Salisbury, North Carolina
May 19, 2015

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell; Council Members Karen Kirks Alexander, William (Pete) Kennedy, and William Brian Miller; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; City Clerk Myra B. Heard; and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

ABSENT: None.

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 Woodson at 4:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Woodson welcomed all visitors present.

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 5, 2015.
(b) **Budget Ordinance Amendment – Justice Assistance Grant**

Adopt a Budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2014-2015 budget in the amount of $20,958 to appropriate a 2014 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2014-15 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE 2014 BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT.**

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 22, and is known as Ordinance 2015-12)

(c) **Budget Ordinance Amendment – Public Art Committee**

Adopt a Budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2014-2015 budget in the amount of $9,000 to appropriate donations to the Public Art Committee.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2014-15 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE PUBLIC ART CONTRIBUTIONS.**

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 23, and is known as Ordinance 2015-13)

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

**CD-04-2015 ROWAN-CABARRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE SOLAR ARRAYS**

Zoning Administrator David Phillips addressed Council regarding Land Development Ordinance (LDO) and Land Development District Map Amendment CD-04-2015. He explained the petitioner is Rowan-Cabarrus Community College (RCCC), and the request is to amend an existing Conditional District (CD) Overlay to rezone approximately 9.65 acres, three parcels, from General Residential (GR) to Institutional Campus (IC). He added if the rezoning is approved, the entire campus will be zoned IC.

Mr. Phillips explained RCCC is proposing the installation of solar arrays that would provide power to the campus. He displayed a map of the area, and he pointed out the location of the proposed solar arrays and their proximity to Old Concord Road, the Olde Salisbury and Stone Ridge subdivisions, and Interstate 85. He then displayed photographs of the area.

Mr. Phillips stated IC zoning:

- Allows the continued and future use, expansion, and development of academic and religious campuses, government and health-care facilities, including utilities
• Allows campus buildings to be introverted within the campus
  o Regular buildings are oriented to public streets
• Campuses should accommodate automobiles and buses without affecting pedestrians

Mr. Phillips noted the proposed uses for the IC-CD:

• The CD Master Plan and Overlay establishes and sets the development type and uses
• CD would allow all currently permitted uses

Mr. Phillips indicated the Planning Board did not restrict any of the uses, and he noted the applicant did not request any uses be removed from the petition.

Mr. Phillips reviewed the Vision 2020 Plan:

• Policy I-7: To encourage economic development, the City of Salisbury shall continue to invest in infrastructure and services that sustain and enhance the area’s already high quality of life, image, and cultural identity
• Policy I-9: New and expanding industries and businesses shall be encouraged which
  o Are compatible to the long-term quality of the area’s natural and cultural resources
  o Match up well with area infrastructure and services
  o Employ and develop the skills of area workers

Mr. Phillips noted the Technical Review Committee (TRC) met February 26, 2015 and recommended provisional approval. He explained clarification was needed regarding landscaping and North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) access, which is off of a private drive. He added at the March 24, 2015 Planning Board meeting, adjacent property owners voiced their concerns, so the Planning Board sent the item to a Committee. He commented area residents attended the Committee meeting where landscaping and screening for the solar arrays were discussed. Mr. Phillips pointed out the petitioner will meet the landscape requirements, and he noted the landscaping will provide maximum screening. He commented the Planning Board reconvened April 28, 2015 and recommended approval.

Mr. Phillips displayed the landscape plan, and he indicated a tree line would be installed on both sides of the rear entrance. He pointed out the solar arrays and their proximity to Old Concord Road, and he pointed out the existing trees that will be left in the area. He explained existing trees that exceed 70-feet may need to be trimmed or removed, and RCCC will meet the 30 percent tree canopy cover.

Mr. Phillips indicated the Planning Board requested the developer flag the trees to be removed and allow staff to inspect the site to ensure the tree canopy is met before any trees are removed.

Mr. Phillips stated the Planning Board recommends approval pending development conditions being met.
Mayor Woodson asked if Planning Board approval was unanimous. Mr. Phillips indicated approval was unanimous.

Councilmember Alexander commented some of the solar arrays would be in view which will allow citizens to see that RCCC is forward thinking. She congratulated RCCC on all it is doing to promote sustainability.

(b) Mayor Woodson convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding CD-04-2015.

Ms. Janet Spriggs, 155 Waterford Drive, noted if the zoning request is approved the entire RCCC campus would be zoned IC, which would provide zoning consistency. She indicated the CD Overlay would allow a $3.4 million solar energy system that would generate approximately one megawatt of electricity per year. She noted the project consists of a public-private partnership that leverages a $1 million donation and allows the College to benefit from solar energy. She indicated the remaining funding would be provided by private tax equity investors and no public funds would be used for the project. Ms. Spriggs commented a private investor group would own and maintain the project for five years and then transfer the system to RCCC. She added the solar arrays would offset more than one-third of the College’s energy needs by the sixth year. She indicated RCCC strives to be a good neighbor and went above and beyond what is required for the College and the community. She explained RCCC addressed health concerns by providing evidence the generation of electricity from solar panels is safe. She added an independent appraiser stated the solar farm would not impact neighboring property values if located and developed as shown on the site plan. She commented the College addressed visibility concerns by hiring Mr. Johnny Safrit to develop a landscape plan that would provide a beautiful screen that enhances the neighborhood feel. She asked Council to support the request so the College can move forward with its groundbreaking public-private partnership.

Mr. Ken Clifton, 585 Hartman Road, stated he holds a LEED GA Accreditation, and he supports the project. He added solar power is locally produced in Rowan County and the City. He indicated solar energy is clean, safe, quiet, and dependable, and he noted solar energy would not affect neighboring property values. He commented solar energy could attract new businesses to the area. He pointed out the City is an EPA non-attainment zone, and solar energy would immediately impact the air quality. He indicated approval of the project would send a message that Council is committed to improving air quality in the City.

Ms. Chloe Gohow, 50 Farm Road, indicated she supports the project and its environmental and economic impact to the community and future generations. She stated the project would save 35 to 40 percent of the College’s energy costs for 25 to 30 years. She added these funds would provide students with a better education, and she asked Council to approve the project.

