

Salisbury, North Carolina
April 2, 2024

REGULAR MEETING

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

ABSENT: None.

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alexander at 6:00 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.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

RECOGNITION – NORTH CAROLINA MAIN STREET AWARD WINNERS

Downtown Development Director Sada Troutman stated at the 2024 North Carolina Main Street Conference, Downtown Salisbury stakeholders were recognized by the North Carolina Department of Commerce. She added the Salisbury Building won the 2023 Award of Merit for Best Adaptive Reuse Project, led by Josh Barnhardt, along with Bogle Firm Architecture and Vertex Construction. She noted Tonyan Schoefield, owner of House of T Grace Studio Wellness Boutique and Fit for a Queen, was one of 40 people named a North Carolina Main Street Champion.

Council congratulated Ms. Schoefield and thanked her for all she does for the City.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor to proclaim the following observances:

AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH	April 2024
CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH	April 2024
CIVITAN AWARENESS MONTH	April 2024
FAIR HOUSING MONTH	April 2024
SAFE DIGGING MONTH	April 2024
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH	April 2024
WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD	April 6-12, 2024

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Approve Minutes of the special meetings of March 5, 2024 and March 14, 2024.

(b) Right-of-Way Encroachment – Conterra

Approve a right-of-way encroachment for the installation of underground fiber optic cable by Conterra within the rights-of-way of South Main Street, East Horah Street, South Lee Street and East Bank Street per Section 11-24(27) of the City Code and subject to North Carolina Department of Transportation approval.

(c) Update – Job and Pay Classification System

Approve an update to the job and pay classification system to add the position of Assistant Finance Director at Pay Grade 22.

(d) Public Hearing -Incentive Grant

Set a public hearing for April 16, 2024 to consider an incentive grant for RP Salisbury Partners, LLC.

(e) Ford City Motor Lofts Project

Authorize the City Manager to sign a commitment letter for Community Development Block Grant funding subject to review and approval by the City Attorney, and execute any documents necessary to secure a promissory note and deed of trust in favor of the City for the Ford City Motor Lofts Project.

(f) 75 YD Tarco Leaf Machine

Authorize the City Manager to approve Purchase Order 240931 in the amount of \$138,400 for the purchase of a New 75 YD Tarco leaf machine from Amick Equipment Company, Inc. as approved in the FY2024 budget.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

Mr. Clyde expressed concern regarding the proposed stormwater fee increases.

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

ARCH AT THE PATRIOT'S FLAG CONCOURSE

Landscape Architect Stephen Brown asked Council to consider the installation of an arch at the Patriots Flag Concourse located in City Park in partnership with the Salisbury Rotary Club and to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement to accept the ownership of the installation for maintenance upon completion of the project.

Mr. Brown noted the Patriots Flag Concourse is located at the corner of North Jackson and West Miller Streets and the proposed arch would be located above the concourse off of West Miller Street. He stated staff recommends relocating the existing walkway closer to the Flag Concourse once the arch is complete. He reviewed the arch design, and he recommended renovating the lighting system as part of the project.

Mr. Brown stated the City's responsibilities include design and project management. He added the City will also provide the property for the arch and will be responsible for its maintenance. He noted the Salisbury Rotary Club will be responsible for raising funds, selecting a contractor, constructing the arch, moving the walkway, and installing the lighting. He commented the Salisbury Rotary Club will pay for the materials and labor required for the installation.

City Manager Jim Greene thanked Mr. Brown for his work on the project and the Salisbury Rotary Club for its partnership.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to approve the installation of an arch at the Patriot's Flag Concourse at City Park in partnership with the Salisbury Rotary Club and to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement to accept ownership of the installation for maintenance upon completion of the project. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Finance Director Wade Furches provided an update on a proposed 3% increase to health insurance premiums for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 for both employees and the City. He explained the City is self-insured, and he noted Blue Cross Blue Shield manages the City's claims which are paid from the City's Healthcare Fund comprised of premiums paid by employees and the City. He added the City works with Mark III, a health insurance broker that provides benchmark information from municipalities including High Point, Huntersville, Concord, and Kannapolis, and Rowan and Cabarrus Counties. He noted City premiums are competitive overall, but family coverage in the City is more expensive than other benchmark cities.

