

Salisbury, North Carolina
November 1, 2019

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; and City Attorney J. Graham Corriher.

ABSENT: City Clerk Diane Gilmore.

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 2:00 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 – Item 8a – Request from Happy Roots.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Regular meetings of October 15, 2019 and the Special Meeting of October 15, 2019.

(b) Voluntary Annexation – The Gables

Receive a Certificate of Sufficiency from the City Clerk concerning the voluntary annexation of The Gables 5 and adopt a Resolution setting a public hearing for December 3, 2019.

RESOLUTION SETTING THE DATE OF A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE QUESTION OF THE ANNEXATION OF THE GABLES PHASE 5, PURSUANT TO NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL STATUTE 160A-31.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 28-29, and is known as Resolution 2019-20.)

(c) Street Closing – 200 Block of West Cemetery Street

Adopt a Resolution declaring intent to close the 200 block of West Cemetery Street and set a public hearing for December 3, 2019.

RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE PROPOSED CLOSING OF THE 200 BLOCK OF WEST CEMETERY STREET.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 30, and is known as Resolution 2019-21)

(d) Budget Amendment - Parks and Recreation Grant

Adopt a Budget Ordinance Amendment to the FY2019-2020 budget in the amount of \$95,000 to appropriate from revenue from the Carolina Thread Trail Grant.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2019-2020 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE REVENUE FROM THE CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL GRANT.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 28 at Page No. 213, and is known as Ordinance 2019-56.)

(e) Extension Request – CD-03-2017 Faith Road Shops

Council to consider granting a two-year extension to the previously approved ordinance for CD-03-2017 Faith Road Shops. There are no proposed changes to the previous approval.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Heggins opened the floor to receive public comments.

Mr. James White inquired about a committee regarding old buildings, houses and vehicles to clean up the community.

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

FEDERAL ACTION PLAN

Strategies Consulting Chief Executive Officer Leslie Mozingo addressed Council regarding the draft Federal Action Plan. She referenced language changes to the document, and she presented the most recent version to Council for its consideration.

Councilmember Miller asked about a possible solution regarding a location for the Farmer's Market and whether Farmer's Market representatives have been contacted. Ms. Mozingo stated she has not spoken with representatives from the Farmer's Market. She noted the items on the Federal Action Plan came primarily from meetings with staff and elected officials. She explained she is seeking grants to promote the market itself rather than its brick and mortar location. Councilmember Miller suggested staff reach out to Farmer's Market representatives to be sure City priorities are in agreement with those of Farmer's Market staff.

City Manager Lane Bailey stated staff has had some conversation with representatives from the Farmer's Market, but currently there is not a clear consensus on a market location. He added a decision needs to be made before the City seeks funding for the Market.

Ms. Mozingo noted the item will remain on the plan as something to be worked on until a definitive location can be determined. Mayor Heggins questioned whether items could be added or deleted from the document as needed. Ms. Mozingo recommended maintaining document stability since it will be shared with other federal offices.

Mayor Pro Tem David Post referred to Transit services, and he referenced a request for smaller more efficient electric vehicles with additional routes. He pointed out additional people would be required to service additional vehicles and routes. Ms. Mozingo explained she did not add the language regarding the additional routes because the request would be a local decision and not made at the federal level. She pointed out if additional routes are to be added to the City's Transit system, federal assistance would likely help. She stated federal resources will be worked back into the plan as support for additional routes.

Mayor Pro Tem Post indicated restrooms are needed at Kelsey Scott Park and City Park. Ms. Mozingo stated she included the specific need within her notes but left it in a broader need for the plan. She commented she will add City Park to the facilities listed.

Councilmember Miller referenced previous conversations regarding regional water systems and grants that may be available to help the City assist other communities. Mr. Bailey explained funding has previously been at the state level, but it can be added to the federal list. He added the focus is on stressed systems that have failing infrastructure and financial instability.

Councilmember Alexander commented during a visit to Washington, D.C. conversations took place regarding creating regional projects. She asked Ms. Mozingo for any help Strategies could provide to package or identify projects involving two or more communities.

Councilmember Sheffield stated grants that must be sustained are difficult to maintain, and she urged Ms. Mozingo to pursue one time grants for projects in the future.

Mayor Heggins added she met with the Department of Transportation and Small Business Administration while in Washington, D.C. and heard the need for connections between projects within opportunity zones.

Mayor Heggins suggested a community meeting take place so the public can meet Ms. Mozingo and she can explain the importance of her work.

Mayor Heggins recognized Ms. Dottie Hoy who received conflicting information from Farmer's Market staff and what is being said at the meeting. Mr. Miller agreed connections should be made before Council takes action regarding the Market. Mr. Bailey indicated Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI) Director Larissa Harper and Parks and Recreation Director Nick Aceves have spoken with the Farmer's Market group.

