

Salisbury, North Carolina
August 15, 2023

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Karen K. Alexander, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield; Council Members David Post, and Anthony Smith; City Manager Jim Greene, Jr., City Clerk Connie B. Snyder; and City Attorney J. Graham Corriher.

ABSENT: Councilmember Harry McLaughlin.

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alexander at 6:05 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, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to adopt the Agenda as presented. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield, and Councilmembers Post and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

RECOGNITION – ROWAN LITTLE LEAGUE

Mayor Alexander and Council recognized the Rowan Little League 10U Softball team for winning the All-Star District 2 Championship, North Carolina State Championship, All-Star Southeast Regional Championship, and the Tournament of State Champions. She read a proclamation proclaiming August 15, 2023 as Rowan Little League 10U Softball Championship Day in the City and presented a copy to each member of the team.

Mayor Alexander and Council congratulated the team and stated they look forward to another successful season.

RECOGNITION – SALISBURY YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Human Resources Business Partner Souwan Kiengham recognized Summer Youth Employees Bralen Mitchell, Eva Carter, and Kimberly Turcios who shared their experience in the Summer Youth Employment Program. He noted the Summer Youth Employees conducted a food drive to help Rowan Helping Ministries, and he thanked everyone who worked to make the program a success.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor to proclaim the following observance:

LIBRARY CARD SIGN-UP MONTH

September 2023

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Approve Minutes of the regular meeting of July 18, 2023 and the special meeting of August 1, 2023.

(b) Right-of-Way Use Permit

Approve a Right-of-Way Use Permit for the use of three parking spaces adjacent to 132 North Main Street from August 14 through September 1, 2023 for roof repairs to the building.

(c) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Parks and Recreation

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2023-2024 budget in the amount of \$13,500 to appropriate donations and sponsorships to appropriate revenue for the Bell Tower Green Movie and Concert Series and Hurley Park Gazebo repairs.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023-2024 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. 31 at Page No. 260, and is known as Ordinance 2023-54.)

(d) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Parks and Recreation

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2023-2024 budget in the amount of \$25,100 to appropriate insurance proceeds for Hurley Park Gazebo repairs.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023-2024 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE INSURANCE CLAIM PROCEEDS FOR THE HURLY PARK GAZEBO.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 31 at Page No. 261, and is known as Ordinance 2023-55.)

(e) Budget Ordinance Amendment – 2023 National Night Out and Community Resource Fair

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2023-2024 budget in the amount of \$500 to appropriate a donation from the Civic Federal Credit Union for the 2023 National Night Out and Community Resource Fair.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023-2024 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE A NATIONAL NIGHT OUT DONATION.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 31 at Page No. 262, and is known as Ordinance 2023-56.)

(f) Sale of Sidearm and Badge – Lieutenant Andy Efir

Authorize the sale to Lieutenant Andy Efir his sidearm and badge in the amount of \$1.00 in recognition of his retirement from the Salisbury Police Department August 1, 2023.

(g) Agreement LaBella Associates, P.C.

Authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with LaBella Associates, P.C. in the amount of \$405,000 for engineering services associated with the Spencer Water Main Capacity Upgrades project. Funds for this service were approved in the FY2023-2024 budget.

(h) Voluntary Annexation – 1810 Enon Church Road

Receive a request for voluntary annexation of 1.558 acres located at 1810 Enon Church Road, Tax Map 329 Parcel 385, and adopt a Resolution instructing the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the request.

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO INVESTIGATE A PETITION RECEIVED UNDER N.C.G.S. 160a-58.1 FOR VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION OF TAX MAP 329 PARCEL 385, 1.55 ACRES LOCATED AT 1810 ENON CHURCH ROAD.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 17 at Page No. 31, and is known as Resolution 2023-24.)

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield, and Councilmembers Post, and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

Ms. Dee Dee Wright expressed her concern regarding the unhoused in the City, and she suggested reaching out to Rowan County regarding converting the old Department of Social Services building on West Innes Street into a shelter. She noted there are many reasons people are without shelter and if reason can be defined we can better handle the problem.

