

Salisbury, North Carolina
April 17, 2023

SPECIAL MEETING

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

ABSENT: Council Member Anthony Smith and City Clerk Connie Snyder

Salisbury City Council held a Town Hall regarding the City Council Election Process. The Town Hall took place at Miller Recreation Center located at 1402 West Bank Street. Mayor Alexander opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.

City Attorney Graham Corriher and Administrative Services Director Kelly Baker served as moderators. Mr. Corriher explained the process for changing the City Charter to affect the municipal election process. He noted the General Assembly has given Council the authority to:

- Make stylistic changes to the name of Salisbury and its governing board
- Change the terms to either two or four years
- Change the size of Council from three members to no larger than 12 members
- Change the mode of election to include districts, wards and at-large members
- Change from nonpartisan to partisan elections
- Change the method of selecting its Mayor
- Form of government
 - Mayor – Council
 - Council – Manager

Mr. Corriher reviewed the timeline and explained the process for Council initiated municipal Charter changes and changes subject to a referendum. He then reviewed the terms used by Rowan County municipalities and municipalities across the state of similar size.

Mr. Corriher noted the questions for consideration:

- Should Council have two or four year terms?
- Should Council terms be staggered?
- Should the size of Council be expanded?

Mr. Corriher explained the process for implementing staggered terms, and he noted the top two vote getters would receive four-year terms and the other remaining councilmembers would receive two-year terms.


There was discussion among attendees regarding the length of terms with a few favoring four year terms and a few favoring two year terms. One attendee expressed her opinion that Council should not be expanded, while another attendee indicated it might provide additional diversity.

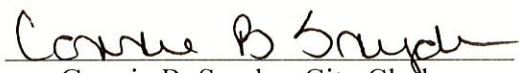
Those in attendance asked about next steps. Ms. Baker noted staff is in the process of gathering feedback from the community and will report back to Council in May.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield and Councilmembers McLaughlin and Post voted AYE. (4-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.


Karen Alexander, Mayor


Connie B. Snyder, City Clerk