Mr. Furches reviewed current City wellness programs and mental health programs, including the Employee Assistance Program, which offers 12 free mental health sessions per incident for employees through McLaughlin Young Group.

Mr. Furches referenced the Healthcare Fund which peaked in FY2021 at \$5.464 million. He noted the fund has decreased and is estimated to be at \$4.965 million at the end of the current fiscal year. He noted expenses are projected to be \$5.591 million in FY2025. He explained there has been a 12% reduction in the Healthcare Fund Balance in the last two years to \$4,907,743, or 93.8% of total expenses as of June 30, 2023. He noted the largest premium increase would be the buy-up plan for employee and spouse with an increase of \$183.00 annually.

Thereupon, Councilmember Smith made a **motion** to approve a 3% increase to health insurance premiums for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024 for employees and the City. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

PILOT SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Planning and Neighborhoods Director Hannah Jacobson and Rowan Chamber of Commerce President Elaine Spalding addressed Council regarding a pilot small business assistance program in partnership with the Chamber. Ms. Jacobson noted small business grants are consistent with the City's Strategic Plan and advance the key focus area of Economic and Workforce Development.

Ms. Jacobson noted Council allocated \$30,000 in the current budget for a pilot small business grant program that would partner with the Chamber to administer and leverage funding with private donations. She reviewed the grant program goals:

- Strengthen and grow established small businesses
- Pursue equity by filling gaps that are left by systemic barriers to resources
- Facilitate the rehabilitation of buildings that are outside of downtown in priority corridors and centers that were identified in the Forward 2040 Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Jacobson then reviewed eligibility of applicants:

- Businesses located in the City with 10 or fewer employees, or full-time equivalents
- Registered businesses with permits to operate
- Funding will not be limited to Chamber of Commerce members

Ms. Jacobson explained businesses would be eligible for grants between \$5,000 and \$10,000. She indicated the Chamber anticipates awarding three to six grants with the allocated \$30,000. She pointed out the grants could be used for permanent improvements to the building such as flooring and lighting and essential pieces of equipment that help the business advance. She indicated operational expenses such as rent, utilities and payroll would not be eligible for the grant.

Ms. Jacobson explained the Chamber would solicit and review the applications through a committee that will include a member of City staff. She stated the applications would be reviewed based on scoring criteria that may include a demonstrated need for assistance, sustainability of the business model, benefits to the broader community, if the business is located within an economically disadvantaged census tract, low-moderate income business owner, and alignment with the Forward 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Spalding noted if approved the small business grant pilot program will be announced at the Minority Business Trade Show that will take place on April 25, 2024 at the Livingstone College Hospitality Center.

Councilmember Smith noted this may be the first time small business owners go through the grant process, and he asked if the Chamber will help applicants navigate the process. Ms. Spalding noted Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Small Business Center Director Meg Smidt will serve on the grant review committee and has offered her assistance.

Councilmember McLaughlin stated the program is a great opportunity to support small businesses that are outside of the downtown area. He asked if applicants will be able to apply for the grant at the Minority Business Trade Show. Ms. Spalding agreed.

Mayor Alexander asked if the Chamber will use the program as leverage for funding from the private community. Ms. Spalding agreed. Council thanked everyone who worked on the grant program.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to approve a pilot Small Business Assistance Program in partnership with the Rowan County Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

CONTRACT – CPL ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS, P.C.

Public Works Director Chris Tester addressed Council regarding a contract with CPL, Architects and Engineers, PC in the amount of \$197,373 and up to an additional 28,000 if needed for alternates for a Multi-use Center Master Plan for the Civic Center improvement project.

Councilmember Post stated he is a member of the Rufty-Holmes Senior Center and needs to be recused from the discussion. By consensus, Council agreed.

