REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Karen Kirks Alexander, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell; Council Members William Brian Miller, Kenneth Hardin, and David Post; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; Deputy City Clerk Kelly Baker, and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

ABSENT: City Clerk Myra B. Heard.

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The invocation was given by Councilmember Miller. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alexander at 5:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Alexander welcomed all visitors present.

CHEERWINE 100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Mayor Alexander recognized Cheerwine President and CEO Cliff Ritchie. She read a proclamation proclaiming May 20, 2017 as Cheerwine Day in the City of Salisbury, and she presented a framed copy to Mr. Ritchie.
Mr. Ritchie noted Cheerwine is proud to call Salisbury home. He announced Cheerwine will hold its 100th Anniversary celebration Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 12:00 noon until 8:00 p.m. in downtown Salisbury.

Mayor Alexander presented Mr. Ritchie with a Key to the City in appreciation of Cheerwine and Carolina Beverage Corporation’s legendary contributions to the City. Mr. Ritchie thanked Council for its continued support of Cheerwine and Carolina Beverage Corporation.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

Mayor to proclaim the following observances:

- PEACE OFFICERS’ MEMORIAL DAY May 18, 2017
- NATIONAL POLICE WEEK May 14 – 20, 2017
- ARMED FORCES DAY May 20, 2017
- CHEERWINE DAY May 20, 2017
- LET’S GET CONNECTED DAY May 20, 2017
- VETERANS MEMORIAL DAY May 29, 2017

**CONSENT AGENDA**

(a) Approval of Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the Special meetings of April 12, 2017 and April 13, 2017 and the Regular meeting of May 2, 2017.

(b) Contract – CCI Systems

Approve the sole-source purchase from CCI Systems in the amount of $131,115.76 for the hardware, software, and professional services for the Fibrant Enterprise IPv6.

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

**UPDATE – SALISBURY POLICE CHIEF**

Police Chief Jerry Stokes introduced Major Shon Barnes who joined the department Monday, May 15, 2017 and will serve as the City’s Deputy Police Chief.

Major Barnes stated he is proud to be a member of the Salisbury Police Department, and he is looking forward to working with the City and its citizens. He thanked Council for the warm welcome he has received.
Chief Stokes reviewed Police Department staffing, and he noted the department has 14 vacancies. He pointed out some of the vacant positions will be filled by some of the 15 candidates currently in the hiring process.

Chief Stokes stated the City is developing a City-wide camera surveillance system that will expand over time. He explained a software vendor has been identified, and the cameras should be in operation by June 15, 2017.

Chief Stokes noted the Police Department is preparing to accommodate its Federal Task Force partners. He explained the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Homeland Security, North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation (SBI), State Probation and Parole, and the Rowan County Sheriff’s Department will bring agents to the City three to four days per week to assist with investigations.

Chief Stokes pointed out National Police Week will be held May 14-20, 2017, and he noted the Police Officers Memorial Service will take place May 18, 2017 at First Methodist Church. He commented police officers will also participate in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics.

Councilmember Post asked if 15 people are being considered for positions within the Police Department. Chief Stokes noted there are 15 candidates in various stages of the hiring process. He explained recruits are required to pass a written test, background review, polygraph exam and go through an oral review panel. Mr. Post asked how many of the potential candidates would complete the hiring process. Chief Stokes indicated he would likely hire three or four of the potential candidates.

