

Salisbury, North Carolina
January 2, 2024

REGULAR MEETING

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

ABSENT: Councilmember David Post.

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 6:10 p.m. A moment of silence was taken. Councilmember Post attended the meeting via Zoom.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Alexander welcomed everyone and led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag. She noted the public hearing regarding an Annexation Agreement with the Town of Spencer advertised for Council's January 2, 2024 meeting has been postponed until January 16, 2024.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield a **motion** to adopt the Agenda as presented. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

RECOGNITION – COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Council recognized the Communications Team for awards received from the Charlotte Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. Communications Director Linda McElroy stated the Communications Team won first place for crisis communications and second place for

the City’s “Be The Difference” integrated marketing communications clampaign. Council thanked Ms. McElroy and the Communications Team for their work to keep citizens informed.

RECOGNITION – DAVID WHISENANT

Council recognize Mr. David Whisenant for his extensive career in news and radio and for his dedicated service to the community. Mayor Alexander read a Resolution of Recognition, and she presented a framed copy to Mr. Whisenant.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution of Recognition for David Whisenant. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION FOR DAVID WHISENANT.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 17 at Page No. 1, and is known as Resolution 2024-01.)

Mr. Whisenant thanked Council for the recognition, and he stated he is grateful for the opportunity to report on his hometown for over 30 years.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor to proclaim the following observances:

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY	January 15, 2024
NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH	January 2024
NATIONAL SLAVERY AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH	January 2024

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Approve Minutes of the special meetings of May 11, 2023 and August 15, 2023 and the regular meeting of December 5, 2023.

(b) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Parks and Recreation Donation

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2023-2024 budget in the amount of \$2,083 to appropriate a sponsorship/donation for the Reels and Riffs Movies and Music Series at Bell Tower Green Park.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2023-2024 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE PARKS AND RECREATION DONATION.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 32 at Page No. 1, and is known as Ordinance 2024-01.)

(c) Sale of Sidearm and Badge

Authorize the sale of sidearms and badges to Captain Lee Walker and Lieutenant Russell DeSantis in the amount of \$1.00 each in recognition of their retirement from the Salisbury Police Department on January 1, 2024.

(d) 2024 State Action Plan

Adopt the 2024 State Action Plan.

(e) 2024 Federal Action Plan

Adopt the 2024 Federal Action Plan.

(f) Agreement – CC&W Development Group, LLC

Authorize the City Manager to execute an agreement with CC&W Development Group, LLC for the Alexander Court subdivision sewer infrastructure improvements. The CC&W Development Group, LLC will pay Salisbury-Rowan Utilities \$77,000 to complete the required work.

(g) Preconstruction Planning Grant

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute the Funding Offer and Acceptance of a pre-construction planning grant in the amount of \$400,000 for the Salisbury-Rowan Utilities Wastewater Master Plan project.

RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BODY OF RECEPIENT.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 17 at Page No. 2, and is known as Resolution 2024-02.)

(h) Local Water Supply Plan

Adopt a Resolution approving the Local Water Supply Plan for the City of Salisbury water system.

RESOLUTION FOR APPROVING LOCAL WATER SUPPLY PLAN.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 17 at Page No. 3, and is known as Resolution 2024-03.)

(i) Voluntary Annexation – Woodleaf Road

Receive a request for voluntary annexation of 58.07 acres located on Woodleaf Road, Tax Map 328 Parcels 050, 066, and 110 and adopt a Resolution instructing the City Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the request.

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CITY CLERK TO INVESTIGATE A PETITION RECEIVED UNDER G.S. 160A-58.1, FOR VOLUNTARY ANNEXATION OF TAX MAP 328 PARCELS 050, 066, AND 110, 58.07 ACRES LOCATED ON WOODLEAF ROAD.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 17 at Page No. 4, and is known as Resolution 204-04.)

(j) Update – Police Department Job Classification System

Approve an update to the job classification system in the Police Department to change the title of Captain to the title of Major. There will be no changes to the salary classification or job duties.

