REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Al Heggins, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem David Post; Council Members William Brian Miller, Karen Alexander, and Tamara Sheffield; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; City Clerk Diane Gilmore; 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 Heggins at 6:00 p.m. A moment of silence was taken.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Heggins welcomed all visitors present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Heggins noted the following changes to the Agenda:

Add – Proclamation for Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month.
Add – Recognition of the YouNique Starz Dance Team.
Add – Recognition of a Pickleball Team.
Add – Item 16b – Discussion regarding the process to be used for the City Attorney’s
evaluation.
Add – Item 16c – Move regularly scheduled November 5, 2019 Council meeting to
November 1, 2019.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a motion to adopt the Agenda with the noted
amendments. Mayor Heggies, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller, Alexander, and
Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor to proclaim the following observances:

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY          October 26, 2019
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH October 2019
NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION MONTH    October 2019
NATIONAL HISPANIC/LATINO HERITAGE MONTH    September 15-October 15, 2019

Mayor Heggies read and presented the Make a Difference Day Proclamation to Urban
Design Planner Alyssa Nelson and Community Appearance Commission Chair (CAC) Jane
Creech.

Mayor Heggies read and presented the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation
to Family Crisis Council Shelter Director Kimberly Fowler. Police Chief Jerry Stokes thanked
Ms. Fowler for the work the Family Crisis Council does to assist victims of domestic violence in
Rowan County.

Mayor Heggies read and presented the National Crime Prevention Month Proclamation
to Police Chief Jerry Stokes. Chief Stokes thanked Council for the proclamation, and he noted crime
prevention is a collaboration between the Police Department and the community.

Mayor Heggies read and presented the National Hispanic/Latino Heritage Month
Proclamation to Ms. Liliana Spears and members of the Hispanic and Latino community. Ms.
Spears thanked Council for the proclamation.

RECOGNITION - YOUNIQUE STARZ DANCE TEAM

YouNique Starz Dance Team performed for Council and the audience. Mayor Heggies
presented a Certificate of Recognition to the YouNique Starz Dance Team Director Jamella Brown
and Coach Brittany Still in honor of their award winning performances and in recognition of their service to the Salisbury community.


RECOGNITION – PICKLEBALL

Mayor Al Heggins recognized the pickleball team from Salisbury for winning the “Championship of the Carolinas” tournament.

YMCA Director and pickleball team member Richard Reinholz presented the championship trophy to Council. Mayor Pro Tem Post noted pickleball is a growing sport in the community, and he is proud to be a part of the team.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Post requested Council discuss the Federal Action Plan. Mayor Heggins requested Item 7f be removed from the Agenda to give Council an opportunity for further discussion at the next Council meeting.

City Attorney Graham Corriher noted the item will be placed on the Agenda for the next Council meeting. He added he will ask Ms. Leslie Mozingo to attend the meeting to answer any questions Council may have.

Mayor Pro Tem Post asked if the voluntary annexation of the Gables will be brought to Council for discussion. City Engineer Wendy Brindle explained the item will be brought before Council three times, twice on the Consent Agenda and once as a public hearing and an item for discussion.

(a) Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Regular meeting of October 1, 2019.

(b) Budget Amendment – Fire Department Donations

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2019-2020 budget in the amount of $9,360 to appropriate Fire Department donations.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2019-2020 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE DONATIONS TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 28 at Page No. 211, and is known as Ordinance 2019-54.)
(c) Right-of-Way Use Permit

Approve a right-of-way use permit for the use of two parking spaces in front of 106 East Innes Street and a third space in front of 110 East Innes Street as needed until October 31, 2019.

(d) Speed Reduction – Pinehurst Street

Adopt an Ordinance amending Section 13-336 Speed Limits – Generally to reduce the posted speed on Pinehurst Street to 25 miles per hour.

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE X, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA RELATING TO SPEED LIMITS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 28 at Page No. 212, and is known as Ordinance 2019-55.)

(e) Right-of-Way Encroachment – Conterra

Approve a right-of-way encroachment by Conterra to install directional bore duct and aerial lines within the City right-of-way for Rowan-Salisbury Schools.

(f) Federal Action Plan


(g) Voluntary Annexation – The Gables

Receive a request for voluntary annexation of the Gables Phase 5 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 20.2 ACRES (THE GABLES PHASE 5), LOCATED OFF FAITH ROAD AND IDENTIFIED ON TAX MAP 403 PARCEL 001.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 25, and is known as Resolution 2019-18.)