Z-01-2017 – CATAWBA COLLEGE

Councilmember Post asked to be recused because he owns property in the Catawba College area.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a motion to recuse Mr. Post from the issue. Mr. Hardin seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin and Miller, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

Development and Code Services Manager Preston Mitchell reviewed the request by Catawba College to rezone approximately 135 acres, multiple parcels, along North Park Drive and Duke Circle to Institutional Campus (IC) and to rezone multiple parcels along both sides of Grants Creek and at the terminus of East Corriher Street and Lilly Avenue to Open Space Preserve (OSP) zoning. He noted the IC rezoning would allow the College to adaptively reuse structures for faculty and student housing, office space, and to physically expand the College in the future. He pointed out the land being considered for OSP zoning is encumbered by flood plain or flood way.
Mr. Mitchell noted the College owns or has agreements in place for 11 of the 18 properties, or 61% of the properties, that are included in the proposed rezoning. He stated Catawba College provided certified notices to property owners, and Executive Vice-President for Finance and Operations Nelson Murphy indicated the remaining property owners expressed no concerns regarding the proposed rezoning. He added the Planning Board recommends unanimous approval of the petition.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell pointed out none of the residents whose properties are being rezoned attended or spoke at the public hearing that was held during Council’s last meeting.

Councilmember Hardin asked if the dumpster issue in the 500 block of Lantz Avenue has been resolved. Mr. Mitchell explained the dumpsters are a Code issue and not related to the proposed rezoning. He added staff will follow up with Catawba College regarding the dumpster issue and report back to Council.

Councilmember Miller stated that during the public hearing neighbors presented their concerns regarding College growth encroaching into the neighborhood south of the campus. He added the proposed rezoning would allow the College to grow in a different direction. He pointed out the growth would be bound on three sides and would not impact Grants Creek.

Mr. Miller stated the City Council hereby finds and determines that adoption of an Ordinance to rezone the property as described herein, as requested, is reasonable, in the public interest, and not consistent with the older neighborhood residential policies of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan, yet consistent with the Comprehensive Plan Vision Statements calling for quiet, safe neighborhoods, continued support of our educational institutions, and protection of environmentally sensitive area. Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a motion to adopt an Ordinance amending the Land Development District Map of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina, rezoning all or a portion of 30 parcels, approximately 135 acres, to Institutional Campus District or Open Space Preserve. Mr. Hardin seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller and Hardin, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, REZONING ALL OR A PORTION OF 30 PARCELS, APPROXIMATELY 135 ACRES, TO INSTITUTIONAL CAMPUS DISTRICT OR OPEN SPACE PRESERVE.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 26 at Page No. 44, and is known as Ordinance 2017-29.)

**CONTRACT – WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Assistant Public Services Director Craig Powers stated the City recently bid its recycling contract, and he commented Waste Management was the low bidder. He pointed out collection times and the amount and type of materials recycled would remain the same under the proposed contract. He added citizens will receive new recycling containers from Waste Management.
Councilmember Miller asked about the color of the recycling containers. Mr. Powers noted the recycling containers will be green with a yellow top.

Mayor Alexander asked about the City’s total recycling. Mr. Powers indicated he did not have the information at this time. Mayor Alexander asked if the information would be calculated at the end of the fiscal year. Mr. Powers agreed, and he added Waste Management wants to partner with the City to enhance recycling. Mayor Alexander asked if Waste Management will offer business recycling. Mr. Powers stated Waste Management would like to work with the City regarding recycling downtown.

Councilmember Miller asked if the new contract is lower than previous costs. Mr. Powers noted the cost is slightly higher than the previous contract.

Public Services Director Tony Cinquemani noted the recycling set-out rate is at 58%. Mr. Powers stated staff recommends awarding a contract in the amount of $365,640 to Waste Management to provide curbside recycling services to the City.

Councilmember Post commented Waste Management provides customers in other areas with a sticker that lists the pick-up dates for each neighborhood. Ms. Blackwell indicated the City’s website also includes a recycling calendar.

Councilmember Hardin noted he has followed the recycling trucks and noticed recycling containers left on their sides. Mr. Powers stated staff will work with Waste Management to minimize the issue.

Mr. Post asked if an upset bid or alternative procedures could benefit the City in the future. City Manager Lane Bailey noted he spoke with School Of Government officials who stated changing the bid after the bid process has been completed would not be ethical. He added the upset bid process is relevant in real estate, and he explained if a low bid is rejected it has to be due to the contractor’s inability to meet the bid requirements.