(k) Public Hearing – Annexation Agreement

Set a public hearing regarding an Annexation Agreement with the Town of Spencer for January 16, 2024.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

Ms. Dee Dee Wright wished Council a Happy New Year.

Mr. Jay Wagoner stated he is the former Mayor of High Point and a candidate for District 6 of the United States Congress which represents Rowan County.

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

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK – 229 WEST BANK STREET ANDREW MURPHY HOUSE

Planner Emily Vanek addressed Council regarding designating the Andrew Murphy house located at 229 West Bank Street as a Local Historic Landmark. She indicated the property is located within the West Square Local Historic District and the Salisbury National Register Historic District. She stated the home was designed in the southern Greek revival style and was built in 1853 by Michael Davis.

Ms. Vanek displayed photographs of the home which is located on the corner of South Jackson and West Bank Streets. She explained to meet the criteria for local historic landmark designation the property must have special significance in at least one of four criteria and the Andrew Murphy house is proposed for designation under criteria B for an association with important people in our past and criteria C for the embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type period or method of construction. She added the property must have integrity in seven aspects, which include location, setting, design, materials, workmanship feeling, and association and staff finds that the property holds special significance as an excellent example of a southern Greek revival house and through association with five generations of Murphys. She added the house retains many original materials, details and workmanship on the front elevation that conveys its historic character, the rear elevation has been modified through several additions, and the original shingle roofing was replaced with asphalt in 2018.

Ms. Vanek stated the landmark application proposes the entire exterior of the house and site be included in the landmark designation. She explained the property is within the West Square Local Historic District so the exterior of all buildings and site features will be subject to the Certificate of Appropriateness process and local historic design standards. She added the interior has not been proposed for landmark designation.

Ms. Vanek indicated at its August 10, 2023 meeting the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) reviewed the pre-application and found the Andrew Murphy house to have special significance and integrity warranting designation as a local historic landmark in the property category. She added the applicant submitted a full landmark designation report to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) which stated the application appears to meet the criteria for local landmark designation. She indicated at its November 9, 2023 meeting the HPC voted to recommend approval of the request.

Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing after due notice to receive comments regarding designating the Andrew Murphy house as a Local Historic Landmark.

Ms. Karen Lily-Bowyer stated she supports the designation of the Andrew Murphy house as a local historic landmark. She pointed out the Andrew Murphy house is the first Salisbury Landmark to be approved by the State Preservation office for its architectural integrity, and she asked Council to approve the request.

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

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a motion to adopt an Ordinance designating the Andrew Murphy House located at 229 West Bank Street in Salisbury, North Carolina, as a Local Historic Landmark. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE “ANDREW MURPHY HOUSE” LOCATED AT 229 WEST BANK STREET IN SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, AS A LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 32 at Page No. 2-4, and is known as Ordinance 2024-02.)

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK – 203 WEST BANK STREET MURDOCH WILEY HOUSE

Planner Emily Vanek addressed Council regarding local historic landmark designation for the Murdoch Wiley House located at 203 West Bank Street. She noted the property is within the West Square Local Historic District and the Salisbury National Register Historic District and was built in the Italianate style between 1868 and 1869 by Stone Mason William Murdoch. She displayed photographs of the home which is located at the corner of South Church and West Bank Streets.

Ms. Vanek explained the Murdoch Wiley house is proposed to be designated under criteria C for the embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type period or method of construction, that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values which is represented in its architecture and for its association with William Murdoch. She pointed out the property must also retain integrity in terms of location, setting, design materials, workmanship feeling, and association, and she indicated staff finds that the property holds special significance as an excellent example of an Italianate house and through its association with William Murdoch. She indicated staff also finds the property retains all seven aspects of integrity.

Ms. Vanek noted the landmark application proposes the entire exterior of the house and site be included in the landmark designation. She explained since the property is within the West Square, the exterior of all buildings and site features will be subject to the Certificate of Appropriateness process and the local historic design standards. She indicated no portions of the interior have been proposed for the designation.

