

Salisbury, North Carolina
January 4, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Karen K. Alexander, Presiding; Council Members Harry McLaughlin, David Post, and Anthony Smith; Interim City Manager Brian Hiatt, City Clerk Kelly Baker; and City Attorney J. Graham Corriher.

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield

In response to the State of Emergency declaration related to the spread of COVID-19 and to limit physical interactions and the potential spread of COVID-19 the Salisbury City Council met electronically. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alexander at 6:00 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.

RECOGNITION OF VIEWERS

Mayor Alexander welcomed all viewers.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Postpone Item 10 - Council to consider adopting an Ordinance to order the demolition of the structure located at 418 South Craige Street.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt the Agenda with the noted change. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Councilmember McLaughlin voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Alexander proclaimed the following observances:

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY	January 17, 2022
NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH	January 2022
NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH	January 2022

CONSENT AGENDA

- (a) Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the Regular meeting of December 7, 2021.

- (b) Budget Ordinance Amendment- North Carolina Governor’s Highway Safety Program

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$25,000 to appropriate grant funds from the North Carolina Governor’s Highway Safety Program to provide overtime funds for traffic enforcement.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021-2022 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR’S HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM GRANT.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 1, and is known as Ordinance 2022-01.)

- (c) Budget Ordinance Amendment – North Carolina Governor’s Crime Commission

Adopt a budget Ordinance Amendment to the FY2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$23,960 to appropriate grant funds from the North Carolina Governor’s Crime Commission to replace outdated equipment in the booking area, a transport chair, mobile stop signs to aid in reducing traffic accidents in high crash zones when the power goes out, replacement Taser cartridges, and digital optics.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021-2022 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CRIME COMMISSION GRANT.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 2, and is known as Ordinance 2022-02.)

(d) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Duke Energy Foundation

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$25,000 to appropriate grant funds from the Duke Energy Foundation to support social justice and racial equity initiatives.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021-2022 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE A DUKE ENERGY FOUNDATION GRANT.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 3, and is known as Ordinance 2022-03.)

(e) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$69,814 to appropriate Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance grants for 2019, 2020 and 2021 for the purchase of a benchmark management system, two interactive whiteboards, a license plate reader, duty pistol replacements, and weapon lights and holsters, handcuffs, and baton replacement.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2021-2022 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE 2019, 2020, AND 2021 BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 4, and is known as Ordinance 2022-04.)

(f) Resolution – Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program Grant

Adopt a Resolution accepting a Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation Program Grant in the amount of \$800,000 for the West End Salisbury Transformed Empowered Neighborhood Development Project.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ACCEPTANCE OF A BYRNE CRIMINAL JUSTICE INNOVATION PROGRAM GRANT.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No.16 at Page No. 1, and is known as Resolution 2022-01.)

(g) Contract – Level Solutions Group, LLC

Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract in an amount not to exceed \$354,364.27 with Level Solutions Group, LLC for the purchase of replacement technology equipment. Equipment has reached its end of life and funds for this purchase were approved in the FY2021-2022 budget.

(h) Ordinance – Main Street Road Diet Conformity

Adopt an Ordinance amending Section 13-338 (Parking prohibited at all times), Section 13-341 (Reserved handicapped parking), Section 13-366 (Loading zones), and Section 13-362 (Off-street parking lots) of the City Code to match existing and updated markings from the Main Street Road Diet and for uniformity.

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE X, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, RELATING TO PARKING.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 5-8, and is known as Ordinance 2022-05.)

(i) Ordinance – Speed Limits North Ellis Street

Adopt an Ordinance amending Section 13-336 (Speed limits – Generally) of the City Code to lower the speed limit from 35mph to 25mph in the 600 and 700 blocks of North Ellis Street.

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

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 9, and is known as Ordinance 2022-06.)

(j) Task Order – HDR Engineering, Inc.

Approve an additional task order in the amount of \$6,690 for HDR Engineering, Inc. for additional survey work to support the Sunset Drive South Drainage Improvement project.

(k) Ordinance – Notice of Lis Pendens in Minimum Housing Cases

Adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 10, Article III of the City Code to authorize filing a Notice of Lis Pendens in Minimum Housing cases.

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10, ARTICLE III OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES TO AUTHORIZE FILING A NOTICE OF LIS PENDENS IN MINIMUM HOUSING CASES.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 10-11, and is known as Ordinance 2022-07.)

