

Salisbury, North Carolina
December 6, 2022

REGULAR MEETING

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

ABSENT: None.

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 6:00 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.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA/CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Add: Announcement for New Year's Eve at the Bell Tower Celebration.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to adopt the Agenda with the noted change. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

OATH OF OFFICE – CITY CLERK CONNIE SNYDER

Mayor Alexander administered the Oath of Office for City Clerk to Connie Snyder as her niece, Halie Beck, held the Bible. Ms. Snyder was joined by her mother, Betty Beck. Council welcomed Ms. Snyder to her new role as City Clerk.

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION – RETIRING ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ZACK KYLE

Mayor Alexander asked Council to consider adopting a Resolution of Recognition honoring retiring Assistant City Manager Zack Kyle.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution of Recognition honoring retiring Assistant City Manager Zack Kyle. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION HONORING RETIRING ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER ZACK KYLE.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 75, and is known as Resolution 2022-54.)

Mayor Alexander read the Resolution and presented a framed copy to Mr. Kyle. Mr. Kyle stated it has been a blessing working with Salisbury employees and Council. He added he has enjoyed every minute.

Council thanked Mr. Kyle for his dedication and leadership to the City for 14 years.

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION – RETIRING POLICE CHIEF JERRY STOKES

Mayor Alexander asked Council to consider adopting a Resolution of Recognition honoring retiring Police Chief Jerry Stokes.

Thereupon, Councilmember McLaughlin made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution of Recognition honoring retiring Police Chief Jerry Stokes. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION OF RECOGNITION HONORING RETIRING POLICE CHIEF JERRY STOKES.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 76, and is known as Resolution 2022-55.)

Mayor Alexander read the Resolution and presented a framed copy to Chief Stokes.

Thereupon, Councilmember McLaughlin made a **motion** to issue retiring Police Chief Jerry Stokes his sidearm and badge as allowed by NCGS 20-187.2(a). Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

Chief Stokes thanked Council for renaming the Rowan Regional Crime Information Center to the Chief Jerry Stokes Crime Information Center. He added it has been an honor to work alongside the Police Department and the community.

Council thanked Chief Stokes for his love and commitment to the members of the Salisbury Police Department and community.

Mayor Alexander recognized former City Manager Lane Bailey, who thanked Chief Stokes for his leadership of the Police Department and his work with the community. He stated Chief Stokes implemented necessary training to ensure success for the Police Department.

Chief Stokes thanked Mr. Bailey for giving him the opportunity to serve as Police Chief.

COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION'S MAYOR'S AWARD

Mayor Alexander noted the 2022 Community Appearance Commission Mayors Award was presented to Anne Scott Clement for Betty Dan Spencer. She added Ms. Spencer served on numerous local boards and understood the importance of history in Salisbury and Rowan County. Mayor Alexander added Ms. Spencer spent countless hours at the museum and library conducting research and then sharing her knowledge with the community.

Mayor Alexander invited Ms. Spencer's daughter Anne Scott Clement to accept the 2022 Community Appearance Commission's Mayor's Award in honor of Betty Dan Spencer.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor to proclaim the following observance:

NATIONAL IMPAIRED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

December 2022

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Approve Minutes of the regular meeting of November 15, 2022.

(b) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Historic Preservation Fund Grant

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2022-2023 budget in the amount of \$24,900 to appropriate a Historic Preservation Fund Grant for expenses related to the architectural survey update for the Salisbury National Register Historic District.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2022-2023 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION FUND GRANT.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 197, and is known as Ordinance 2022-78.)

(c) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Parks and Recreation Donation

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2022-2023 budget in the amount of \$7,940 to appropriate a donation to the Parks and Recreation Department for expenses related to the Christmas tree and tree lighting at Bell Tower Green Park.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2022-2023 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE A DONATION FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 198, and is known as Ordinance 2022-79.)

(d) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Parks and Recreation Donation

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2022-2023 budget in the amount of \$2,323 to appropriate a donation to the Parks and Recreation Department for expenses related to the Salisbury-Rowan Sports Hall of Fame.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2022-2023 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE A DONATION FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 193, and is known as Ordinance 2022-80.)

