

Salisbury, North Carolina  
January 17, 2017

## **REGULAR MEETING**

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

**ABSENT:** Mayor Karen Kirks Alexander and 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 Pro Tem Blackwell at 5:00 p.m.

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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

## **RECOGNITION OF VISITORS**

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell welcomed all visitors present.

## **RECOGNITION – POLICE DEPARTMENT LIFESAVING AWARDS**

Police Chief Jerry Stokes recognized Police Officers Joe Wilson and Devin Barkalow as recipients of the Salisbury Police Department Lifesaving Award.

Chief Stokes described the incident and noted Officers Wilson and Barkalow were first on the scene, and they worked to save the victim's life and secure the area. He stated as a result of the Officer's action, the victim survived the shooting. He then presented the Life Saving Award medal and a uniform ribbon to Officer Wilson and thanked him for his service. He noted Officer Barkalow was unable to attend the meeting.

**PROCLAMATION**

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell proclaimed the following observance:

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

January 29- February 4, 2017

**SPECIAL USE PERMIT SUP-02-17 – 705 RYAN STREET**

SUP-02-2017 – 705 Ryan Street

(a) Swearing In

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell indicated anyone who wished to speak for or against this item must be sworn in, and she asked those who would like to speak to come forward. She administered the oath to the following:

Mr. Preston Mitchell  
Mr. Nick Aceves  
Mr. Stephen Brown  
Ms. Jayne Helms

(b) Ex Parte Disclosure

Ms. Blackwell asked Council members if anyone had knowledge of this case they wished to disclose. There were no ex parte disclosures.

(c) Ms. Blackwell convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive testimony regarding SUP-02-2017.

Development and Code Services Manager Preston Mitchell explained the case before Council is for a Special Use Permit (SUP) for property located at 705 Ryan Street to allow Government Services, specifically a Parks and Recreation Office. He noted the City of Salisbury is the applicant.

Mr. Mitchell displayed a map of the area, and he pointed out 705 Ryan Street and its proximity to the Jaycee Optimist Sports Complex, Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, and the Rufty-Holmes Senior Center. He noted the City acquired 705 Ryan Street through a land swap with Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Mitchell commented the request is to permit Government Services, specifically the adaptive reuse of a home located at 705 Ryan Street, by turning it into a Parks and Recreation Maintenance office.

Mr. Mitchell noted the parcel is zoned Open Space Preserve (OSP), and he reviewed the use Matrix for OSP.

Mr. Mitchell then reviewed the Production of Evidence:

- The burden is on the applicant to present sufficient evidence to allow the board(s) to make findings that the required standards will be met
- The burden is on an opponent to present sufficient evidence that a standard will not be met
- If insufficient evidence is presented that the required standards will be met, then the SUP must be denied
- If un-contradicted evidence is presented that all of the standards will be met, then the SUP must be issued
- If un-contradicted evidence is presented that even one of the general or specific standards will not be met, then the SUP must be denied
- If there is conflicting evidence, the board(s) decides what the facts are and decides accordingly

Mr. Mitchell noted all testimony must be based on factual presentation. He pointed out Ms. Jayne Helms has agreed to speak as an expert witness, on behalf of the Parks and Recreation Department, and her statements as an expert witness can be opinion based.

Mr. Mitchell presented the standards for decision required for the SUP:

1. The use meets all required principles and specifications of the Ordinance and any adopted land use plans and is in harmony with the general purpose and intent and preserves its spirit; and
2. The proposed plan as submitted and approved will be visually and functionally compatible to the surrounding area; and
3. The public health, safety, and welfare will be assured and the proposed development will not substantially injure the value of adjoining property and associated uses if located where proposed

Mr. Mitchell stated the SUP must meet the requirements of City Code and the Vision 2020 Plan for approval, and he noted the plan submitted by Parks and Recreation Maintenance Manager Stephen Brown meets all general standards of the LDO and the goals, objectives, and policies of the Vision 2020 Plan by supporting adaptive reuse of older structures. He commented there are no plans for new construction or expansion beyond the footprint of the home, and he pointed out a fence will be installed to protect any equipment stored on the property.