(l) Right-of-Way Encroachment – South Ellis Street

Approve a right-of-way encroachment for Spectrum in the 100 block of South Ellis Street in accordance with Section 11-24(27) of the City Code.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Councilmember McLaughlin voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

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

LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP AMENDMENT Z-03-2021

Planner Elizabeth Burke addressed Council regarding Land Development District Map Amendment Z-03-2021 to rezone one parcel, approximately .025 acre, located at 1035 Mooresville Road from Neighborhood Mixed-Use (NMX) to Corridor Mixed-Use (CMX) for the expansion of an existing business. She pointed out the business is a minor vehicle service that is currently zoned NMX. She stated the petitioner is acquiring a vacant neighboring lot zoned CMX to expand his business. She explained staff advised the petitioner to rezone his parcel to CMX to create a more consistent pattern of zoning along Mooresville Road and to eliminate the island of NMX zoning.

Ms. Burke reviewed the site plan and photographs of the property. She explained the additional lot is necessary for the proposed expansion due to setback requirements. She noted the permitted uses for CMX and NMX zoning, and she pointed out “vehicle services: minor maintenance repair” is permitted in both NMX and CMX zoning.

Ms. Burke stated the expansion is consistent with Vision 2020 Plan Policy C-2. She noted the Planning Board held a courtesy hearing December 14, 2021 and voted unanimously to recommend approval as submitted.

Councilmember McLaughlin asked if staff received any complaints regarding the proposed rezoning. Ms. Burke noted staff did not receive any complaints.

Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing after due notice to receive comments regarding Land Development District Map Amendment Z-03-2021.

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

Mr. McLaughlin stated the City Council hereby finds and determines that adoption of an Ordinance to rezone the property described herein, as requested, is consistent with the goals, objectives, and policies of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan due to the proposed petition, site characteristics, surrounding development pattern, and observations provided by City planning staff, identifying the policies that support the petition. Thereupon, Mr. McLaughlin made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending the Land Development District Map of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina rezoning Tax Map 061-1 Parcel 178 from Neighborhood Mixed Use to Corridor Mixed Use, approximately .97 acres. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Councilmember McLaughlin voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA REZONING TAX MAP 061-1 PARCEL 178 FROM NEIGHBORHOOD MIXED USE TO CORRIDOR MIXED USE, APPROXIMATELY .97 ACRES.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 12, and is known as Ordinance 2022-08.)

ANNUAL COMPREHENSIVE FINANCIAL REPORT

Finance Director Wade Furches and Auditor Leanne Bagasala presented the June 30, 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report from Elliott Davis, LLC. Ms. Bagasala thanked Council for allowing Elliott Davis, LLC to provide audit services for the City. She explained Elliott Davis, LLC provided the Comprehensive Financial Statements and a letter of representation.

Ms. Bagasala noted Elliott Davis, LLC did not encounter any difficulties during the audit, no significant deficiencies, no material weaknesses, and there is no other written communication. She reviewed the auditor's responsibilities and management responsibilities. She stated the auditor provides several opinions as part of the audit process. She noted the first opinion is on the City's financial statements, and she issued the City an unmodified opinion which is the highest level of assurance that can be provided. She noted the next opinion is on government auditing standards and no issues were found. She indicated a statutory violation related to Broadband Services was identified and is considered a material weakness that was disclosed in the financial statements and repeats annually.

Ms. Bagasala indicated a selection of federal and state grant programs was audited and the City received a clean opinion. She noted the Local Government Commission (LGC) added performance indicators which identifies the best measures of a local government entity. She added if the City does not meet a performance indicator it would be required to submit a response to that finding. She pointed out the Broadband Services fund deficit of approximately \$2.7 million came up as an indicator of concern. She explained when Broadband Services was implemented in 2009, funds were spent that have not come to fruition. She added until the deficit is eliminated the City will have a statutory violation in its financial statements. She explained the LGC requires a written submission, signed by Council, within 60 days of the audit presentation that includes a plan to

remedy the deficit.

Councilmember Post pointed out the Finance Department has received a Certificate of Achievement for its Comprehensive Financial Report for approximately 30 years and the only material weakness is out of its control. Ms. Bagasala noted the LGC has completed its preliminary review of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report which was approved with no edits.

Council thanked the Finance Department for the great work it does with the City finances. Mayor Alexander noted Council is aware of the Broadband Fund which should be paid in full in 2029. She thanked Ms. Bagasala for her presentation.