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda with the noted change. Mayor Heggies, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller, Alexander, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Heggies opened the floor to receive public comments.
Ms. Betty Jo Hardy explained the Truth, Healing, Hope, and Equity (THHE) Project is studying inequities in the community, searching for root causes of racial injustice and advocating for change. She thanked Mayor Heggins for bringing Opportunity Zones and Revitalization Council Executive Director Scott Turner to the City on October 8, 2019 and opening the meeting to the public.

Ms. Brooklyn Witherspoon stated she is a sixth grader at Knox Middle School and President of A Bridge 4 Kids. She indicated volunteers are needed for the program that takes place at Hall Gym on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Nyasia Maxfield indicated she is also a sixth grader at Knox Middle School and an ambassador for A Bridge 4 Kids. She stated bullying affects kids and causes harm for young people.

Ms. Sharon Johnson addressed Council regarding A Bridge 4 Kids. She noted young people in the program are concerned about voting and additional information on the topic is needed.

Mayor Heggins thanked representatives from A Bridge 4 Kids for the work they do with local youth.

Ms. Pam Bloom stated the City is a member of the North Carolina League of Municipalities, and she asked if the League is lobbying the Senate to overturn Governor Roy Cooper’s veto. She noted she supports Governor Cooper’s veto and she is concerned about the League and its lobbying efforts.

Councilmember Alexander indicated she serves as a board member for the North Carolina League of Municipalities. She explained the organization is non-partisan and does not get involved in politics, but works toward the goals of cities as a whole.

Mr. Kim Porter stated he also supports the THHE Project. He noted during the meeting that took place on October 8, 2019 the group toured five sites including the Cone and Kesler Mills which could be addressed through Opportunity Zones. He requested that Council avoid focusing on Opportunity Zones through gentrification, but in a way that looks at opportunity for people in the community.

Ms. Liliana Spears thanked Council for its inclusiveness and recognition of local youth. She thanked Council for allowing the public to attend the Opportunity Zones meeting which allowed the representative from Washington, D.C. to see the diverse faces of the community.

Mr. Geoffrey Hoy questioned if there are guidelines for a commission to oversee the Opportunity Zone process. He suggested a commission be formed that includes representatives from the Economic Development Commission (EDC), local government and members of the community to set goals that could be included in the prospectus.

Mr. Tenkamenin Crowder addressed Council regarding his support and concerns of Opportunity Zones. He referenced the issues faced by low income and homeless citizens. He
suggested the commission for Opportunity Zones be income based and include citizens from each tax bracket.

There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Heggins closed the public comment session. She thanked everyone who spoke during the public comment session, and she welcomed City Clerk Diane Gilmore back to the Council meetings.

**DOWNTOWN PARKING STUDY**

City Engineer Wendy Brindle noted VHB Engineering was selected to complete the Comprehensive Parking Study and introduced VHB Engineering Project Manager Wayne Robinson and Intern Connor Klassen. Mr. Robinson explained the purpose of the parking study:

- To analyze the location, supply and use of parking facilities within downtown
- To listen to stakeholders regarding parking issues
- Conduct a future parking needs analysis
- Develop recommendation strategies
- Improve wayfinding and access to parking

Mr. Robinson displayed a map of the parking study boundary which includes the Municipal Service District (MSD). He noted an on-street turnover analysis was conducted along with block numbering. Mayor Pro Tem Post asked for clarification regarding on-street turnover. Mr. Robinson explained on-street turnover is how often vehicles utilize and leave a parking space.

Mr. Robinson noted the community engagement process included:

- City and County leadership and staff
- Downtown land and business owners
- Employees working in downtown
- Residents of Salisbury and Rowan County
- Visitors to the City

Mr. Robinson noted an online survey was conducted and six focus group meetings were held that included stakeholder interview sessions. He noted VHB Engineering attended a Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI) meeting where it provided information and received stakeholder input. He noted VHB Engineering also attended the Cheerwine Festival where it conducted 97 interviews.

Mr. Robinson reviewed the results of the survey, and he pointed out most people were generally aware of the location of public parking in the downtown area. He noted most people are spending five minutes or less getting to a destination after parking, and he added the idea of paying an hourly fee to ensure parking was readily available was not well received.