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to adopt the Federal Action Plan as amended. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller, Alexander, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

HAPPY ROOTS

Mayor Heggins read an e-mail she received from Ms. Ashley Honbarrier, Executive Director of Happy Roots, requesting \$15,000 to support their programs which support Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) programs through the schools.

Mayor Pro Tem Post commented the City has been approached by Livingstone College and others regarding community gardens. He noted the City's \$40,000 budget for nonprofit requests goes to the Salisbury Community Foundation and the matter should be directed to them.

City Manager Lane Bailey explained the United Way has changed its funding formula and it now includes an area for healthy lifestyle and basic needs. He indicated Happy Roots would be a candidate for United Way funding.

Councilmember Alexander stated the application process for Salisbury Community Foundation funding recently closed. She added she is glad United Way is available as a possible funding source.

Councilmember Sheffield questioned if the Salisbury Community Foundation determines who qualifies for the City's money or if the City makes the determination. Councilmember Alexander stated the Foundation determines eligibility. Mayor Pro Tem Post commented Council received over \$200,000 in requests for \$40,000, and he added the City is not in a position to determine qualifications.

Mayor Heggins requested staff provide information to Happy Roots. She commented the City gives money to the Foundation and also submits applications for funds. She questioned if the City should apply for funds if the money is from the City. Mr. Bailey explained the City applies for grants from other funds managed by the Foundation and is not in competition for the \$40,000 it gives for community groups.

Councilmember Sheffield questioned if Happy Roots had connections to local schools as it would seem to be a great partnership.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Graham Corriher presented the funding agreement for Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI). He stated the agreement is for five years and needs to be renewed annually. He asked Council to consider approval of the funding agreement as presented including a provision that provides the City Attorney and City Manager the ability to modify language if requested.

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to ratify the document. Mayor Pro Tem Post suggested a motion to authorize City Attorney Corriher and City Manager Bailey the ability to make minor adjustments to the funding agreement. Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to ratify the document to allow the City Attorney and City Manager to make minor adjustments as

necessary. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller, Alexander, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Lane Bailey had nothing to report to Council.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Free Bus Rides

Communications Specialist Kaisha Brown announced on Election Day, Tuesday, November 5, 2019, Salisbury Transit is offering FREE bus rides all day for everyone. Operating hours are 6:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. All buses are equipped to accommodate wheelchairs. Take advantage and have your voice heard.

(b) Friday Shopping Night

Communications Specialist Kaisha Brown announced Downtown Salisbury Inc. will host the biggest shopping night of the year, Friday, November 29, 2019, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Fisher Street will convert into a snowy village. Downtown shops and restaurants will stay open late to offer best options for that perfect holiday gift. Live music, free craft-making, hot cocoa, and carolers strolling throughout downtown to make this special night all the more delightful.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sheffield noted BlockWork took place this past weekend and was a huge success. She thanked everyone who participated. She stated Fall Clean Up will take place Saturday, November 2, 2019.

Councilmember Alexander thanked staff for all it did to make BlockWork a success. She stated the Salisbury Community Development Corporation (CDC) purchased a house just outside the BlockWork area and worked to clean their property. She noted Mr. Fred Stanback was excited and encouraged about the look of North Main Street.

Councilmember Alexander announced she has been nominated as a delegate to the National League of Cities Conference representing the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

MAYOR PRO TEM COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Post thanked BlockWork volunteers and former Interim Planning Director Brian Hiatt for participating in the event. He noted a follow-up work day will take place. City Manager Lane Bailey stated the follow-up work day will possibly be held on November 23, 2019.

Mayor Pro Tem Post recognized Fire Chief Bob Parnell who is heading the United Way Campaign and commended him for raising over 100% of the United Way budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Post acknowledged the Salisbury Community Foundation for its arrangement with the Police Department. He explained the Salisbury Community Foundation agreed to receive and disburse funds for the program and \$12,000 has been raised to provide bicycles for the Police Department for community policing.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Heggins thanked the community and staff for participating in Block Work. She spoke of the support from the City in transporting 30 men and boys to Spartanburg for My Brothers Keepers Southern Region Summit. Mayor Heggins thanked Mr. Anthony Smith, Mr. Gemale Black, and Mr. Issaac Heggins for their hard work.

CLOSED SESSION

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Post made a **motion** to go into closed session concerning an economic development matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) and concerning a personal matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(6). Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller, Alexander, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)


RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Councilmember Alexander made a **motion** to return to open session. Mayor Heggins, Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Miller, Alexander, and Sheffield voted AYE. (5-0)

Mayor Heggins announced no action was taken during closed session. She stated Council conducted an annual review for the City Attorney and the salary for the City Attorney is set at \$115,000 per year. She added she is happy to have him with 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 5:41 p.m.



Al Heggins, Mayor

Diane Gilmore, City Clerk