Salisbury, North Carolina
April 12, 2017

SPECIAL MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Karen Kirks Alexander, Presiding; Council Members Kenneth L. Hardin, William Brian Miller, and David B. Post, City Manager W. Lane Bailey, Deputy City Clerk Kelly Baker and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Maggie Blackwell and City Clerk Myra B. Heard

Mayor Alexander and members of City Council met in a Special session at 1 Water Street. The meeting began at 5:00 p.m. and Councilmember Miller provided the invocation.

Members of the Fibrant Advisory Committee were also present: Mr. Greg Alcorn, Mr. Matt Barr, Ms. Dari Caldwell, Mr. Luke Fisher, Mr. Steve Fisher, Dr. Jimmy Jenkins, Mr. John Ketner, Mr. Dyke Messinger, Mr. Nelson Murphy, and Mr. Teross Young.

Mr. Tom Asp with CTC Technologies reviewed the current state of gigabit broadband. He noted a community’s demographics need to match what is being offered to be successful. He noted wireless service is making advances but it requires fiber to enable its capabilities.

Mr. Asp indicated internet take rates have exceeded cable rates because of the availability of different options for streaming services and because of the high fees required for cable content. He noted the margin for growth is in internet as the growth margin for cable television erodes.

Ms. Asp commented that Google is scaling back its gigabit service because it did not understand the cost of outside plant investments or the permitting process. He pointed out Google is now shifting to a wireless strategy that concentrates on multiple dwelling units. He stated the deployment of municipal fiber to the premise systems has slowed, but there has been an increase in public/private partnerships (P3). He indicated federal incentives will most likely encourage P3s through accelerated depreciation and
tax credits, but he added the incentives will most likely benefit new construction rather than existing structures. Mr. Asp stated the Fibrant plant has a long-term value that goes well beyond its debt payoff and will be a platform for residents, businesses and wireless.

CLOSED SESSION

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a motion to go into closed session concerning an economic development matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4). Mr. Post seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller, and Post and Ms. Alexander voted AYE. (4-0)

Council invited members of the Fibrant Advisory Committee to join the Closed Session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mayor Alexander announced no action was taken during closed session.

RECESS

Motion to recess the meeting until 7:00 a.m. Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 1 Water Street was made by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Post. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to recess. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Karen Kirks Alexander, Mayor

Kelly Baker, Deputy City Clerk