Ms. Vanek stated at its September 14, 2023 meeting, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) reviewed the pre-application and found the Murdoch Wiley house to have special significance and integrity warranting designation as a local historic landmark property. She noted the applicant prepared a full landmark designation report which was forwarded to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). She commented SHPO stated the house is an excellent example of the Italianate style and exhibits a high degree of integrity given its age, integrity, and local significance and it appears to be a good candidate for landmark designation. She commented at

its November 9, 2023 meeting the HPC reviewed the application and voted to recommend approval of the request.

Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing after due notice to receive comments regarding designating the Murdoch Wiley house, located at 203 West Bank Street as a Local Historic Landmark.

Ms. Karen Lily-Bowyer stated she supports the designation of the Murdoch Wiley house as a local historic landmark, and she asked Council to approve the request.

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

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a motion to adopt an Ordinance designating the Murdoch Wiley House located at 203 West Bank Street in Salisbury, North Carolina, as a Local Historic Landmark. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE DESIGNATING THE “MURDOCK WILEY HOUSE” LOCATED AT 203 WEST BANK STREET IN SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, AS A LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 32 at Page No. 5-7, and is known as Ordinance 2024-03.)

CONTRACT – SUMMIT DESIGN AND ENGINEERING SERVICES, PLLC

Transportation Director Wendy Brindle addressed Council regarding a contract with Summit Design and Engineering Services, PLLC in the amount of \$222,090.20 for the design of safety improvements on Brenner Avenue. She reviewed the history of the project, and she noted the area of concern is specifically at the driveways of the shopping centers near Milford Hills. She noted over the years staff has received multiple concerns from citizens regarding this section of Brenner Avenue. She stated staff completed a study and found during a five-year period there were 29 accidents along Brenner Avenue between Milford Hills and Jake Alexander Boulevard. She added 21 of those accidents were at the driveways of the shopping centers. She explained when five or more correctable accidents occur within a 12-month period alternatives should be considered.

Ms. Brindle pointed out a neighboring parcel that could be used for multifamily housing in the future. She noted staff considered options to help reduce the number of accidents closer to Jake Alexander Boulevard. She explained staff determined the addition of a roundabout at Milford Hills would prevent left turns and cross movements in the area while accommodating traffic leaving the shopping centers and heading towards Jake Alexander Boulevard. She added the roundabout would also address the neighboring property possibly being developed into multifamily housing in the future. She pointed out through the Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) there are options for transportation funding including the Surface

Transportation Block Grant Program. She stated staff submitted the project and it received the grant funding which will require a 20% match from the City. She stated the total estimated cost of the project is \$1,028,060 and the City will receive approximately \$820,000.

Ms. Brindle pointed out the municipal agreement came before Council in August of 2022. She indicated staff went through a request for letter of interest process for on-call design firms and 13 submittals were received. She noted staff selected three firms to use for these type projects over a five-year period and Summit Design and Engineering Services, PLLC was selected for the project. She added their contract has been reviewed and approved by NCDOT and would include base mapping, exhibits for right of way and easement acquisition, utility coordination, any environmental documentation, and the design and bid documents. She added the contract would be executed in January and the design is anticipated to be completed by October 2024. She pointed out \$75,000 was included in the current budget for this project and there is an unencumbered balance in transportation special projects which could cover the additional costs.

Councilmember McLaughlin asked if Brenner Avenue would be shut down for an extended period of time. Ms. Brindle noted the impact to Brenner Avenue will be determined through the design process and staff will work to reduce the impact as much as possible.