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

STREET CLOSING – WEST “A” AVENUE

Transportation Director Wendy Brindle addressed Council regarding closing an unimproved portion of West “A” Avenue located in the 1500 and 1600 blocks of Second Street. She stated on July 18, 2023 Council adopted a Resolution of Intent to permanently close the unimproved portion. She displayed a map of the area, and she noted the unimproved area is a right-of-way that does not include a street. She explained the two adjacent property owners are the petitioners, and she noted the proposal is to close the unimproved portion to the existing alley.

Ms. Brindle reviewed the survey, and she noted according to State Statute the portion to be closed will be split equally between the petitioners. She added staff has followed the procedures for N.C.G.S. 168-299 and the next step is for Council to hold a public hearing and to find the proposed closing is not contrary to the public interest and that no one will be deprived of reasonable means of ingress and egress to their property.

Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing, after due notice, regarding the closing an unimproved portion of West “A” Avenue located in the 1500 and 1600 blocks of Second Street.

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

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution pertaining to the proposed closing of an unimproved portion of West “A” Avenue located in the 1500 and 1600 blocks of Second Street. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield, and Councilmembers Post and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED CLOSING OF AN UNIMPROVED PORTION OF WEST "A" AVENUE LOCATED OFF THE 1500/1600 BLOCKS OF SECOND STREET.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 17 at Page No. 30, and is known as Resolution 2023-23.)

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to adopt an Order closing an unimproved portion of West "A" Avenue. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield, and Councilmembers Post, and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDER CLOSING AN UNIMPROVED PORTION OF WEST "A" AVENUE.

(The above Order is recorded in full at the Register of Deeds and maintained in the City Clerk's Alley Closing File dated August 15, 2023.)

LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP AMENDMENT – WEST RICHIE ROAD

Senior Planner Victoria Bailiff addressed Council regarding a request to amend the Land Development District Map to rezone one parcel, approximately 7.91 acres, located along West Richie Road, from Rural Residential (RR) to Highway Business (HB) in anticipation of future development. She stated Mr. Kevin Smith is the petitioner, and she noted the property is located approximately one half-mile from the intersection of West Richie and Julian Roads.

Ms. Bailiff reviewed the surrounding zonings, and she pointed out the request is for a general use so there will be no conditions or site plans to accompany the rezoning. She then reviewed permitted uses, and she noted any requested use in HB zoning will be allowed. She indicated the Future Land Use Map that is included in the Forward 2040 Comprehensive Plan designates the area as an Employment Center which is consistent with HB zoning.

Ms. Bailiff stated the Planning Board considered the request at its July 11, 2023 meeting and voted unanimously to recommend approval as submitted.

Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing, after due notice regarding the proposed rezoning.

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

Councilmember Post asked about the property's location. Ms. Bailiff stated the property is located in the City's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ) district.

Councilmember Smith stated the City Council hereby finds and determines that adoption of an Ordinance to rezone the property described herein, as requested, is consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Forward 2040 Comprehensive Plan due to the proposed petition, site characteristics, surrounding development pattern, and observations provided by City planning staff, identifying the policies that support the petition. Thereupon, Mr. Smith made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending the Land Development District Map of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina, to rezone one parcel, approximately 7.91 acres located on Tax Map 401 Parcel 030 from Rural Residential to Highway Business. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield, and Councilmembers Post, and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, TO REZONE ONE PARCEL, APPROXIMATELY 7.91 ACRES LOCATED ON TAX MAP 401 PARCEL 030 FROM RURAL RESIDENTIAL TO HIGHWAY BUSINESS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 31 at Page No. 263, and is known as Ordinance 2023-57.)

