

Salisbury, North Carolina
February 18, 2020

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Karen Alexander, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Al Heggins; Council Members David Post and Tamara Sheffield; Assistant City Manager Zack Kyle; Deputy City Clerk Tiffany Crook; and City Attorney J. Graham Corriher.

ABSENT: Council Member William Brian Miller; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; and City Clerk Diane Gilmore.

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 those present in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Alexander welcomed all visitors present.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Alexander noted the following changes to the Agenda;

Add – Proclamation for African American History Month.

Add – New Agenda item 14-Discussion regarding contractor parking in the Central City Lot.

Add – Council will go into Closed Session to consult with an attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3).

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Thereupon, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins made a **motion** to adopt the Agenda with the presented changes. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins; and Councilmembers Post and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the Special meeting of January 21, 2020 and the Regular meeting of February 4, 2020.

(b) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Grant Funds

Adopt a Budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2019-2020 budget in the amount of \$71,214 to appropriate \$5,500 in Joint Operations funds from the Secret Service, \$12,000 from the Salisbury Community Foundation for the purchase of bicycles, \$2,500 from a Walmart donation, and a \$51,214 Community Impact Grant from the United Way.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2019-2020 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE GRANT FUNDS

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 14 and is known as Ordinance 2020-13.)

(c) North Carolina Department of Transportation Agreement

Authorize the City Engineer to accept agreements with the North Carolina Department of Transportation regarding maintenance of signs (Schedule A), marking and markers (Schedule B), traffic signals (Schedule C), and the computerized traffic signal system (Schedule D).

(d) 915 Maple Avenue Grant

Authorize a Storm water Grant in the amount of \$5,275 to Darlene Pendergrass for improvements at 915 Maple Avenue.

(e) North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Grant

Set a public hearing for Tuesday, March 3, 2020 to receive public comment on a proposed application for a North Carolina Rural Infrastructure Grant in the amount of \$110,000 for Project Toaster.

(f) Budget Ordinance Amendment- Public Art and Dixonville-Lincoln Memorial Project

Adopt budget Ordinance amendment to FY2019-2020 budget in the amount of \$10,000 to appropriate \$5,000 to Public Art and \$5,000 to the Dixonville-Lincoln Memorial Project.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2019-2020 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE FUND BALANCE FOR PUBLIC ART AND DIXONVILLE-LINCOLNTON MEMORIAL PROJECT

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 15, and is known as Ordinance 2020-14.)

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

Ms. Mary Rosser thanked Council for its support of an Ordinance to expand the Greenway Committee. She handed out documents regarding guidelines for cyclists and pedestrians and asked if Council was familiar with the Vision Zero Program. She explained the program is a commitment to decrease roadway fatalities that has been adopted by communities across the country. She encouraged Council to explore the program for Salisbury.

Ms. Patty Fogt stated she is one of several nurses at the Veteran's Affairs (VA) Hospital who helped to create a natural hand sanitizer business in the City. She stated she would like the business to be involved with the Cheerwine Festival and also host contests allowing businesses and individuals to display art in front of local businesses to be judged. She stated the program would allow citizens to view art and winners to collect trophies.

There being no one else to address Council, Mayor Alexander closed the public comment session. She thanked everyone who spoke during the public comment session.

LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION - GRUBB-SIGMON-WEISIGER HOUSE

Senior Planner Catherine Garner addressed Council regarding the proposed designation of the Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House located at 213 South McCoy Road as a Local Historic Landmark. She provided an overview of the Local Historic Landmarks Program which is authorized by State Statutes to allow municipalities to designate local historic districts and landmarks. She explained landmarks are deemed by the local preservation commission to be of special significance that retains integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and/or association.

Ms. Garner reviewed the consequences of designation:

- Property owner is eligible to apply for a 50% property tax deferral annually provided the property's important historic features are maintained
- Property becomes protected under Salisbury's Historic Design Guidelines
 - Owners of local landmarks are required to obtain a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) from the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) before making any significant change or addition to the property; before beginning new construction; or before demolishing or relocating the landmark

Ms. Garner explained the Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House is a Queen Anne-style farmhouse, and she noted applicant Karen Lilly-Bowyer will address Council on behalf of the property owners Roy and Norma Campbell. She explained the HPC voted (4-1-1) that the proposed landmark meets all requisite criteria for special significance and integrity criteria as set forth in the North Carolina General Statutes (N.C.G.S.).