Thereupon, Councilmember McLaughlin made a **motion** to authorize the City Manager to execute a contract with Summit Design and Engineering Services, PLLC in the amount of \$222,090.20 for the design of safety improvements on Brenner Avenue. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

CONTRACT – CHECKMATE GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Administrative Services Director Kelly Baker explained the City currently partners with KTS Strategies for state lobbying services. She stated KTS is a division of Kilpatrick Townsend and Stockton, and the lobbyists have created a new lobbying firm, Checkmate Government Relations. She noted nothing will change regarding the City's engagement and all nine lobbyists that made up KTS have moved to the new company. She added KTS has agreed to allow the City to contract with the new firm. She requested Council consider transferring the contract from KTS Strategies to Checkmate Government Relations. She pointed out the pricing will remain the same and the lobbyists have provided outstanding service to the City.

City Manager Jim Greene stated he supports this recommendation, and he pointed out the firm has been great to work with.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to approve a contract with Checkmate Government Relations for state lobbying services. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

COUNCIL LIAISON APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Alexander suggested the following liaison appointments to community groups for 2023-2025:

- (a) ABC Board – Mayor Karen Alexander
- (b) Bell Tower Green Committee - Councilmember Harry McLaughlin
- (c) Centralina Council of Governments – Mayor Karen Alexander
- (d) Centralina Council of Governments – Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield
- (e) Community Appearance Commission – Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield
- (f) Downtown Salisbury, Inc. – Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield
- (g) Economic Development Commission – Councilmember Harry McLaughlin
- (h) Fireman’s Relief Fund – Councilmember Harry McLaughlin
- (i) Housing Advocacy Commission – Councilmember David Post
- (j) Human Relations Commission – Councilmember Anthony Smith
- (k) Metropolitan Planning Organization – Mayor Karen Alexander
- (l) Metropolitan Planning Organization – Alternate Mayor Pro Tem Tamara Sheffield
- (m) Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – Councilmember Harry McLaughlin
- (n) Public Arts Commission – Mayor Karen Alexander
- (o) Rowan County Tourism Development Authority – Mayor Karen Alexander
- (p) Rufty-Holmes Senior Center – Councilmember David Post
- (q) Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency – Councilmember David Post
- (r) Transportation Advisory Board – Councilmember Anthony Smith
- (s) Tree Board – Councilmember Harry McLaughlin
- (t) Youth Council – Councilmember Anthony Smith

Thereupon, Councilmember Smith made a **motion** to approve Council liaisons to various Boards and Commissions. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, and Councilmembers McLaughlin and Smith voted AYE. (4-0)

CITY MANAGER’S REPORT

(a) New Year’s Eve Event at Bell Tower Green

City Manager Jim Greene thanked staff for its work to make the New Year’s Eve event that took place at Bell Tower Green a success. He added the event was family oriented and everyone had a good time.

(b) Grant Funding

City Manager Jim Greene pointed out approximately \$1.2 million in grant funding was included on the current Agenda including \$800,000 on Brenner Avenue and \$400,000 grant for a Wastewater Master Plan. He thanked staff for its work to help the City receive grant funding to complete important projects.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Smith thanked the Human Relations Commission and staff for its work to prepare for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration weekend.

Councilmember Post wished everyone a Happy New Year, and he thanked staff for all it does for the City.

Councilmember McLaughlin wished everyone a Happy New Year.

MAYOR PRO TEM COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield wished everyone a Happy New Year. She noted the Bell Tower Green New Years' event was fantastic, and she thanked everyone who worked to make it a success.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield thanked members of the Fire Department that responded to a false alarm call at her home for their professionalism and work to verify everyone was okay.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

Mayor Alexander thanked staff for its work on the Bell Tower Green New Year's event. She added it was a wonderful event.


(a) MLK Weekend Celebration

Mayor Alexander announced the Human Relations Commission will host the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Saturday, January 13th through Monday, January 15, 2024. The weekend kicks off with a parade Saturday, January 13th at 11:00 a.m. followed by a Community Resource Fair from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. The MLK breakfast will take place Monday, January 15th at 8:00 a.m. at the Civic Center. Admission to the breakfast is free, but registration is required. The Civic Center is located at 315 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. For more information, please contact Anne Little at (704) 638-5218.


ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.



Connie B. Snyder, City Clerk



Karen Alexander, Mayor