UPDATE – UNSHELTERED POPULATION

City Manager Jim Greene asked Police Chief Patrick Smith, Homeless Advocate Dennis Rivers, and Code Enforcement Manager Michael Cotilla to address Council regarding the unsheltered population in the City. He added staff approaches the situation as a team and it strives to be compassionate while enforcing the rules to promote public safety. He noted additional resources, partners and facilities are needed to address the situation. He stated the City must continue to evaluate its programs, and staff will look at what is being done in other communities to address the needs of the unsheltered population.

Chief Smith stated the City's objective is to provide assistance and to work with community partners to get ahead of what appears to be a growing unsheltered population. He added staff is approaching the situation with openness and researching what is being done in other cities to establish a long-term solution. He pointed out the issue will require partnerships, including County resources, to reach the long-term goal of finding shelter for members of the unsheltered community that will accept the resources being offered.

Mr. Rivers explained as the City's Homeless Advocate he works for the Police Department and in partnership with Rowan Helping Ministries. He added as the City's Homeless Advocate he has:

- Co-facilitated the Rowan-Salisbury Homeless TASK Force team that includes over 30 agencies
- Worked with the unsheltered (homeless) population to direct them to Rowan Helping Ministries or other supporting agencies that can provide resources
- Transported unsheltered (families or individuals) to Rowan Helping Ministries from encampments

- Worked with unsheltered domestic violence victims to assure they understand their options and resources as a victim of crime
- Conducted wellness checks for unsheltered individuals
- Coordinated and transported sheltered and unsheltered individuals to the Department of Motor Vehicles to obtain North Carolina identification
- Connected unsheltered individuals to mental health and substance use agencies that provide free services
- Worked with business and property owners to address concerns regarding the unsheltered population
- Collaborated with City departments to provide services and enforce Ordinances

Mr. Rivers reviewed the Outreach Statistics Report from January through June 2023, and he noted:

- 19 individuals were moved into emergency shelter
- 9 individuals were successfully moved from the shelter to permanent housing
- 9 individuals received transportation assistance by bus, train, or Lyft service
- 2 individuals went to a detox program
- 14 individuals received North Carolina State identification
- 1 person received transportation to a doctor's appointment

Mr. Rivers explained the Homeless Outreach Team includes the Salisbury Police Department, Rowan Helping Ministries, Rowan County Health Department, and the Salisbury VA Hospital which brings its services to the encampment. He stated it can be difficult for unsheltered individuals to travel and if they are willing to accept the help being offered, someone is there to speak with them immediately. He noted the goal is to help the person while maintaining order.

Mr. Rivers stated the Homeless Task Force is led by Rowan Helping Ministries and the Salisbury Police Department and it meets on the fourth Thursday of each month via Zoom. He added the meeting is open to the public and the contacts are Rowan Helping Ministries Crisis Assistance Housing Manager Cathy Wood and himself. He noted over 30 agencies are included in the Homeless Task Force:

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| • Rowan Helping Ministries | • Rowan County Department of Social Services |
| • City of Salisbury Police Dept. | • United Way of Rowan County |
| • Downtown Development / DSI | • Goodwill Services |
| • Code Enforcement | • Salisbury Housing Authority |
| • Parks & Recreation | • VA Medical Center |
| • Salisbury Transit | • S&H Youth and Adult Services |
| • Rowan Health Department | • Rowan-Salisbury Schools |
| • Novant Medical Center | • Rowan County Veteran Services |
| • Community Care Clinic | • Rowan County DMV |
| • One Love Treatment Services | • Family Crisis Council |
| • Daymark Recovery | • Salvation Army |

- Rowan County Clerk's Office
- Rowan County District Court Judges
- Rowan Helping
- Salisbury-Rowan NAACP
- Lantern Realty
- Unlock Me Bail Bonding
- Salisbury Human Relations Council

Mr. Rivers pointed out the organizations work together to get unsheltered individuals into housing and also assist with the first month's rent and utilities. He commented many residents have their rent and utilities covered for the first two months. He stated the resources are available, but the residents must be willing to commit to the program. He noted the resources available to homeless individuals include:

- Free treatment for substance use and mental health
- Identification documents
- Reconnecting homeless individuals with family members
- Help with domestic violence cases
- Connecting with service agencies
- Rent and utilities assistance
- Workforce development
- Sheltering
 - Difficult because there is not enough shelter for everyone who is homeless
 - Provide a bus ticket for individuals to go back to family members once it is determined there are no charges against them and they have somewhere to go

Mr. Cotilla stated the work Mr. Rivers does is invaluable and is done with compassion and empathy. He noted additional staffing and resources are needed to address the situation. He reviewed the work done by the City and private property owners to clean up the campsites:

- Bendix Drive next to IHOP \$1,100.00 to contractor \$787.85 for container and dump fees with a total cost of \$1,887.85 to the City
 - 9.87 tons of trash removed from the property
 - This property does not have a designated owner
- Bendix Drive across from IHOP \$1,200.00 to contractor and City trucks were used to haul the trash total dump fees \$346.68 with a total cost of \$1,546.68 to the City
 - 9.63 tons of trash removed from the property
 - North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) right-of-way maintained by City contractors
 - Vegetation cleared by NCDOT contractors
- Properties that were abated by the property owners
 - South Arlington Street and Cedar Street
 - 1700 South Jake Alexander Boulevard
 - Once the properties are abated the property owners incur the cost of cleanup

Mr. Cotialla stated the Public Works Department is a tremendous partner when dealing with campsites and the removal of shopping carts. He displayed photographs of the properties before and after cleanup, and he pointed out the costs the City incurs is paid out of the Minimum Housing Budget.

Chief Smith noted a lot of work has been done to address the campsites. He pointed out when a campsite is eliminated it creates displacement and other encampments appear and have occurred in City parks including Bell Tower Green and Gateway Park. He explained Mr. Rivers is the first contact when encampments are addressed. He noted some people are homeless due to circumstances beyond their control, some people are homeless because they do not realize they have an issue, and some chose to be homeless.

Mayor Alexander thanked Chief Smith, Mr. Rivers, and Mr. Cotialla for their work to address the situation. She added Council is committed to working with the County, and she stated the City is in desperate need of funding. She explained the County is responsible for human services which is not included in the City's budget. She thanked the Police Department for its work to secure a grant to fund the Homeless Advocate position, and she then thanked staff for reaching out to other communities to see what they are doing regarding their unsheltered population. She commented Council and staff are aware of the issue and have been working on it for several years, but it is overwhelming. She pointed out the encampments create a public safety hazard and the City must balance its responsibility to all citizens. She requested concerned citizens bring their suggestions to Council and staff, sign up to serve on the Task Force, reach out to Rowan Helping Ministries, and go to the County Commission meetings to request County assistance.

Councilmember Smith stated he wants to make sure the public understands the unprecedented nature of what the City is trying to do, and he pointed out cities the size of Salisbury do not have the infrastructure for human services. He added he is grateful for the way the City has worked to address the issue, but it is not sustainable and more resources are needed from the County, state, and federal governments. He pointed out cities across the Country are experiencing the effects of homelessness, many locations are becoming unaffordable, and there are less resources for people who are suffering from mental health crisis. He requested citizens also hold the stakeholders who can offer resources in this work accountable and let them know more than a criminal justice approach is needed. He clarified it is a public health issue, and he would love to see Social Services, Catawba College, and Livingstone College conduct research to provide a clearer analysis of what is happening locally. He added Council is committed to public safety and looking for ways to be a vehicle of public health in the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield recognized Rowan Helping Ministries Executive Director Kyna Grubb for her work with the unsheltered population. She thanked staff for its work to secure grant funding for a Homeless Advocate position. She pointed out it is a problem the City cannot arrest its way out of, and she noted staff is working to address the issue with compassion. She asked citizens to continue to show compassion to the unsheltered population, and she pointed out the unsheltered population are citizens of the community and their numbers have outpaced available services.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield noted the City has to ensure safety for all its citizens and laws and policies must be enforced. Chief Smith noted the unsheltered population did not just appear. He pointed out when the encampments were cleaned up it created an opportunity for visibility. He noted if people will not accept the resources that are being offered proper enforcement action will be needed based on City Ordinances. He commented some of the Ordinances need to be re-examined. He added the Police Department will continue to offer resources, but there are people

who chose to be unsheltered and there are unsheltered individuals who do not realize resources are available to them.