Ms. Kizzy Lea, 107 Belle Court, Associate Chief Financial Officer RCCC, commented she supports the rezoning request and the solar energy project on the north campus. She added she is excited about the $1 million donation and the unique public-private partnership that would
provide students with a demonstration of solar energy. She stated the project would allow the College to be good stewards of public resources by producing clean energy and reducing overall energy costs. She asked Council to support the request and set an example for the community to follow.

Ms. Carla Howell, 405 Frontier Circle, Chief Officer of RCCC Foundation, explained the Foundation supports the mission of RCCC to improve lives and build community through public higher education and work force development. She added the Foundation strongly supports the rezoning request and the solar project. She pointed out the project demonstrates the College’s commitment to sustainability and energy use. She stated a Rowan County citizen made the $1 million donation to be used for sustainability, and she noted it is the largest single donation in the Foundation’s history. She asked Council to support the request.

Dr. Francis Koster, 1012 West Lake Drive, Kannapolis, stated he supports solar energy. He pointed out alternative sources of energy are dangerous. He added in 2013 approximately 38 percent of all electricity consumed in North Carolina came from coal. He explained the dangers associated with coal energy and its cost to the consumer. He commented energy is the second costliest item for school systems. He pointed out the proposed project would demonstrate a creative way clean energy could be put to use on public buildings at no cost to the taxpayer.

Mr. Carl Short, Jr., 602 South Fulton Street, RCCC Board of Trustees Chair noted it is important for the parcels to be rezoned to IC to be consistent with the RCCC campus. He indicated the Board of Trustees has worked on the solar array project for approximately two years. He pointed out the proposed project is a unique opportunity for the College to be a role model in helping protect the environment and its natural resources. He stated the College has worked to build its relationship with its neighbors and the community. He asked Council to approve both petitions so the College can move forward with a groundbreaking public-private partnership that would change the future of RCCC.

Dr. Carol Spalding, 1012 West Lake Drive, President RCCC, thanked Council and all those who came out to support the project. She asked Council to support the project which would improve the College’s financial situation and provide the health benefits associated with clean energy.

Mr. Glenn Ketner, Ketner and Dees Attorneys, 121 East Kerr Street, attorney representing RCCC, stated he has rarely seen a client go to the lengths and expense RCCC has gone through to address concerns presented on a land use issue. He added the Planning Board is recommending unanimous approval, and he asked Council to support the request.

Mr. Tim Canup, 1708 Old Concord Road, indicated he does not support the rezoning request. He added the solar array panels and the associated driveway would not be in character with the existing residential zoning. He stated he appreciates solar power as a renewable energy resource that should be utilized, but he noted solar energy is not in RCCC’s 50-year plan. He pointed out he is concerned about what else could be put on the property. He noted the area is highlighted as a post-World War I residential area in the Vision 2020 Plan. He referenced
Section N-8 and N-9 of the Vision 2020 Plan, and he commented 13 people spoke against the rezoning at the Planning Board meeting.

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

Ms. Alexander stated she is in favor of the project. She added there has been a tremendous effort by the College to work with the neighborhood and an extended amount of time has been expended to allow the community to speak. She noted having the solar array in the community, saving the amount of money projected, and reducing the use of oil and gas is great for the community.

Councilmember Kennedy commented he also supports the rezoning request. He noted RCCC owns the property, and the zoning should be consistent for the entire campus. He added the nation is moving toward the use of renewable alternative energy, and it is important for RCCC to be an agent of change. He indicated a donor contributed $1 million to make the project happen, and he supports the rezoning and installation of solar array panels.

Councilmember Miller stated he is in favor of the project. He added he recognizes the concern about possible changes to the neighborhood character, but he pointed out changes have taken place over the last 10 to 15 years. He noted the College has done all it can, and more than is required by the LDO, to screen the property from the adjacent neighborhood. He asked if the IC-CD would only apply to the three parcels. Mr. Philips explained the main campus is zoned IC-CD which will extend to the three parcels. Mr. Miller explained the CD Overlay provides protections for the neighbors. He added once a development plan is approved by Council, the plan can only be changed by going through the approval process and coming back before Council. He noted he supports the rezoning request because of the renewable energy benefits, landscaping additions, and what it means to RCCC and its mission to educate students.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell commented she thinks the plan is brilliant. She pointed out RCCC has been given money to be used in an investment that will allow funds currently spent on power bills to be used for students. She added the investment in solar technology could be used as a teaching moment for the students. She congratulated the College on its inventiveness, and she added she supports the project.

Mayor Woodson noted he is impressed with the buffering, and he also supports the project. He thanked RCCC for all it does for the community.

Ms. Alexander stated the City Council hereby finds and determines that adoption of an Ordinance to rezone the property as described herein and amending an existing Conditional District Overlay is reasonable, in the public interest, and consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan because the plan aids improvement of the educational institution, the infrastructure is consistent with the roads, utilities, and other development in the area, and it is an industry that is environmentally friendly. Thereupon, Ms. Alexander made a motion to adopt an Ordinance amending the Land Development Ordinance and the Land Development District Map of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina, by rezoning three parcels at unnumbered Old Concord Road from General Residential to Institutional.
Campus and amending the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Conditional District Overlay to encompass these properties and to permit the development of a solar array farm with the development condition that prior to any construction activity, trees identified on the plan as preserved shall be tagged for such purposes and may be inspected by City staff. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE AND THE LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, REZONING THREE PARCELS AT UNNUMBERED OLD CONCORD ROAD FROM GENERAL RESIDENTIAL TO INSTITUTIONAL CAMPUS AND AMENDING THE ROWAN-CABARRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE CONDITIONAL DISTRICT OVERLAY TO ENCOMPASS THESE PROPERTIES AND TO PERMIT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SOLAR ARRAY FARM.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 24-25, and is known as Ordinance 2015-14)

SALISBURY HISTORIC DISTRICT DESIGN GUIDELINES

Planner Catherine Garner stated the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) has completed updates to the Salisbury Historic District Design Guidelines. She indicated there are currently two sets of guidelines: Residential and Non-Residential. She noted:

- Residential Design Guidelines were adopted July 1993
- Non-Residential Design Guidelines were adopted in 2001
- Guidelines cover exterior of the building and the property, but do not cover interior changes

Ms. Garner pointed out Design Guidelines have three levels of review:

- Minor Works staff considers repairs or replacements with no changes to materials, design, color, dimension, etc.
- Minor Works Committee considers small changes to exteriors, such as signage, painting, sidewalks, patios, etc.
- Major Works that go the HPC considers larger-scale changes that affect the historic fabric of the building, such as windows, siding, new construction, etc.