Mr. Robinson pointed out topics of agreement from the community engagement sessions:
- Main Street needs wider sidewalks
- Innes Street needs traffic calming
- Parking problem is perceived and not based on numbers
  - Convenient parking locations are taken
  - Owners and employees are parking in front of stores and businesses
  - Parking enforcement not consistent
  - Willingness to walk to destinations
  - Safety considerations
- Improve parking facilities aesthetics and safety
- Improve parking signage to be clear about restrictions

Mr. Robinson noted the topics of disagreement:

- Paid parking and parking meters
- Building a parking structure
- Angled verses parallel parking on Main Street
  - Wider sidewalks
  - Poor visibility backing out of angled spaces
  - Discussions of back in angled spaces

Mr. Robinson explained safety concerns were addressed during community engagement:

- Some parking is remote and does not feel safe
  - Near the train depot and railroad tracks
  - Juror parking lot
  - Unpaved lot near the cemetery
  - Hogan’s Alley
  - Lot behind City Hall
- Additional lighting is needed
- Crossing Innes Street creates a barrier

Mr. Robinson stated an inventory of the public and private parking spaces was conducted on March 5, 2019 that noted the types of downtown parking. He explained data collection was completed at different times during the day to see if the parking spaces were being utilized. He stated the downtown study areas have 2,776 parking spaces:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lot Type</th>
<th>Number of lots</th>
<th>Total Parking Spaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>2,077</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private – pay</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public – two hour parking</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public – all day</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public – evening/weekends</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public – reserved</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subtotal</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,776</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Robinson reviewed the parking data results. He pointed out the peak parking period on the represented day was from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. with 45% overall utilization and 51%
utilization of municipally controlled parking spaces. He pointed out 14.9% of those parking in municipally controlled parking spaces are in violation of the City’s parking restrictions. He indicated in the next one to five years an additional 520 parking spaces will be needed within the study area and in six to 10 years the City will need an additional 216 parking spaces. He indicated the number could change based on City needs. He referenced the parking balance, and he noted with the current demand there is a surplus of 22 municipal parking spaces. He stated in the long term there will be a parking deficiency of approximately 119 municipal parking spaces.

Mr. Robinson pointed out the one to five year recommendations:

- Parking Management:
  - Encourage long term parking to off street parking lots
  - Encourage short term/turnover parking to on-street parking areas
  - Increase enforcement activity
  - Consider raising parking fines from $5 to $15 to be in line with state averages
  - Consider increasing the repeat violations time period to 60 or 90 days
  - Consider investing in enforcement technology
  - Ambassador approach to educating visitors and employees about parking options
- Wayfinding:
  - Enhance parking wayfinding
  - Consider naming public lots and let users know if a lot is paid or free
  - Continue using “P” for parking areas on signage
  - Enhance parking map with names and parking regulation information
  - Enhance parking information on the City website
- Maintenance, Lighting and Safety
  - Evaluate off-street public parking facilities using a maintenance checklist
  - Track maintenance issues, landscaping, lighting, signage, trash, and access
  - Conduct a bi-annual audit to identify issues and track improvements
  - Enhance lighting in public parking lots for evening use
  - Improve/add sidewalks and bicycle lanes to encourage multiple modes of transportation

Mr. Robinson reviewed the six to ten year recommendations:

- Monitor parking occupancy with the goal of generally 85% occupancy
- Solidify parking oversight within the City to include management, enforcement, and maintenance
- Evaluate the potential to add paid parking within the most convenient and heavily traveled areas
- Reach out to the Development Finance Initiative (DFI) group with the University of North Carolina School of Government
- Monitor curb activity patterns to consider whether partial re-allocation of curb space away from two-hour parking might be needed
- Review loading zones, rideshare passenger pick-up and drop-offs (Uber/Lyft) and other emerging new mobility and micro-mobility uses
- Consider a public/private partnership for construction of additional parking facilities
Mr. Robinson noted VHB Engineering does not recommend the City build a parking deck at this time. He suggested a public/private partnership that would access the capital of a private entity to create public parking opportunities and serve as an economic driver. He commented a public/private partnership would increase the parking supply without the City building a parking deck alone. He estimated the cost of a parking lot at $2,500 to $4,500 per parking space and a minimum of $20,000 per parking space to build a parking deck.

Councilmember Miller asked if VHB Engineering referenced the City’s Land Development Ordinance (LDO) to see if it included any provisions that would hinder the City’s long-term parking needs. Mr. Robinson noted the LDO and current and future zoning maps were reviewed for the future needs analysis.

