REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell, Council Members Karen Kirks Alexander, William (Pete) Kennedy, and William Brian Miller; Interim City Manager John Sofley; City Clerk Myra B. Heard; and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

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 Woodson at 4:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Woodson invited Nikolas Wolfe from Boy Scout Troop 442 to lead those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Woodson welcomed all visitors present.

RECOGNITION OF DR. NILOUS AVERY

Mayor Woodson recognized Dr. Nilous Avery, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, who was recently elected 32nd President of the General Baptist State Convention. Mayor Woodson read a Proclamation of Appreciation recognizing Dr. Avery’s accomplishments and presented a framed copy to Dr. Avery.
Mayor Woodson stated Dr. Avery has been very active in the civic and faith communities and thanked him for his contributions.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell noted several members of Dr. Avery’s church were in attendance, and Mayor Woodson asked them to stand to be recognized.

Councilmember Kennedy commented Dr. Avery has been in Salisbury as long as he has been a member of City Council. He stated when he learned Dr. Avery had been elected as President of the Baptist State Convention he wanted to recognize him because Dr. Avery has been a vital citizen to the City. He added Council is very proud of him and wishes him the best in his tenure as President.

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Woodson proclaimed the following observances:

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<td>NATIONAL SURVIVORS OF SUICIDE DAY</td>
<td>November 22, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>NAACP FREEDOM FUND BANQUET DAY</td>
<td>December 6, 2014</td>
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CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes


(b) Correction to October 7, 2014 Minutes

Approve a correction to the approved Minutes of October 7, 2014.

(c) Final Summary SUP 02-2014, West End Plaza

Approve a final summary for the denial of Special Use Permit SUP 02-2014, West End Plaza, 1935 Jake Alexander Boulevard, West.

CITY OF SALISBURY SUMMARY OF DENIAL PERTAINING TO THE SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR PROPERTY OF ROWAN COUNTY AT 1935 JAKE ALEXANDER BOULEVARD WEST SUP-02-2014

WHEREAS, Rowan County submitted an Application for a Special Use Permit to allow the use of Government Services to the property located 1935 Jake Alexander Boulevard West; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board considered the Application at a meeting on September 9, 2014, and, on a divided vote, forwarded a recommendation for approval with a condition on the proposed Special Use Permit; and
WHEREAS, the City Council, which is authorized to approve or disapprove the proposed Special Use Permit, received a presentation on the Application and supporting materials from the City Staff, along with the Planning Board recommendation at its meeting on September 16, 2014; and

WHEREAS, on September 16, 2014, and October 7, 2014, the City Council held public hearings on the Special Use Permit application and related matters; and

WHEREAS, at these hearings the City Council heard sworn testimony and received documentary evidence, both from the applicant and citizens in support, and from neighbors and citizens in opposition, and had the opportunity to ask questions of those testifying; and

WHEREAS, following the hearings and based on the testimony and information received, the City Council makes the following findings and conclusions:

FINDINGS

1. The subject property is located in the City of Salisbury at 1935 Jake Alexander Boulevard West at the intersection of Jake Alexander Boulevard West and Statesville Boulevard and is approximately 30 acres.

2. The subject property is owned by Rowan County.

3. The subject property is zoned Highway Business (HB).

4. The proposal would allow the use of Government Services within an existing 326,000 square foot building.

5. The applicant indicated areas on the site plan where additional landscaping would be installed.

6. The condition, as recommended by the Salisbury Planning Board, required that any outdoor storage areas be screened from view on all sides and restricted to the rear of the building has been accepted by the applicant.

7. The original application filed by Rowan County was for a Special Use Permit to allow Government Services for the entire site. During the course of the public hearings, the applicant indicated the willingness to a voluntary condition of limiting the total area of the Special Use Permit application to 40,000 square feet.

8. The applicant would provide a convenience cluster and will coordinate the relocation of the transit stop with Salisbury Transit System.

9. Based on the evidence and testimony received, the City finds:
a) The use does not meet all required principles and specifications of the Ordinance and any adopted plans and is not in harmony with the general purpose and intent and preserves its spirit:

Ms. Alexander made a motion that she did not believe there was sufficient evidence regarding the fiscal responsibility and better services as per the Salisbury LDO (Land Development Ordinance). She stated she did not find in favor of the fiscal responsibility and better services as per the Salisbury Land Development Ordinance because of a lack of evidence. She added Mr. Rowland did not supply Council with sufficient information regarding the actual property values. She finds that it does not satisfy the intent of the assigned districts category, specifically HB. She noted there are too many different government uses, and it is not clear what will ultimately be at the location. More information needs to be provided. She stated additional standards need to be included, specifically where uses will change and drawings are needed that depict the new exterior of the building. Additional window and door openings will be required to meet North Carolina Building Code. She indicated there is not sufficient evidence to convince her that this is an appropriate reuse of commercial property. The County has not proven the use will support new business formation or growth in the City particularly in this commercial area. Ms. Alexander did not think the burden of proof was met regarding the statement that large-scale commercial development contain a diverse mixture of retail, office, restaurant, and services uses which are in the City Code. Those service uses are not specific to government uses and if they were there would be no need to require an SUP or CD Overlay process for Government Services.

b) The proposal as submitted and approved will not be visually and functionally compatible to the surrounding area:

Ms. Alexander made a motion that the proposal as submitted will not be visually and functionally compatible to the surrounding area as evidenced by testimony that the petitioner is going to change uses which will have to comply with the North Carolina Building Code that will require additional exits and other changes to the exterior of the building. Council has no supporting evidence to prove what the changes will be and this does not meet the requirement that the appearance of the building is to be maintained as is. Ms. Blackwell added the language of the requirement states the proposed plan “as submitted” and she noted Council has not received a plan. Ms. Alexander noted the plan is non-existent. Ms. Alexander noted the site plan is incorrect because it shows the total amount of square footage including the K & W cafeteria which the county does not own.

c) The public health, safety and welfare will not be assured and the proposed development will substantially injure the value of adjoining property and associated uses if located where proposed:

This motion was approved as stated.
CONCLUSIONS

Based on the foregoing Findings, the City Council of the City of Salisbury concludes that the applicant has not met the requirements for issuance of the Special Use Permit allowing the use of Government Services.

DECISION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Application by Rowan County, for a Special Use Permit (SUP-02-2014) allowing the use of Government Services located at 1935 Jake Alexander Boulevard West is hereby denied.

Adopted this 7th day of October 2014

__________________________
Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:

__________________________
Myra B. Heard, City Clerk

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

2014 BLOCKWORK UPDATE

Ms. Sue McHugh, Community Appearance Commission Chair, Ms. Barbara Perry, Housing Advocacy Commission Chair, and Urban Planner Lynn Raker updated Council on the 2014 BlockWork project.

Ms. McHugh noted this year’s BlockWork project was the fourth year of the program and the first year the Community Appearance Commission collaborated with the Housing Advocacy Commission. She explained the event was held October 25, 2014, which was also National Make a Difference Day, and was conducted in the 900 block of West Horah Street. She indicated there were over 130 volunteers throughout the day who worked on porch repairs, painting, landscaping, roof replacement and an art project at Rowan Cabarrus Community College (RCCC). Ms. McHugh pointed out Medina Roofing saw the impact of BlockWork during the first year of the project when houses that belonged to them were repaired. She added they have volunteered labor to replace a roof each year since the first project.
Ms. McHugh thanked the following for donating food, beverages, supplies or labor:

Bimbo Bakeries USA
Cheerwine Company
F&M Bank
Frito Lay
Koco Java
Karl K. Sale
Rodney Queen
Medina Roofing & Construction
Permatil - donated soil amendment

She thanked those who offered generous discounts:

Biscuitville
Godley's Landscape Nursery
Krispy Kreme
Lowes Home Improvement
Sherwin-Williams Co.

Ms. McHugh also thanked the site managers:

Karl Sale
Geof Wilson
Dodie Lefevre King
Brian Davis
Garth Birdsey
Belinda Birdsey
Josh Canup
Lou Manning
Sue McHugh
Mark Whitman
Peter Goff

Ms. McHugh thanked the following City departments for their assistance:

Public Service's Street Department
Fleet
Fire Department
Police Department
Parks and Recreation
Human Resources
Facilities
Ms. McHugh also recognized the special groups who participated:

Salisbury Civitan Club  
Salisbury Youth Council  
RCCC Early College and Junior Civitan  
RCCC Art Program  
Livingstone College

Ms. McHugh thanked Council for its support, and she thanked the Housing Advocacy Commission for partnering with the Community Appearance Commission this year.

Ms. Perry commented she and Ms. Raker conceived of BlockWork four years ago and have had Council support for its undertaking. She stated she asked the Housing Advocacy Commission to partner on the project this year because it takes months of planning and with the exception of Ms. Raker, it is done mainly by volunteers. She explained volunteers appreciate the thanks and support they receive, but they would like additional support from Council in regards to assistance for Ms. Raker in planning the projects if they continue. Ms. Perry stated the pride expressed from the neighborhood residents and volunteers is amazing and grows throughout the day. She added volunteers who do this work do so because they want to live and work in a City that is attractive and safe. She noted what happens in one neighborhood affects other neighborhoods.

Ms. Perry indicated she hopes Council will remember this project and its volunteers as it prepares its budget next year by funding some of the projects and providing additional staff support. She thanked Council for its support.

Mayor Woodson thanked Ms. Perry, Ms. McHugh and Ms. Raker for their hard work on the BlockWork Project.

Councilmember Miller commented he thinks being part of project does something for the community because volunteers can later go through the neighborhood and remember their work and see its impact.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell noted Ms. Perry has served on many boards and commissions for the City and recently served as the model citizen for the Citizen’s Academy. She noted Ms. Perry is held in high esteem in the City, and she thanked her for her work.

**ROWAN-SALISBURY SCHOOL SYSTEM CENTRAL OFFICE**

Dr. Richard Miller, Chair of the Rowan-Salisbury School Board, and Mr. Anthony Vann, Assistant Superintendent for Special Services, presented a request to Council regarding assistance for the Central School Office project.
Dr. Miller stated it appears the project will finally be coming to fruition, and he anticipates this will be the last request regarding completion of the Central Office project. He indicated the best interest of the 20,000 students and 3,000 employees of the Rowan-Salisbury School System (RSSS) continues to be the School Board’s goal. He commented the School Board’s engagement with City Council has been beneficial, and he thanked Council for its partnership.

Dr. Miller indicated throughout discussions on the Central School Office $500,000 has been the amount Council offered to provide for this project. He added when the South Main Street site was considered the amount was more due to site costs and construction contributions by the City. He stated he hopes both the financial contribution and site costs are still possible provisions from City Council. Dr. Miller indicated the request before Council represents most of the costs that would have been Council’s at the South Main Street site, and he asked for consideration of appropriate funding for the North Main Street site.