Councilmember Post noted citizens tend to complain about situations they see, and he pointed out when an encampment is cleaned up the unsheltered move to another location. He stated it is important to have a strategy with a multifocal lens. He commented the work being done is phenomenal, and he added it is important to know where you want to go in the future. He thanked Mr. Rivers for his work, and he pointed out it is a collaborative effort that will require a long-term strategy. He thanked Rowan Helping Ministries for all it does to help the unsheltered population.

Mayor Alexander thanked staff for its work to service all citizens, and she noted Council is looking for additional partners that can provide funding. She commented the County has started to receive its share of the opioid settlement, and she indicated many unsheltered individuals are suffering from mental illness and addiction. She stated to be successful the programs will need to be comprehensive and include services that address the issues faced by the unsheltered. Councilmember Smith noted a larger regional approach is needed.

TRANSIT VEHICLE PURCHASE

Transit Director Rodney Harrison asked Council to consider approving the purchase of three smaller Transit vehicles to replace the three 25-foot low floor, light duty vehicles approved in the FY2023-2024 budget at a total cost of \$327,615.

Mr. Harrison stated in the FY2024 budget Council approved three 25-foot low-floor, light-duty transit vehicles for \$575,000. He explained due to supply issues staff is requesting to replace the low-floor, light-duty transit vehicles with three smaller transit vehicles which are more readily available. He added the replacement vehicles are equipped with cameras and two-way radios. He noted the smaller vehicles can be used to support microtransit, ADA paratransit, and the fixed-route system. He commented additional seating could be purchased and the floor plan could be adjusted to accommodate six passengers and one mobility device. He noted the replacement cost of the three small transit vehicles is \$327,615 and the remaining funds can be used to purchase Transit vehicles with seating capacity for 15 passengers.

Mr. Harrison displayed photos of the Council-approved 25-foot low floor, light duty Transit vehicles, and Councilmember Post asked how many passengers the vehicle seats. Mr. Harrison stated it seats up to 14 passengers and the driver. Mr. Harrison displayed photos of the smaller vehicles that are readily available. Mayor Alexander asked if the smaller vehicle meets ADA requirements. Mr. Harrison agreed, and he noted the 25-foot low-floor vehicle includes a ramp and the smaller vehicle will have a rear lift.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield asked if the smaller vehicles would include bike racks. Mr. Harrison said he is unsure, but will reach out to the vendor and provide the information to Council.

Councilmember Post expressed concerns about replacing the 25-foot low floor, light duty vehicles with smaller vehicles due to passenger seating. He asked if passengers would have longer wait times at the bus stops. Mr. Harrison noted that purchasing smaller transit vehicles would fill a gap until the supply of vehicles becomes more readily available. He added with remaining funding, staff could purchase vehicles similar to the 25-foot low floor, light duty vehicle, which would include more passenger seating. Mayor Alexander asked if the smaller vehicles would be utilized for microtransit. Mr. Harrison agreed.

City Manager Jim Greene stated staff is struggling to meet equipment needs due to the lack of supply. He thanked Mr. Harrison for identifying a solution to continue Transit routes and provide flexibility for microtransit. He noted staff can continue to look for a larger vehicle with additional seating.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to approve the purchase of three smaller Transit vehicles in lieu of the three 25-foot low floor, light-duty vehicles approved in the FY2023-2024 budget which fits with the City’s microtransit plans. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield, and Councilmembers Post and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Hurley Park Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Councilmember Post. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers Post, and Smith voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Hurley Park Advisory Board to fill an unexpired term:

Ms. Anne Cave

Term Expires 3/31/2025

CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS

(a) Storm Response

City Manager Jim Greene thanked staff for its response to the storm that took place on Monday, August 7, 2023. He added multiple departments, including Police, Fire, Public Works, Transportation, and Salisbury-Rowan Utilities worked to ensure citizens, homes, and businesses were taken care of. He shared an email from a citizen thanking the Public Works Department for its quick response to storm cleanup.