(e) Voluntary Annexation – Julian Road

Receive the Certificate of Sufficiency for the voluntary annexation of 12.179 acres located on Julian Road, Tax Map 400 Parcels 009 and 042, and adopt a Resolution setting the date of the public hearing for January 3, 2023.

RESOLUTION SETTING DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON QUESTION OF THE ANNEXATION OF HENDERSON GROVE CHURCH APARTMENTS, PARCELS 400 009 AND 400 042, PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-31.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 77-78, and is known as Resolution 2022-56.)

(f) Voluntary Annexation – Barbour Street

Receive the Certificate of Sufficiency for the voluntary annexation of .100 acres located at 1132 Barbour Street, Tax Map 025 Parcel 018, and adopt a Resolution setting the date of the public hearing for January 3, 2023.

RESOLUTION SETTING DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON QUESTION OF THE ANNEXATION OF 1132 BARBOUR STREET, PARCEL 025 018 PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-31.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 16 at Page No. 79, and is known as Resolution 2022-57.)

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

Rowan County Sheriff Travis Allen provided a brief update to Council on his first two days as sheriff. He added that the Rowan County Sheriff's Department is at Salisbury's service if needed and looks forward to collaborating.

Mr. Clyde addressed Council regarding recycling in the City and expressed concern about high water bill fees.

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

REZONING – REID FARM ROAD

Senior Planner Victoria Bailiff addressed Council regarding a proposed amendment to the Land Development District Map to rezone two parcels, approximately 111 acres, located at the end of Reid Farm Road from Rural Residential (RR) to Light Industrial (LI) zoning. She stated Landmark Industrial, LLC is the petitioner for the project.

Ms. Bailiff displayed a map of the area, and she pointed out the surrounding zoning and a railroad right-of-way on the northwestern side of the property. She commented if the proposed zoning is approved there will be continuous LI zoning along the railroad right-of-way. She added the area is trending toward an industrial zoning district. She noted the request is for a general use rezoning and there will be no conditions or site plan to accompany the application. She indicated any use listed on the use matrix will be permitted on the property.

Ms. Bailiff stated staff finds the rezoning request is consistent with Policy I-8 of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan. She noted Planning Board held a courtesy hearing on November 8, 2022 and voted unanimously to recommend approval as submitted.

Councilmember Post referenced smaller parcels that will remain in the RR zoning, and he asked if the City can rezone the properties to create consistency. Ms. Bailiff indicated a rezoning is not advised unless the property owners are willing participants. She explained the properties could be rezoned in the future as a natural progression for a subsequent use.

Councilmember McLaughlin pointed out a small section of the proposed rezoning that appears to be General Residential (GR-3) zoning. Ms. Bailiff noted the parcel appears to be slightly split-zoned to the north. Mayor Alexander clarified the portion of the parcels that is split zoned would be included in the proposed rezoning. Ms. Bailiff agreed, and she stated if the rezoning is approved it may include a small portion of GR-3 zoning that would be rezoned to LI zoning.

Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing after due notice regarding the proposed rezoning of approximately 111 acres located at the end of Reid Farm Road

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

Councilmember McLaughlin asked if staff received any opposition to the proposed rezoning. Ms. Bailiff noted staff has not received any calls regarding the proposed rezoning and there were no public comment at the Planning Board meeting.

Councilmember Post stated the City Council hereby finds and determines that adoption of an Ordinance to rezone the property described herein, as requested, is consistent with the goals, objectives and policies of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan due to the proposed petition, site characteristics, surrounding development pattern, and observations provided by City planning staff identifying the policies that support the petition. Thereupon, Mr. Post made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending the Land Development District Map of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina, to rezone approximately 111 acres on Reid Farm Road from Rural Residential to Light Industrial zoning. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA, TO REZONE APPROXIMATELY 111 ACRES ON REID FARM ROAD FROM RURAL RESIDENTIAL TO LIGHT INDUSTRIAL ZONING.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No.200, and is known as Ordinance 2022-81.)