Councilmember Miller noted the LDO does not require parking for development within the area the parking study addressed. He questioned if additional conditions could be considered for downtown development to require a certain number of parking spaces per housing units. He then asked if the LDO serves the long-term parking needs. Mr. Robinson explained many cities and towns have people living in urban cores who do not have parking spaces. He added if the City requires a high level of parking it may stifle development, and he commented some developers may create parking opportunities for marketability. Mr. Miller clarified the market will decide, and he asked if Mr. Robinson saw anything the City needs to correct. Mr. Robinson stated he will review the LDO and get back to Council.

Councilmember Miller pointed out the City has a sidewalk-in-lieu program that allows contributions in lieu of sidewalks to fill sidewalk gaps in pedestrian heavy areas. He asked Mr. Robinson if other cities have taken a parking-in-lieu approach so if development occurred the monies could be placed in a fund to create municipal parking. Mr. Robinson stated it has existed but he did not know how well it worked because the value of the parking spaces may change. Mr. Miller explained he is looking for a way for developers to participate in the creation of additional parking spaces that are project specific. Mr. Robinson suggested the City establish its goals and needs before it reaches out to partner with another entity. He stated a partnership is the best way for the City to gain parking facilities without funding the entire project.

Mayor Heggins referenced the discussion regarding changed behavior, and she asked if changing the behavior of people who are parking or using the parking spaces was a requirement for the parking study. Ms. Brindle explained staff did not request VHB Engineering look at how people are parking and using parking spaces, but it surfaced from the data and input received. Mr. Robinson clarified the City does not have a parking problem based on the numbers. He explained the issue is people who want to park in certain areas and get to their destination quickly. He added people are parking in violation and moving cars from block to block throughout the day. He commented he did not know who the violators were or their purpose for being in the City. Ms. Brindle stated improvements can be made to existing parking lots so people want to park farther away and walk into town. She indicated much of the input was from stakeholder interviews and the individuals did not feel safe walking at night.
Mr. Klassen pointed out there are large tracks of parking lots and on-street parking in areas farther from major destinations that are not being utilized. He added the goal is to educate people regarding other parking options.

Mayor Pro Tem Post asked what day of the week the data represented. Mr. Robinson noted the data was collected on Thursday, March 5, 2019. Mr. Post asked if the data was collected on one day. Mr. Robinson explained the data was collected on one day because of the labor cost involved.

Councilmember Miller asked if VHB Engineering had a recommendation for the City. Mr. Robinson recommended the City not build a parking deck on its own. He added the City does not have a parking problem, and he recommended using an ambassador approach to get people to examine the charts to determine the most available parking in the City. He commented if people feel safe to walk any time day or night it helps them make the choice to park farther away.

Mayor Pro Tem Post referenced the block that is being converted to a downtown park, and he noted there were 215 parking spaces in the lot that were 15% utilized. He asked if the 215 parking spaces were deducted from the parking inventory. Mr. Robinson agreed, and he indicated the on-street parking that will occur around the park was added back to the parking inventory. Ms. Brindle noted VHB Engineering was provided the plans for the Bell Towner Green Park and the data was included in the analysis.

Councilmember Sheffield referenced handicapped parking spaces, and she pointed out they are limited in the City. Mr. Robinson suggested when the City is developing its parking strategy and when it is adding facilities to consider additional handicapped parking spaces. He pointed out handicapped accessible routes must also be considered. Ms. Sheffield asked how many handicapped parking spaces are currently available in the parking study area. Mr. Robinson noted the information is included in the full report.

Mayor Heggins asked if the handicapped accessible routes are included in the parking study. Mr. Robinson explained the sidewalks will follow the grade of the road and if the road is not American with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible the sidewalk will not be either. He questioned if an off-street parking lot is municipally controlled and includes a bank of handicapped accessible parking spaces will there be accessible routes to key destinations within downtown.

Mayor Heggins thanked Mr. Robinson for his presentation.