Mr. Furches reviewed the Total Fund Balance in the General Fund for the previous five years, and he pointed out in FY 2020-2021 the Fund Balance increased to \$22.09 million. He then reviewed the available Fund Balance as a percentage of expenditures and transfers of the General Fund. He pointed out in FY2016-2017 the percentage of expenditures and transfers to the General Fund was 40.48% and in FY2020-2021 it was at 36.31%. He added the City has an informal policy of keeping the Fund Balance at 25%. He explained the City has a General Fund Balance of \$22.8 million, with restrictions of approximately \$7 million, leaving \$15 million available for appropriation. He added the working capital/Fund Balance policy is \$10 million which leaves \$4.7 million the City could spend and remain above the self-imposed 25% Fund Balance.

Councilmember Smith noted how resilient the City has been throughout the pandemic.

Mr. Furches reviewed General Fund Revenue verses expenditures and transfers, and he pointed out revenue was \$44.8 million and expenditures and transfers were at \$41.69 million leaving a profit of approximately \$3 million. He noted staff did not know how the sales tax revenue would be impacted by the pandemic. He added the City took in approximately \$2 million more in sales tax revenue than was budgeted. He stated property taxes revenue was approximately \$900,000 over the budgeted amount. He explained the financial statement includes a disclaimer due to COVID-19, but revenues have remained strong.

Mr. Furches referenced Broadband Services, and he pointed out in FY2016-2017 the deficit was \$9.8 million and it has decreased to \$2.7 million in FY2020-2021. He stated Broadband Services has \$822,000 in revenue which was slightly higher than last year. He explained Hotwire Communications deducts operating expenditures from the revenue it sends the City. He indicated the Broadband Services is headed in the right direction.

Mr. Furches reviewed the Water and Sewer Fund. He explained revenue and expenses, and he noted SRU has approximately \$2 million in surplus.

Mayor Alexander thanked Mr. Furches for his presentation. Mr. Furches thanked Ms. Bagasala and Elliott Davis, LLC who have conducted the City's audits for the last seven years. He stated Elliott Davis, LLC will no longer perform governmental audits. He added staff will send Requests for Proposals (RFP) for the audit contract and hope to have a firm in place by March 2022.

DEMOLITION – 418 SOUTH CRAIGE STREET

This item was postponed.

OVERTIME PARKING FINES

Police Chief Jerry Stokes and City Engineer Wendy Brindle addressed Council regarding a proposal to increase the overtime parking fine from \$5 to \$15, and the repeat offender fine from \$50 to \$75.

Ms. Brindle displayed a map of downtown public parking, and she pointed out unrestricted and two-hour parking. She added the two-hour parking is intended for patrons to stop, shop, or dine downtown. She stated the outskirts of downtown has 24-hour non-restricted, complimentary parking that is designed for employees, business owners, or people who are planning to spend the day in the City. She referred to a parking study that was completed in 2019, and she noted the average stay in the two-hour parking spaces was 1.67 hours with a 15% violation rate.

Ms. Brindle reviewed the parking spaces per block in downtown, and she pointed out the Main Street restriping included 80 additional on-street parking spaces. She indicated the 2019 parking study found a low utilization of public parking lots. She noted the public parking lot in the 100 block of East Innes Street has two-hour parking restrictions and would be affected by increased parking fines.

Ms. Brindle stated the downtown parking fine has been \$5 for many years. She added the parking study concluded the parking fine is below average for cities of similar size and recommend the fine be increased to \$15 per occurrence. She noted staff recommends the repeat offender fine be increased from \$50 to \$75, and she clarified it would apply to anyone receiving four or more violations within a 30-day period. She indicated staff is working to improve wayfinding signage to public parking lots.

Chief Stokes noted in September downtown merchants through Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI) requested he meet with them about parking. He noted parking enforcement was reduced during the pandemic. He stated the parking meeting included 8 to 10 downtown merchants. He added the parking study was discussed and the merchants requested staff implement items in the parking study including increasing the parking and repeat offender fines. He pointed out the City has a Parking Control Specialist addressing the overtime parking issues. He commented free parking maps are being issued with parking tickets. He added he is hopeful the increased fines will address the merchant's concerns regarding overtime parking and how it impacts their businesses. He noted staff is looking at technology to identify repeat offenders.

Councilmember McLaughlin requested clarification regarding the Parking Control Specialist. Chief Stokes explained the Parking Control Specialist is a part-time, non-sworn position that works approximately 30 hours per week in the downtown area.

Councilmember Post stated the increased parking fees are overdue, and he pointed out there is inadequate parking around the courthouse. Chief Stokes pointed out court related parking is a concern for area merchants, and it creates competing interests.