Mr. Tester noted a request for qualifications for a site master plan and feasibility study was sent out and 14 submissions were received. He stated a team of City staff and Rufty-Holmes scored the submissions and interviewed the top candidates. He stated two firms were selected, one to work on the entire project and one to work with senior and multi-generational facilities.

Mr. Tester stated at Council's Retreat staff requested approval to proceed with developing a scope and contracts with CPL and Lifespan. He reviewed the scope of services for the contract, and he pointed out two alternates were included: one to audit the current facilities, and one for 3D visualization and renderings.

Mr. Tester reviewed the proposed schedule, and he pointed out the project will kick off mid-April with final documents being provided December 2024. He noted staff recommends authorizing the City Manager to enter into a contract with CPL Architects and Engineers, PC for multi-use center master planning for a fee of \$197,373 plus up to \$28,500 if needed for alternates and to authorized the City Manager to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Rufty-Holmes Senior Center to cover the partnership and reimbursement of 50% of the contract amount.

Councilmember McLaughlin asked if the study will include traffic patterns and consider increased traffic and noise that may occur with the new facility. Mr. Tester noted the proposed plan includes traffic patterns within the facility. Mayor Alexander asked if there is data regarding the traffic generated at the current Civic Center facility. Transportation Director Wendy Brindle noted staff can get usage information from Parks and Recreation to share with the consultants, and she added staff will also look at traffic patterns through the neighborhood. She pointed out once the Master Plan is complete the consultant will have an idea of what the usage would be and staff can use the data to consider traffic control options. Mr. Tester pointed out the facility will be multi-generational and will have use at different timeframes throughout the day which the consultant will take into consideration.

Councilmember Smith noted there are few cultural spaces in the City that bring generations together. He added he is excited about the proposal and he thanked staff for its work on the project. Mayor Alexander stated she is excited about the opportunity for the City to partner with Rufty-Homes Senior Center to leverage resources to provide additional options to the community.

Thereupon, Councilmember McLaughlin made a **motion** to authorize the City Manager to enter into a contract with CPL Architects and Engineers, P.C. in the amount of \$197,373 and up to an additional \$28,000 if needed for alternates, for a Multiuse Center Master Plan for the Civic Center improvement project and to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Rufty-Holmes Senior Center regarding the partnership and reimbursement of 50% of the contract amount. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

Councilmember Post returned to the meeting.

MEDIAN REMOVAL – JARED STEELE LANE

Transportation Director Wendy Brindle addressed Council regarding the removal of the median within the cul-de-sac on Jared Steele Lane. She noted Jared Steele Lane is a small development located off of Morlan Park Road. She explained the Public Works Department initiated the request due to garbage and recycling trucks not being able to maneuver the cul-de-sac because of citizens parking in front of their homes. She stated staff reached out to the property owners about restricting parking in the cul-de-sac and the property owners indicated the restriction would provide undue hardship.

Ms. Brindle noted if the median is removed both sanitation and emergency vehicles would have room to maneuver the cul-de-sac to provide services. She pointed out the current Uniform Construction Standards require the median, but the proposed Uniform Construction Standards, which have not been adopted and are being reviewed by the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality, do not require the median. She stated staff is requesting Council consider removing the median on Jared Steele Lane which would be completed by Public Works. She commented the property owners are aware of the proposed solution. She indicated staff is not proposing a change to neighboring Mathis Avenue since no one is parking in the roadway at this time.

Thereupon, Councilmember McLaughlin made a **motion** to approve the removal of the median within the cul-de-sac on Jared Steele Lane. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

516 SOUTH CLAY STREET

Code Services Manager Michael Cotilla addressed Council regarding the dilapidated residential structure located at 516 South Clay Street. He stated the property owner was cited for violations of the City's minimum Housing Ordinance on October 27, 2023 and the hearing date was scheduled for December 12, 2023. He noted no one attended the hearing and a compliance deadline was set for March 12, 2024. He indicated the property was inspected on March 13, 2024, and was found to be out of compliance. He commented the property owner was cited for broken window glass, unsecured exterior doors, an abandoned residential structure and overgrown grass and weeds. He noted the enforceable sections of the Minimum Housing Ordinance include

Sections 10-78, 10- 61, 10-53 and 14-8.