REZONING – INTERSECTION JULIAN ROAD AND CORPORATE CIRCLE

Senior Planner Victoria Bailiff addressed Council regarding the adoption of an Ordinance amending the Land Development District Map to rezone one parcel, approximately 6.62 acres, located at the intersection of Julian Road and Corporate Circle from Highway Business (HB) to HB with a Conditional District (CD) overlay. She stated the petitioner is Davis Moore and the request is for an alternative design to allow for the construction of a medical office building.

Ms. Bailiff explained the applicant is requesting the property be rezoned to add a CD overlay. She pointed out surrounding adjacent properties are zoned HB and the land across Julian Road is currently undeveloped.

Ms. Bailiff reviewed the combined master and site plan, and she noted the request is for a 14,000 square foot medical office building with associated parking. She added the petitioner has proposed one deviation from the Land Development Ordinance (LDO). She explained Section 10.6 of the LDO requires two parking lot connections to adjacent properties and the applicant has proposed one parking lot connection to the adjacent property to the east. She then reviewed elevations and an artist renderings of the proposed project.

Ms. Bailiff stated staff finds that the proposed master plan is consistent with Policy C-27 of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan. She noted the master plan was reviewed by the Technical Review Commission (TRC) on October 20, 2022 and it recommended approval of the master plan subject to minor revisions which were satisfied. She added the Planning Board held a courtesy hearing on November 8, 2022, and it voted unanimously to recommend approval stating that the request is consistent with the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing after due notice regarding the proposed rezoning of approximately 6.62 acres located at the intersection of Julian Road and Corporate Circle.

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

Councilmember Smith stated the City Council hereby finds and determines that adoption of an Ordinance to rezone the property described herein is reasonable and in the public interest. The proposal is fundamentally consistent with the goals, objectives and policies of the Vision 2020 Comprehensive Plan. Thereupon, Mr. Smith made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending the Land Development District Map of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina to rezone, approximately 6.62 acres, 0 Corporate Circle, from Highway Business to Highway Business with a Conditional District Overlay. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE LAND DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT MAP OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO REZONE, APPROXIMATELY 6.62 ACRES, 0 CORPORATE CIRCLE, FROM HIGHWAY BUSINESS TO HIGHWAY BUSINESS WITH A CONDITIONAL DISTRICT OVERLAY.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 201, and is known as Ordinance 2022-82.)

AMENDMENTS – INCENTIVE GRANT AGREEMENTS

Planning Director Hannah Jacobson presented amendments to previously approved incentive grant agreements for downtown projects at 121 West Council Street, 133 South Main Street, and 115 South Jackson Street. She stated the goal is to efficiently use federal grant funds that the City received and there will be no adjustments to the grant amounts.

Ms. Jacobson explained over the last several years the City has had two downtown revitalization programs, one that is federally funded and one that is funded through the General Fund. She stated the federal funds came from the Paul Bruhn Grant the City received in 2020 from the National Park Service. She noted in 2020 Council approved five projects for the grant, and she explained the funds are awarded once the project is complete.

Ms. Jacobson stated the Paul Bruhn Grant funds must be used by September 30, 2023. She noted two of the five projects have been completed, and two are on schedule to be completed. She noted the project at 115 South Jackson Street, the Wrenn House, has been delayed and staff is concerned additional delays could cause the project to miss the deadline to use the federal funding.

Ms. Jacobson indicated the other downtown grant is the City's Downtown Revitalization Incentive Grant which is funded through the General Fund annually. She stated in 2022 five grants were awarded and two of the projects, the Bell Block Building and the Salisbury Building, also received federal funds. She added staff recommends combining the federal and local grant awards for the Bell Block Building and the Salisbury Building to be paid using Paul Bruhn Grant funding. She noted staff also recommends amending the agreement with the Wrenn House to be become a local incentive grant, which would give the project additional time. She pointed out there would be no change to the amount of the incentive grant for any of the projects.

