are now being accepted for the 2019 Salisbury Citizen’s Academy. The Academy is a 10-week program that meets each Thursday evening from 5:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. beginning September 5, 2019. Participants will meet at various City facilities and have an inside view of City operations. Applications are available online at salisburync.gov/citizensacademy or by calling Kelly Baker at 704-638-5233. All applications must be received by July 19, 2019.

2019 Blockwork

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced this year’s Blockwork event has been scheduled for Saturday, October 26, 2019, on Make a Difference Day. She stated the Community Planning Department is now receiving applications. Applications for neighborhood participants should be received before June 15, 2019. She stated applications and guidelines are available online at www.salisburync.gov/Blockwork.
COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sheffield encouraged the community to participate in Citizen’s Academy, and she added it is a great way to get to know the inner workings of the City.

Councilmember Alexander stated she will present a Resolution that relates to opioid use at a future meeting for Council’s consideration.

MAYOR PRO TEM COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Post commended Councilmember Alexander for being elected Second Vice President for the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM).

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

Mayor Heggins commended Councilmember Alexander for her elected position on the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM) and thanked staff for all it does for 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 21:18 p.m.

Al Heggins, Mayor

Diane Gilmore, City Clerk