Ms. Garner noted the City has 10 National Register Historic Districts which are honorary designations. She added the HPC gains jurisdiction when historic districts are identified as Local Historic Districts. She pointed out the City has five Local Historic Districts: the West Square, North Main Street, Ellis Street Graded School, Brooklyn South Square, and the Downtown.

Ms. Garner noted in 2013 the City received a Certified Local Government (CLG) Grant from the North Carolina Historic Preservation Office. She explained grant monies were used to hire a consultant, and she added the HPC began reviewing and fine-tuning the guidelines in the
Ms. Garner reviewed the current and proposed guidelines:

- Current guidelines
  - 17 items approved by staff
  - 15 items approved by Minor Works Committee

- Proposed guidelines
  - 15 routine maintenance and repair items would not require a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA)
  - 24 items approved by staff would require a COA
  - 2 items approved by Minor Works Committee would require a COA

Ms. Garner indicated major works projects must go before the HPC since the project could affect the historic integrity of the building:

- Projects considered major works alter the exterior of the property beyond normal maintenance or exact replacements
- Major works could alter the historic fabric of the building, such as window replacement, exterior cladding replacement, or changes to roof material
- New Major Work Guidelines focus on clarity of impact to properties, energy efficiency, appropriate paint colors by architecture style, and additions

Ms. Garner noted the impact of the Salisbury Historic District Design Guidelines:

- Clarity
  - Guidelines are detailed and provide information regarding how to care for a historic building
- Efficient
  - Staff review means only the biggest exterior changes are reviewed by the entire Commission
- Modern
  - Guidelines balance historic preservation with modern technology and energy efficiency

(b) Mayor Woodson convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding Salisbury Historic District Design Guidelines.

Mr. Jon Planovsky, 124 South Ellis Street in the West Square District, HPC Chair, indicated he supports the Salisbury Historic District Design Guidelines which simplify many processes. He added the goal is to make sure the City continues to be a leader in historic preservation. He urged Council to adopt the guidelines.

Ms. Lisa Cartner, HPC Vice-Chair, stated the HPC worked to make the guidelines user friendly and to increase historic preservation awareness. She asked Council to adopt the Salisbury Historic District Design Guidelines.
Mr. Brian Davis, Executive Director Historic Salisbury Foundation (HSF), 429 Park Avenue, indicated he has been involved in the process since April 2013. He added the proposed Salisbury Historic District Design Guidelines are user friendly and would provide a useful tool for the HPC, historic home owners, and potential home buyers that defines the process, streamlines the COA requests, provides examples to the reader, and explains design review, sustainable practices, and the use of modern materials. He noted the guidelines give goals for each of the five Local Historic Districts. He asked Council to support the updated design standards for historic districts.

Mr. Andrew Walker, 324 North Fulton Street, HPC member, thanked the HPC members for their work on the Salisbury Historic District Design Guidelines. He added the updated guidelines are user friendly, and he asked Council to support the request.

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

Mayor Woodson thanked the HPC for its work to revise the guidelines.

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a motion to adopt the Salisbury Historic District Design Guidelines. Mr. Miller seconded the motion.

Councilmember Alexander commented, as a practicing architect, she uses the guidelines to design property additions for clients. She pointed out the proposed guidelines are clearer and take newer materials and energy sources into consideration.

Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

UPDATE – UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE COLLEGE OF COMPUTING

Councilmember Alexander acknowledged students from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNCC) who were in the audience and who attended a Technology Student Showcase on May 6, 2015. She added the City is a partner with the UNCC College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) along with Wells Fargo, the City of Charlotte, and other businesses.

Ms. Maryalicia Johnson, Partner Program Coordinator for UNCC thanked Ms. Alexander for her work on the project which provided a showcase for the teams. She explained the Innovative Computing Projects allowed two student teams to work on projects for the City. She pointed out students are connected with real world situations that prepare them for the work force.

Ms. Johnson recognized Mr. Olin Broadway, Professor Richard Ilson, Dr. Chu, and the teams who worked on an economic development project and a Fibrant project. She introduced
student John Wright. Mr. Wright noted his team worked on the Salisbury economic development project. Ms. Johnson introduced student Charles Royster who noted his team worked with Fibrant Director Kent Winrich to create a system that would simplify customer signup.

Mayor Woodson thanked the students for their work on City projects.

Mr. John Wright and Mr. Brandon Woods addressed Council regarding their projects for the City. Mr. Woods stated his team worked with Mr. Winrich and Fibrant on a process management project that evolved into a customer relations management system. He explained a web application was developed that could run on any Ipad or computer to simplify the customer input process.

Mr. Wright noted his team’s project worked to use Fibrant as a cornerstone for enticing companies to move to the City. He indicated economic growth is critical to area stability. He added Rowan County and the City must increase jobs, the local tax base, and services for residents and businesses. He pointed out Salisbury is located approximately 30 minutes from Charlotte and offers a gigabit of internet connectivity. He noted the proposal was to bring companies to Salisbury, and the team created a process using web tools to search the internet and find potential companies. He indicated the process is pulling approximately 10 companies per hour that would be ideal to move to the City.

Mayor Woodson pointed out Fibrant was installed to promote economic development. He thanked the students for all they have done for the City.

Ms. Johnson thanked the City and its citizens for believing in the students and helping develop future technology leaders.

Mr. Winrich stated it was a pleasure to work with the students. He added the students had great ideas and were very enthusiastic. He pointed out the majority of communication was done by video conferencing which saved time. He noted the students have provided a great starting point and gave the City things it can use immediately.