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the Master Plan, and he noted the Planning Board recommended heavy screening along the eastern and southern property lines.

Parks and Recreation Director Nick Aceves explained the Parks and Recreation Department acquired two parcels, approximately 10 acres that included 705 Ryan Street. He noted 705 Ryan Street would be ideal office space for Mr. Brown and park maintenance staff because of its close proximity to the Sports Complex, and the additional property would be available to the Sports Complex for future expansion. He pointed out upgrades, including landscaping, would be provided. He stated three staff members and three pickup trucks would be located at the facility.

Mr. Brown noted a six-foot chain-link fence will be installed around the property. He added the Planning Board suggested screening, and he commented plant material will be installed to screen the fence. He stated staff will landscape the property and install gravel inside the fence for parking. He noted the carport will remain intact, and the two small buildings on the property will be demolished.

Mr. Aceves pointed out the house will require minor interior renovation. He noted the property will be used during normal business hours and possibly during extreme weather. He commented staff would be in the field most of the time.

Mr. Mitchell referenced the visual and functional compatibility of the site, and he added during the Planning Board meeting it was noted that the existing Parks and Recreation Maintenance facility located at the corner of Ryan Street will not be replaced by the proposed facility at 705 Ryan Street. Mr. Aceves agreed, and he noted large items will remain at their existing storage location. He noted the property offers a home-base for the maintenance team and close access to the larger equipment that is housed at the other Ryan Street location. He commented staff will store work trucks and a field rake behind the fence.

Councilmember Miller asked if there are any plans to install signage on Ryan Street. Mr. Aceves explained staff would like to install signage, but any signage would adhere to the Sign Ordinance. Mr. Miller clarified there is no plan to use the location for outside storage other than a field rake, and he noted parking will be inside the fence. Mr. Aceves agreed.

Councilmember Post asked where Mr. Brown's office is currently located. Mr. Brown noted his office is located at 231 West Franklin Street. Mr. Post asked when the property was acquired. Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell noted the property was acquired in November 2016. Mr. Post clarified the land was acquired as part of the land swap. Mr. Aceves agreed.

Ms. Jayne Helms, realtor with Remax Reality, stated that in her professional opinion as a licensed realtor, the adaptive reuse of property located at 705 Ryan Street would not have a negative impact on surrounding property values. Councilmember Hardin asked what methodology was used to make the determination. Ms. Helms explained she researched market values for homes located along Celebration and Ryan Streets, and based upon the market analysis the use would be positive.

Mr. Post asked if the proposed use could increase neighboring property values. Ms. Helms indicated it could.

There being no one else present to give testimony, Ms. Blackwell closed the public hearing.

Mr. Miller stated, based on the evidence presented, Council finds the following:

1. The use meets all required principles and specifications of the Ordinance and any adopted plans and is in harmony with the general purpose and intent and preserves its spirit as evidenced by the following testimony:
  - Although no proposal for expansion of the principal structure or redevelopment of the site, staff has testified that the proposal is compliant with all applicable Land Development Ordinance provisions and consistent with the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan based on adaptive reuse of the existing house
2. The proposal as submitted and approved will be visually and functionally compatible to the surrounding area as evidenced by the following testimony:
  - Adaptive reuse rather than redevelopment of the site for use as a Parks and Recreation maintenance and office facility maintains the scale and development pattern of the surrounding residential area
  - To minimize impact on the adjacent residential property and screen commercial activities and equipment in the rear of the site, the applicant proposes to install heavy vegetative screening along the south and eastern boundaries of the fence and along the southeastern property line to where it meets the current vegetation as proposed
3. The public health, safety and welfare will be assured and the proposed development will not substantially injure the value of adjoining property and associated uses if located where proposed as evidenced by the following testimony:
  - The value of adjoining properties should not be affected based on testimony by a licensed realtor Jayne Helms with Remax Realty
  - The applicant proposes to secure all stored equipment in a completely fenced area to the rear of the principal structure.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** that the suggested findings support the general requirements as required by the Salisbury Land Development Ordinance. Mr. Hardin seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller, and Post, and Ms. Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to issue a Special Use Permit SUP-02-2017 to permit the use of Government Services, specifically a Parks and Recreation Maintenance and Office facility, at 705 Ryan Street based upon all general standards of the Salisbury Land Development Ordinance having been met. Mr. Hardin seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller, and Post, and Ms. Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