Mr. Cotilla displayed photographs of the property, and he asked Council to consider adopting an Ordinance to board up the structure located at 516 South Clay Street per Chapter 10 of the City's Minimum Housing Ordinance. He added the property will be included in the demolition list that will be brought to Council for its consideration once the title search is completed and stakeholders are identified.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield asked if the cost incurred by the City will become a lien on the property. Mr. Cotilla agreed, and he explained the board up will cost approximately \$1,200. He added the City has already spent approximately \$300 to remove debris and it will continue to maintain the property.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance to order the boarding-up and securing of a deteriorated, vacant and abandoned dwelling unfit for human habitation located at 516 South Clay Street in the City of Salisbury. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDINANCE TO ORDER THE BOARDING-UP AND SECURING OF A DETERIORATED, VACANT AND ABANDONED DWELLING UNFIT FOR HUMAN HABITATION LOCATED AT 516 SOUTH CLAY STREET IN THE CITY OF SALISBURY.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 32 at Page No. 43-44, and is known as Ordinance 2024-25.)

AGREEMENT – ESP ASSOCIATES, INC.

Assistant Utilities Director Jason Wilson explained Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) is working in conjunction with the Main Street Project to replace existing water lines in Main Street and some back-alley fire lines. He noted a portion of the \$10 million Public Safety grant the City received from the state, earmarked funds for the Main Street grant, and some of SRU's annual operating budget for waterline improvements and rehabilitation will be used to fund the project.

Mr. Wilson explained the request before Council is for the design and permitting for this project, and he noted construction will be take place in conjunction with the Main Street upgrades. He stated as part of the Main Street project it was determined that a significant amount of disturbance is proposed in Main Street and staff decided to use the disturbance as an opportunity to replace the water lines.

Thereupon, Councilmember Smith made a **motion** to authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with ESP Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$274,700 for the survey, surface utility engineering, and civil engineering services associated with the Downtown Waterline Improvement Project. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

SALISBURY-ROWAN UTILITIES FY2025 BUDGET PRESENTATION

Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) Director Jim Behmer and Assistant Utilities Director Jason Wilson presented SRU budget highlights, capital projects and information about the updated rate model. Mr. Behmer pointed out the service area includes approximately 53,000 customers in Rowan County, and he added a current average residential bill is \$63.08 for 4,000 gallons. He mentioned SRU operates under a one rate policy with no outside rates, and he added SRU has invested more than \$139 million in capital projects since FY2008.

Raftelis President and CEO Peiffer Brandt explained Raftelis is a Charlotte-based Water and Wastewater Financial and Rate Consulting Firm that specializes in financial planning and rate models. He added Raftelis has worked for SRU in the 1990s and 2000s.

Mr. Wilson reviewed FY2025 Proposed Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Projects. He explained the budgets are proposed of approximately \$3.5 million in the operating budget, approximately \$6 million of the SRU Fund Balance and \$636,000 from developer funding for improvements. He pointed out projects included in the CIP pertain to raw water, water treatment, water distribution, sanitary sewer collections, sanitary sewer lift stations, wastewater treatment, and miscellaneous maintenance.

Mr. Behmer explained the FY2025 SRU key initiatives include:

- Proceeding with the \$22.5 million grant bidding and construction activities to meet the proposed 2021 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant project timeline for the River Pump Station Relocation Project with \$9 million local contribution from Cube Yadkin
- Continued investment in infrastructure upgrades to meet future growth demands
- Implement System Development Fees
- Continued master planning for the Wastewater Treatment Master Plan, Collection System Master Plan, and for facilities and staffing
- Continue to implement the CIP
- Evaluate staffing levels to meet the growing service area
- Reclassify vacant positions to address growth and changing needs within the department
- Continued investment in employees including additional training and compensation
- Attract and retain employees to reduce the department's 27% turnover rate and 17% vacancy rate

Mr. Behmer referenced current SRU vacancies, and he noted some positions are being reclassified. Mr. Wilson explained the vacant positions are being reclassified into two Project Coordinators, one Engineering Specialist, one Locator, and one part-time Special Projects Manager. Mayor Alexander asked if there are available funds in the budget for the mentioned positions. Mr. Wilson agreed.