2015 SALISBURY SCULPTURE SHOW

Urban Design Planner Lynn Raker and Public Art Committee Chair Barbara Perry addressed Council regarding the 7th annual Salisbury Sculpture Show “Discover What’s Outside” which was installed Friday, March 20, 2015. Ms. Perry explained the Sculpture Show is a nine-month exhibition, and she noted art is placed in the downtown, at the four local college campuses, and at Interstate 85 Exit 76. She indicated there are 19 pieces in the show. She pointed out other cities such as Sanford, Cornelius, and Statesville are using the Salisbury Sculpture Show as a model for their own sculpture shows. She noted the Rowan County Convention and Visitors Bureau purchased the four sculptures along Interstate 85, and there are now seven permanent sculptures in the City.
Ms. Perry displayed the 2015 Salisbury Sculpture Show brochure which was designed by Web and Marketing Services Coordinator Fern Blair and Ms. Raker. She noted during the seven years of the Sculpture Show, 115 pieces of art from 100 different artists and 11 states have been displayed in the City. She noted the current pieces of art and their placement throughout the City:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sculpture</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sculptural Bike Racks</td>
<td>Gary Gresko</td>
<td>Salisbury Depot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red Green Construction</td>
<td>Ray Katz</td>
<td>Yadkin Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astral Projection</td>
<td>Ray Katz</td>
<td>Lee Street Theater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modus Vivendi</td>
<td>Kevin D. Eichner</td>
<td>Trolley Barn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sun Dance</td>
<td>Richard Pitts</td>
<td>F&amp;M Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orpheus</td>
<td>Paris Alexander</td>
<td>Rowan Museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuum</td>
<td>Jodi Hollnagel-Jubran</td>
<td>First United Methodist Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boundaries and The Tall Woman</td>
<td>Cathy Perry</td>
<td>Rowan Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sinuosity</td>
<td>Susan Moffatt</td>
<td>Rowan Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Stacks</td>
<td>Matt Amante</td>
<td>Hood Theological Seminary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Leaf Triptych</td>
<td>Jim Gallucci</td>
<td>Rowan-Cabarrus Community College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Winds Beneath</td>
<td>Stephen Hayes</td>
<td>Rowan-Cabarrus Community College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oak Leaf Seat</td>
<td>Jim Gallucci</td>
<td>Livingstone College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under the Maple Seeds</td>
<td>Stephen Hayes</td>
<td>Livingstone College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighting for Alpha</td>
<td>Todd Frahm</td>
<td>Catawba College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cube in Motion</td>
<td>Hanna Jubran</td>
<td>Catawba College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creatures of the Sky</td>
<td>Jim Gallucci</td>
<td>Catawba College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arch II</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dancing Milkweed V</td>
<td>David Boyajian</td>
<td>Catawba College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salisbury Foursome</td>
<td>Robert Winkler</td>
<td>Interstate 85 Exit 76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ms. Raker pointed out installation of the sculptures is very detailed and challenging work. She recognized Randy and Sue Goodman for their work to install the sculptures, and she pointed out many of the sculptures required major footing work.

Ms. Raker stated North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) Art Review Committee Leader Ricky Greene indicated NCDOT may follow the City’s process in the future. She pointed out NCDOT is embracing art, and Governor Pat McCrory is embracing temporary art due to its cost effectiveness and ease of change. She added the Salisbury Sculpture Show has been used to develop a Statewide program called “Art That Moves You.”

Ms. Raker thanked Council for supporting the Salisbury Sculpture Show. She added the show costs $30,000 which included the installation of all 19 pieces. She noted the 2015 funding sources for the Salisbury Sculpture Show:

- City of Salisbury Community Appearance Commission (CAC)
- Rowan Arts Council Grassroots Grant
- Salisbury Community Foundation
• Catawba College
• Livingstone College
• Rowan-Cabarrus Community College
• Hood Theological Seminary
• Private donations

Mayor Woodson thanked Ms. Perry and Ms. Raker for their work to make the Salisbury Sculpture Show a success.

**UPDATE – PARKING ALONG RIDGE AVENUE AND SOUTH FULTON STREET**

Traffic Engineering Coordinator Vickie Eddleman stated, at Council’s request, staff investigated on-street parking along South Fulton Street near Ridge Avenue. She noted the investigation centered around five businesses along South Fulton Street between Harrison and Elm Streets.

Ms. Eddleman noted the investigation did not result in additional parking. She pointed out Harrison Street, between Lincolnton Road and Fulton Street, is a narrow one-way street. She stated the restricted portion of Harrison Street on the east side of South Fulton Street has wide driveway cuts that would not permit on-street parking. She indicated the south side of South Fulton Street includes off-street parking for these businesses. She commented Elm Street and Wiley Avenue are not wide enough to allow parking on both sides of the street.

Ms. Eddleman indicated parking is restricted on the west side of South Fulton Street for 40 feet beyond the marked on-street parking. She explained Elm Street and Johnson Street are offset intersections, and the skewed angle of Johnson Street causes the turning radius of vehicles to use the extra lane width. She commented there are two sections of marked on-street parking in front of the businesses between Ridge Avenue and Elm Street. She explained the first section includes three parking spaces for a total length of 66 feet, and the second section includes four parking spaces for a length of 83 feet. Ms. Eddleman pointed out in some instances unmarked parking allows additional cars to park within the same distance, but that is not the case in front of the businesses between Ridge Avenue and Elm Street.

Ms. Eddleman stated staff recommends leaving the existing parking spaces as marked. She pointed out the on-street parking on the east side of South Fulton Street near Harrison Street is only marked at the end of the street, which uses the area’s approximate 12 parking spaces. She indicated the one-way portion of Ridge Avenue from South Fulton Street to Crosby Street is too narrow for parking on both sides of the street, but the portion of Ridge Avenue from Crosby Street to New Street could allow parking on one side of the street excluding the 30-minute parking spaces.

Ms. Eddleman noted staff has attempted to contact the Wiley School Apartment Manager by telephone and in person to discuss the parking situation prior to neighborhood input. She added a letter was mailed to the property owner and to the apartment complex requesting they contact staff, but they did not have time to respond prior to this meeting. She stated staff will
continue to investigate the area to look for additional parking. She indicated once property owners respond, a decision could be made regarding parking. She stated a new presentation will be made if the parking next to Wiley School Apartments is modified.