Mayor Woodson stated he remembers giving an interview to the Salisbury Post approximately 10 years ago regarding this project. He noted this has been a long time coming, and he hopes the project will break ground soon. He pointed out Council previously discussed a grant of $500,000 that would be taken out of cash reserves. Mayor Woodson added Council has been fortunate to build its reserves from 12 percent to 25 percent, and he thinks this will be an image builder for the City and economic development for the downtown.

Councilmember Kennedy commented in 1989 he was President of the Salisbury City Schools Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and at that time there was a six cent tax levy to support the Salisbury City Schools. He asked Interim City Manager John Sofley to provide information regarding how much would have been spent during that period of time if the systems had not merged.

Mr. Sofley noted in 1989, prior to the merger, the City added six cents on top of its tax rate that was dedicated specifically for the Salisbury School district. He stated based on the assessed valuation in 1989 the six cents raised approximately $282,000. He pointed out based on today’s valuations the same six cents would be approximately $1.6 million. Mr. Sofley added if the City School System had not merged with the County and the City had only provided the $282,000 over the past 25 years, it would have been over $5 million dollars. Mayor Woodson noted it could have been even more because of the increase in assessed values and population.

Mr. Kennedy thanked Rowan County because it has saved the City approximately $5 million after the merger by taking on these costs.

Mayor Woodson asked Council if all members were in agreement to provide $500,000 as a financial contribution. By consensus, Council agreed.
Mayor Woodson asked Mr. Sofley to discuss the parking lot and other items in the School Board’s request. Mr. Sofley responded he has reviewed each of the items requested, and he noted for the Integro project the City provided improvements that were off-site, such as storm drains, sidewalks, water/sewer meters and curbing replacement. He added in reviewing this request he identified items that were in the public right-of-way and not just on-site improvements. He noted the areas identified in the public right-of-way:

- Storm drain extension down Cemetery Street - $78,810
- Sidewalks along Cemetery and North Main Streets - $44,382
- Water meter and associated taps - $5,000
- Wastewater taps - $15,000
- Fire hydrant - $2,500
- Parking spaces along Main Street - $10,000

Mr. Sofley stated employees at Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) currently park on the street and RSSS has indicated there will be adequate parking in their parking lot for the SRU employees. He added he thinks it is reasonable for SRU to provide assistance with the improvements in exchange for use of the parking lot.

Mr. Sofley commented the remaining items included in the request are valid, but he thinks the items he noted are the ones with which the City can assist. Mayor Woodson clarified the added items are approximately $156,000. Mr. Sofley noted these prices are based on the contract prices obtained by RSSS and are not City prices. He assured Council the items can be completed for less than the cost noted.

Councilmember Alexander asked if these improvements are included in the $500,000. Mr. Sofley stated they are not and would be in addition to the $500,000. He added Council would provide $500,000 in financial assistance and approximately $156,000 of in-kind assistance with City forces.

Councilmember Miller reiterated Council is considering:

- $500,000 cash contribution
- Storm drain extension - $78,810
- Sidewalk improvements - $44,382
- Water meter and taps - $5,000
- Wastewater taps - $15,000
- Fire hydrant - $2,500
- Parking on South Main Street - $10,000

Ms. Alexander asked if there is an estimate of the cost for City staff to provide these services. Mr. Sofley indicated he did not have the material cost for these items, but all are the types of projects the City does on a regular basis.
Mr. Miller clarified the City will perform the work with its staff rather than paying RSSS for the work through its contractor. Mr. Sofley confirmed this is correct.

Ms. Alexander noted the work will be done to City standards which are the same standards required of all development. She asked if this is similar to the incentive grants for firelines in the downtown area. Mr. Sofley noted he provided an economic impact study to Council for this project so they could understand the impact this facility could have on the downtown.

Dr. Miller noted all plans have been vetted and approved through the City's process and are to the City's standards. He estimated that for the additional items totaling $156,000 there is an approximate 50/50 split between labor and materials. He added while RSSS will get the benefit of $156,000 in assistance, the actual cost to the City will only be about half of that amount. Dr. Miller stated all bid amounts have been guaranteed and have been accepted by the School Board.

Ms. Alexander asked how the City will be able to assist with the in-kind items if the School Board has already signed contracts with contractors. Mr. Vann responded that these items were set aside as alternates and are not a part of the base bid and contracts.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated she was recently at a meeting with Dr. Lynn Moody, Superintendent, who mentioned there are still open teaching positions that have been vacant since the beginning of the year. Ms. Blackwell indicated there are classrooms that do not have a regular teacher and are still using substitutes. She stated she thinks there are factors such as salary and working conditions that keep teachers from applying, but she believes the impression the condition of the current Central Office gives is not a positive one. She added City students deserve to have regular teachers in their classrooms and good, qualified teachers. Ms. Blackwell commented she thinks having a professional environment to attract teachers will help in this endeavor.

Ms. Blackwell asked Mr. Vann how many Central Office locations are currently in use. Mr. Vann responded there are five. She then asked if he knew the cost of travel and electricity and maintaining the five offices. Mr. Vann responded the cost is astronomical and is a very inefficient way to operate.

Ms. Blackwell noted construction funds cannot be used for students, but the money spent on travel and electricity can be funneled to the students and used in a better way.