Mr. Greene provided a summary of the work completed by the Public Works Department. He added Solid Waste, Street, and Grounds Maintenance crews spent over 645 hours clearing storm debris and addressing issues caused by the storm. He noted 41 trees were reported down in public right-of-ways or on City property, and the Public Works crews have worked to clear the debris. He thanked Public Works Director Chris Tester and the Public Works Department for their response to the storm.

Mr. Greene recognized outstanding storm response from the Transportation Department who called in Traffic Signal crew and Signs and Markers crew. He added 15 traffic signals went into flashing modes on the night of the storm, and those traffic signals must be checked, troubleshot, and returned to service. He stated City crews got all 15 traffic signals back online that night. He pointed out six traffic signals went dark with power outages, and Public Works worked with the Transportation and Police Department to establish new traffic patterns to ensure public safety. He added the Transportation Department worked closely with Duke Energy and power was restored through all intersections by 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday. He thanked Transportation Director Wendy Brindle and the Transportation Department for their hard work.

(b) Strategic Plan Processes

Mr. Greene noted at its Retreat Council established a priority to develop a Strategic Plan. He stated a consultant for the plan has been hired and has met with the Management Team and a team of City staff to begin the process. He added that the consultants would like to discuss the Strategic Plan with Council at the next Council meeting. Mr. Greene asked if Council would consider beginning the meeting at 5:00 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m. He stated the consultant will also reach out to each Councilmember individually to receive input on primary focus areas for the Strategic Plan.

(c) Addition to Pay Grade

Mr. Greene asked Council to consider adding a Transportation Division Manager Grade 17 to the employee classification system. He explained staff is not adding an additional position but is requesting to add the position title to the Employee Classification System and determine the salary range.

Thereupon, Mayor Alexander made a **motion** to approve adding a Transportation Division Manager Grade 17 to the City's Employee Classification System. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield, and Councilmembers Post and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

Mayor Alexander thanked Mr. Greene for his response to the storm and for ensuring the safety of all citizens.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield asked if the Strategic Planning conversation will require a special meeting or if staff will change the Council meeting start time to 5:00 p.m. instead of 6:00 p.m. Mr. Greene noted staff will work with Council to move the meeting to 5:00 p.m.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Post noted conference highlights from his trip to Scranton Pennsylvania to attend the Mayors Innovation Project. He added the conference highlighted topics including private sector job quality, budget transparency and renters' rights.

MAYOR PRO TEM'S COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield congratulated the Rowan Little League 10U Softball team champions. She thanked the Fire Department for a wonderful groundbreaking for Fire Station #3

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

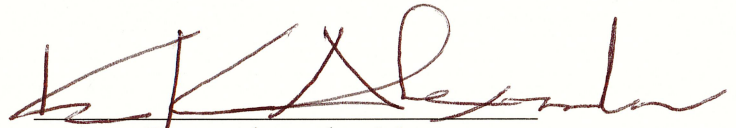
Mayor Alexander stated a young marketing professional made a presentation about the Rowan Young Professionals Club at a recent Rotary meeting. She added the Rowan Young Professionals is a community group that meets every Thursday.

Mayor Alexander noted she had the opportunity to attend and speak at the Catawba College Convocation for the beginning of the school year. She stated it was amazing to see how diverse the student population is.

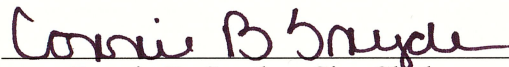
ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Post. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield and Councilmembers Post and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.



Karen Alexander, Mayor



Connie B. Snyder, City Clerk