Ms. Garner displayed a map of the area, and she pointed out the property which includes three separate parcels that were combined. She added the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) recommends the main house, guest house, and a playhouse be landmarked. She noted the garage was built in 2000 and does not contribute to the historic landmark quality. She displayed photographs of the property, and she reviewed the designation process:

- April 2018 HPC approved pre-application
- December 2018 a Survey and Research Report was completed and sent to SHPO
 - 30 days to comment required by law
- January 2020 SHPO returns letter of comment
- February 2020 HPC recommends property for landmark designation

Ms. Lilly-Bowyer explained the property was built in 1910 and the architectural integrity has been maintained. She reviewed the history of the property and the chain of ownership. She stated the Grubb-Sigmon Weisiger House was recognized the by National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

Councilmember Post asked about the HPC's vote on the property designation. Ms. Garner explained four HPC members voted to recommend approval, one voted no, and one voted to

abstain. Mr. Post asked if there was any discussion regarding the no vote. Ms. Garner explained there was discussion regarding whether the home meets landmark quality criteria. She added the HPC requested additional training from the State regarding how to judge properties for historical qualities. She explained she reached out to the SHPO regarding additional training, but has not received a response.

Ms. Lilly-Bowyer stated there was concern because the property has been rotated. She explained the house was rotated 45 degrees to face McCoy Road and because the house was rotated and not actually moved it qualified for the designation. Mayor Alexander clarified the house was qualified by the National Register of Historic Places, and she asked if the property was approved by the State Historic Preservation. Ms. Lilly-Bowyer agreed.

Councilmember Post asked about the motivation for the designation. He indicated he thought of historic houses as being in districts, and he asked for clarification regarding designating one house at a time.

Ms. Lilly-Bowyer stated in order for a house to qualify for historic designation it has to meet certain criteria such as the architectural significance of the property. She added the home is a Queen Anne-style farm house which is rare in the City. She explained a property can be recognized for cultural reasons or because of a particular person who lived in the home. She noted the national historic designation does not provide real protection for the property, but the local historic designation provides a tax benefit. She explained Mr. and Ms. Campbell want the property preserved and requests the extra level of protection from the City.

Mayor Alexander asked when the training for HPC members would take place. Ms. Garner explained the state provides certified local government training throughout the year. She added the HPC has expressed an interest in training to help it determine what makes a potential landmark as opposed to a contributor to a district.

Councilmember Sheffield noted the applicant has demonstrated the burden of proof regarding the structure of the home and the significance of the previous owners. She commented other applicants have received the designation. She agreed that guidelines should be put in place. She noted the HPC approved the request, and she does not see a reason to delay the process.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins agreed with Ms. Sheffield. She noted the City is not placing a burden on the homeowners who are requesting the designation. She commented the homeowners are requesting a protection the City has in place. She added the board approved the request, although it was not a unanimous decision, and she stated she would not want Council to delay the vote.

Mayor Alexander asked if the applicant is required to go through the process with the County because the property tax rate on the home will be reduced by 50%. Ms. Lilly-Bowyer explained anything designated within the City as a historic landmark is acceptable to the Rowan County Landmark Commission. She added the Rowan County Landmark Commission cannot designate anything within the limits of municipalities.

Councilmember Post asked for examples of stand-alone local historic designations in the City. Ms. Garner stated the Depot, the Empire Hotel and the Bowyer House are the only three. She explained the Depot and the Empire Hotel are located in the City's National Historic District, and the Bowyer House, located at 1604 Statesville Boulevard, is not in the Local Historic District but is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

Councilmember Post indicated additional training has been requested and he is troubled by one house in a neighborhood making the application. He pointed out many homes in the City are 50 years old or older. Ms. Lilly-Bowyer stated individual landmark designations are important because not all significant properties are located in a national district. Ms. Sheffield noted the homes that are not in a landmark district are more fragile and more likely to be destroyed or sold. She added the HPC approved the request and she does not see a reason to deny it.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins stated the applicants have followed the process the City has in place, and Council should not change the rules arbitrarily.

(b) Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing after due notice regarding the designating the Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House located at 213 South McCoy Road as a Local Historic Landmark.

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

City Attorney Graham Corriher reminded Council with the absence of Councilmember Miller a unanimous vote will be required for the Ordinance to pass. He added if the item does not receive a unanimous vote but is passed by a simple majority, it must come back for a second reading on March 3, 2020.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked if the item could be voted down on a second reading if it passes by three votes tonight. Mr. Corriher noted the vote would require a simple majority at the second reading.

Thereupon, Councilmember Sheffield made a **motion** adopt an Ordinance designating the Grubb-Sigmon-Weisiger House, located at 213 South McCoy Road in Salisbury North Carolina, as a Local Historic Landmark.