OPPORTUNITY ZONES

Mayor Heggins reviewed the visit on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 with Chief of the White House Revitalization and Opportunity Council Scott Turner that took place at City Hall in Council Chambers. She provided information on how the meeting to host a White House Representative in Salisbury came together. She shared she attended the Women Mayors White House Conference last year and met Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director at the White House William Crozer. She added she spoke with him at the United States Conference of Mayors winter meeting in Washington, DC and following the summer meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, he reached
out to learn more about Salisbury’s Opportunity Zones and the Empire Hotel Project. She indicated staff prepared an executive summary that was provided to the White House which led to a conference call regarding the Empire Hotel and other Opportunity Zones. She stated she received a request for further discussion and included community members on a conference call with White House representatives. She commented she received an email from the White House stating Mr. Turner would be traveling in North Carolina October 7-9, 2019 and would arrive in Salisbury on October 8, 2019.

Mayor Heggins pointed out she and staff worked tirelessly to get everything prepared. She commented there was a great turnout for the meeting, and it was economically, racially and ethnicity diverse with business and community members in attendance. She stated Mr. Turner was impressed by the turnout, and he noted previous communities he visited had smaller roundtable discussions. She added Mr. Turner messaged Mr. Crozer and other staff members at the White House to watch the roundtable discussion via livestream.

Mayor Heggins noted she received an invitation to join the Rowan County Little League Girls’ Softball team during their visit to the White House and meet President Donald J. Trump. She commented she worked with the lobbyist to set up a series of meetings while in Washington, DC with Governmental Affairs Officer Owen Morgan and Senior Intergovernmental Affairs Officer Sean Poole with the United States Department of Transportation and Office of the Secretary. She noted the meeting took place to learn more about the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grant application the City submitted to assist in the development of the train station and second platform. Mayor Heggins explained it was important to meet with the individuals who make decisions regarding where funds are going into communities because they begin to put a face with the community and understand the makeup and story of the community which helps the City as a whole.

Mayor Heggins commented she also met with the Intergovernmental Affairs Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs Director Anthony Foti with the United States Department of Commerce, United States Small Business Administration Policy Advisor David Chiokadze, and United States Small Business Administration Senior Advisor Ryan Lambert. She commented discussion took place regarding Opportunity Zones, what investors are looking for, and she added questions were asked about entrepreneurship. She noted she spoke about the Innovation Development Entrepreneurship Acceleration (IDEA) Center and conversations taking place between Rowan County, the City, and the other jurisdictions within the County. She pointed out during the meeting the representatives were engaged, took notes and asked questions about the vision for the community.

Mayor Heggins stated she met President Donald J. Trump in the Oval Office with the Rowan County Little League Softball and the Little League Baseball World Champion teams. She added she visited Senator Thom Tillis and Congressman Richard Hudson’s offices and thanked them for submitting letters of support for the City’s BUILD grant application. She commented she also met Mr. James Aiken who reports to Mr. Crozer. She added Mr. Aiken asked a lot of questions about Salisbury and spoke about the roundtable discussion he had watched livestream.
Mayor Heggins pointed out recommendations were discussed regarding how important it is for the community to start talking about available properties within the Opportunity Zones, what the community wants to focus on for its prospectus and encourage each jurisdiction to create their own prospectus. She explained the Economic Development Commission (EDC) is working on a prospectus for Rowan County. She suggested each jurisdiction develop its own prospectus and feed into the County because the community knows what needs Salisbury has and the projects being looked at community wide.

Councilmember Sheffield asked what the next step would be and if a timeline needs to be developed. Mayor Heggins noted a timeline should be set, but with elections being so close a framework could be developed in hopes the next Council will continue the work. She noted Opportunity Zones are a great way to improve communities and build community wealth. She added there are different ways to revitalize Salisbury and Opportunity Zones are a great tool and an innovative way to do that.

Councilmember Sheffield noted she was excited to see the amount of acreage that is not being utilized within the Opportunity Zones because there is no fear of housing displacement.

Mayor Heggins noted feedback was heard and it needs to continue to be a community wide conversation. She added she hoped there is more clarity on how the community can engage in this conversation and look at different projects and routes that can benefit the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Post commented what Mayor Heggins did was phenomenal, but noted the program is a tax shelter. He stated developers and investors are integral to the process; however, Opportunity Zones require an investment to be held for 10 years. He added there are 8,700 Opportunity Zones in the United States defined by census tracts where the median income is less than the median for the state, and that is why Salisbury has three tracts. He explained Chapel Hill also qualifies for an Opportunity Zone due to the 40,000 students being unemployed.