## **UPDATE – BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANT**

Community Planning Services Director Janet Gapen introduced Mr. Joe Morici, Cardno Environmental, Inc., who updated Council regarding the City's Brownfields Assessment Grant. Mr. Morici noted the City received a \$400,000 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Assessment Grant in 2014.

Mr. Morici explained the grant identified four priority sites: Kesler Mill, Empire Hotel, Shaeffer Iron Works, and the Duncan/Monroe Street School. He noted three additional sites were added to the list: 201 West Innes Street, the Washington Building, and Newsome Street/Shops along Innes Street. He explained Brownfields are defined by the EPA as any property where redevelopment might be hindered by real or perceived contamination.

Mr. Morici reviewed the status of the sites. He noted 18 environmental assessments have been completed to date, 20 acres assessed, five North Carolina Brownfield applications have been submitted, \$25 million has been leveraged in redevelopment dollars, and 75 leveraged jobs are projected.

Councilmember Miller asked if the grant's success could help the City acquire additional funding. Mr. Morici agreed, and he explained the success of the grant puts the City in a good position for additional funding sources. He stated the City's grant, which ends September 30, 2017, is 90% expended and the remaining 10% is obligated. He commented a grant application was submitted December 2016 for \$300,000 in additional funding, and he noted grant awards will be announced in April or May 2017 with funding available October 2017. He cautioned the grant application process is very competitive, but he noted the City is in a good position.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell opened the floor to receive public comments. She noted citizens are no longer required to state their address during public comment periods.

Ms. Dora Boison referred to the autopsy report for Mr. Ferguson Laurent, which documented 10 gunshot wounds to Mr. Laurent's body. She stated Mr. Laurent died as result of the City's no-knock warrant policy. Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell noted 12 citizens spoke in silence as they stood for the remainder of Ms. Boison's time.

Ms. Constance Stanton expressed concerns regarding Mr. Laurent's autopsy report. She indicated the autopsy report noted 10 wounds which were the result of 8 to 10 gunshots. She questioned the use of a no-knock warrant, and she asked if the level of aggression used by police officers was necessary. She asked Council to discontinue the use of no-knock warrants.

Ms. Whitney Peckman asked how many shots were fired if 10 shots actually hit Mr. Laurent. She noted Mr. Laurent did not get a second chance for rehabilitation or restorative justice.

Mr. Greg Alcorn offered his support for Fibrant, and he asked Council to support Fibrant. He noted Fibrant is a valuable asset to the community and should be regularly placed on Council's Agenda. He noted community ownership for Fibrant starts with Council.

Ms. Carolyn Logan stated people are quiet when they should be speaking. She explained no one wants to talk about crime or the 17 unsolved murders in the City. She stated Salisbury is a violent city.

Mr. Andrew Davis stated he needs guidance regarding a monument to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He suggested the monument be placed near the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue and East Innes Street. He noted it would be good for black youth in the community to have something positive to look to.

Councilmember Hardin commented he previously spoke with Mr. Davis, and he suggested Mr. Davis reach out to Community Planning Services Director Janet Gapen. Mr. Davis noted he has previously spoken to Council regarding a refuge house for those who are looking to leave gang life, but no one followed up with him.

Minister Latasha Wilkes referred to an article regarding a shooting near Lloyd and Fisher Streets. She noted the police report and article were false. She indicated more help is needed in the West End community. She referred to Mr. Laurent, and she noted she stands behind what others said about the no-knock warrant. She noted Mr. Laurent cannot be brought back, but the community can move forward and develop a plan of action. She commented she has developed a plan of action for teenagers she would like to discuss with Mayor Alexander.