Councilmember Miller asked if parking has been considered for the east side of Fulton Street adjacent to Chestnut Hill Cemetery. Ms. Eddleman noted staff has considered this option, but the current traffic markings on Fulton Street will not allow additional parking. She pointed out parking is allowed on the west side of Fulton Street.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell noted the issue was brought before Council at its April 7, 2015 meeting, and there was a concern about transit and school buses turning right onto Ridge Avenue from Fulton Street. She pointed out three days before Mean Mugs Coffee Shop opened, the City restricted parking in the three former parking spaces beside the building. Ms. Eddleman noted two parking spaces were restricted. Ms. Blackwell stated the business owner received a letter notifying her the item would be brought before Council on the day of the meeting. City Engineer Wendy Brindle noted that was the second letter that was sent to the property owners, and she added the letter was sent as a courtesy to let them know about the changes. She indicated the original letter went out two to three weeks prior to the first Council meeting. Ms. Blackwell stated the first letter went to the property owner, and the business owner is a renter, and she received her letter three days before the opening of her business. Ms. Brindle noted staff has had conversations with the business owner regarding the issue. She stated the business owner received both letters, and she added the business owner said she did not check her mail at the business regularly.

Ms. Blackwell stated three days before the business opened the City eliminated two of the businesses’ three parking spaces. She added the business owner has one parking space in front of her business and two parking spaces on the side of the business. She pointed out there is on-street parking across from the business, but the parking spaces are usually taken by area residents. She noted she is concerned that three days before a new business opened, its parking spaces were eliminated. She indicated she understands transit and school buses have a challenge, and she noted the City prides itself on being business friendly, and the business owner needs parking spaces for her business.

Ms. Brindle noted at Council’s April 7, 2015 meeting the possibility of creating a 15-minute parking space and restricting one parking space was discussed. She stated parking was allowed directly in front of the building where it was previously prohibited.

Mayor Woodson asked for clarification regarding the 15-minute parking space. Ms. Brindle noted the possibility of a 15-minute parking space was brought before Council in April rather than a total parking restriction. Ms. Blackwell noted she recently went for a cup of coffee at Mean Mugs, and it was very difficult to find parking. She pointed out the decision to restrict the parking has hurt this business.

Councilmember Miller pointed out no one wants to hurt a local business. He added Council asked staff to bring a recommendation, and he commented staff is providing an update and will present a recommendation to address the issue in the near future. He stated the last
presentation was incomplete, and Council had to react to the information it was given. He commented he realizes there is frustration, but no one wants an accident in the intersection, and no one wants to harm a business. He noted Council is looking for a solution that will provide relief. Mr. Miller added the downtown area has zoning codes that do not require parking as part of the development, and he indicated he is not sure if that is the case in this situation. He commented to some extent there is a need for the property owner to provide parking for the businesses that operate out of their building. He added Council will do what it can, but it cannot change the design of the streets without a major expense. He indicated that is why he asked about the width of Fulton Street, because he thought the street was wide enough to accommodate parking on both sides of the street along with two lanes of traffic. He commented the parking for the building is inefficient because it has unmarked gravel parking spaces.

Ms. Blackwell stated the issue should be fixed for the property owner, and she added parking at the Wiley School Apartments is irrelevant to the issue at hand. Mr. Miller pointed out Wiley School Apartments is within one-half to one block of the property.

Ms. Blackwell indicated when the business owner invested in the building she had side parking and three days before the business opened the parking was restricted. Mr. Miller questioned if the parking should have remained unrestricted until a solution was determined. Ms. Blackwell stated she and Mayor Woodson had the no parking signs taken down until the issue was resolved, but the signs were reinstalled.

Mr. Miller noted Council asked for a recommendation to be brought back within 30 to 45 days and this is the first meeting. He added he is hopeful by the next meeting there will be conversations regarding options that could lead to a better resolution.

Mayor Woodson asked City Manager Lane Bailey to help the business until the parking issue is resolved.

**REPORT – TRUCK TRAFFIC**

Traffic Engineering Coordinator Vickie Eddleman and City Engineer Wendy Brindel addressed Council regarding truck traffic. Ms. Eddleman stated while reviewing City Code, staff determined Section 13-334, Truck Routes, is no longer necessary. She explained Section 13-334 was designed to aid in identifying roadways that allow delivery trucks unrestricted access. She noted there are other methods for identifying such streets including the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. She explained the Comprehensive Transportation Plan defines street classifications such as major and minor thoroughfares.

Ms. Eddleman explained Section 13-331 and Section 13-335 of the Code work together to accomplish the same goals as Section 13-334. She noted Section 13-331 lists streets where through-traffic and truck traffic should be expected. She indicated streets listed in Section 13-335 prohibit delivery trucks unless the driver is making a delivery within that same section. She pointed out if a driver is using the restricted street as a through-street a ticket could be issued.
Ms. Eddleman indicated staff researched other cities and determined they do not use a truck route and a restricted truck traffic in their code. She pointed out staff is requesting Council consider the elimination of Section 13-334 Truck Routes from the City Code.

Ms. Eddleman noted at citizens’ request, staff began an investigation into the volume of truck traffic using Newsome Road. She indicated Newsome Road is classified as a through-street since it connects Bringle Ferry Road to Stokes Ferry Road and Innes Street, and the area is primarily residential. She pointed out a 24-hour study of traffic volume indicated an average of 104 commercial trucks in either direction, with the highest total in a single lane being 120 trucks. She pointed out commercial truck traffic represents six percent of the total traffic on Newsome Road, but the trucks cause considerable infrastructure damage. She added repairs have been made but more are needed. Ms. Eddleman indicated the crews that made the repairs reported a constant flow of tractor-trailer trucks. She explained it is not desirable to encourage commercial truck traffic along this section of roadway due to the upcoming Newsome Road Project. She noted staff recommends restricting truck traffic along Newsome Road between Bringle Ferry and Stokes Ferry Roads.

Councilmember Kennedy asked how trucks would travel from Bringle Ferry Road to Stokes Ferry Road if they do not use Newsome Road. Ms. Brindle stated the trucks could use Earnhardt Road and Long Street which are close by. She added staff investigated, and many of the trucks are coming from Albemarle and Denton and have the option of continuing to Stokes Ferry Road or using Highway 152 to the City.

Mr. Kennedy asked how the truck drivers will be made aware of the changes. Ms. Brindle stated staff will contact the truck companies to alert their drivers of the proposed changes. She indicated once the signs are posted, the Police Department will conduct a campaign to promote awareness. She pointed out truck drivers started using Newsome Road six to nine months ago when it began showing up on their GPS as the route to travel.