Mr. Brandt pointed out SRU is facing challenges including aging infrastructure, rising cost of chemicals, pending regulatory requirements, declining per capita consumption, and recruiting and retaining talented employees. He explained the original rate model was developed 20 years ago and is used annually as part of the budget process to help determine rate recommendations. He stated the recommendations are to continue efforts to upgrade infrastructure by focusing on capital spending to at least match depreciation, and a recommended 3.5% minimum rate increase.

Mr. Behmer pointed out the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of the South Region has increased 22.4% over the past five years and SRU's rates have only increased 8.03% during the same time period. He noted there is a 3.5% proposed SRU rate increase, and he added there was not a rate increase last year.

Mr. Behmer explained the recommended 3.5% water and sewer rate increase for the FY2025 Budget is built into the rate model for future years to fund capital projects and offset increases in operational costs. He pointed out an average monthly residential water and sewer utility bill for a customer using 4,000 gallons will be approximately \$65.20 with the increase of \$2.12 per month, or \$.07 per day. He stated SRU rates remain competitive when compared to other utilities within our region.

City Manager Jim Greene stated it is important to reinvest in the City's system, and he noted there has been over \$130 million in investments over the past several years. He thanked Council for its support for additional investment in the SRU system to make sure the infrastructure is sound. He commented the rate increase recommendation was based on the updated rate model. Mr. Brandt noted the City is in a good position financially regarding its utilities

UPDATE – PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director Chris Tester addressed Council regarding the need for an additional solid waste crew and collection vehicle and a proposed rate increase. He explained the industry standard for single-arm collection is approximately 500 to 600 collection points per 5 hours on a route which equates to 100 to 120 collection points per hour, or approximately 2 collection points per minute. He pointed out the City has 800 collection points per truck per day with three single-arm collection routes operating 8 hour shifts 5 days a week collecting 160 points per hours or 1 point per 20 seconds for five hours.

Mr. Tester pointed out growth in the City brings new demands. He commented there are currently 12,000 collection points a week with 150 collection points added in 2023 and an estimated 870 to be added in 2024. He noted Concord recommends adding one truck and one route for every 1,000 collection points.

Mr. Tester pointed out solid waste service challenges include safety concerns from high volume operation, overtime hours, and stress and impact on employees. He added the single-arm trucks have routes that push them to their limits causing higher failure rates and downtime. He commented there is an additional demand for field staff to answer calls, schedule bulky collection,

and take payments. He stated the Solid Waste Department receives approximately 208.5 calls per week.

Mr. Tester explained Solid Waste operates like an Enterprise Fund where fees are collected to cover operational cost, and he noted the City's fee revenues and operational costs are close to break even. He further explained the operational revenue is \$2.95 million with approximately 1% difference in revenue and cost projections. He pointed out current residential and commercial solid waste and landfill fees include:

Current Residential Rates

Solid Waste: \$9.28
Landfill: \$5.13
Recycling: \$5.80
Total: \$20.21

Current Commercial Rates

Solid Waste: \$11.66
Landfill: \$9.14
Total: \$20.80

Mr. Tester noted the last fee increase took place in FY2021. He stated staff recommends the addition of a solid waste crew and route for the FY2025 budget to include:

- 1 single-arm trash truck
- 1 Senior Solid Waste Construction Maintenance Worker (CDL)
- 1 Fleet Mechanic
- 1 Solid Waste Construction Maintenance Worker
- 1 Solid Waste Customer Service Representative