Mayor Pro Tem Post pointed out an Opportunity Zone fund does not have to be created because there are enough tax benefits available if revitalization projects take place. He added it does not have to be an Opportunity Zone project, but engagement with developers and investors and people finding projects here. He stated a Mayor from South Carolina and former President of United States Conference of Mayors Steve Benjamin offered a copy of his prospectus to make edits and submit. Mayor Pro Tem Post noted he has corresponded with him and will receive the information and send it to EDC President Rod Crider. He noted the EDC is supportive of what is taking place in the City, and it is important to keep Mr. Crider and the EDC in the conversation regarding Opportunity Zones and other projects. He added he appreciates the enthusiasm around Opportunity Zones, and he noted it is not the only way to get investment here as tax rates are low for investors and developers. He indicated renovations in downtown buildings have taken place through good investments and not necessarily driven by Opportunity Zones.

Mayor Heggins pointed out Opportunity Zones are not the only option, but are a priority because of the $770 million set aside specifically for use of local government. She indicated as Council continues the Opportunity Zone conversation she does not want to lose the momentum created with the relationships that are being built with the experts doing work with Opportunity Zones.
Zones. She added it is important to identify the projects that are best for the community before the City competes for the funds.

Councilmember Miller asked if Council would take a vote regarding the formation of a commission. Mayor Heggins agreed. Councilmember Alexander asked if that would include budgeting. Mayor Heggins agreed, and noted it would be a comprehensive conversation.

**QUARTERLY POLICE REPORT**

Police Chief Jerry Stokes reviewed Police Department staffing levels, and he pointed out the department has one vacancy for an over hire position. He indicated there are five individuals in Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) and three officers in field training.

Chief Stokes compared crime levels from last year to this year. He pointed out an overall downward crime trend that includes an 83% decrease in homicides and a 49% decrease in assault with a dangerous weapon. He added total violent crime decreased by 9%, shootings into an occupied dwelling increased by 11%, and shots fired calls remained the same. He stated residential burglaries decreased by 27%, commercial burglaries 39%, auto theft 38%, larceny 12%, and larceny with motor vehicles 3%. He explained people seem to be paying attention to the Lock It, Take it or Lose It campaign.

Chief Stokes pointed out there was a 15% decrease in Part I crime, and he indicated the numbers show are consistent for the City to be at a 20-year low for Part I crime. He noted breaking into motor vehicles decreased by 3%, however five vehicles were broken into and four handguns were stolen from October 5, 2019 until October 11, 2019.

Chief Stokes reviewed summer violent crime, gun crime and property crime trends from June 21, 2019 through September 19, 2019 and compared it to 2015 through 2018. He commented assault with a gun decreased over the past two years, and he added it could be contributed to the Summer Cease Fire campaign that took place. He explained summer property crime totals including burglary, auto theft, and larceny from motor vehicle crimes decreased.

Chief Stokes pointed out the Police Department will begin its Santa Patrol from Thanksgiving through New Year’s Day by placing extra officers on duty to increase police presence in shopping areas. He indicated there was a reduction in crime last year due to additional police presence and he hopes to see the same this year.

Council thanked Chief Stokes for the work the Police Department does to make the City a better place. Councilmember Miller commented Chief Stokes has done a great job in providing training and building trust with the things he is doing to train his teams. He thanked Chief Stokes for the work he does for the City. Mayor Heggins commented there have been great improvements in the Police and community relations and the community is thankful for that.
Mayor Pro Tem Post indicated he liked seeing the numbers and the 20 year downward trend. Chief Stokes agreed, and he added the Police Department will work endlessly to continue to build relationships.

RENAME DOG PARK

Parks and Recreation Director Nick Aceves pointed out Ms. Teresa Pitner has worked tirelessly over the past few years with the Parks and Recreation Department, the City, and the community to bring a Dog Park to the City. He commented a 30-day period of public input was held regarding the renaming of the dog park, and no negative comments were received. He asked for Council’s approval to rename the dog park to the Pitner Dog Park.

Thereupon, Council member Alexander made a motion to rename the dog park at Civic Center to the Pitner Dog Park. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Council members Miller, Alexander, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

Ms. Pitner thanked Council for renaming the dog park. She added she is proud the dog park is located at the Civic Center where she has hosted five dog classes, and where she enjoys bringing people and dogs that have never been before. She noted she is proud the dog park will be called the Pitner Dog Park.

Mayor Heggins thanked Ms. Pitner for all that she has done for the dog park. Mayor Pro Tem Post pointed out how well she works with dogs.