Mr. Kennedy stated he does not have a problem eliminating truck traffic on Newsome Road, but he wants to make sure there is an alternate route for the truck drivers to use.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a motion to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 13, Article X, of the Code of the City of Salisbury, relating to truck routes and restricted truck traffic streets. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE X, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, RELATING TO TRUCK ROUTES AND RESTRICTED TRUCK TRAFFIC STREETS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 25 at Page No. 26, and is known as Ordinance 2015-15)
CONNECT NC BOND INITIATIVE

Mayor Woodson indicated Council recently heard Governor Pat McCrory speak in Spencer regarding a $1.5 billion CONNECT NC Bond for transportation. He pointed out one of the benefits for Rowan County would be a designation of $15 million for the Spencer Shops which is a local tourist destination. He pointed out the bond would be used for statewide road construction and bridge improvement.

Mayor Woodson stated he supports the initiative, and he noted Rowan County recently received a new bridge over Interstate 85. He explained the State is trying to have the initiative placed on the ballot before June 30, 2015 so it can be included in the November election for citizens’ consideration.

Councilmember Alexander stated she also supports the initiative, and she pointed out the citizens will decide in November.

Thereupon, Ms. Alexander made a motion to adopt a Resolution of support for the CONNECT NC Bond Initiative. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE CONNECT NC BOND INITIATIVE

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 15 at Page No. 10, and is known as Resolution 2015-09)

APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Woodson opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Jerry Shelby, representing the East Side of Interstate 85 in the Morlan Park area, stated Morlan Park was the largest annexed area in the City’s history. He explained the area was divided by Jake Alexander Boulevard which closed all but one of the through-streets. He pointed out Morlan Park Road is the only connection through the neighborhood. He stated closing Morlan Park Road will not stop the traffic, it will move the problem to another area. He asked if any of the accidents that have taken place could have been prevented if the changes proposed in 2007 would have been made. He indicated he has used Morlan Park Road for 15 years and never had a problem crossing Jake Alexander Boulevard or making a left turn at different times of day by car or by bicycle. Mr. Shelby questioned inconveniencing drivers all day if the accidents only take place at a certain time of the day. He pointed out the directional median at the intersection of Jake Alexander Boulevard and Morlan Park Road will cause additional driving expenses for many drivers who cannot afford it.
Mr. Randy Goodman stated he owns multiple properties along Carolina Boulevard and Morlan Park Road. He added he would like to give his three minutes to Mr. Shelby.

Mr. Shelby stated he does not understand how people who do not live in the neighborhood and do not use Morlan Park Road can inconvenience local residents. He requested a traffic light at the intersection of Morlan Park and Faith Roads. He noted drivers will get confused and make a wrong turn onto Jake Alexander if the directional median is installed. He asked when the City is going to make the intersection safe.

Mayor Woodson asked City Manager Lane Bailey to appoint someone to meet with Mr. Shelby to discuss his concerns. Mr. Bailey stated he will meet with Ms. Brindle and discuss the issue.

Mr. Kenneth Hardin, 107 Willow Road, addressed Council regarding neighborhood issues. Mr. William Peoples gave Mr. Hardin his three minutes to speak. Mr. Hardin stated he receives many calls from citizens who feel their voices are muted in the City. He referenced local news coverage where the reporter stated police officers do not understand why residents will not come forward with information. He pointed out there is mistrust between the black community and the Police Department. He commented there is also discontent among other groups within the business community along Main Street. Mr. Hardin indicated he recently spoke to a veterans group and listened to their concerns, and spent several hours on a downtown walking tour visiting with businesses and speaking with owners and employees. He noted a bomb threat occurred last Friday at Wells Fargo, and bank employees were evacuated safely, yet local business owners were not alerted. He referenced an encounter he had with an obviously drunk driver on Jake Alexander Boulevard. He explained he called 911 and provided the operator with the name, address, and age of the proposed offender as he waited for an officer to respond. He stated after several minutes the driver left the scene. He pointed out after over six minutes on the phone there was no response from a police officer, so he left the area. He thanked Captain Stallings for looking into the incident and following up with information regarding the lack of response. Mr. Hardin pointed out the Police substation in the West End community, that few wanted in the first place, is not working. He stated people in the community are at a tipping point. He added he and another member of the Chamber group recently dissuaded young people who wanted to engage in retaliatory acts against police officers in the City. He indicated more than empty promises and shallow conversations are needed to improve relations between the community and the Police Department. He stated the community needs strong leadership and a strategic plan. He added he receives phone calls every day, and he does his best to keep citizens calm while implementing conversation, but he needs help from Council and the Police Department.

Ms. Tamara Sheffield, 301 Maupin Avenue, asked Council for a Proclamation for Salisbury Pride. She noted Proclamations are issued at the Mayor’s discretion, but they represent the entire Council and reflect the perception of the City. She indicated for the last three years the request for a Salisbury Pride Proclamation has been submitted to the Mayor’s office and has been denied. She commented it is time for Council to see the faces affected by the denial and the impact to them. She stated Salisbury Pride aligned its mission with the City’s mission statement.
She indicated the members of Salisbury Pride strive to be an organization that builds safe inclusive communities while providing positive visibility for gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, queer and questioning individuals. She added Salisbury Pride believes in equality for all. Ms. Sheffield commented it has been said a Salisbury Pride Proclamation is a divisive issue. She noted when the Proclamation is denied it sends a message that everyone is not created equal. She pointed out the youth of the community, regardless of their identification, see denial of the Proclamation as a way of saying some are lesser and not deserving of a Proclamation. She noted other cities see Salisbury as non-progressive, close minded, and not open for business. She noted 28 Proclamations have been issued from January 2014 to January 2015. She respectfully asked for a Proclamation declaring June 20, 2015 as LGBTQ Pride Day in the City, and she asked Council to encourage the Mayor to represent all the citizens of the City.

Ms. Cheryl Goins, 101 South Main Street, stated she supports a Proclamation for LGBTQ Pride Day. She indicated if the Proclamation has been denied in the past because it is considered divisive, it is wrong, and she noted embracing diversity is never wrong. She added issuing a Proclamation takes nothing from anyone, and it sends a message of inclusiveness, acceptance, and love. She pointed out the LGBT community in the City is a group of contributing citizens. She added she is proud to call Salisbury home. She commented a tremendous amount of work goes into the Pride festival, and it is something to be proud of. She indicated it is time to focus on inclusiveness and diversity.