Dr. Miller indicated in 2011-2012 the estimate of what was spent on maintaining the five sites was an amount that would have repaid the lease of the building proposed at that time, but the plan was not approved.
Councilmember Miller stated when Council first learned the South Main Street site would not work, Mayor Woodson asked him if he would consider a cash contribution to make the new site work. He noted he initially thought the City's contribution was the site that was passed for the Central Office location, but he thinks for the good of the community and the entire County, this needs to be settled. He added the school systems merged 25 years ago, and he is convinced this is the right thing to do. Mr. Miller pointed out this is being funded out of the City's fund balance where the City has been able to save money, and he thinks this is an appropriate use of fund balance to do something that is right for the entire community. He added, although this is not Council's responsibility, it is the least Council can do to help the School System.

Ms. Alexander commented she is also in favor of the project for all the reasons stated. She stated she thinks any time there are below standard working conditions it sends a very bad message and this has been the message sent to employees, students and citizens of the community for 25 years. She noted she thinks the way the assistance is structured is excellent, and this is no different than any other $8 million economic development project that would go into the downtown. She stated Council was excited to have Integro, which was a $4 million project, and this is an $8 million project.

Mr. Kennedy indicated this is personal to him because he worked as part of the transition team to merge the two school systems. He added now, 25 years later, he is able to vote to build the consolidated Central Office. He stated this is long overdue, and he fully supports the project.

Mayor Woodson commented this building could have been built for $1 million less if it had been built on the City-owned property. He stated he thinks this is an economic investment tool for the County. He commented it will be a challenge for Council to replace the $500,000 to the fund balance, but he thinks this is a good use. Mayor Woodson indicated he thinks this is one of the most important votes he has been a part of in his 17 years on City Council, because it will change the image of the School System and the County.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a motion to approve financial support of the Central Office Building in the amount of $500,000. She further moved Council approve in-kind support of the Central Office Building that totals approximately $156,000. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL MASTER PLAN**

City Engineer Wendy Brindle reminded Council that in 2008 City Council adopted a Resolution of Support for the Carolina Thread Trail and committed to working with neighboring communities to plan, design and build a system of trails that would connect the communities, people, and special regional points of interest. She stated in 2013 the Carolina Thread Trail Steering Committee selected a consultant to begin the design, and it has now been completed. Ms. Brindle noted in October 2014 the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and Greenway Committee voted unanimously to recommend their support of the Plan to Council. She
introduced Ms. Randi Gates, Grants and Community Coordinator for Carolina Thread Trail to present the Master Plan for Rowan County communities to Council.

Ms. Gates explained the Carolina Thread Trail is a regional greenway and trail system connecting 15 counties, 11 in North Carolina and 4 in South Carolina, and an estimated 2.3 million people.

Ms. Gates noted Resolutions of Support were adopted by the towns of Cleveland, East Spencer, China Grove, Faith, Granite Quarry, Landis, Rockwell, Spencer, City of Kannapolis and the City of Salisbury along with the Civitan Clubs of Salisbury and Granite Quarry and the Salisbury/Rowan Runners Club. She reviewed the planning process that began in 2008 leading to the current phase of plan adoption by the municipal and governing boards.

Ms. Gates reviewed the Rowan County destinations that were determined during the community planning process:

- Catawba College
- Dan Nicholas Park
- East Branch Library
- High Rock Lake
- Rowan Public Library
- South Regional Library
- Spencer Public Library

She also reviewed a map of the proposed routes through Rowan County and Salisbury. She commented the paths only illustrate the connections between destinations and over time the exact routes will be determined based on community input and interested landowners. Ms. Gates pointed out the Carolina Thread Trail does not support eminent domain and will not provide grant funds to acquire land from an unwilling property owner, nor will they provide funding to construct a trail on property that has been acquired through eminent domain.

Ms. Gates indicated the Plan calls for 107.8 miles of proposed trail, 6.8 miles of which is existing trail, in Rowan County and Salisbury. She noted 49.3 percent of all children, 44.7 percent of all seniors, and 61.7 percent of low income households will be within one-half mile from the proposed routes.

Ms. Gates explained that if adopted, the Master Plan could be a benefit to the City by augmenting existing planning documents. She added its adoption also qualifies the City to receive catalytic funding from the Carolina Thread Trail, and she emphasized adoption does not commit the City to fund implementation of the plan. Ms. Gates noted the City will also be offered signage on one of the paths denoting it as part of the Carolina Thread Trail.

Councilmember Miller asked if there are funding sources available if sections are identified for economic development. Ms. Gates noted all of the funding provided from Carolina Thread Trail is in the form of grants and run on a grant cycle. She noted there were large donations to the Thread Trail in the early stages, but now they work on specific projects and raise
funds for those specific projects. She added those projects would not have to go through the grant application process. She stated their grant cycle is quarterly with the first application in 2015 being due January 9.

Councilmember Alexander asked if Carolina Thread Trail has certain phases it was most interested in and if there is a way for a community to know what project might be likely to receive funding. Ms. Gates stated it is different for each community depending on the type of trail to be built and other funding sources that might be available for the project.

Ms. Alexander referred to the demographic groups that would be within one-half mile to the proposed trail, and she asked if that is to the proposed trails. Ms. Gates noted they used the proposed trails and she does not have demographic information for what is actually on the ground.