Thereupon, Mr. Hardin made a motion to award a contract to Waste Management in the amount of $365,640 to provide curbside recycling. Mr. Post seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller, Hardin, and Post, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

PROPOSED GREENWAY RENAMING

Parks and Recreation Maintenance Manager Stephen Brown explained the Parks and Recreation Advisory board was approached about the possibility of renaming a section of the Greenway along Brenner Avenue to the William C. Peoples, Jr. Walkway. He stated the Board voted unanimously to bring the request before Council, and he added the Greenway Committee also approved the request. He noted the renaming would require a 30-day public input session.
Councilmember Hardin thanked the citizen who brought this request to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. He added Mr. Peoples loved the community and worked to ensure each person in the City was treated fairly.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell noted many citizens use this section of the Greenway and it would be fitting to name it the Peoples Walkway.

Thereupon, Mr. Hardin made a motion to establish a thirty-day period for public input regarding a request to rename the Brenner Avenue section of the Greenway to the William C. Peoples, Jr. Walkway. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller, Hardin, and Post, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

RESTRIPED RECOMMENDATION – NORTH MAIN STREET

City Engineer Wendy Brindle stated the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is planning to resurface North Main Street from the railroad tracks to the northern City limits. She explained when NCDOT resurfaces a street it provides an opportunity to make needed changes to an area. She pointed out a small area plan was completed for this neighborhood approximately 10 years ago.

Ms. Brindle noted staff held a neighborhood meeting, and the community expressed support for a three-lane cross section. She explained restriping options and on-street parking were discussed at the neighborhood meeting, but she noted neighbors preferred bicycle lanes. She added if Council approves the request, staff will contact NCDOT regarding the proposed changes. She indicated staff will also contact the Town of Spencer to see if they would like to extend the three lane cross section into their city limits at a future date. She pointed out the changes would prepare the area for future improvements such as medians and curb extenders.

Councilmember Post asked if the changes will create congestion in the area. Ms. Brindle noted the area is a little over a mile in length and approximately 8,700 vehicles travel North Main Street daily. She stated does not anticipate congestion based on the travel volume, and she pointed out the restriping will include a center turn lane.

Councilmember Hardin asked if the bike lane on Fulton Street is comparable to the proposed bike lane on North Main Street. Ms. Brindle explained the bike lane on Fulton Street is a sharrow and North Main Street will include a separate bike lane.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell noted she spoke with Ms. Brindle, and she anticipates the proposed changes will help slow traffic.

Mayor Alexander pointed out NCDOT will restripe the area now and planted medians could be added in the future. Ms. Brindle clarified the space would be reserved for the future possibly of a median. She commented the bid will open May 24, 2017 and once the bid is open the construction dates will be determined.
Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to approve the recommendation to re-stripe North Main Street from the railroad tracks to the northern City limits. Mr. Post seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller, Hardin, and Post, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

There were no appointments.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

Mr. Ronnie Smith thanked Councilmembers for their service to the community. He announced a new organization, Friends of Rowan (FOR), which would benefit citizens of Rowan County and the City. He noted May 20, 2017 is Armed Forces Day, and he pointed out a flag raising ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m. at the City Park Flag Concourse to honor veterans. He added 2017 is the 50th anniversary of Vietnam War, but Rowan County does not have a memorial to honor the Vietnam Veterans. He asked Council to support the memorial when it is brought before them at a later date.

Ms. Renee MacNutt stated she attended every meeting regarding the Catawba College rezoning, but she received little response from the City. She commented it is frustrating to spend time on an issue and receive no response. Mayor Alexander clarified that she and City Manager Lane Bailey met with Ms. MacNutt regarding the Catawba College rezoning.

Ms. Tamara Sheffield thanked the citizen who approached the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board regarding renaming a portion on the Greenway for Mr. William C Peoples, Jr. She asked if there will be an information session or official update once the Fibrant Advisory Committee completes its work.