Ms. Jacobson stated staff is requesting Council consider authorizing the City Manager to amend the incentive grant agreements for 121 West Council Street, 133 South Main Street, and 115 South Jackson Street.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to authorize the City Manager to amend the incentive grant agreements for 121 West Council Street, 133 South Main Street, and 115 South Jackson Street. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

UPDATED FINES FOR PARKING VIOLATIONS

Police Chief Jerry Stokes presented an update regarding parking fines and recommendations for parking violations in the City. He noted fines for parking violations are a

means of deterrence and not a means of revenue. He pointed out parking continues to be an issue in the City, and staff is working to develop programs that address the parking concerns.

Chief Stokes pointed out the majority of parking fines in the City are currently \$5 and in January 2022 the fine for overtime parking was increased to \$15. He added staff recommends Council consider a fine increase to \$25 per violation for the following offenses: parking in a reserved space, double parking, parking in a safety zone, parking too close to a fire hydrant, parking in a corner clearance zone, parking against the line of traffic, parking over lines designating a lined parking space, blocking traffic, blocking alley, making U-turns where prohibited, turning around in the middle of the block, and running against a traffic signal.

Chief Stokes stated in January Council authorized a repeat offender fine of \$75, which was recommended in the parking study. He referenced Senate Bill 300 and North Carolina General Statute 14-4 which state penalties for parking violations should not exceed \$50. He noted staff recommends lowering the repeat offender fine to \$50 and that late fees remain at \$20 to be in compliance with the General Statute. He reviewed a list of the recommended revisions which include clarification regarding vehicle towing. He indicated fine collection is an issue, and he pointed out the City does not have an active process for collecting parking fines.

Chief Stokes referenced vehicle towing for the Pilot Parking Program, and he pointed out Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI) will manage this during normal business hours and after hours issues will be addressed by police officers.

Councilmember McLaughlin asked if the City will notify citizens of the increases to parking violations. City Attorney Graham Corriher indicated notice of the fine for overtime parking in the Ordinance is legally sufficient. Chief Stokes added staff can conduct a social media campaign and a press release regarding the increase to parking violation fines.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 13 Articles I, II, VI and X of the City Code regarding fines for parking violations. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13 ARTICLES 1, 2, 6 AND 10 OF THE CITY CODE REGARDING FINES FOR PARKING VIOLATIONS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 30 at Page No. 202-204, and is known as Ordinance 2022-83.)

FISHER STREET BRIDGE UPDATE

Interim Public Works Director Chris Tester and Administrative Services Manager Michael Hanna presented an update on the Fisher Street Bridge. Mr. Tester reviewed the history of the bridge which was constructed with timber and steel I-beams that span over the railroad tracks. He noted staff worked with the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) on the bridge

and found significant metal degradation below the decking that would require major repairs so the bridge was closed to vehicular traffic but remained open for pedestrians.

Mr. Tester stated in April Council directed staff to inform the community and to consider funding options. He pointed out a task force was created and it reviewed alternatives, conducted community engagement, looked at funding opportunities, conducted research, and submitted applications for grant funding. He noted approximately 20 people participated in a neighborhood meeting. He indicated a survey was sent to 50 property owners and stakeholders in the block surrounding 200 East Fisher Street and staff met with individuals regarding the survey.

Mr. Tester explained the cost for the pedestrian bridge was \$150,000 to \$250,000, and he noted staff applied for a United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) grant. He added the annual maintenance cost for the pedestrian bridge is approximately \$100,000. He indicated in its current condition the bridge is safe for bikes and pedestrians and with additional design features it could provide an attractive, safe gateway to the downtown. He stated the USDOT Reconnecting Community Grant should be awarded at the end of January, but there is no guarantee the City will receive the funding. He indicated it would take six to eight months to convert the bridge to a footbridge. He explained the estimated cost does not address the degradation of the I-beams and the reconstruction of the bridge which would be postponed for five to six years.

Mr. Tester pointed out the estimate for vehicular bridge reconstruction is approximately \$1.1 million, and the maintenance cost would be approximately \$100,000 every two years. He noted the City received Federal Bridge Formula program funding through the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) which is guaranteed funding. He added the plan would include repairs to the bridge in order to reopen it to vehicular traffic. He stated the bridge would have tonnage restrictions that would prevent fire trucks and commercial vehicles from crossing it. He indicated proper signage would be provided and it would be the responsibility of drivers to not take overweight vehicles across the bridge.

