

Salisbury, North Carolina
October 18, 2016

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Karen Kirks Alexander, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell; Council Members Kenneth Hardin, and William Brian Miller; Assistant City Manager Zack Kyle; Deputy City Clerk Kelly Baker, and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

ABSENT: City Manager W. Lane Bailey, Council Member David Post, and City Clerk Myra B. Heard.

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The invocation was given by Councilmember Miller. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alexander at 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Alexander welcomed all visitors present. She expressed Council's gratitude to members of staff who traveled to eastern North Carolina to assist those affected by the recent flooding.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Alexander proclaimed the following observance:

NATIONAL MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY

October 22, 2016

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity – Mr. Abdullah Hasan

Issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for Mr. Abdullah Hasan and Essential Taxi to add an additional vehicle to the fleet.

(b) Wastewater Asset Inventory and Assessment Grant Offer

Adopt a Resolution accepting a Wastewater Asset Inventory and Assessment grant offer in the amount of \$130,000 to assess and inventory infrastructure for wastewater operations.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A WASTEWATER ASSET INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT GRANT OFFER.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 15 at Page No. 22 and is known as Resolution 2016-21.)

(c) Water Asset Inventory and Assessment Grant Offer

Adopt a Resolution accepting a Water Asset Inventory and Assessment grant offer in the amount of \$130,000 to assess and inventory infrastructure for water operations.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING A WATER ASSET INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT GRANT OFFER.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 15 at Page No. 23 and is known as Resolution 2016-22.)

(d) Temporary Road Closures

Adopt an Ordinance declaring temporary road closures for the Veteran’s Day Parade and Holiday Caravan Parade.

ORDINANCE DECLARING A TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE FOR A VETERAN’S DAY PARADE AND HOLIDAY CARAVAN PARADE.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 61, and is known as Ordinance 2016-36.)

(e) Agreements – North Carolina Department of Transportation

Authorize the City Engineer to extend agreements with the North Carolina Department of Transportation regarding maintenance of signs (Schedule A), markings and markers (Schedule B), traffic signals (Schedule C), and the computerized traffic signal system (Schedule D).

(f) Temporary Right-Of-Way Use Permit

Approve a request for a temporary right-of-way use permit adjacent to 101 South Main Street through November 7, 2016.

(g) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Hurley Park Donations

Adopt a Budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2016-2017 budget in the amount of \$5,000 to appropriate donations to Hurley Park.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016-2017 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE DONATIONS FOR HURLEY PARK.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 62, and is known as Ordinance 2016-37.)

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin and Miller, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Alexander noted the following change to the Agenda:

Add — Council go into a closed session concerning a personnel matter and as allowed by NCGS143-318.11(a)(6).

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATION

City Engineer Wendy Brindle explained Duke Energy will provide grant funding for electric vehicle charging stations. She added the grants target State and local government entities, and the City submitted an application.

Ms. Brindle noted the City applied for a grant that would reimburse \$50,000 per entity. She pointed out North Carolina has experienced a 19% increase in electric vehicle registration in the last year, and Rowan County has experienced a 26% increase. She commented charging times range from 7 minutes to 281 minutes.

Ms. Brindle stated staff evaluated potential sites and determined the City-owned parking lot at Gateway Park would provide the most convenient location for use and maintenance. She added it will cost the City approximately \$3,200 annually to maintain the electric vehicle charging station. She explained installation would cost approximately \$30,400, and Duke Energy would reimburse the City \$27,200. She noted the City would incur \$3,200 in cost during the first year which includes a four-year maintenance contract and a \$560 annual service fee.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell asked how the \$27,200 City reimbursement relates to the \$50,000 grant tier. Ms. Brindle explained if the City is awarded a \$50,000 grant and it uses \$27,200, it could use the balance to install an additional electric vehicle charging station at another location.

Councilmember Miller noted a citizen came forward approximately two years ago and was willing to pay for electric charging stations if the City would absorb the electricity costs. Ms. Brindle indicated she was unaware of the request. Mayor Alexander stated the proposal would not work with the grant request. She added staff will work with the citizen regarding future electric vehicle charging stations at other locations throughout the City.

Mr. Miller asked if the total cost includes electricity or only the cost of the unit. Ms. Brindle explained the cost is for the unit, and she added the electricity would be metered and billed separately.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to authorize the installation of a two port Electric Vehicle Charging Station at Gateway Park. Mr. Hardin seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, and Miller, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

Ms. Brindle commented the grant will be awarded in December.

ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE LARGE METER INSTALLATION

Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) Director Jim Behmer explained at a previous meeting Council voted to proceed with the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Implementation Project. He noted the item before Council includes large meter installation. He stated 15 Request for Proposals were sent out, and staff received four responses. He added the low bid was \$301,344 submitted by Vanguard Utility Service.

Mr. Behmer indicated the next step would be to bid the small meter installation, and he provided background on the Advanced Metering Infrastructure Implementation Project.

Councilmember Miller asked if the proposal is within budget. Mr. Behmer agreed.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to award a contract to Vanguard Utility Service in the amount of \$301,344 for the Advance Metering Project large meter installation. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, and Miller, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

DOG PARK UPDATE

Parks and Recreation Director Nick Aceves updated Council on the proposed dog park project, which was originally designed for the Civic Center. He noted after reviewing other sites, and the County expressing a willingness to partner on the project, staff considered Forest Hills Park. He indicated a group that included Councilmember Hardin, City and County staff, members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and Dog Paws met onsite to discuss traffic, parking, and noise. He reviewed additional parking options, and he noted parking could be available across the street adjacent to Memorial Park Cemetery.