Ms. Dee Dee Wright expressed her gratitude for the proposed renaming of the Brenner Avenue section of the Greenway for Mr. William C. Peoples, Jr. She noted Mr. Peoples was aware of the proposed renaming and he was very pleased. She thanked Chief Stokes for providing data regarding police calls to Walmart. She pointed out in 2015 one-third of police time was spent at Walmart, and she added she is concerned about Walmart’s close proximity to the Marriott Courtyard and Holiday Inn Express.

Ms. Sue McHugh thanked Council for moving forward with re-striping North Main Street, and she pointed out the North Main Small Area Plan was approved 10 years ago. She noted the neighborhood supports bump-outs, a bicycle lane, and communication with the Town of Spencer.

Ms. Carolyn Logan stated she is concerned about crime in the City, and she noted the community must work together to find a solution. She stated people have forgotten about Ayanna Allen. She commented something must be done to ensure citizen safety in the City.
Mr. Todd Paris indicated new water meters could result in an increase in water rates since mechanical meters may slow with age. He stated large contracts should not be included on the Consent Agenda. He referenced the turnover rate in Code Enforcement, and he noted the department needs additional funding. He requested an update regarding Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI) and the status of the Empire Hotel.

Mr. Michael Kirksey thanked Council for recognizing Mr. William C. Peoples, Jr. He stated he is concerned that a citizen’s water service can be disconnected if they do not pay their Fibrant bill. He added Fibrant and sanitation bills should not be related. He noted he is also concerned about the transparency of Council and crime in the area.

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

City Manager Lane Bailey noted staff will report on vendors for Fibrant at the appropriate time. He stated he will verify the number of police hours spent at Walmart. He pointed out the Police Department does not arrest a civilian when a citation can be issued. He explained an arrest is based on the value of the item that is allegedly stolen and if the suspect has outstanding warrants against them.

Councilmember Hardin thanked Development and Code Services Manager Preston Mitchell and staff for their quick response to code enforcement issues. He also thanked Mr. Bailey, Assistant City Manager Zack Kyle, Parks and Recreation Director Nick Aceves and Planning and Development Services Director Janet Gapen for their work to implement free vocational trade certifications. He also thanked Assistant Public Services Director Craig Powers for being receptive to feedback.

Councilmember Post noted Fibrant was separated in the budget to make the numbers more transparent, and he pointed out the contract that was listed in the Consent Agenda was included in the current year’s budget. He pointed out citizens are aware of the state of Fibrant because of the City’s transparency. He added Fibrant is a high-quality product that is here to stay. He noted the City’s investment will be good for 30 to 40 years.

CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS

(a) FY2017-2018 Proposed City Budget

City Manager Lane Bailey presented Council the FY2017-2018 proposed City Budget. He noted as discussed during Council’s retreat, the impact of previous budget cuts are most evident in the Police Department. He stated Council expressed unanimous support in right-sizing the Police Department budget to address salaries and provide the necessary equipment to improve public safety. He recommended a 3.76 cent increase in property taxes, or approximately $51 per year for the average homeowner in the City. He explained 2.25 cents, or $624,250, of the increase would be used to increase police officer’s salaries, and the remaining 1.51 cents, or $420,035,
would be used to purchase public safety equipment. He pointed out if no changes were made to the current budget, the Capital Improvement Plan called for a 2 cent increase in property tax to maintain existing service levels. He commented the City absorbed much of those costs through growth revenues.

Mr. Bailey noted staff will proceed with the relocation of Fire Station 3 and the addition of Fire Station 6. He explained the fire stations will realign fire department equipment to improve response times and maintain the City’s Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating. He stated the recommended budget includes $675,000 for design services and land acquisition for Fire Stations 3 and 6 and will help to address compression issues in Fire Department salaries.

Mr. Bailey explained the recommended budget incorporates Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI) into the City organization. He pointed out the impact is minimal due to funds that were previously allocated for DSI appropriation. He noted a recently added position in Administration would also provide support to DSI.