Mr. Christopher Eller, 411 South Baldwin Avenue, Spencer stated he is very connected to the community. He asked Council to formally recognize the LGBT community as a portion of the City’s population that brings great honor to the City by proclaiming June 20, 2015 as LGBTQ Pride Day. He added growing up in Salisbury he was bullied for being gay, and when he returned to the community as an adult he was still afraid. He added he has found an extended family in the Pride organization. He indicated by issuing a Proclamation the City is honoring its vision statement to be free of discrimination and to be inclusive. He thanked Council for its consideration.

Ms. Mary Frances Edens, 619 Laurel Valley Way, pointed out she has lived in the City for over 40 years and spent most of those years teaching in the public schools. She added she is here as a straight ally of the LGBT community to urge Council to issue a Proclamation for the Salisbury Pride Festival. She pointed out former Mayor Susan Kluttz issued a Proclamation at the first Salisbury Pride Festival four years ago. She commented she believes everyone is created equal. She stated discrimination is always wrong, and she added she believes Council shares her belief. She indicated in the future when others look back at Salisbury’s Mayor and Council, the City should be on the right side of history.

Ms. Jamie Monroe, Fairfield neighborhood Queens Road, stated she has been transgender her entire life. She added she attended the Salisbury Public School System in the 1970s and 1980s where she was teased, bullied, and tormented. She added she never felt safe in school because there were no groups, organizations, or resources for gay adults or children. She added denial of the Proclamation sets a bad example and sends a message that discrimination and isolation is okay. She noted the Pride Celebration may be the only place an LGBTQ youth can feel free and be who they truly are. She stated Salisbury Pride is a resource that could prevent
teen suicide. She asked Council to acknowledge the community and issue the Proclamation.

Mr. Mike Clawson, 807 Mooresville Road, Current President of the Salisbury-Rowan PFLAG and former member of the Human Relations Council, asked for a Proclamation for Salisbury Pride Day. He explained in eight years the Salisbury Chapter of PFLAG has awarded 33 LGBT scholarships to students and received over 125 applications for scholarships. He noted almost half of the scholarships have been awarded to straight ally students. He pointed out as a parent of a gay child, he understands the struggles many LGBT children face. He added in the scholarship applications many applicants have mentioned the denial of the Proclamation as a blemish on the City. He stated students need to see their City as progressive and hopefully they will return to the City after they complete their education.

Rev. Robin Tanner, 216 Mitchell Avenue, Lead Minister Piedmont Unitarian Universalist Church, stated the issuance of a Proclamation may seem like a small thing. She added as a member of the LGBT community, she knows what it means to have allies who use their words to protect people. She asked the Mayor to break the silence and issue the Proclamation.

Mr. Jon Planovsky, 124 South Ellis Street, stated he is a local property owner and downtown business owner. He added he is a gay man, and he has been with his husband for 33 years. He noted Salisbury is their home. He asked Council to issue a Proclamation declaring June 20, 2015 as LGBTQ Pride Day. He noted it is the responsibility of everyone to do all they can to end hate, discrimination, and intolerance. He pointed out by issuing the Proclamation Council will be fulfilling the City’s Vision Statement to be a City of inclusion and diversity, fairness and equality. He added Council will send a positive message to thousands of LGBTQ community members and their straight allies that Salisbury is a fair and equal city, a safe place to get an education, open a business, and become a positive influence in the community.

Ms. Mary Overholser, 508 Wiley Avenue, stated she is a public school teacher and a lesbian. She indicated everyone yearns for a sense of belonging. She added not recognizing the LGBTQ presence in the community is equal to being invisible. She pointed out Salisbury can join other cities by saying it values all of its citizens.

Ms. Sue McHugh, 910 North Main Street, asked Council to consider the North Main Small Area Improvement Plan when it considers its budget. She added the North Main Small Area Improvement Plan was approved by Council in 2007, and eight years later little has been implemented. She noted small things like striping for on-street parking could be accomplished. She indicated she also supports the issuance of a Proclamation for Salisbury Pride Day on June 20, 2015. She stated Salisbury Pride should be celebrated because the City celebrates the diversity in the community. She asked Council to issue the Proclamation for the entire community.

Ms. Rachel Oestreicher Bernheim, 228 South Fulton Street, stated the public cannot ignore the LGBTQ community and what the City has meant to them. She added citizens from all walks of life are here today to request the Proclamation.
Ms. Beth Meadows, 175 Knollwood Drive, stated she came to Salisbury in 1987. She noted as a gay person she did not realize the City had a vibrant gay community that was under the radar. She stated she was very proud when former Mayor Susan Kluttz issued a Proclamation for the first Pride celebration. She added since that time the Proclamation has been denied and the LGBTQ community ignored because the recognition was deemed too controversial. She questioned how a Proclamation that aligns itself with the City’s Mission Statement can be controversial. She stated the LGBTQ community loves the City, pays taxes and spends money in the community. She asked Council to recognize LGBTQ citizens as a part of the community and issue the Proclamation on June 20, 2015.

Ms. Vonda Jenkins-Kimery, 621 Mulberry Lane, stated she is an active member of the community and believes in equality for everyone. She asked Council to issue a Proclamation for the fifth Salisbury Pride Day, and she pointed out members of the LGBTQ community matter. She asked the Mayor to follow the City’s Vision Statement to be a City that is free of discrimination by proclaiming June 20, 2015 as LGBTQ Pride Day.

Mr. Jim Carli, 419 South Ellis Street, asked everyone in the room who supports the Proclamation to stand.

Ms. Mary Jane Mead, 301 Maupin Avenue, wife of Tamara Sheffield President of Salisbury Pride, asked Mayor Woodson to declare June 20, 2015 LGBTQ Pride Day to show Salisbury is a supportive city that values all of its citizens. She noted the Salisbury Pride Committee works year round to provide a positive visibility in or around the community, a safe environment that permits the expression of diverse perspectives, and education to cultivate harmony in the community. She asked for the community to be recognized by the City for one day. She asked Council to follow the City’s Vision Statement by declaring June 20, 2015 LGBTQ Pride Day.