Ms. Dee Dee Wright asked if the public would ever know what was listed in the warrant issued for Mr. Laurent, and if it was found in the home.

Ms. M.T. Siboly asked Council to reconsider the use of no-knock warrants because they are bad for police officers and the community.

Mr. Quson Brown stated he served as a police cadet for four years, and he worked with Officer Joe Wilson who was recognized earlier today. He noted he hears people when they say the City should do more, but he added not enough is being said about how the community can do something as a whole. He pointed out there are many people in the community who are willing to help.

There being no one else to address Council, Ms. Blackwell closed the public comment session.

## **BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

There were no appointments.

## CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

### (a) SBI Investigation

City Manager Lane Bailey encouraged citizens to allow the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) to conduct the investigation into the events surrounding Mr. Laurent's death before they rush to judgement. He added he anticipates the autopsy examination will be near the end of the investigation and then the information will be submitted to the District Attorney for her review.

Councilmember Hardin agreed there is a need to let the process play out. He added he wants to be sure Council will support a public hearing regarding the City's no-knock warrant policy.

Councilmember Miller asked if the SBI would answer questions if Council holds a public hearing or if Council would answer questions based on the SBI report. Mr. Bailey explained the SBI is conducting an investigation, and they will have discussions with the District Attorney. He stated it is an independent investigation and not open to the Salisbury Police Department.

Mr. Miller clarified the discussion Council needs to have is about how the City handles policy. Mr. Hardin commented the public wants to ask policy questions. He added he does not want time to pass and it appear that Council does not take the issue seriously. Mr. Miller asked if times needs to be set aside during a Council meeting or a community meeting. Mr. Hardin noted he prefers it be done at a Council meeting.

Mr. Post pointed out it is difficult for Council to reply to public comment after the City Manager's comments which can run late in the evening. He suggested the policy be reconsidered.

### (b) 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

City Manager Lane Bailey asked Mr. C.J. Palmer, Senior Manager Elliott Davis Decosimo CPAs, to address Council regarding the City's 2016 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016. Mr. Palmer thanked Council for allowing Elliott Davis Decosimo to perform the City's audit. He also thanked the Finance team for their professionalism, timely response to questions, and for their cooperation throughout the audit process.

Mr. Palmer referred to the auditor's report which outlines management's responsibility for the financial statements and the auditor's responsibility to audit and give opinion based upon fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. He noted Elliott Davis Decosimo found no instances of material noncompliance, question cost, or material weakness in the programs tested.



Mr. Palmer stated Elliott Davis Decosimo issued an unmodified opinion on the financial statements, the highest level of assurance Elliott Davis Decosimo can provide, also known as a clean audit opinion. He explained one instance that was considered a significant deficiency was the City's noncompliance with North Carolina General Statute, which is a repeat finding from the prior year regarding the deficit position of Fibrant.

Mr. Palmer reviewed the total Fund Balance of the General Fund, and he noted a Fund Balance of \$18.35 million which is slightly less than last year's Fund Balance of \$18.54 million. He commented the decrease is significantly less than the budgeted appropriation of Fund Balance, by \$2.9 million. He pointed out a restatement of the 2015 Fund Balance was the result of the application of GASB 73 which required funds committed for the law enforcement officer separation allowance be reported to the General Fund.

Mr. Palmer then reviewed the available Fund Balance as a percentage of expenditures and transfers for the General Fund. He pointed out a slight decrease, and he commented it is significantly higher than the City's policy of 10 percent.

Mr. Palmer referenced the General Fund Revenues which remained consistent. He reviewed the General Fund Revenues by source and the General Fund expenditures and transfers. He pointed out \$34 million in General Fund expenditures is significantly less than the \$38 million budgeted.

Mr. Palmer reviewed the Broadband Services Fund. He pointed out a small operating loss that included non-cash items such as depreciation. He indicated operations were cash flow positive for the core operations, but he noted debt service payments of approximately \$3 million and a significant transfer from the General Fund were included in the budget. He pointed out the fund is in a significant deficit net position of \$10.4 million which has decreased over the last several years. He commented the recent debt refinancing will reduce debt service payments.