Mr. Tester explained STIP funding will also cover engineering services. He added the estimated time is approximately 24 to 30 months depending on permitting and railroad encroachment agreements. He noted the bridge would include sidewalks and address safety and aesthetics in the reconstruction design.

Mr. Tester reviewed the community engagement results, and he pointed out 55% voted for a foot bridge and 45% voted for a vehicular bridge. He stated 20 people attended the neighborhood meeting and the vote was evenly split. He added 11 mailed surveys were completed, five members of the neighborhood were willing to speak with staff during the door to door engagements, and two members of the stakeholder committees submitted surveys supporting a vehicular bridge.

Mr. Tester indicated staff recommends reopening the Fisher Street Bridge as a vehicular traffic bridge. He added if approved staff must notify NCDOT by the end of January and a full repair of the bridge will take place. He commented staff would also notify the neighborhood and those involved in the community engagement of the results and future plans. He added staff will work to develop a statement of qualification and to select an engineering firm.

Councilmember Post asked about the tonnage limit on the vehicular bridge. Mr. Tester explained the tonnage would depend on the reconstruction design.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield pointed out if the bridge was converted to a pedestrian bridge it would have to be reconstructed in a few years. She clarified either way the bridge will eventually need to be reconstructed. Mr. Tester agreed, and he pointed out the bridge could be converted to a pedestrian bridge in the future.

City Manager Jim Greene thanked staff for its work on the project, and he pointed out reconstruction of the bridge will take time.

Thereupon, Councilmember McLaughlin made a **motion** to direct staff to proceed with improvements to Fisher Street Bridge to maintain vehicular access, and begin the process of notifying NCDOT that the City will be requesting the use of State Transportation Improvement Program Funds. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

SUSTAINABLE SALISBURY INITIATIVES UPDATE

Administrative Services Manager Michael Hanna and Sustainability Coordinator Allie Thies provided an update on Sustainable Salisbury initiatives. Ms. Thies noted Sustainable Salisbury is a division within the Public Works Department, and the goal is to improve sustainability in the City. She noted Sustainable Salisbury provides recycling education and recycling cart audit data, works to reduce litter and the City's carbon footprint, manages the compost permitting process and provides community partnerships.

Ms. Thies explained Sustainable Salisbury educates residents regarding what can and cannot be recycled within the City. She stated the City received a Community Waste Reduction and Recycling grant for the current fiscal year to help with recycling education.

Ms. Thies stated it is important to reduce recycling contamination which can be a factor in future contract pricing. She pointed out the City's contamination rate has decreased from 34% to 28%. She reviewed the recycling sticker that is placed on recycling containers to remind customers what can and cannot be recycled. She noted recycling cart audits are conducted four times per year on randomly selected streets, and if contaminants are found a recycling tag is placed on the bin to inform the resident of the contamination. She pointed out the data helps staff understand the contamination trends and teach recycling education to residents.

Ms. Thies noted reducing litter is a major focus of Sustainable Salisbury. She pointed out the Adopt-a-Street Program has 11 volunteers and signs are placed on the street to let the public know who is volunteering to clean the City. She added litter sweeps will take place in 2023 on January 28, April 22, July 22, and October 28.

Ms. Thies indicated the City is working to reduce its carbon footprint through alternative fuel vehicles, telematics in City vehicles, exploring solar energy options, and building assessments. She noted Sustainable Salisbury oversees permitting of the compost facility to make sure it is in compliance with state law. She added staff works to promote the compost facility which provides free compost on Fridays.

Ms. Thies pointed out Sustainable Salisbury staff works with City Boards and Commissions and manages the social media platform for the Public Works Department. She noted staff would like to create an Energy Efficiency Plan that follows the Forward 2040 Comprehensive Plan sustainability agenda. She introduced the Downtown Window Cling Challenge where the City would partner with downtown business owners to reduce their carbon footprint and energy and water usage to create a more sustainable downtown. She explained if a business meets its goals it would receive a Sustainable Salisbury sticker for its window.