Councilmember Kennedy clarified the Carolina Thread Trail would encompass the City’s Greenway. Ms. Gates indicated that is correct.

Mr. Miller commented this will give the City the ability to connect to other communities who might make similar investments, and he does not see a downside to the project especially in light of the Thread Trail’s stance on eminent domain.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a motion to adopt a Resolution to adopt the Carolina Thread Trail Greenway Master Plan for Salisbury. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CAROLINA THREAD TRAIL GREENWAY MASTER PLAN FOR ROWAN COUNTY COMMUNITIES.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 14 at Page No. 24, and is known as Resolution 2014-22)

FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION – NEW GRANTEE PROCESS

Transit Manager Rodney Harrison and Public Services Director Tony Cinquemani addressed Council regarding changes to how the City’s transit system applies for Federal funding. Mr. Harrison explained due to the 2010 Census and Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Initiative the City is required to complete a new grantee process to qualify for future Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) grants.

Mr. Harrison explained small urbanized areas are defined as urbanized areas with a population of at least 20,000 but less than 50,000. He added large urbanized areas are defined as areas with a population of at least 200,000. He stated due to the 2010 Census and Map-21 Initiatives, the Salisbury Transit System has been integrated into an existing large urbanized area. He added the Salisbury Transit System is now one of four transit systems represented by the Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which includes:
• Salisbury Transit System
• Rowan Transit System
• Cabarrus County Transit System
• CK Rider – Concord Kannapolis Transit System

Mr. Harrison noted CK Rider is the only transit system in the MPO that currently receives FTA Section 5307 funding. He reviewed the MAP-21 Formula Programs:

• Metropolitan and Statewide Planning (5303/5304)
• Urbanized Area Formula (5307)
  o Provides operating capital and planning funding
• Enhanced Mobility of Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Program (5310)
• Rural Area Formula Program (5311)
• State of Good Repair (5337)
• Bus and Bus Facilities Formula (5339)
  o Provides funding for busses and rehabilitating or developing bus-related transit facilities.

Mr. Harrison reviewed the funding impact and noted the Salisbury Transit System will move from the Community Transportation Program Grant Section 5311 to the Urbanized Area Formula Programs Section 5307. He pointed out the Urbanized Area Formula Programs Section 5307 is the largest FTA program affected by the changes. He explained 32 additional urbanized areas, with populations of over 50,000, were added to the program, but the funds were frozen.

Mr. Harrison stated the Salisbury Transit System must apply as a new grantee to receive Federal funding. He noted the first step was for staff to notify the FTA that the Salisbury Transit System would like to be considered for all types of FTA funding. He explained staff submitted documentation of legal, technical, financial, and Civil Rights Compliance to FTA for review and approval.

Councilmember Alexander asked how the new grant program will affect the City’s budget. Mr. Harrison explained staff is submitting an application, and the funding will be requested at a later date. He stated the 5307 allocations for FY2015 have not been approved. He added the current grant application is for FY2016. He stated the Salisbury Transit System will benefit if funding is released or if additional funding is added to Section 5307.

Ms. Alexander asked if the new grantee process is in addition to current funding. Interim City Manager John Sofley explained existing funding is no longer available and staff must reapply to secure funds. He pointed out current funding is frozen. He stated CK Rider is the only transit system in the MPO that currently receives FTA Section 5307 funding. He pointed out if Section 5307 funding is a fixed amount with additional entities deemed eligible for the funding, it can significantly impact the budget.
Councilmember Miller pointed out the Salisbury Transit System must be a part of this process to receive funding. He asked staff to make Council aware of the impact to the budget.

Mr. Sofley noted Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell serves on the MPO Board and is working on the City’s behalf. Ms. Blackwell stated Mr. Harrison will present the application to the MPO for its approval. She emphasized CK Rider currently receives all of the 5307 funding and could see the Salisbury Transit System as competition for the funding.

Mr. Miller noted it may be time to make Federal legislators aware of the situation and ask for their help to reduce the impact to citizens. Ms. Blackwell stated the MPO is working with its Federal legislators.

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a motion to adopt a Resolution authorizing the filing of applications with the Federal Transit Administration, an operating administration of the United States Department of Transportation, for Federal transportation assistance authorized by United States Code 49, Chapter 53, Title 23, and other Federal Statutes administered by the Federal Transit Administration. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF APPLICATIONS WITH THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION, AN OPERATING ADMINISTRATION OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR FEDERAL TRANSPORTATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZED BY UNITED STATES CODE 49, CHAPTER 53, TITLE 23, AND OTHER FEDERAL STATUTES ADMINISTERED BY THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 14 at Page No. 25-26, and is known as Resolution 2014-23)

SALISBURY TRANSIT SYSTEM - COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM GRANT APPLICATION

Public Services Director Tony Cinquemani and Transit Manager Rodney Harrison addressed Council regarding the FY2016 Community Transportation Program (CTP) Grant. Mr. Harrison noted the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) is allowing the Salisbury Transit System to apply for Community Transportation Program funding for FY2016.