Councilmember Miller clarified the prior years are recorded differently because the information had to be brought into the proper enterprise fund. Mr. Palmer agreed, and he pointed out the net position is consistent.

Councilmember Post noted it is important for the public to know Fibrant is cash flow positive before the debt service payment is made. Mr. Palmer commented cash flow is provided by operating activities provided by non-capital financing activities that transfer from the General Fund. Mr. Post pointed out cash flow from Fibrant fund is almost \$520,000 which helps reduce the debt service.

Mr. Post referenced a recent letter in the *Salisbury Post* that indicated if Fibrant dissolves the losses will go away. He pointed out if Fibrant is discontinued the City will still owe \$3 million annually in debt service payments. Mr. Palmer agreed. Mr. Bailey explained the debt service payment is the first payment the City is required to make by North Carolina law, and he indicated the losses would increase if Fibrant ceased to exist.

Mr. Post pointed out the financial statement findings indicate that at the end of the current year the broadband services fund was operating in deficit. He referenced the level playing field Statute, and he explained four years after Fibrant's inception the State Legislature placed a provision in the General Statutes that states enterprise funds cannot be subsidized by other sources of revenues. He pointed out the City cannot help losing money because the losses are related to repayment of the debt service. He commented the City is doing all it can to get out of the loss situation.

Mr. Miller noted the legislation does not allow Fibrant to serve a broader audience, so it effectively limits its customer base. He asked Mr. Palmer if the City is in good financial health. Mr. Palmer stated he did not have any concerns with the City's financial health.

Mr. Post pointed out the Fund Balance is approximately 45% of operating revenues, and he noted State law requires at least 8% and the City's internal rules require 10%.

Mr. Bailey added 8% is a strong recommendation from the Local Government Commission (LGC). He stated he would like to see the City's internal rule require 24%, which equals three months revenue. He commented the City is in good financial shape, and he thanked Teresa Harris, Wade Furches, and the Management Team for their work to keep the City financially sound.

(c) Resolution – Fiber Optic Service

City Manager Lane Bailey noted there have been ongoing discussions regarding Fibrant and its future. He stated the City has contracted with CTC Technologies to advise the best solution moving forward with Fibrant. He asked Council to consider adopting a Resolution to authorize the City Manager to send out a request for proposals to consider multiple options for the utility including management of the utility, leasing the utility, and the possibility of selling the utility.

Mr. Bailey explained the industry norm is a public/private partnership, but staff would consider any options that fit the situation. He thanked Councilmember Post for his work and for introducing him to CTC Technologies at a broadband conference in 2016. He stated CTC Technologies has worked with staff to determine the value of the utility. He noted CTC Technologies will review the proposals received and help determine the best option. He added the request for proposals will be released January 24, 2017, and responses will be due March 10, 2017 if Council approves the Resolution. He commented staff should have some options to present to Council for its consideration during the Council Retreat.

Councilmember Post stated CTC Technologies is a non-profit and possibly the Nation's foremost broadband consultant for municipalities in the United States. He added CTC Technologies has worked with several hundred cities nationally. He noted the Request for Proposal contains five options regarding Fibrant. He commented five or six potential private sector partners have already expressed an interest in Fibrant.

Councilmember Miller noted Mr. Bailey has been working on Fibrant since he arrived at the City, and he commented much work has been done behind the scenes. He added Council has considered different ways to run the utility and create the most benefit for citizens. He pointed out Fibrant is unique to the City and something everyone should support. He explained the goal is to get the most out of the City's investment in Fibrant and turn it into an economic contributor instead of an economic drain.

Mr. Post commented there is an economic benefit to Fibrant. He noted cities such as Davidson and Mooresville are making a significant investment in their broadband to support the public/private partnership. He cautioned a commitment will be necessary on behalf of the City.

Councilmember Hardin agreed with Mr. Post, and he thanked him for his due diligence on the proposal.

