

Salisbury, North Carolina
March 19, 2019

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Pro Tem Post Presiding; Council Members Karen Alexander, William Brian Miller and Tamara Sheffield; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; City Clerk Diane Gilmore, and City Attorney J. Graham Corriher.

ABSENT: Mayor Al Heggins.

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Post at 6:07 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Pro Tem Post led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Post noted the following changes to the Agenda:

Postpone – Women’s History Month Proclamation

Postpone – Special Meeting Minutes of February 11 and 12, 2019 until Council’s April 2, 2019 meeting.

Postpone – Salisbury Youth Council Special Presentation.

Add – Announcement for Downtown Salisbury, Inc. “Ring in the spring” event.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Thereupon, Councilmember Alexander made a **motion** to adopt the Agenda as presented. Councilmember Miller seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Salisbury Rowan Runners (SRR) Club President David Freeze stated the City has been named a Runner Friendly Community by the Road Runners Club of America. Mr. Freeze shared Salisbury was the only community in the state to receive the designation, which expires in 2023. Mr. Freeze thanked the City for its support and presented a plaque to Council.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Parks and Recreation Director Nick Aceves recognized Boy Scout Gavin Fleming for his Eagle Scout Project that was completed at Salisbury Community Park.

Mr. Fleming expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to build a bridge over the creek to serve citizens at the park, and he noted the project is something he can be proud of for years.

Council thanked Mr. Fleming for his work at Salisbury Community Park.

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the Special Meetings of February 26, 2019 and March 5, 2019 and the Regular Meetings of February 19, 2019 and March 5, 2019.

(b) Contract – Jake Alexander and Statesville Boulevard Project

Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Alley, Williams, Carmen and King for \$154,438.58 to perform construction engineering and inspection for the Jake Alexander and Statesville Boulevard Sidewalk Project, subject to North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) concurrence.

(c) Contract – Brenner Avenue Sidewalk Project

Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Withers Ravenel for \$157,708 to perform engineering and design services for the Brenner Avenue Sidewalk Project, subject to North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) concurrence.

(d) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Parks and Recreation Donations

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2018-2019 Budget in the amount of \$13,765 to appropriate donations for Dog Park.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2018-2019 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE DONATIONS FOR DOG PARK.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 28 at Page No. 17, and is known as Ordinance 2019-16.)

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Councilmember Alexander seconded the motion. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Pro Tem Post opened the floor to receive public comments.

Ms. M.T. Sidoli announced the Actions in Faith and Justice and Southern Coalition for Social Justice Groups will have a meeting regarding the To School To Prison Pipeline Program Saturday, March 30, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Park Avenue Community Center. She pointed out the meeting is free and open to the public.

Ms. Deborah Wilson expressed her concerns regarding the lack of sidewalks in the 1300 block of West Monroe Street towards Brenner Avenue. She explained she was informed no funds were currently available for sidewalk projects. City Manager Lane Bailey shared he would ask Engineer Wendy Brindle to review the sidewalk project in that area.

Ms. Mary Walker shared her concerns regarding affordable fair housing and the delay of selecting the seven at large members for the Fair Housing Committee.

Mr. James White stated he would like to have an IGA grocery store, Red Lobster and Mayflower establishments in Salisbury. He asked if boarded houses in the community could be demolished.

Mr. Mike Martelli shared his frustration regarding the postponement of the Women's History Month Proclamation. He asked why someone else could not read the proclamation in Mayor Heggins' absence. Mayor Pro Tem Post explained the request to postpone the Proclamation came from Mayor Heggins and Council honored the request.

Mr. Mike Kirksey expressed his concern regarding Ms. Wilson being told there were no funds for sidewalk projects. He commented the West End sign seemed offensive and requested a name change. He commented street names in the West End also seem offensive and he requested the names be changed to better fit the community.

Ms. Jackie Miller stated she had an unpleasant experience when attempting to get water service in her name in Salisbury. She noted she provided legal information and was denied water service. She asked if the policy could be reviewed.

Councilmember Miller asked if staff could provide information regarding the policy. City Manager Lane Bailey commented the City is working with the School of Government to obtain information regarding best practices. He noted if a customer can show ownership of the property no deposit is required. He stated information would be provided to Council about this issue within 30 days.

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

RESOLUTION – AIRPORT PARKWAY PROJECT

City Engineer Wendy Brindle reviewed a map of Jake Alexander Boulevard, Brenner Avenue, Mid Carolina Airport and South Main Street, and she reminded Council of the public hearings held last summer by North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) regarding alignments for a proposed Airport Parkway. She stated during those public hearings multiple alignments were presented. She noted as a result of the public comments and staff's review it was determined all alignments left of the airport had the greatest impact on residents, the airport, and the environment.