Mr. Rodney Lippard, 3045 Faith Road, stated he has moved away but always comes back because Salisbury is home. He stated in 1997 he was a member of the Catawba College faculty and served as advisor to the Gay and Lesbian Student Group. He indicated he left the City in 2004 and returned in 2011 to find a Pride Celebration that was proclaimed by the Mayor and attended by thousands. He asked Council to consider the economic and cultural impact that Salisbury Pride has on the community and youth who are coming to terms with who they are. He asked Mayor Woodson to proclaim June 20, 2015 as LGBTQ Pride Day.

Ms. Cathy Pusher, 117 Elizabeth Street China Grove, stated she spends her time and money in the City. She added she serves as a board member for Salisbury Pride. She pointed out many citizens have a difficult time understanding Pride Day. She added Pride Day creates a sense of commonality and belonging for the LGBTQ community. She asked Council to declare June 20, 2015 as LGBTQ Salisbury Pride Day.

Ms. Heather Spivey, Concord, indicated she is here as a Salisbury Pride board member. She read the Salisbury Pride Mission Statement and noted Salisbury Pride did not look at the City’s Mission Statement when it wrote its Statement, and she pointed out the statements are similar. She asked Council to read both Mission Statements and decide whether to declare June 20, 2015 as LGBTQ Pride Day.
Mr. Bill Stanback, former Salisbury Mayor, stated he has an advantage of serving as a former Council member. He added he is 92 years old, and he has a daughter who is lesbian. He noted if you have a child whose fate is wrapped up in how they are perceived by fellow citizens, you become interested. He added as a Council member he did not do anything to alleviate the problem. He urged Council to issue the Proclamation and make a difference.

There being no one else to speak, Mayor Woodson closed the public comment session.

Mayor Woodson thanked all the citizens who took the time to address Council.

**CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS**

(a) **FY2015-2016 Council Goals and Outcomes**

City Manager Lane Bailey presented Council with the FY2015-2016 Council Goals and Outcomes. He explained the goals were created at Council’s Retreat in February, and members of staff were assigned to address the different areas.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** to adopt the FY2015-2016 Council Goals and Outcomes. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

(b) **FY2015-2016 Proposed Budget**

City Manager Lane Bailey presented the FY2015-2016 proposed budget. He indicated the proposed budget has been a challenge. He noted the most significant challenge has been the loss of privilege license tax. He explained the North Carolina General Assembly repealed this tax last year, and at this time there is no replacement revenue. He added the tax accounted for $320,000 or 1.18 cents of property tax. He pointed out 2015 is a revaluation year and revaluations are down slightly. He added to remain revenue neutral it would require an increase of .31 cents. He indicated as a result of the loss of privilege license tax and aligning property values, he recommends a 1.49 cent tax increase to bring the tax rate to 67.18 cents. He commended the Council and Management Team for their work to improve the Fund Balance. He indicated at the end of the current fiscal year the Fund Balance is projected to be at 35 percent, and he noted at that level staff can safely appropriate it. He added he recommends an appropriation of $378,000 and noted he has a list of what would be funded with the appropriation.

Mayor Woodson asked if the $378,000 was included in the proposed budget. Mr. Bailey stated it was included. He added he also recommends a 2.5 percent merit increase for employees and adding Veterans Day to the list of holidays. He indicated he is recommending hiring a Parks and Recreation Director. He stated he has also included fire safety equipment in the budget which could be funded through grants. He stated the budget also includes $480,000 of roof and HVAC repairs throughout the City.
Mr. Bailey indicated he is not recommending a water and sewer rate increase, but is recommending an increase in the tap and connection fee to keep up with the cost of services. He commented the most significant expense in the SRU budget is $280,000 for lift station improvements.

Mr. Bailey stated he recommends a .75 cent per month fee increase for Stormwater services. He indicated the fund has diminished due to different projects, and he noted the proposed budget includes $119,750 worth of Stormwater projects.

Mr. Bailey pointed out Council heard good things from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte regarding their work to help Fibrant grow. He stated Salisbury is the fastest city in North Carolina in terms of fiber optic speed and one of 18 cities in the United States that has broadband community-wide. He indicated the City does not have a digital divide. He recommended an increase in fees to keep up with provider costs. He stated the proposed budget includes a 10 percent increase in revenue. He noted Council has mentioned treating Fibrant like an enterprise fund, and staff is working toward that goal.

Mr. Bailey explained the Transit Fund is in a transitional period going from a rural transportation system to an urban transportation system. He explained the transition is a result of the 2010 census. He noted in the future there may be opportunities for increased revenue but there could also be challenges. He introduced the newest member of the Management Team Rodney Harrison who will serve as Transit Director.

Mr. Bailey thanked the Management Team, Finance Director Teresa Harris, and Budget and Performance Manager Shannon Moore for their work on the budget. He added staff looks forward to working with Council to develop a budget that meets the needs of the City and its citizens.

Mayor Woodson asked if the proposed Stormwater rate increase is just on homes. Mr. Bailey noted the Stormwater rate increase would be on all Stormwater residential accounts.

Mayor Woodson asked if the 10 percent Fibrant rate increase is on video. Mr. Bailey stated staff is budgeting a 10 percent increase in revenue. He noted the revenue would increase because some of the fees are increasing, but staff is also predicting an increase in residential and business customers.

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a motion to set a public hearing for June 2, 2015 to receive comments regarding the FY2015-2016 proposed budget. Mr. Miler seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)
MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Wayfinding Signage

Mayor Woodson announced he has received many positive comments regarding the Wayfinding Signage. He thanked everyone who worked on the project.

(b) Injured Firefighter

Mayor Woodson announced Firefighter James Garris was injured last week. He added Mr. Garris is doing much better. He thanked the firefighters and police officers for all they do for the City.

(c) FY2015-2016 Proposed Budget

Councilmember Miller clarified the public hearing for the proposed budget is June 2, 2015. He stated Council’s Budget Workshop will be held on June 8, 2015.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell pointed out citizens can request a copy of the proposed budget. City Clerk Myra Heard stated the proposed budget will be online Wednesday, May 20, 2015, and in the City Clerk’s office at 217 South Main Street for public inspection.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Kennedy seconded by Mr. Miller. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

[Signatures]
Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Mayor
Myra B. Heard, City Clerk