

Salisbury, North Carolina
August 17, 2021

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Karen K. Alexander, Presiding; Council Members William Brian Miller, David Post and Tamara Sheffield; City Manager W. Lane Bailey, City Clerk Kelly Baker; and City Attorney J. Graham Corriher.

ABSENT: Mayor Pro Tem Al Heggins.

In response to the State of Emergency declaration related to the spread of COVID-19 and to limit physical interactions and the potential spread of COVID-19 the Salisbury City Council met electronically. 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.

RECOGNITION OF VIEWERS

Mayor Alexander welcomed all viewers.

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the Regular Meetings of July 20, 2021 and August 3, 2021.

(b) Budget Ordinance Amendment and Contract – Buckeye Bridge, LLC

Adopt a budget **ORDINANCE** amendment to appropriate Water Sewer Fund – Fund Balance in the amount of \$36,441.98 and award a contract to Buckeye Bridge, LLC in the amount of \$616,441.98 for construction of the Peeler Road Water Main Extension project. Funds were appropriated at the July 20, 2021 meeting based on the project cost estimate, and the developer is funding 50% of the final project cost.

ORDINANCE AMENDNG THE 2021-2022 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR WATER AND SEWER MAIN EXTENSION.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 144, and is known as Ordinance 2021-60.)

(c) Right-Of-Way – 127 South Main Street

Approve a right-of-way encroachment by AT&T for the installation of a hand hole and fiber near 127 South Main Street per Section 11-24(27) of the City Code and subject to approval by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

(d) Right-Of-Way – Airport Road

Approve a right-of-way encroachment by Spectrum for the installation of directional bored duct on Airport Road per Section 11-24(27) of the City Code and subject to approval by the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

Thereupon, Councilmember Sheffield made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

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

PIERCE FIRE RESCUE TRUCK

Fire Division Chief Jay Baker presented a proposal from Atlantic Emergency Solutions for the purchase of a Pierce Fire Rescue Truck in the amount of \$1,172,256. He noted accepting the proposal will secure the price and allow construction of the vehicle to begin. He added the construction process is anticipated to take 13 to 15 months.

Mayor Alexander asked where the truck will be housed for operation. Division Chief Baker noted the truck will operate from Fire Station 2.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to accept a proposal from Atlantic Emergency Solutions in the amount of \$1,172,256 for the purchase of a Pierce Fire Rescue Truck. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

Interim Finance Director Wade Furches stated the United State Treasury has allocated \$7.2 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Salisbury. He noted at its last meeting Council voted to accept the funds, and the City has received its first tranche of \$3.6 million. He explained the Local Government Commission recommends a Grant Project Ordinance be adopted to establish a Special Revenue Fund to account for the grant funds. Mr. Furches stated staff will be reporting the status of the funds on a quarterly basis to the United State Treasury. He asked Council to adopt the Ordinance to establish a Special Revenue Fund for the ARPA funds.

Councilmember Post noted the ARPA funds can be used for broadband infrastructure, and he asked if the funds could be used to support the broadband utility since funds cannot be used for its debt. City Attorney Graham Corriher stated he is reviewing the language of ARPA which refers to extending broadband to underserved areas. He stated he will continue to review as a recommendation for use of the funds is developed.

Thereupon, Councilmember Miller made a **motion** to adopt a Grant Project Ordinance for the City of Salisbury Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

GRANT PROJECT ORDINANCE FOR THE CITY OF SALISBURY CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 145, and is known as Ordinance 2021-61.)

Councilmember Post noted the uses for the funds appears to be broad, and he asked if staff will bring a recommendation for their use to Council. City Manager Lane Bailey agreed, and he noted he hopes to bring a recommendation to Council in September for a one-time bonus for employees similar to the one Rowan County provided to its staff.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

City Manager Lane Bailey indicated he had received a request for an update regarding the Cheerwine Festival in light of the recent spike in COVID cases. He stated staff is following

guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) as well as those from the Governor and the local Health Department. He commented staff has been in touch with the Rowan County Health Director and will move forward as planned until the guidance changes. Mr. Bailey stated there are no current prohibitions on outdoor gatherings, and staff will change its plans if the guidance changes. He commented the festival could be moved from downtown to help monitor those who enter or exit, but he thinks moving the location would not keep the spirit of the Festival and its benefit to the downtown area.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Post stated he is in agreement with Mr. Bailey regarding the Cheerwine Festival, and he added he would not want it to move from downtown.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

Mayor Alexander thanked the staff and volunteers for their work at the Community Resource Fair held August 14, 2021 at the Civic Center.

CLOSED SESSION

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to go into closed session concerning a personnel matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6). Upon a roll call vote Mayor Alexander voted AYE, Councilmember Miller voted AYE, Councilmember Post voted AYE, and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Mayor Alexander reconvened the meeting in open session.


Mayor Alexander stated no action was taken during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Post. All Council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Kelly Baker, City Clerk



Karen Alexander, Mayor