Thereupon, Mr. Post made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution approving Request for Proposals regarding Fibrant fiber optic service. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller, and Post, and Ms. Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

#### RESOLUTION APPROVING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS REGARDING FIBRANT FIBER OPTIC SERVICE.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 15 at Page No. 2-3, and is known as Resolution 2017-02.)

Mr. Bailey stated Mooresville contributes \$2 million and Davidson \$1 million annually to their joint broadband utility. He pointed out Davidson and Mooresville have a higher tax base than Salisbury. He indicated the City may have to make ongoing contributions even if the venture is successful.

#### (d) Budget Amendment – Vehicle Charging Station

City Manager Lane Bailey presented a \$10,000 Budget Amendment to Council regarding a grant for an electronic vehicle charging station. He noted the City received a \$15,000 grant and staff would like to spend \$10,000 of the grant for a port that would charge two vehicles. He noted the City will have \$5,000 available for later use. He indicated the charging station would be located at the Gateway Park.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending the 2016-2017 Budget Ordinance of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina in the amount of \$10,000 to appropriate a grant from Duke Energy. Mr. Post seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller, and Post, and Ms. Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

#### ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016-2017 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE A GRANT FROM DUKE ENERGY.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 26 at Page No. 9, and is known as Ordinance 2017-07.)

(e) Budget Amendment – Rural Economic Development Grant

City Manager Lane Bailey presented a budget amendment to Council regarding the disbursement of funds from a Rural Development Grant in the amount of \$162,500. He noted the grant is based on job creation and work completed at the Morgan Ridge Brewery and Railwalk Café. He explained the City received the funds and the budget amendment would allow staff to transfer the money to the developer. He noted the petitioner does not receive the funds until the jobs required in the grant are created and the work on the facility is completed. He stated there is no cost to the City for this grant. He explained there was a grant match, but the City met its obligation through local incentive grants.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending the 2016-2017 Budget Ordinance of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina in the amount of \$162,500 to appropriate a grant from the North Carolina Department of Commerce. Mr. Post seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller, and Post, and Ms. Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016-2017 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE A GRANT FROM NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 26 at Page No. 10, and is known as Ordinance 2017-08.)

**MAYOR 'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) Snow Event

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell thanked Public Services Director Tony Cinquemani and staff for their work to clean the streets during the recent snow.

(b) Renaming City Buildings

Councilmember Hardin noted he has received requests about naming rights for City parks and buildings. He commented he has received several requests to rename Hall Gym after Floyd Kerr, who was a staple of this community. He noted the building's name has meaning and he suggested naming the basketball court inside of Hall Gym in honor of Mr. Kerr. Parks and Recreation Director Nick Aceves explained the gym is named after L. H. Hall. He noted if there is an interest in naming the basketball court there is an application process and City policy that must be followed which includes review by the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Council approval.

(c) Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award Recipient

Councilmember Hardin thanked Reverend Ethel Bamback-Reavis, Ms. Kaye Greene, and Ms. Dee Dee Wright for the Humanitarian Award he received from the VA Medical Center. He thanked everyone who had a hand in the award.

(d) Community Outreach

Councilmember Post noted there are issues that need attention beyond Council meetings such as Fibrant and crime. He added he does not want citizens to perceive that things shared during public comment fall on deaf ears. He added the no-knock warrant needs to be addressed. He noted poverty, education, and crime are all connected and touch the City deeply. He suggested Council find a way to have a dialogue as opposed to a one-way conversation.

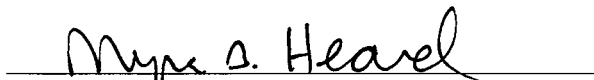
(e) Father/Daughter Dance

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell announced Parks and Recreation will host the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Father/Daughter Dance for girls ages 4 to 13 and their fathers on Saturday, February 4, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. There will be entertainment, dancing, snacks, games and door prizes. Tickets are limited to the first 325 and must be purchased in advance. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at any of the four recreation facilities. For more information please call 704-216-PLAY.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Post seconded by Mr. Hardin. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

  
Karen Kirks Alexander, Mayor

  
Myra B. Heard, City Clerk