Councilmember McLaughlin asked if parking permits for downtown merchants have been considered. Ms. Brindle stated permits have been discussed for downtown residential parking, but most people oppose on-street parking permits because it would take a parking space away from a business patron.

Councilmember Smith questioned what similar cities are doing to mitigate their parking issues. Ms. Brindle explained the parking study makes long-term recommendations including a downtown parking deck. She pointed out non-restricted parking is available but it may require drivers to walk a couple of blocks to their destination. Mr. Smith suggested a collaboration with DSI to make sure local businesses are aware of available unrestricted parking spaces in the downtown.

Mayor Alexander asked if the map of parking spaces includes pay for parking lots. Ms. Brindle noted paid parking spaces were included in the parking study completed in 2019.

Chief Stokes noted the parking situation will continue to worsen due to downtown residential and business growth. He added there is technology to help with parking enforcement, but it is expensive. Interim City Manager Brian Hiatt requested staff provide an estimate to Council regarding the cost of the technology. He added the current procedure is low cost but it lacks efficiency. Mayor Alexander pointed out adoption of the proposed Ordinance is a beginning and implementation could be considered later.

Thereupon, Councilmember Smith made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 13, Article II, of the Code of the City of Salisbury, regarding overtime parking fines. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Councilmember McLaughlin voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE II, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, REGARDING OVERTIME PARKING FINES.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 13, and is known as Ordinance 2022-09.)

SISTER CITY REALATIONSHIP WITH MONROVIA, LIBERIA

Mayor Alexander pointed out she welcomed the Mayor of Monrovia, Liberia and his delegates to Council Chambers on November 11, 2021 to discuss the idea of the Sister-City relationship.

Mayor Alexander read the proposed Resolution to Council. She added the City of Salisbury is also a Sister-City with Salisbury, England.

Councilmember Smith thanked Mayor Alexander for facilitating the relationship between Monrovia and the City to develop connections culturally and economically. He noted Liberia was formed from freed enslaved Africans that left North Carolina to form a country in Africa.

Councilmember McLaughlin commented it would be great to have Monrovia as a Sister City due to the growing Liberian population in Salisbury and at Livingstone College.

Mayor Alexander commented she was invited to attend Monrovia's 200th Anniversary as a country, and she added she plans to attend. She commented Livingstone College will continue to work with the City and Monrovia, and she thanked Council for its support of the Sister-City Resolution.

Thereupon, Councilmember Smith made a **motion** to adopt a joint Resolution between the City of Monrovia, Montserrado County, Republic of Liberia and the City of Salisbury, North Carolina. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Councilmember McLaughlin voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

JOINT RESOLUTION BETWEEN THE CITY OF MONROVIA, MONTSERRADO COUNTY, REPUBLIC OF LIBERIA AND THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 2, and is known as Resolution 2022-02.)

APPOINTMENT – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Mayor Alexander pointed out a request was received from the Economic Development Commission to approve Mr. Greg Alcorn as a full member of the commission.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to appoint Greg Alcorn to the Economic Development Commission. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Councilmember McLaughlin voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

COUNCIL LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Alexander suggested the following liaison appointments to community groups:

- (a) ABC Board – Mayor Karen Alexander
- (b) Centralina Council of Governments – Mayor Karen Alexander
- (c) Centralina Council of Governments – Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield
- (d) Community Appearance Commission – Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield
- (e) Downtown Salisbury, Inc. – Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield
- (f) Economic Development Commission – Councilmember David Post
- (g) Fireman's Relief Fund – Councilmember Harry McLaughlin

- (h) Housing Advocacy Commission – Councilmember Harry McLaughlin
- (i) Human Relations Council – Councilmember Anthony Smith
- (j) Metropolitan Planning Organization – Mayor Karen Alexander
- (k) Metropolitan Planning Organization – Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield
- (l) Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – Councilmember Harry McLaughlin
- (m) Rowan County Tourism Development Authority – Mayor Karen Alexander
- (n) Rufty-Holmes Senior Center – Councilmember David Post
- (o) Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency – Councilmember David Post
- (p) Transportation Advisory Board – Councilmember Anthony Smith
- (q) Tree Board – Councilmember Harry McLaughlin
- (r) Youth Council – Councilmember Anthony Smith

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to approve Council liaisons to various Boards and Commissions. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Councilmember McLaughlin voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT

(a) City Code Revisions

City Attorney Graham Corriher presented information regarding revisions to the Code of Ordinances to comply with the General Assembly.