Mr. Bailey recommended additional positions in Code Enforcement, Fleet and Transit to address work load issues in those areas. He indicated the proposed budget includes several large projects requiring an appropriation from the General Fund:

- $850,000 Newsome Road Extension
- $329,300 Pre-Emption System for the Fire Department
- $392,994 increase in Fibrant transfer

Mr. Bailey pointed out purchases budgeted from the Capital Replacement Fund:

- $1,302,885 Platform Fire Truck
- 865,920 Pumper Fire Truck
- $481,112 for 2 Swap loaders for Public Services
- $247,406 Automated Garbage Truck

Mr. Bailey recommended the City continue to work with the Salisbury Community Foundation to allocate funds for Special Community Organizations. He explained a lump sum will be budgeted for the non-profit requests, and the Salisbury Community Foundation will determine theappropriations.

Mr. Bailey stated traditionally, an average percentage is recommended to fund employee merit increases. He recommended a change to provide a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) of 1.5% for all employees, and a 1% average merit increase for employees whose evaluations reflect their commitment to exceptional service. He explained the change would compensate employees at rates that reflect inflation while establishing a system to recognize outstanding service and retain high quality employees.

Mr. Bailey explained Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) remains committed to its mission to provide high quality water and wastewater service to our customers throughout Rowan County. He indicated it is challenging to maintain fair and equitable rates for consumers, while meeting
required regulations and delivering excellent service. He recommended a 2.60% water and sewer increase based upon the Consumer Price Index for urban consumers for the South Region. He indicated an average monthly residential water and sewer utility bill, for a customer using 5,000 gallons, would be $68.31 and show an increase of $1.71 or $0.06 per day.

Mr. Bailey noted the City’s water and wastewater infrastructure and treatment facilities continue to age and require regularly scheduled maintenance and replacement. He added SRU continues to implement its 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) that will adequately fund its infrastructure needs while maintaining competitive rates in our region. He stated the proposed budget includes dedicated funding to complete the change-out of all of our customer water meters to “smart-meters.” He commented the “smart-meters” allow customers and staff to track water usage and provide notification of water leaks or abnormal usage. He indicated the wastewater headworks and influent pump station project at the Grants Creek wastewater facility is in the design phase, and he indicated the Crane Creek sewer lift station and force main improvements project will be under construction during the coming fiscal year. He pointed out staff recommends continuing the incentive fund for public/private fire lines that have stimulated downtown residential development while offering fire protection in this historic district. He pointed out CIP funding for the coming fiscal year will be offset by revenue growth from new development within the service area.

Mr. Bailey indicated the proposed budget maintains existing Stormwater fees. He pointed out infrastructure needs and flood control systems were improved in the current year’s budget which allowed staff to monitor and engineer plans that reduce pollution in impaired streams to maintain compliance with our existing NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit.

Mr. Bailey explained as Council continues to work with the Fibrant Advisory Committee to study feasible options for the future of the broadband utility, Fibrant remains one of the most challenging aspects for the City’s budget. He noted the recommended budget includes $300,000 in principal debt payment toward the inter-fund loan to the Water and Sewer Fund, plus 1% interest. He added staff continues work to improve Fibrant’s financial performance, but he noted the contribution from the General Fund increased $392,994 this year to $3,262,221. He stated staff anticipates a decision regarding the direction of Fibrant during the coming fiscal year. He pointed out it is important to keep the long-term value of the utility in mind as we move forward. He stated Fibrant remains second to none in terms of speed and reliability.

Mr. Bailey stated the City continues to work with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and other transit systems to ensure adequate funding for the City’s Transit System. He noted the City partnered with Livingstone College to provide transit services for students outside of traditional hours and routes, and he indicated $61,000 has been budgeted to continue this partnership for the coming academic year.