Mr. Harrison stated due to the 2010 Census and Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) Initiative, FY2016 CTP Grant funding will be limited to administrative and capital expenses. He explained prior to FY2015, CTP Grant funding was a major operating source for Salisbury Transits System's administrative, operating, and capital budget. He explained the administrative request for FY2016 cannot exceed $139,000. He added the CTP Grant allows staff to apply for capital funding as needed. He emphasized there is no limit on the amount of capital funding for which the Salisbury Transit System can apply. He noted the CTP grant can ease the transition to 5307 funding.
Mr. Harrison discussed the projected funding allocations. He pointed out the local match did not change, and the State will cover the previously allocated Federal funding:

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Mr. Harrison then reviewed the CTP Grant funding request:

**FY2016**

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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$412,667</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

City’s Share $48,216

Mr. Harrison pointed out the Salisbury Transit System no longer receives operating funds from the CTP Grant. He explained operating expenses are eligible for Urbanized Area Formula Program Funding 5307.

Councilmember Miller pointed out the 5307 funding is currently frozen and more entities will be competing for the funds reducing the City’s chance to reach its current funding levels. Mr. Miller noted the City can apply for the funding, but it may not be granted. Mr. Harrison stated the Salisbury Transit System’s operating expenses are an 80 percent local match and 20 percent Federal match. He explained the 5307 funding would require a 50 percent match making it difficult to determine the impact to the budget.

Mr. Miller asked Interim City Manager John Sofley when he would have more information for Council regarding the impact to the budget. He pointed out when Council adopts its next budget it will need accurate figures.

Mr. Sofley noted accurate figures require agreement within the MPO. He explained the FTA must approve the City’s application and determine its eligible funding.

Mr. Miller asked if other communities within the MPO are dealing with this situation. Ms. Blackwell stated Salisbury is the only city in the MPO that is working toward an alternate funding source. She noted at the MPO meetings only municipalities within Rowan County may vote on items that affect municipalities in Rowan County. She emphasized Concord will not vote on this issue. Mr. Miller asked if CK Rider will have a vote. Ms. Blackwell stated CK Rider will have a vote. She explained it is administered out of Concord but includes part of Rowan County.

Mr. Sofley stated staff is going through the process and will keep Ms. Blackwell informed.
Mr. Harrison reviewed the Fixed Route Ridership from 2008 until 2014. He pointed out a decrease in ridership from FY2013 to FY2014 may be due to scheduling changes. He explained ridership increased from July through September 2014 by approximately 1,300 riders, or three percent over the same time last year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fixed Route</th>
<th>Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY2014</td>
<td>165,956</td>
<td>5,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2013</td>
<td>191,981</td>
<td>5,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2012</td>
<td>231,136</td>
<td>5,450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2011</td>
<td>220,278</td>
<td>7,292</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2010</td>
<td>182,294</td>
<td>7,587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2009</td>
<td>176,856</td>
<td>8,381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY2008</td>
<td>170,521</td>
<td>8,664</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ms. Blackwell asked which year the Salisbury Transit System lost its incentives for Code Red ozone days. Mr. Harrison stated Code Red incentives were granted for a few months in 2013. He added the ridership increased dramatically in 2010 and peaked in 2012 when Ozone Action Days were offered. He noted the grants provided free rides when the ozone levels reached orange or red status.

(b) Mayor Woodson convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding Salisbury Transit System's proposed 2016 Community Transportation Program Grant Application.

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

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a motion to adopt a Resolution seeking permission to apply for Community Transportation Program funding, and to enter into an agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation, to provide the necessary assurances and the required local match. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION SEEKING PERMISSION TO APPLY FOR COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FUNDING, ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, PROVIDE THE NECESSARY ASSURANCES AND THE REQUIRED LOCAL MATCH

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 14 at Page No. 27-28, and is known as Resolution 2014-24)
City Engineer Wendy Brindle explained Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) is a Federal program that helps fund transportation related projects to improve air quality. She noted the projects are awarded through the Cabarrus-Rowan Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and administered by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

Ms. Brindle displayed a map of the area, and she pointed out the proposed agreement is for the installation of sidewalks along one side of South Main Street between D Avenue and Rowan Mill Road. She noted the City’s portion of the funding will be $26,800, but it is not included in the current budget. She added the contract allows three years to complete the project so it can be funded in a future budget.

Councilmember Miller asked Ms. Brindle which side of South Main Street would receive the sidewalks. Ms. Brindle stated the location of the sidewalk will be determined in the design phase of the project.

Mr. Miller noted several years ago a development was proposed on South Main Street that would have required boring under the road to get water service to the development. He asked if water service is on both sides of South Main Street. He stated if enhancements are needed in the area it may be beneficial to complete them while the sidewalks are being constructed.

Mr. Sofley stated typically there is one water line within an area. He noted depending on the size of the road staff will cut through or bore under it to make the improvements to the area.

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a motion to authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a municipal agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation regarding sidewalks along South Main Street from D Avenue to Rowan Mill Road, Project C-4908 H. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

TEMPORARY USE OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY

City Engineer Wendy Brindle explained Section 22-50 of the City Code allows permits for the use of public rights-of-way for construction in the downtown area. She displayed a map of the area, and she pointed out Innes Street, Church Street, and St. John’s Lutheran Church.

Ms. Brindle noted St. John’s Lutheran Church is replacing the limestone façade and steps in front of the Church. She stated the request before Council is for a lane closure during construction. She added staff received approval from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) for the proposed street closure.
Ms. Brindle stated the lane closure is requested for the month of December from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. She pointed out the sidewalk will also be closed during this time. She indicated the lane will reopen all other hours. She added the construction area will be blocked with a four-foot fence.