Ms. Brindle shared the proposed resolution would ask NCDOT to consider eastern alignments. She noted the joint resolution was passed by the Rowan County Board of Commissioners yesterday. She explained NCDOT would review different connections from Brenner Avenue to Airport Parkway. She commented the plan is for another study to be conducted. She noted additional public hearings would be held to receive public input on the consultant's findings. She explained the section on the map that runs over to Peach Orchard Road comes from the Comprehensive Transportation Plan. She noted the proposal for a connection to Peach Orchard Road would provide a direct connection from the new roadway to I-85. She commented she was not sure how the consultant would review the new alignment over-pass over Highway 29. She noted the consultant may request another overpass in a different location or possibly along South Main Street, and she added it would help alleviate some of the concerns when Henderson Grove Church Road railroad closes. She asked Council to consider supporting the joint resolution with Rowan County to request the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) submit these alternate alignments for consideration in the draft of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Councilmember Sheffield asked for clarification regarding the request. Ms. Brindle commented the request is for NCDOT to eliminate the western alignments that run through the Forest Glenn and Summerfield neighborhoods. She shared the western alignments have further impact on the airport and landfill area. She noted the alignments are not constructible and the request would be for NCDOT to consider an alignment east of the airport with an alternate connection or over pass from Main Street to Peach Orchard Road.

Councilmember Sheffield asked for clarification regarding a mobile home neighborhood that would be severely impacted by one of the routes. Ms. Brindle shared the western alignments had the most environmental impact which included socio-economic, and it would eliminate that area. Ms. Brindle clarified that this would be a study and a proposal.

Councilmember Alexander asked for clarification regarding Rowan County recommending this particular route as opposed to the two routes in the Joint Agreement. Ms. Brindle shared the majority of the project would be outside the City limits and the part that would impact the City most would be the connection at Brenner Avenue. She clarified the request is for Rowan County and the City to present the joint Resolution to support the preferred eastern alignment.

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to adopt the joint Resolution in support of proposed alignments for the airport parkway project. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

A JOINT RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROPOSED ALIGNMENTS FOR THE AIRPORT PARKWAY PROJECT.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 10, and is known as Resolution 2019-07.)

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Alternate Methods of Design Commission

Councilmember Alexander made a motion to waive the following term limits for the Alternate Methods of Design Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voted AYE.

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following appointments were made to the Alternate Methods of Design Commission for a term to begin April 1, 2019:

Mr. Alex Bost	Term Expires 03/31/2022
Mr. Chris Bradshaw	Term Expires 03/31/2022

Community Appearance Commission

Upon a motion by Councilmember Sheffield, seconded by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Community Appearance Commission for a term to begin April 1, 2019:

Mr. William Mason	Term Expires 03/31/2020
-------------------	-------------------------

Greenway Committee

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following re-appointments were made to the Greenway Committee for a term to begin April 1, 2019:

Mr. Greg Greene	Term Expires 03/31/2022
Ms. Carole Massey	Term Expires 03/31/2022
Ms. Sashi Sabaratnam	Term Expires 03/31/2022

Historic Preservation Commission

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following re-appointments were made to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term to begin April 1, 2019:

Mr. Eugene Goetz	Term Expires 03/31/2022
Ms. Sue McHugh	Term Expires 03/31/2022

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Historic Preservation Commission for a term to begin April 1, 2019:

Mr. William James	Term Expires 03/31/2022
-------------------	-------------------------

Hurley Park Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Councilmember Miller. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following re-appointment was made to the Hurley Park Advisory Board for a term to begin April 1, 2019:

Ms. Gerry Hurley	Term Expires 03/31/2022
------------------	-------------------------

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Hurley Park Advisory Board for a term to begin April 1, 2019:

Ms. Julia Apone	Term Expires 03/31/2022
-----------------	-------------------------

Human Relations Council

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following re-appointments were made to the Human Relations Council for a term to begin April 1, 2019:

Mr. Gemale Black Term Expires 03/31/2022
Mr. Stephen Simpson Term Expires 03/31/2022
Ms. Dora Wood Term Expires 03/31/2022

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following re-appointments were made to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for a term to begin April 1, 2019:

Ms. Beth Foreman Term Expires 03/31/2022
Mr. Paul Woodson Term Expires 03/31/2022

Planning Board

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following re-appointments were made to the Planning Board for a term to begin April 1, 2019:

Mr. Dennis Lunsford Term Expires 03/31/2022
Mr. John Schaffer Term Expires 03/31/2022
Ms. Patricia Ricks Term Expires 03/31/2022

Upon a motion by Councilmember Miller. Mayor Pro Tem Post, and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Planning Board for a term to begin April 1, 2018:

Mr. Skip Wood Term Expires 03/31/2022

Transportation Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Transportation Advisory Board for a term to begin April 1, 2019:

Ms. Nan Buehrer Term Expires 03/31/2022

Fair Housing Committee

Upon a motion by Councilmember Sheffield, seconded by Councilmember Alexander. Mayor Pro Tem Post and Councilmembers Alexander, Miller, and Sheffield voting AYE, the following appointments were made to the Fair Housing Committee for a term to begin April 1, 2019:

Mr. Rocky Cabagnot
Ms. Keya Ruston

Mr. Dick Palmore

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Graham Corriher indicated he had nothing to report to Council.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Lane Bailey shared he will present the recommended budget to Council during the first meeting in May. He added he would like for a follow up Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) discussion and budget direction to take place once all Boards and Commissions have presented to Council. He noted the General Fund is over budget by \$8.5 million. He pointed out the budget is challenging, and he shared the City has not received as much of an increase in property taxes as anticipated. He commented the CIP calls for a two cent increase in property taxes, but that amount may have to be reviewed. Mr. Bailey pointed out challenges include costs for personnel, which have increased with added positions and adjustments implemented mid-year, and the addition of firefighters provided through the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant. He added in addition to those challenges, the Local Government Employment Retirement System contribution rate is increasing and that will cause a significant increase in that budgeted area. Mayor Pro Tem Post asked if the increase in the contribution rate includes a retroactive catch up phase to regain revenues. Mr. Bailey disagreed, and noted the plan would begin at the beginning of the next fiscal year with a step up plan to catch up with revenues over a specific number of years.

Mr. Bailey referenced a previous discussion regarding the Transit Fund, and he added an additional \$132,000 is needed to get closer to where the budget needs to be. He stated further information will be provided at a later date.

Mr. Bailey thanked staff and volunteers for their assistance during the North Carolina Main Street Conference. He pointed out fellow managers and leaders from across the state provided positive feedback to him and noted the friendliness of downtown Salisbury. He stated the Main Street Conference was the largest Main Street Conference in North Carolina's history and the largest Downtown Development Event in the Southeast region this year. He noted the conference was a wonderful showcase of all the great things happening in Salisbury.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced Salisbury Parks and Recreation and Hurley Park Advisory Board will hold the 32nd annual Hurley Park Spring Celebration Sunday, April 7, 2019 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Hurley Park. Enjoy a wide variety of activities including music from the Salisbury Swing Band, a Bubble Circus, free horses and carriage rides, local art, wildlife and nature displays and much more. This event is free and open to the public. For more information please call 704-638- 4459.

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced Salisbury Parks and Recreation will host its 13th Annual Touch a Truck event Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the City Hall parking lot at 217 South Main Street. Participants will have an opportunity to have a hands-on, up close and personal education experience with a wide variety of vehicles including dump trucks, monster trucks, a helicopter, ambulances, and more. The event is free and open to the public.

Communications Director Linda McElroy announced Downtown Salisbury, Inc. will host Ring in the Spring Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Bell Tower located on the corner of South Jackson and West Innes Streets. A professional photographer will be onsite offering free photos with the Easter Bunny. Enjoy spring crafts, snacks and family fun. For more information please call 704-637-7814.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sheffield thanked Communications Director Linda McElroy for including a slide of announcements on the screen for Council and people viewing the meeting at home.

Councilmember Sheffield thanked citizens for all of their contributions to the boards and commissions.

Councilmember Sheffield pointed out the Eagle Scout Program is fantastic, and she noted organizations like the Boy Scouts make a difference at a young age. She commented Mr. Fleming did a great job on his Eagle Scout Project.

Councilmember Sheffield pointed out March is Women's History Month and she recognized all women. She added Mayor Heggins had originally asked to present the Women's History Month Proclamation.

Councilmember Alexander thanked the more than 100 ambassadors who worked nearly four days on the North Carolina Main Street Conference.

Councilmember Alexander shared her experiences from her trip to India. She added she will provide a presentation regarding her trip in the near future.

Councilmember Miller also thanked the ambassadors who helped during the North Carolina Main Street Conference. He noted one of the ambassadors shared with him a sanitation worker was picking up trash on the street and took the time to stop and welcome them to Salisbury. He noted all the organizations that helped during the North Carolina Main Street Conference deserve recognition for how well the community was represented.

MAYOR PRO TEM COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Post noted the North Carolina Main Street Conference was an amazing three day event. He pointed out Giovanni Moscardini won as an award individually for his development of Lee Street. He added Dianne Young was awarded for her work as the City of Concord’s downtown coordinator.


Mayor Pro Tem Post shared information from the Economic Charrette that was conducted with Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission (EDC) President Rod Crider. He pointed out seven assets were identified as critical issues to economic development in Salisbury including Hotwire Communications, Downtown Salisbury, minority business development, proximity to Charlotte, health care, and opportunity zones. He indicated the motto of, “Start here, Grow big” was developed during the charrette.

Mayor Pro Tem Post pointed out Salisbury is hosting its third annual pickleball tournament at the Salisbury YMCA this weekend, and he noted the event will raise approximately \$10,000 to provide scholarships to members who cannot afford YMCA membership.

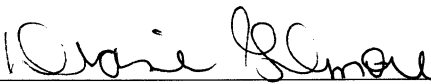
Mayor Pro Tem Post stated Hotwire Communications is supporting the high school and college internet Hackathon to take place next month at the Salisbury Business Center. He noted City employees who assisted last year have volunteered to help again this year. He thanked City employees for their willingness to participate in events and for all they do for Council and 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 7:21 p.m.



Al Heggins, Mayor



Diane Gilmore, City Clerk