Mr. Aceves noted the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board voted unanimously to approve the site, although there were concerns regarding traffic and speed. He indicated staff assured the Board it would do all it can to alleviate speed concerns in the area. He requested Council consider holding a public hearing November 15, 2016 to receive public comment regarding the dog park and its proposed site.

Mr. Hardin pointed out the project would be a partnership with the County, and the County would absorb the majority of the costs. Parks and Recreation Maintenance Manager Stephen Brown reviewed the budget for the dog park, which was originally estimated at \$70,000 for Phases I and II. He pointed out the original design was slightly less than one acre, and the new design is over 1.5 acres. He added the \$40,000 contribution from the County along with the funds raised for the dog park should cover fencing, a gate system, some of the proposed trees, and water and Fibrant service.

Mr. Aceves noted there are approximately 18 parking spaces on one side of Grove Street. He commented the group discussed moving the parking spaces to the other side of the street which is closer to the dog park. He pointed out there is no sidewalk on that side of the street, and it has a slope that would require additional grading.

Mr. Hardin stated the group also considered speed enforcement, and it concluded barriers may be needed to slow traffic. Mr. Brown pointed out there is a painted cross walk at the location. Mr. Aceves noted staff could consider more aggressive traffic control.

Mayor Alexander asked if upgraded parking costs were included in the proposed budget. Mr. Aceves noted parking upgrades have not been budgeted. Mr. Miller suggested a gravel lot, and he noted additional funding for the parking lot could be considered later. Mr. Brown pointed out there are 40 on-street parking spaces between the Greenway and Parkview Circle.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell asked if citizens could legally park on the grass until the parking lot is completed. Mr. Aceves noted staff will work on all parking options.

Thereupon, Mr. Hardin made a **motion** to set a public hearing for November 15, 2016 to receive comments on the location of the proposed dog park. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, and Miller, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comment.

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

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

There were no comments.

MAYOR 'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Community Job Fair

Mayor Alexander announced the City of Salisbury has partnered with the NC Works, Rowan Cabarrus Community College, Rowan Works, Rowan Salisbury School System, Catawba College, Chamber of Commerce and community members to host the third Community Job Fair on Tuesday, October 25, 2016 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Civic Center, 315 South Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. NC Works Career Center will host two workshops prior to the job fair for resume assistance and interviewing and dressing for success techniques. The workshops will be held Thursday, October 20 at 3:00 p.m. and Friday, October 21 at 9:00 a.m. Veterans will be allowed early entry to the Job Fair, along with anyone who attends a workshop and obtains a completion certificate.

(b) BlockWork

Mayor Alexander announced the sixth annual BlockWork neighborhood improvement project will be October 22, 2016 on National Make a Difference Day. This year, the Community Appearance Commission is partnering with the Housing Advocacy Commission, Historic Salisbury Foundation and Livingstone College for the event. The event will be from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., in the 800 and 900 blocks of West Monroe Street in the West End Neighborhood. Parking will be available off South West Street. The 800 and 900 blocks of West Monroe Street will be closed to through traffic during the event. Citizens who would like to volunteer may contact the planning office at 704-638-5242 for more information.

(c) Downtown Salisbury, Inc. Open House

Mayor Alexander announced Downtown Salisbury, Inc. will host an Open House Tuesday, October 25, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the Salisbury Business Center located at 301 South Main Street. This event is the second of three Open House events to consider what public improvements, if any, should be made to ensure the long-term vitality of downtown. Citizens are invited to drop-in any time between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

(d) Halloween Fun Fest

Mayor Alexander announced Parks and Recreation in partnership with Downtown Salisbury, Inc. will host the annual Halloween Fun Fest Saturday, October 29, 2016 from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. in the Salisbury Post parking lot. Activities include carnival games, live entertainment, face painting, trick or treating, hay rides, haunted trolley rides, a hay bale maze, costume contest, a pet costume contest and much more. Game tickets are \$5.00 for an unlimited pass.

(e) Music at the Mural

Mayor Alexander announced Parks and Recreation will host the final installment of the Music at the Mural Series Saturday, October 29, 2016 at 8:00 p.m. on West Fisher Street. The concert will feature live entertainment from Big Daddy Love. The event is free and open to the public.

COMMUNITY JOB FAIR

Mayor Alexander invited Ms. Debbie Davis, NC Works Career Center, to address Council regarding the upcoming Community Job Fair. Ms. Davis noted 45 employers are expected to attend the Job Fair. She stated Rowan-Cabarrus Community College will conduct the training sessions. She thanked the City for providing free transit service to the Job Fair and the NC Works Career Center.

Mayor Alexander thanked Ms. Davis for her work to make the Job Fair a success.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

(a) Employee Recognition

Councilmember Hardin recognized members of the Salisbury Fire Department, Battalion Chief Chris Kepley, Police Officer Brad Jordan, Street Maintenance and Stormwater Utility Manager Craig Powers, and staff for working to remove debris along City roads after the recent storm.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Alexander requested Council go into a closed session concerning a personnel matter and as allowed by NCGS143-318.11(a)(6).

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to go into closed session concerning a personnel matter and as allowed by NCGS143-318.11(a)(6). Mr. Hardin seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, and Miller, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

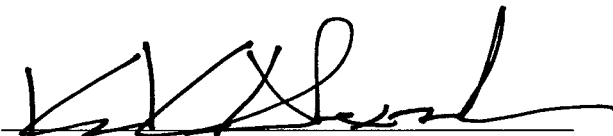
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** for Council to return to open session. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, and Miller, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

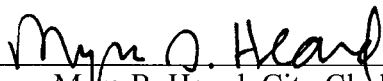
Mayor Alexander noted no action was taken in closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Miller seconded by Ms. Blackwell. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 p.m.



Karen Kirks Alexander, Mayor



Myra B. Heard, City Clerk