

Salisbury, North Carolina
June 7, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

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

ABSENT: None.

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.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Alexander noted the following changes to the Agenda:

Add – Council to receive a request to name a bench in honor of Joseph Heilig and consider establishing a 30-day period for public input.

Add – Council to go into closed session to consult with an attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3).

Postpone Item 14 – Council to consider adopting Ordinances authorizing the demolition of the structures located at:

- (a) 318 Vanderford Street
- (b) 425 Messner Street
- (c) 623 Forney Street
- (d) 1027 West Horah Street
- (e) 1436 Old Wilkesboro Road

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Thereupon, Councilmember Smith made a **motion** to adopt the Agenda as amended. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

OATH OF OFFICE – CITY MANAGER JIM GREENE, JR.

Mayor Alexander administered the Oath of Office for City Manager of the City of Salisbury to Mr. James “Jim” S. Greene, Jr.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor to proclaim the following observances:

THE 78 TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY	June 6, 2022
UNITED STATES ARMY’S BIRTHDAY DAY	June 14, 2022
IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH	June 2022
JUNETEENTH	June 19, 2022
SALISBURY PRIDE DAY	June 25, 2022
PLAY BALL SUMMER	June 1 – August 31, 2022

CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the special meeting of May 12, 2022, regular meeting of May 17, 2022 and the special meeting of May 24, 2022.

(b) Voluntary Annexation – Majolica Road

Receive a request for voluntary annexation of Tax Map 451 Parcel 227 located on Majolica Road, 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 G.S. 160A-31, FOR VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION OF TAX MAP 451 PARCEL 227, 31.487 ACRES LOCATED ON MAJOLICA ROAD.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 27, and is known as Resolution 2022-20.)

(c) Voluntary Annexation – The Gables Phase 6

Receive a request for voluntary annexation of Tax Map 403 Parcel 192, The Gables Phase 6, 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 G.S. 160A-58.1, FOR VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION OF 4.39 ACRES, LOCATED OFF FAITH ROAD AND IDENTIFIED AS TAX MAP 403 PARCEL 192.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 28, and is known as Resolution 2022-21.)

(d) Voluntary Annexation – 1215 Peeler Road

Receive a request for voluntary annexation of Tax Map 408 Parcel 011 located at 1215 Peeler Road, 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 G.S. 160A-58.1, FOR VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION OF 6.076 ACRES, LOCATED ON PEELER ROAD AND IDENTIFIED AS TAX MAP 408 PARCEL 011.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 29, and is known as Resolution 2022-22.)

(e) Voluntary Annexation – Peach Orchard Road

Receive the Certificate of Sufficiency for the voluntary annexation of Tax Map 407A Parcels 099, 112, and 113 located on Peach Orchard Road and adopt a Resolution setting the date of the public hearing for June 21, 2022.

RESOLUTION SETTING DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON QUESTION OF THE ANNEXATION OF PEACH ORCHARD ROAD, 407A099, 407A112, 407A113, PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-58.1.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 30-31, and is known as Resolution 2022-23.)

(f) Right-of-Way Encroachment – AT&T

Approve a Right-of-Way encroachment by AT&T in the 300 block of North Main Street in accordance with Section 11-24(27) of the City Code, subject to approval by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

(g) Right-of-Way Encroachment – TEP Fiber/Duke Energy

Approve a Right-of-Way encroachment by TEP Fiber/Duke Energy within the City rights-of-way throughout the City in accordance with Section 11-24(27) of the City Code, subject to approval by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

(h) Right-of-Way Encroachment – Evolution Optical

Approve a Right-of-Way encroachment by Evolution Optical on Corporate Circle in accordance with Section 11-24(27) of the City Code, subject to approval by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

(i) Contract – Carolina Siteworks, Inc.

Award a unit price contract in the amount of \$182,221 to Carolina Siteworks, Inc. for the installation of sidewalk and curb and gutter along Ryan Street from Celebration Drive to Old Concord Road. Sidewalk pay-in-lieu funds in the amount of \$110,814.83 will be applied to this project and supplemented by Engineering Special Project funds.

(j) North Carolina Rural Building Reuse Grant – Project Strong

Receive an incentive request for a North Carolina Rural Building Reuse Grant from Project Strong and set a public hearing for June 21, 2022 to receive public input. The company will apply for a grant in the amount of \$75,000 that will be awarded to the City of Salisbury to disburse to the company. The City will satisfy its required match by hiring a grants administrator in an amount not to exceed \$6,000.

(k) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program Grant

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$800,000 to appropriate a grant from the Office of Justice Programs/Bureau of Justice Assistance for the FY2021 Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program Grant.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021-2022 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE BYRNE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOVATION PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 113 and is known as Ordinance 2022-38.)