Mr. Aceves announced a celebration is tentatively scheduled for November 23, 2019 between 12:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. with food and vendors being co-sponsored by Dog Paws.

Council member Sheffield thanked Ms. Pitner for the work she does for the community and the love she has for animals. She noted renaming the dog park in Ms. Pitner’s honor is the most deserving thing that could take place.

BLOCKWORK PRESENTATION

Urban Design Planner Alyssa Nelson presented information regarding the BlockWork event to be held on October 26, 2019. She introduced Community Appearance Commission (CAC) Chair Jane Creech and Housing Advocacy Commission (HAC) Chair Barbara Perry. She reviewed the event planning process and the block selection criteria.

Ms. Nelson stated the BlockWork event takes place on National Make A Difference Day each year. She indicated this year’s BlockWork event will take place within the 800-1000 blocks of North Main Street and will focus on the 900 block of North Main Street the day of the event. She pointed out the committees decided to take on a larger project due to the sponsorships that were received and the additional $5,000 grant from the Blanche and Julian Robertson Foundation and a $5,000 grant from the Community Foundation. She noted the CAC and HAC will partner
with the Historic Salisbury Foundation (HSF) and the Salisbury Community Development Corporation (CDC) to utilize those funds and take on the large task.

Ms. Nelson reviewed road closures and parking options for the day of the event. She commented planting, landscaping, fence building, and wall repairs will take place at the event, and a mural will be placed on a large wall visible from Miller Street in coordination with students from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Ms. Nelson thanked sponsors, volunteers, students, churches, City staff, Boards, Commissions and neighborhood members who make the event a success each year. She indicated breakfast and lunch will be served, and the Police Ice Cream truck will be there. She pointed out the event will begin at 8:30 a.m. with a Make A Difference Day Proclamation.

Councilmember Sheffield thanked Ms. Perry and Ms. Creech for serving as Chairs of the CAC and the HAC, and she thanked Ms. Nelson for the hard work put into the BlockWork event. She encouraged the public to volunteer on October 26, 2019 at 8:30 a.m.

Ms. Perry indicated it is a privilege to serve on the CAC and be involved in BlockWork to be a part of making the City a better place for all. She noted it has been a pleasure to be a part of this event and the community that gives and supports to make the event happen. She thanked Council and the City for its support.

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**Community Appearance Commission**

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Community Appearance Commission:

Ms. Jessica Cloward Term Expires 03/31/2022

**Transportation Advisory Board**

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Transportation Advisory Board:

Ms. Cristina Rodriguez Term Expires 03/31/2021

**Tree Board**

Upon a motion by Councilmember Sheffield, seconded by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Tree Board:
CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

City Attorney Graham Corriher explained the Municipal Services District (MSD) contract with Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI) is up for renewal. He noted the contract is a five year agreement and is renewed annually. He commented he is working with the DSI Board chair and expects to bring the contract to Council for its consideration at its next meeting.

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

(a) Fibrant Installment Financing Contract

City Manager Lane Bailey reviewed information regarding the refinancing of Fibrant Debt. He commented the refinancing would not change the lease agreement, and he explained the City was no longer tax exempt when it began leasing to a private party. He indicated interest rates have gone down and the negotiated lower rate with First Bank would save approximately $1.2 to $1.3 million over the remainder of the life of the loan.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Post made a motion to adopt a Resolution approving an amendment to an installment financing contract with First Bank and authorizing the execution and delivery of documents in connection therewith. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller, Alexander, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION APPROVING AN AMENDMENT TO AN INSTALLMENT FINANCING CONTRACT WITH FIRST BANK AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF DOCUMENTS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 26-27, and is known as Resolution 2019-19.)

(b) Council Meeting Date Change

Mayor Heggins announced the scheduled Council meeting for November 5, 2019 has been changed to November 1, 2019 beginning at 2:00 p.m. at City Hall in Council Chambers to accommodate the November 5, 2019 Election Day. She noted Council will enter into closed session to continue discussion regarding economic development and a personnel issue.

(c) City Attorney Performance Evaluation Process

Mayor Heggins pointed out a previous discussion took place regarding the City Attorney’s evaluation process and she indicated a request was made for a peer evaluation process to be used. She added it has been questioned whether it would be a fair process since the City Attorney and City Manager are peers and the same process was not used for the City Manager’s evaluation.
Councilmember Miller commented he initiated the request for a peer evaluation of the City Attorney due to the relationship between the City Attorney and the City Manager, and he noted the majority of Council thought it would be appropriate.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a motion that Council allow the City Manager to participate in the review of the City Attorney.