Mr. Tester explained staff recommends covering the additional costs by increasing the Solid Waste fee by \$2.29 per month and increasing the recycling fee by \$0.48 per month, but not increasing the landfill fee. He pointed out the recommended rates for FY2025 include:

Proposed Residential Rates

Solid Waste: \$11.57
Landfill: \$5.13
Recycling: \$6.28
Total: \$22.98

Proposed Commercial Rates

Solid Waste: \$13.95
Landfill: \$9.14
Total: \$23.09

Councilmember Post pointed out if Council does not consider the request there could be increased safety risks and pick-ups that are not collected. Mr. Tester agreed, and he noted the safety risks are extreme when operating 20 seconds per collection point. Mr. Post noted some of the costs would be recovered due to not paying overtime. Mr. Tester agreed. Mayor Alexander added there is nothing more important than employee safety.

City Manager Jim Greene commented the City of Concord is growing and had to add an additional solid waste crew. He pointed out staff is now having to look at a new crew due to safety concerns and to handle growth in the City. Mayor Alexander stated if there is anticipated growth of 870 collection points, the City needs to plan for it.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield asked about a rate increase compared to a tax increase. Mr. Greene explained a rate increase on trash and recycling will be added to those that use that service compared to a tax increase which would be for property owners that may not use the service.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Historic Preservation Commission:

Upon a motion by Councilmember Smith. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voting AYE, the following reappointment was made to the Historic Preservation Commission:

Mr. Marcelo Menza

Term Expires 3/31/2027

Housing Advocacy Commission

Upon a motion by Councilmember Post. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Housing Advocacy Commission:

Ms. Lisa Kelley

Term Expires 3/31/2027

Planning Board/Board of Adjustment

Upon a motion by Councilmember Post. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voting AYE, the following appointments were made to the Planning Board/Board of Adjustment:

Mr. Steven Raffa

Term Expires 3/31/2027

Transportation Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Councilmember Smith. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voting AYE, the following reappointments were made to the Transportation Advisory Board:

Ms. Hannah Addair

Term Expires 3/31/2027

Dr. Orlando Lewis

Term Expires 3/31/2027

Ms. Donna Tillman

Term Expires 3/31/2027

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

City Manager Jim Greene thanked Council for its support for items on the Agenda. He also thanked the staff for the great work it does for the City.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember McLaughlin pointed out applicants who were chosen for the Byrne Criminal Justice Initiative (BCJI) grant have been notified, and Council will receive an update at its next meeting.

Councilmember Post thanked Clyde for speaking during public comment.

MAYOR PRO TEM'S COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield thanked Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) and Downtown Salisbury, Inc (DSI) for collaborating on the Main Street Downtown project.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield thanked Sanitation Manager Bailey Texeria for bring the new streetsweeper to City Hall. She noted it is a huge investment that will make a difference in the neighborhoods and streets.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield commented the Community Appearance Commission (CAC) and Tree Board hosted its awards event last week, and she noted it was great to recognize awardees for the work they do in the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield pointed out Litter Sweep will take place on April 13, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. near the Walmart parking lot.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

(a) Paint the Pavement Project

Mayor Alexander announced the Public Arts Commission invites artists of all ages and skillsets to submit their designs for the second Paint the Pavement Project. There is no cost to enter and all materials will be supplied. A \$200 stipend will be given to artists upon completion. Entries will be accepted through Wednesday, May 1st. For more information call (704) 638-5235.

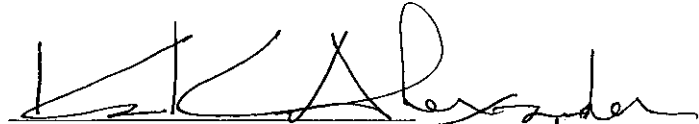
(b) 2024 BlockWork

Mayor Alexander applications are being accepted for neighborhood participation in the 2024 BLockWork event scheduled for Saturday, October 26th. The deadline to apply is May 1st. For more information call 704-638-5235.


ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Karen Alexander, Mayor



Connie B. Snyder, City Clerk