Thereupon, Ms. Alexander made a motion per Section 22-50 of the City Code of Ordinance to approve a right-of-way use permit for the closure of the outside lane of westbound traffic and sidewalk in the 200 Block of West Innes Street between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. weekdays, beginning December 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2014. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

FIRE TRUCK PURCHASE

Purchasing Manager Anna Bumgarner and Fleet Services Manager Jake Sterling addressed Council regarding the purchase of pumper fire truck from Sutphen Corporation. Ms. Bumgarner explained North Carolina General Statute 143-129 (e)(3) states, local governments are allowed to purchase from a “formally organized program that offers competitively obtained purchasing services at discount prices to two or more public agencies.”

Ms. Bumgarner noted the contract was completed by Houston-Galveston Area Council, a purchasing program in Texas. She added Houston-Galveston Area Council offers their pricing to local governments across the United States. She stated Asheville and Burlington also purchased fire trucks using this contract.

Mr. Sterling stated Winston Salem recently bid a fire truck similar to the one the City is proposing to purchase. He noted the truck the City is considering is heavier and will carry more weight payload, it has more horse power, and a custom cabinet and chassis with a standard body that provides maximum space. He noted the proposed unit is built out of aluminum and the truck purchased by Winston Salem is stainless steel which is more expensive. Mr. Sterling pointed out the low bid for the Winston Salem fire truck was $505,957 and the truck the City is proposing to purchase came in at under $500,000.

Councilmember Kennedy asked if the purchase will replace a pumper truck. Mr. Sterling stated the purchase will replace a 1988 pumper truck. Mr. Kennedy asked what will happen to the old fire truck. Mr. Sterling noted the truck will be sold or donated to another agency or school.

Mayor Woodson asked about the value of a 1988 pumper truck. Mr. Sterling stated it has some value but the engine is obsolete. Mayor Woodson asked if the purchase is included in the budget. Interim City Manager John Sofley noted the purchase is included in the budget.

Thereupon, Ms. Alexander made a motion to approve the purchase of a pumper truck in the amount of $498,985.05. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)
PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Woodson opened the floor for public comment.

Ms. Sue McHugh, 910 North Main Street, stated the North Main neighborhood includes approximately 440 households. She noted the neighborhood is receiving numerous complaints regarding the appearance of the North Main Corridor, which is the last remaining residential corridor into the City. She pointed out the Central Office Building will be constructed on North Main Street bringing additional traffic to the area. She noted the neighborhood would like to see the curb along North Main Street trimmed. She pointed out there are many vacant houses in the area. She stated the home at 108 West Steel Street burned August 2013 and the garage in front of the home burned in 1998. She asked Council to take care of this blight to the neighborhood.

Mr. William Peoples, 522 North Fulton Street, addressed Council regarding parking in front of First Calvary Baptist Church. He noted the area needs traffic stripes. He added a police officer had a car towed that was parked in front of the Church after a funeral service. He emphasized clarification is needed for Church members and motorists, and it will make the area safer for the community. He pointed out a sidewalk is needed in the West End neighborhood. He noted there are projects in the West End community that were started but never completed. Mr. Peoples added there is supposed to be a sidewalk connection to Kelsey Scott Park but it never happened. He asked about sidewalks and street lights on Brenner Avenue. He stated police officers should issue tickets to the party at fault in a traffic accident to make it easier for the other party to file an insurance claim.

Mr. Ronnie Smith, 113 Canterbury Drive, thanked Council for its service to the community. He emphasized a new Central Office Building is needed for the Rowan-Salisbury School System (RSSS). He noted there are many unresolved questions and concerns regarding the project. He asked Council to consider a fully qualified and certified audit or investigation into the unresolved questions and concerns that surround the project.

There being no one else to speak, Mayor Woodson closed the public comment session.

Mayor Woodson asked Interim City Manager John Sofley to look into the grass growing over the curb along North Main Street.

Councilmember Alexander asked if the home at 108 West Steele Street is scheduled for demolition. Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated the home is scheduled for demolition in the coming weeks.

Councilmember Miller stated the Complete Streets Corridor Study included the area Mr. Peoples referenced. He asked Interim City Manager John Sofley to keep him informed as improvements are made to the area. Mayor Woodson stated there will be a meeting on Wednesday regarding the issue.

Councilmember Kennedy asked if any progress had been made regarding lights under the bridge on Old Concord Road. Mr. Sofley stated staff is still working to get lights installed under the bridge.
BOARDs AND COMmissions

Human Relations Council

Upon a motion by Mr. Woodson, seconded by Ms. Alexander, and with Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson and Messes. Alexander and Blackwell voting AYE, the following appointment was made to fulfill an unexpired term on the Human Relations Council:

Mr. William Matthews  Term expires 3-31-16

Human Relations Council

Upon a motion by Ms. Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Woodson, and with Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson and Messes. Alexander and Blackwell voting AYE, the following appointment was made to fulfill an unexpired term on the Human Relations Council:

Ms. Tamara Sheffield  Term expires 3-31-17

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Upon a motion by Mr. Woodson, seconded by Ms. Alexander, and with Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voting AYE, the following appointment was made to fulfill an unexpired term on to the Zoning Board of Adjustment as a City Alternate Member:

Mr. Tom Staats  Term Expires 03/31/15

Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Woodson, and with Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission effective January 1, 2015:

Mr. Matt Barr  Term expires 12/31/17

Tourism Development Authority

Upon a motion by Mr. Blackwell, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Tourism Development Authority as Hotelier.