(1) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Police Department Donations

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$10,000 to appropriate a grant from the Blanche and Julian Robertson Foundation for the Police Department to be used for traumatic first aid kits, and expenses related to the Teens and Police Service Academy Program and Salisbury Police Crime Scene Camp.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021-2022 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE POLICE DEPARTMENT DONATIONS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 114 and is known as Ordinance 2022-39.)

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

Mr. Jonathan Barbee expressed concern regarding annexation and how it is negatively affecting Salisbury's economic development.

Mr. Daquan Del-Rio Coleman shared his concern about the budget proposal for an increase in utility fees. He commented raising utility fees would add additional financial stress to citizens who are dealing with inflation.

Mr. Tim Coffey thanked Council and staff for its support of the Salisbury Pride Festival.

Ms. Dee Dee Wright welcomed City Manager Jim Greene, Jr. to Salisbury. She commented she hopes the Parks and Recreation Department will receive the funding needed to update the Fred M. Evans Pool.

Ms. Heather DePalma- Spivey thanked Council for its continued support of the Salisbury Pride Festival which will host over 100 vendors and sponsors. She commented she is looking forward to seeing everyone there.

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

FY2022-2023 PROPOSED CITY BUDGET

City Manager Jim Greene, Jr. noted the foundation of the budget was built on Council's priorities approved at its retreat in January. He added Interim City Manager Brian Hiatt mentioned early in the work session how the budget is tight due to higher expectations, services, inflation, and coming out of COVID. He pointed out there were a lot of additional requests from departments that need to be funded. He complimented departments for being flexible and efficient to provide important services citizens need.

Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing after due notice regarding the proposed FY2022-2023 proposed City Budget.

Mr. Daquan Del-Rio Coleman asked about a property tax increase. Mr. Greene noted there is not a recommendation to increase property tax. Mr. Coleman asked about the utility rate increase. Mr. Greene advised there is an increase recommendation due to inflation, higher cost of chemicals, maintenance, and fuel needed for operations. Mr. Coleman asked if Council sets the rent increases. Mr. Greene noted Council does not set rental rates, and he added rent is controlled primarily by the private sector.

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

Councilmember Post asked about raising the vehicle tax to \$30 to match other communities. Mayor Alexander agreed with Mr. Post's suggestion. Mr. Greene suggested Council make recommendations at its next meeting after it receives information it requested during the budget work session.

STREET CLOSING – CORRELL STREET

City Engineer Wendy Brindle pointed out Council adopted a Resolution of Intent in May to permanently close Correll Street, an unimproved 50 foot right-of-way located in between Willow and Roy Streets near Old Innes Street. She commented this request was through petition and signed by the adjacent property owners.

Ms. Brindle explained staff has followed the guidelines of NCGS 160A-299 and staff found the proposed street closing is not contrary to the public interest and no one is deprived of reasonable means of ingress and egress to their property.

Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing after due notice regarding the proposed closing of Correll 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 Correll Street, a 50-foot unimproved right-of-way. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED CLOSING OF CORRELL STREET, A 50-FOOT UNIMPROVED RIGHT-OF-WAY.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 32, and is known as Resolution 2022-24.)

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt an Order closing an unimproved right-of-way known as Correll Street. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDER CLOSING AN UNIMPROVED RIGHT-OF-WAY KNOWN AS CORRELL STREET.

(The above Order is recorded in full at the Register of Deeds and maintained in the City Clerk's Alley Closing File dated June 7, 2022.)

FY2022-2023 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT AND HOME PROGRAM FUNDS

Planning Director Hannah Jacobson pointed out the scheduled public hearing will begin the process to determine the use of the available Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program funds.

Ms. Jacobson indicated Salisbury is an entitlement community for Community Block Grants and a participant in the Cabarrus-Iredell Home Consortium and eligible for \$514,920. She noted CDGBG and Home Program Funds are flexible funding sources that fund resources for low and moderate income individuals and families. She stated the past few years the funds have been focused on owner-occupied housing rehabilitation programs, down payment assistance programs, acquisition/rehabilitation for homeownership, sidewalks, public infrastructure/park improvements and supporting public agencies that provide services to low income and moderate families and individuals.

Ms. Jacobson explained a draft action plan will be published on June 13, 2022 on the City's website and hard copies will be available at various location throughout the City. She noted a public input session is planned for June 16, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at 400 West Bank Street. She indicated no action is needed and a presentation will be provided to Council at its next meeting to include a proposed action plan and budget. She explained the public comment period will close on July 13, 2022.

Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing after due notice regarding the use of the FY2022-2023 Federal CDBG and HOME Program funds.

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

MICROTRANSIT UPDATE

Transit Director Rodney Harrison and Transit Supervisor Kimberly Bell addressed Council regarding an in-house microtransit pilot project. Mr. Harrison noted microtransit is a technology-enabled transit service that uses shuttles or vans to provide on-demand transportation. He reviewed the two partnership models:

- Software-as-a-service (SaaS) model uses third-party software to provide on-demand service with City operators and vehicles
- Transportation-as-a-Service (TaaS) model is operated by a third party and includes technology, operators, vehicles, and operation management

Mr. Harrison reviewed the benefits and potential challenges of microtransit service. He pointed out microtransit is more efficient which could increase rider demand. He stated the anticipated start date is December 2022, and he commented the project would operate in-house and use the SaaS model. He indicated Route 3 would be replaced with microtransit and the project would also include Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) paratransit. He explained performance data would be collected and provided to Council.

Mr. Harrison displayed a map of the proposed service zone, and he indicated riders must be picked up and dropped off within the zone parameters. He pointed out ADA paratransit riders can be picked up or dropped off outside of the service zone.

Mr. Harrison indicated performance monitoring will be used to evaluate progress and recommend changes. He stated staff applied for the United States Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation Grant Program for microtransit. He noted if the City is awarded the grant the service will be switched to the TaaS model. He added the three-year grant is 100% federal and state funded and should be awarded by fall 2022, with a start date of July 2023. He reviewed the service area map submitted with the grant application, and he added minor adjustments can be made to the service area.

Mayor Alexander questioned the TaaS model not being implemented immediately. Mr. Harrison explained the SaaS model would allow staff to get a better understanding of how the system works. He added staff would provide the transportation and personnel to replace one route and then transition to the TaaS model if the grant is awarded.

Councilmember Post asked if the City has the manpower and vehicles to implement the program in-house. Mr. Harrison agreed. Mr. Post asked which vehicles would be used to implement the program. Mr. Harrison stated the light transit vehicles and vehicles assigned to Route 3 would be used. Mr. Post asked if drivers be able to meet the need if demand for the service increases. Mr. Harrison stated the two full-time drivers that operate Route 3, ADA personnel, and part-time drivers could be used to support increased demand.

Councilmember Smith pointed out the City of Wilson is serving as a prototype, but the current environment includes a pandemic and possible recession. He commended Mr. Harrison and staff for its work to implement the pilot project.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to approve an in-house pilot project using the Software-as-a-Service model then transitioning to the Transportation-as-a-Service model if funding is awarded through the United States Department of Transportation's Rural Surface Transportation grant program. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – TRANSIT VEHICLE GRANT

Transit Director Rodney Harrison addressed Council regarding a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2021-2022 budget to appropriate funds from the North Carolina Volkswagen Settlement Program grant to purchase two all-electric 25-foot light duty Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible replacement vehicles in the amount of \$688,298. Mr. Harrison stated the total grant is \$818,771.50 and does not require a local match.

Mr. Harrison noted the two electric vehicles will lower the average age of the fleet and assist in the transition to a cleaner, high-tech fleet helping to improve service reliability. He stated the purchased vehicles must be in the same class as the ones that are being replaced and can be used for in-house microtransit or leased to a third party for a turnkey microtransit operation.

Mr. Harrison stated the replacement cost for the vehicles is \$688,298 and includes a charging system. He added the remaining portion of the grant would be used to upgrade the Transit facility to support the electric charging stations. Mayor Alexander asked about the location of the charging stations. Mr. Harrison indicated the charging stations would be located at the Transit building which is fenced in and would allow the vehicles to charge overnight.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending the FY2021-2022 budget Ordinance of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina to appropriate North Carolina Volkswagen Program Grant funds to purchase two all-electric transit vehicles to include charging stations. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FY2021-2022 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE NORTH CAROLINA VOLKSWAGEN PROGRAM GRANT FUNDS TO PURCHASE TWO ALL-ELECTRIC TRANSIT VEHICLES.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 115 and is known as Ordinance 2022-40.)

PROPOSED DEMOLITIONS

This item was postponed.

BELL TOWER GREEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Parks and Recreation Director Nick Aceves requested Council consider adopting an Ordinance amending Appendix D Boards, Committees, Commissions, etc. to create the Bell Tower Green Advisory Committee. He noted the purpose of the Bell Tower Green Advisory Committee:

- Promotion and development of the park
- Seek sponsorships and donations for the development for the park
- Review and make recommendations for changes to the park

Mr. Aceves stated the committee will include seven members with staggered terms, and he noted members will have the authority to receive funds on behalf of the City to benefit the park. He added four seats will be held by Bell Tower Green, Inc. members and three seats will be held by community members.