Mr. Bailey thanked staff for its work to prepare the budget, and he noted a budget work session will be held May 24, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. He requested Council consider scheduling a public hearing for June 6, 2017 to receive comments regarding the proposed budget.
Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to set a public hearing for June 6, 2017 to receive comments regarding the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 proposed budget. Ms., Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller, Hardin, and Post, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

(b) **Bus Shelter Purchase**

City Manager Lane Bailey stated in 2016 the City partnered with Livingstone College to provide transit service to college students, and the contract will be renewed in the coming year. He added the current year’s budget includes funds to purchase six new bus shelters, one for the Livingstone College campus, one at the Livingstone College Culinary School, one at College Park Apartments and other locations throughout the City. He noted the money for the bus shelters is included in the current year’s budget and, he pointed out staff was able to piggyback its bid with another agency for cost savings. He recommend Council approve a piggyback bid of $63,000 to purchase six bus shelters and amenities.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell pointed out the proposed bus shelters will include solar lighting.

Councilmember Post noted last year’s budget included compensation for Knox Middle School. Mr. Bailey noted the proposed budget includes $61,000 for Knox Middle School. He stated Rowan-Salisbury School System Superintendent Dr. Lynn Moody will address Council regarding the funds at its budget work session.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to approve a piggy back purchase on the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation contract in the amount of $63,000 to purchase six bus shelters and amenities for the Transit System. Mr. Hardin seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller, Hardin, and Post, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell noted Blockwork is a makeover of a City block that takes place annually in October. She encouraged citizens to nominate their neighborhood if they wish to be considered for the 2017 Blockwork.

Councilmember Miller noted the Special Event Permit Committee will meet Wednesday, June 7, 2017 at Park Avenue at 5:30 p.m.

**MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) **Let’s Get Connected Day**

Mayor Alexander announced the Human Resources Council will host Let’s Get Connected Day Saturday, May 20, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at the Rufty-Holmes Senior Center located at 1120 South Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. Dedication of the 11th Peace Pole will be held at 910 South Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. The event is a multicultural festival that includes music, dance, circle of prayer, children’s activities and a free hotdog lunch. Participants are encouraged to bring lawn chairs. For additional information please call 704-638-5217.
(b) **Fur Fun 5K Run/Walk**

Mayor Alexander announced Parks and Recreation will host the third annual Fur Fun 5K Run/Walk for the PAWS on Saturday, May 20, 2017 at the Salisbury Civic Center. The race will begin at 10:00 a.m. and is a fun event for participants and their dogs. All proceeds will go towards the construction of Salisbury’s first dog park. For more information on how to register, please call 704-216-PLAY.

(c) **“Movies in the Park”**

Mayor Alexander announced Parks and Recreation will host “Movies in the Park” Friday, May 26, 2017 at City Park where the movie “Zootopia” will begin at 9:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, and concessions will be available for purchase. For more information contact Parks and Recreation at 704-216-PLAY.

(d) **2017 Blockwork**

Mayor Alexander announced the 2017 Blockwork event has been scheduled for Saturday, October 28, 2017, on national Make a Difference Day. Applications are now being accepted for neighborhood participation through the Community Planning Office. Applications and guidelines are available online at www.salisburync.gov/Blockwork. All applications are due by May 31, 2017. For additional information please contact 704-638-5235.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Alexander requested Council go into a closed session concerning an economic development matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) and a personnel matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318(a)(6).

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a motion to go into closed session concerning an economic development matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) and a personnel matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318(a)(6). Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller, Hardin, and Post, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a motion for Council to return to open session. Mr. Post seconded the motion. Messrs. Miller, Hardin, and Post, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

Mayor Alexander noted during closed session Council instructed a consultant to proceed with negotiations with the buyer and developer of the Empire Hotel.
Mayor Alexander noted Council will meet only once during July. She stated the July Council meeting will be held July 11, 2017.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Blackwell seconded by Mr. Hardin. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Karen Kirks Alexander, Mayor

Kelly Baker, Deputy City Clerk