Ms. Suzanne Jones  Term expires 12/31/17
UPDATE – SIDEWALKS

Councilmember Miller asked if Ms. Brindle could address Council regarding the project on South Main Street and why it appears some projects move ahead of others that are on hold. Ms. Brindle explained the project on South Main Street and the recent projects on Jake Alexander Boulevard are funded by Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) using Federal funds. She added when the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) sends municipal agreements, they are time sensitive and the City could lose the funding. She added the agreements are scheduled based on applications to the MPO. She added staff has submitted an application for sidewalks on Old Wilkesboro Road, but the project has not been approved. She added staff is considering alternatives for the area. She noted the projects that received precedence have time sensitive funding sources.

INTERIM CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS

(a) Demographic and Poverty Update

Interim City Manager John Sofley asked Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission Executive Director Robert Van Geons to address Council regarding poverty in the area. Mr. Van Geons pointed out there has been an increase in the labor force and a drop in the number of unemployed in Rowan County. He stated the total number employed has risen to 63,832. He emphasized the numbers are improving, but Rowan County has a long way to go. He added citizens are underemployed and others are experiencing long-term unemployment.

Mr. Van Geons reviewed the unemployment rate from 2006 to 2014, and he pointed out the current unemployment rate is 6.1 percent. He compared the unemployment rates of Rowan County, Charlotte Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) and statewide. He added an unemployment rate is not a good measure of economic activity in the community. He explained the number of people employed is the best measure when comparing diverse geographies and populations. He stated Rowan County has remained close to Charlotte MSA and statewide employment rates.

Mr. Van Geons referenced the unemployment rate from 2008 to 2014. He pointed out the unemployment rate peaked in 2009. He explained unemployment is based on the work status of those that live in the community. He added it is important to understand where citizens work and who works in our community. He reviewed a map of Rowan County workforce patterns and he pointed out 20,871 people travel to Rowan County each day to work, 21,292 people live and work in Rowan County and 30,722 travel outside the County to work. He then reviewed the work patterns for the City. He noted one-third of citizens live and work in the City. He pointed out slightly more than half of Rowan County’s employment occurs within the City limits.

Mr. Van Geons referenced the American Community Survey three-year estimates. He stated when the last survey results were presented, the City received attention regarding its poverty rate. He reviewed the poverty rate over time, and he pointed out a huge increase in the poverty level from 2009 to 2010. He stated the City has grown physically, diversely, and in population, adding approximately 10,000 people during the last 10 years.
Mr. Van Geons reviewed the American Community Survey’s newly released data. He pointed out the poverty rate for all people dropped by five percent:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2012 ACS</th>
<th>2013 ACS</th>
<th>Percent Improvement</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All People</td>
<td>28 %</td>
<td>23 %</td>
<td>5 %</td>
<td>18 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 18 years</td>
<td>42 %</td>
<td>32 %</td>
<td>9 %</td>
<td>22 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related children under 18 years</td>
<td>42 %</td>
<td>32 %</td>
<td>9 %</td>
<td>22 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related children under 5 years</td>
<td>46 %</td>
<td>35 %</td>
<td>10 %</td>
<td>22 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related children 5 to 17 years</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>31 %</td>
<td>9 %</td>
<td>23 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 years and over</td>
<td>24 %</td>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>3 %</td>
<td>14 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 64 years</td>
<td>27 %</td>
<td>23 %</td>
<td>4 %</td>
<td>15 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People in families</td>
<td>26 %</td>
<td>20 %</td>
<td>6 %</td>
<td>24 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All families</td>
<td>24 %</td>
<td>19 %</td>
<td>5 %</td>
<td>21 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With related children under 18 years</td>
<td>37 %</td>
<td>29 %</td>
<td>8 %</td>
<td>21 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married couples families</td>
<td>10 %</td>
<td>8 %</td>
<td>3 %</td>
<td>26 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With related children under 18 years</td>
<td>14 %</td>
<td>8 %</td>
<td>6 %</td>
<td>42 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Families with female householder</td>
<td>48 %</td>
<td>40 %</td>
<td>8 %</td>
<td>17 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With related children under 18 years</td>
<td>56 %</td>
<td>49 %</td>
<td>7 %</td>
<td>13 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With related children under 5 years only</td>
<td>55 %</td>
<td>46 %</td>
<td>9 %</td>
<td>16 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr. Van Geons pointed out the economic recovery will take time. He noted on the last survey regarding the overall poverty rate, the State dropped one percent, the County gained one-tenth of a percentage point, and the City gained five percentage points.

Mayor Woodson stated the City is approximately five percent better than it was. Mr. Van Geons clarified five percentage points better. Mr. Sofley pointed out there has been an 18 percent improvement or five percentage points.

Mr. Van Geons noted there has been significant development in the area including Gildan, New Sarum, Integro, and new retail development. He noted the jobs are coming but the process takes time. He added project construction takes time and new workers must be trained.

Mayor Woodson thanked Mr. Van Geons for his presentation.

**MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) **Holiday Night Out**

Mayor Woodson announced the Rowan County Tourism Development Authority will host Holiday Night Out Friday, November 28, 2014, from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. in downtown Salisbury.
CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Woodson asked for a motion to go into closed session to consult with an attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3).

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a motion to go into closed session to consult with an attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3). Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

Mayor Woodson announced no action was taken during closed session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Blackwell seconded by Mr. Kennedy. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Mayor

Myra B. Heard, City Clerk