Mr. Corriher pointed out Session Law 2021-138 is a NC Criminal justice reform legislation, effective December 1, 2021, that includes “decriminalization of certain ordinances.” He added the law amends General Statutes 14-4 from violation of local ordinances subject to criminal penalty to violation of local ordinances not subject to criminal penalty unless specified in the ordinance. He added certain local ordinances cannot be subject to criminal penalty such as land development regulations or tree regulations.

Mr. Corriher commented another revision will allow an offender to come into compliance within 30 days without another offense. He added if there is an underlying condition of poverty, homelessness, mental health, or substance abuse the offender can provide proof those issues are being addressed to come into compliance. He noted this is an effort to require Council to review and specify which ordinances justify criminal penalties or are subject to a civil penalty.

Mr. Corriher explained the proposed Ordinance amendments for sections of Chapter 1, 15, 20, 22, and 23 to make violations subject to criminal penalties. He also noted non-SB300 revisions are to clean up outdated or unenforceable Ordinances discovered during review. He added the revisions removed the existing code for prohibition on pan handling because it was unenforceable as written. He pointed out staff will continue to review the Code of Ordinances and bring additional recommendations to Council.

Councilmember Smith commented it is important for the community to be able to see the greater context of the State Bill, and he added he hopes the community knows Americans are using its rights to bring about a more equitable and just America.

Mayor Alexander commented she has received a lot of complaints regarding panhandling, and she asked if the Ordinance would be removed because it is not enforceable. Mr. Corriher agreed, and he added charitable donations of money can be asked for, and he pointed out the Ordinance can regulate conduct, but not speech.

Councilmember Smith asked if equity will be considered during the review. Mr. Corriher noted a meeting has taken place to include as many voices as possible for feedback, especially those serving populations at risk, and he added he is open to further discussion so the Ordinances are enforceable and equitable.

Mayor Alexander asked if it would be good to include the Human Relations Council (HRC) in the review. Interim City Manager Brian Hiatt commented Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Director Anne Little serves as the HRC staff liaison and could work with Mr. Corriher. Councilmember Smith commented he met with Ms. Little and thinks it would be great for her to be a part of the conversation.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Interim City Manager Brian Hiatt commented COVID-19 trends are increasing and Council will need to decide whether the January 18, 2022 meeting will take place in person, as a hybrid or by Zoom. He also noted if the trends continue there are concerns about the Retreat scheduled for the end of the month.

Mayor Alexander noted Council will work with Ms. Baker and Mr. Hiatt regarding whether to conduct the meeting in person, hybrid, or Zoom.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember McLaughlin thanked those who presented during the Council meeting, and he noted he looks forward to working with the Boards and Commissions he was appointed to serve as a liaison.

Councilmember Smith commented he spoke with several people who were present during the shooting at the high school basketball tournament held at Catawba College. He commended how everyone came together during the incident to support each other. He noted he hopes the energy and passion for others welfare is brought to the City in 2022.

MAYOR PRO TEM COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield was absent from the meeting.

MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

(a) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Weekend

Mayor Alexander announced the Human Relations Council will host its annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Weekend with the theme “Keep Moving Forward: United for Service, Peace and Equity.” The Winter drive-thru Community Resource Fair will be held Saturday, January 15, 2022 from 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Civic Center located at 315 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. A Community Day of Service, “Share the Warmth” will be held Monday, January 17, 2022 at Kelsey Scott Park. Participants are asked to donate new and/or gently used coats and assist with cleaning up the park (weather permitting). At 2:00 p.m. a Virtual Program will air on the HRC Facebook Page. For more information, please contact Anne Little at anne.little@salisburync.gov or call (704) 638-5218.

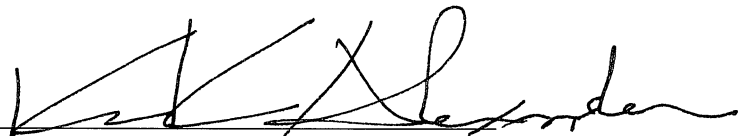
Mayor Alexander thanked everyone who assisted during the incident that took place at Catawba College during the basketball tournament. She thanked the Police Department for its great work.

Mayor Alexander thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the work it did for the New Year’s Eve Event at the Bell Tower, and she added it was a great turnout. She thanked staff for the work it does for citizens each day.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Post. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Councilmember McLaughlin voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


Karen Alexander, Mayor


Kelly Baker, City Clerk