Mayor Heggins noted she does not think it is fair to use a peer evaluation process for the City Attorney since Council did not use the same process for the City Manager and both of them report directly to Council.

Councilmember Alexander disagreed, and she referred to the document Council discussed during the hiring process for the City Attorney. She stated the attorney conducts work for both the City and Council because there is not enough work related to Council-only issues to justify a full time employee for the City. She noted the City Attorney is under the supervision and direction of the City Manager since he does City work, and it would be appropriate for the City Manager to complete a performance evaluation.

Mayor Heggins commented the City Attorney is under the supervision of the City Manager and is a direct report to the City Council, not the City Manager. She added the City Manager does not direct the City Attorney’s work. She noted the City Attorney consults with the Council and the City Manager regarding legal issues.

Councilmember Sheffield asked Councilmember Alexander to clarify information regarding a full time City Attorney. Councilmember Alexander commented the previous City Attorney was paid a predetermined amount of money per year to answer Council’s questions at regular and closed session meetings. She added Council decided to evaluate an attorney that would be a City employee due to the City Manager needing someone with legal credentials to assist with City issues such as Code Enforcement. Councilmember Sheffield pointed out there was not a previous process in place due to the prior attorney being part-time. Councilmember Alexander commented it is currently a different arrangement and is very clear of the general definition of work. She added she was not aware of an issue in getting a performance review of someone who is under the general supervision of the City Manager.

Mayor Heggins commented being under the general supervision of the City Manager does not mean the City Attorney reports to the City Manager. She noted the two direct reports of Council are employees of Council and not employees of each other, and if there is going to be an evaluation process that is equitable and fair, Council would need to use the same process for both direct reports. She added if Council is going to ask for a peer evaluation of the City Attorney from the City Manager, then Council should ask for a peer evaluation from the City Attorney for the City Manager to ensure Council is engaging in a fair process.

Mayor Pro Tem Post pointed out the City Manager knows more than anyone else what the City Attorney does. He noted the City Manager is responsible for running all of the City’s departments. Councilmember Miller called for the question.
Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller, Alexander, and Sheffield voted AYE. Mayor Heggins voted NAY. (4-1)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a)  **Halloween Fun Fest**

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced Salisbury Parks and Recreation Department, in partnership with Downtown Salisbury, Inc., will host the annual Halloween Fun Fest in the City Hall parking lot on Saturday, October 26, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Activities include carnival games, live entertainment, face painting, hay rides, haunted trolley rides, costume contest, pet costume contest and trick-or-treating with the downtown merchants from 4:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. All games and activities are free and open to the public.

(b)  **Moonlight Basketball**

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced Salisbury Parks and Recreation will offer Moonlight Basketball for all teens aged 12 to 19 at Hall Gym starting Saturday, November 2, 2019. The Program will run the first and third Saturdays of each month from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. through March 2020. There will be special guest speakers each night. Pre-registration is recommended at www.salisburync.gov/play. Anyone interested in volunteering can call Steve Clark at 704-638-5286.

(c)  **Fall Clean Up 19**

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced the Community Appearance Commission and Salisbury’s Public Services Department will host “Fall Clean Up 19” Saturday, November 2, 2019. The #Trashtag Challenge is a litter clean-up day along the main corridors of Salisbury. Check in at City Hall, 217 South Main Street, anytime from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon to pick up equipment, coffee, and water and to sign up for a block. For more information call Stephen Brown at 704-638-4481 or by email at sbrow@salisburync.gov.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sheffield announced Make a Difference Day is October 26, 2019 and she encouraged citizens to volunteer during the BlockWork event. She thanked Chief Jerry Stokes and Deputy Chief Shon Barnes for attending the first Coming Out Day on October 11, 2019 at Catawba College.

Councilmember Miller thanked Rowan Little League President Dan Wales and Rowan County Little League Girls softball team manager Steve Yang for the opportunity to join the team on their visit to the White House as they were recognized for their World Series Softball Championship win. He noted he had a great experience.
MAYOR PRO TEM COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Post had no comments.

MAYOR’S COMMENTS

Mayor Heggins thanked staff and Council for all they do for the City.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Miller. All Council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

[Signature]
Al Heggins, Mayor

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Diane Gilmore, City Clerk