Councilmember Smith asked about a Council liaison to the committee. Mr. Aceves stated the Council liaison would be determined by Council, and he indicated committee meetings would take place four times per year.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** adopt an Ordinance amending Appendix D, Part 10, of the Code of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina relating to the Bell Tower Green Advisory Committee. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING APPENDIX D, PART 10, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA RELATING TO THE BELL TOWER GREEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 116-117 and is known as Ordinance 2022-41.)

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Economic Development Commission

Upon a motion by Councilmember Post. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Economic Development Commission to fill an unexpired term:

Mr. Lawrence Roth

Term Expires 3/31/2023

Alternate Methods of Design Commission

Upon a motion by Councilmember Post, Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voting AYE, the following reappointment was made to the Alternate Methods of Design Commission:

Mr. Chris Bradshaw

Term Expires 3/31/2025

Upon a motion by Councilmember Post, Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voting AYE, the following appointments was made to the Alternate Methods of Design Commission:

Mr. Alex Bost

Term Expires 3/31/2025

JOSEPH HEILIG MEMORIAL BENCH

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield noted local street artist Joseph Heilig who often worked from a bench on South Main Street recently passed away. She stated there have been multiple requests to honor Mr. Heilig, and she noted there is a process to make a request for a plaque to be placed in someone's honor. She indicated the request has been made and Council must establish a 30-day public input period.

Councilmember Post pointed suggested exploring the possibility of a sculpture of Mr. Heilig sitting on the bench. Mayor Alexander noted a sculpture would have to go through the Public Art Committee.

Thereupon, Councilmember McLaughlin made a **motion** to establish a 30-day public input period regarding naming the bench in front of Fuller's Market in honor of Joseph Heilig. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

Public input will be directed to City Clerk Kelly Baker and forwarded to Council.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Graham Corriher had nothing to report to Council.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Jim Greene, Jr. stated he has enjoyed his first two weeks as City Manager of the City of Salisbury and he is grateful for the opportunity to serve. He noted he attended Wine About Winter and Pops at the Post, and he thanked the employees and community partners who

worked to make the events special. He stated Pride and Juneteenth events will take place later in the month, and he invited the public to attend.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Post noted he attended Wine About Winter and attendees told him they preferred having the event when the weather is warmer.

Councilmember Post noted a representative from the Elks Club asked him why the Bell Tower Green Park does not have a flag pole. He added he spoke to Mr. Dyke Messenger, President of the Bell Tower Green, Inc. who stated the group decided not to put a flag in the park due to the large flag across the street at the County building. He added the Elks Club is willing to pay for the flag pole if the City is interested. Mayor Alexander stated Mr. Ronnie Smith and Mr. Steve Fisher have also offered to pay for a flag at the park. She pointed out there is underground irrigation and infrastructure in the park that must be considered before digging could take place.

Councilmember Smith reaffirmed Council's commitment to growth and economic development that is equitable and efficient. He added the City has the right to do what it needs to do to grow the economy and bring jobs and additional tax revenue to the community.

MAYOR PRO TEM'S COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield reminded citizens of events that will be taking place in the City:

- Jungle Cruise will be shown at the Bell Tower Green Park Friday, June 10, 2022 at 9:00 p.m.
- The Juneteenth celebration will take place at the Bell Tower Green on Saturday, June 18, 2022 from noon until 5:00 p.m. and is hosted by the Salisbury-Rowan NAACP

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield thanked Planning Director Hannah Jacobson and the Community Planning and Development Services Department for all the do for citizens.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

Mayor Alexander thanked everyone who worked to make Pops at the Post and Wine About Winter a success. She added she also heard from Wine About Winter participants who enjoyed the warm weather.

(a) Cultivating Community Conversations

Mayor Alexander announced the Salisbury Police Department will begin a series of in-person conversation with neighbors in various Salisbury communities. The first "Cultivating Community Conversations" will be held Thursday, June 9, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at Kelsey Scott Park located at 1920 Old Wilkesboro Road. Food will be served.

CLOSED SESSION

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to go into closed session to consult with an attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3). Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

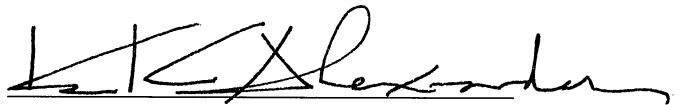
Mayor Alexander reconvened the meeting in open session.

Mayor Alexander stated no action was taken during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Post. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m.


Karen Alexander, Mayor


Kelly Baker, City Clerk