Mayor Alexander asked if the City could partner with the County to recycle items the City does not accept. Mr. Hanna agreed, and he added staff is exploring a competitive federal grant to install recycling sites for items such as glass. Ms. Thies added she is working with the County to build connections and promote recycling.

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield pointed out environmental sustainability starts with the City's example, and she thanked Ms. Thies for all she is doing to promote sustainability in the City.

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Graham Corriher had nothing to report to Council.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

(a) **Right-of-Way Use Permit – Three Parking Spaces West Council Street**

City Manager Jim Greene asked Council to consider approving a right-of-way use permit for three parking spaces located at 121 West Council Street through March 1, 2023.

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield made a **motion** to approve a right-of-way use permit for three parking spaces located at 121 West Council Street through March 1, 2023. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield, Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post, and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

Mr. Greene stated he has enjoyed his first six months as City Manager and wished Council, staff, and citizens a happy holiday season.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember McLaughlin thanked Salisbury and Rowan County Emergency Services for their response to a recent house fire in Granite Quarry.

Councilmember Post wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

MAYOR PRO TEM'S COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield thanked retiring Assistant City Manager Zack Kyle and retiring Police Chief Jerry Stokes for their dedication to the City and stated she looks forward to seeing them at future City events.

Mayor Pro Tem thanked the City of Spencer and staff for a successful Tis the Season Spectacular Parade and Tree Lighting. She wished everyone a Happy Holiday and stated she looks forward to a great 2023.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMENTS

Mayor Alexander thanked staff for all it does for the City. She wished Assistant City Manager Zack Kyle and Police Chief Jerry Stokes the best in their retirement, and she noted they will be missed.

(a) Public Input Sessions Forward 2040 Comprehensive Draft Plan

Mayor Alexander announced Community Planning Services will host two input sessions regarding the draft Forward 2040 Comprehensive Plan. The first session will take place Thursday, December 8th from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. at the Rowan Museum located at 202 North Main Street. The second session will take place Saturday, December 10th from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon at the Rowan Cabarrus Community College North Campus, Building 600. For additional opportunities to review the draft plan visit www.SalisburyNC.gov/forward2040 or call 704-638-5230.

(b) Drop-in Open House

Mayor Alexander announced the City of Salisbury will host a drop-in open house for job seekers interested in City employment Friday, December 9th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at various City departments. Those departments include Fire, Police, Public Works, Parks and Recreation, Salisbury-Rowan Utilities, Finance and Engineering. Please visit salisburync.gov or our official City of Salisbury social media platforms for specific building addresses.

(c) Photos with Santa and the Grinch

Mayor Alexander announced Downtown Salisbury, Inc. will host photos with Santa and the Grinch Saturday, December 10th from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at Bell Tower Green Park. Free rides on the antique fire truck with Santa and the Grinch will take place from 1:30 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. For more information visit www.DowntownSalisburyNC.com or call 704-637-7814.

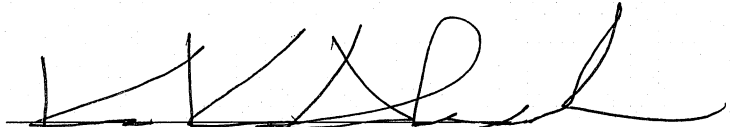
(d) New Year's Eve at the Bell Tower Celebration

Mayor Alexander announced the City of Salisbury will host the New Year's Eve at the Bell Tower Celebration Saturday, December 31st. Festivities will begin at 9:00 p.m. and will include light refreshments, live entertainment, live video feed from Time's Square and ringing in the New Year at midnight. This event is free and open to the public.

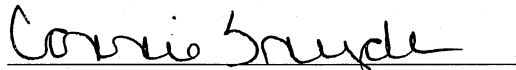
ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Smith. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Sheffield and Councilmembers McLaughlin, Post and Smith voted AYE. (5-0)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



Karen Alexander, Mayor



Connie Snyder, City Clerk