Councilmember Post indicated he intended to vote no and added Councilmember Sheffield and Mayor Pro Tem Heggins make strong arguments regarding the need to follow procedures, but there is uncertainty and the HPC and staff are requesting assistance to develop a procedure. He commented he would rather the entire Council be present for the vote. Ms. Heggins stated the applicant should be able to go through the process while the City is requesting help to develop a procedure. She commented it seems unfair to ask citizens who are going through the process to wait. Ms. Sheffield stated she plans to vote in favor of the designation.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins and Councilmember Sheffield voted AYE and Mayor Alexander and Councilmember Post voted NAY. (2-2)

Ms. Lilly-Bowyer noted the property went through the process and received the same accreditation from Raleigh as the Depot and the Empire Hotel. She pointed out the City has received four applications. Mayor Alexander explained the ones that were designated are significant commercial properties. She added she is concerned the City does not have clear local guidelines in place. She pointed out it is not only about the landmark designation but also about the 50% reduction in the property tax rate. She added Council must be careful because there are significant properties in the City that are already in designated historic districts.

Mayor Alexander stated she would like for Council to have a process in place. Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked for clarification regarding the process. Ms. Garner explained the process is outlined by the state and the General Statutes. She explained the program was started under a previous staff member and she is unsure of the training that took place. She noted the HPC has requested additional training regarding how to evaluate the proposals and pick the best to be brought to Council for its consideration. She added additional work needs to be done so the City can remain a leader in historic preservation. Ms. Heggins noted the City has a process, but there are questions regarding the procedure. She asked if the whole board requested additional training to make a decision about the property. Ms. Garner noted several board members expressed a need for additional training.

Mayor Alexander clarified even though a property has met the national and state criteria it is at the discretion of the municipality to determine whether the property is significant enough to grant the property tax credit. She added Council is requesting to delay the vote until there is a clear methodology and matrix in place. She pointed out historic district designations do not include tax credits.

Mr. Corriher clarified the 2-2 vote means the motion fails and the item does not come back for a second reading. He added the power to deny the application includes the power to send the application back to the HPC for further study. Mr. Post stated he is willing to withdraw the prior vote. Mr. Corriher stated a motion would be needed to reconsider the prior vote.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to reconsider the prior vote to keep the item alive. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins and Councilmembers Post and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

Mr. Corriher explained the motion would be to defer consideration to a time certain or to defer consideration indefinitely and bring the proposal back to Council when it is ready. Ms. Garner asked if the proposal would be considered by Council or reconsidered by the HPC. Mr. Corriher stated Council requested the HPC review the item in light of the requests for further training regarding the landmark status. Ms. Garner questioned if the HPC could reconsider the item since it held a quasi-judicial hearing and nothing substantial changed with the application. Mr. Corriher suggested Council defer consideration until March 3, 2020 to allow him time to determine the appropriate process. He clarified the prior vote was reconsidered and the first hearing will require a super majority.

Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to defer original consideration until Council's March 3, 2020 meeting. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins and Councilmembers Post and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

UPDATE- 2020 REVENUE BOND

Finance Director Shannon Moore introduced Financial Advisor Chad Corwin of Hilltop Securities, Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) Director Jim Behmer, and Assistant SRU Director Jason Wilson.

Mr. Wilson stated in 2016 his department requested design proposals from engineering firms for waste water treatment improvements at the Grants Creek Waste Water Treatment (WWT) facility. He noted Council offered preliminary authorization in 2017 and staff worked with engineers on final design to bid the project.

Mr. Wilson explained the project will include screening and pumping structures, yard improvements, pump stations, and accessory buildings to upgrade the facility and allow it to operate more efficiently. He presented photographs of existing facilities and compared them to the proposed plan. He pointed out structures located in flood plains and affected by recent flooding. He stated the new plan would relocate these structures to higher ground and away from areas prone to flooding. Mr. Behmer added the upgrades are not solely to prevent flooding as many structures have surpassed their service life.

Mr. Wilson noted the Water Treatment Plant is undergoing improvements to include a dewatering system, filter and backwash upgrades, piping, and site work that will improve efficiency. He displayed photographs of the facility and compared them to the proposed plan.

Mr. Wilson stated bid tabulations for each project were completed separately and the combined engineering estimate is approximately \$31 million. He mentioned the water project was under budget but not enough to off-set the over budget estimate for the waste water project. He noted the total construction cost for both projects is approximately \$34 million.

Ms. Moore pointed out the maximum bond amount was set to \$35 million in the application to the Local Government Commission (LGC). She explained staff received bids before submitting the application and were only seeking the construction cost of the projects in the bond issue. She noted staff was able to keep the debt to a reasonable pay back amount.

Ms. Moore indicated the term for the loan is expected to be for 25 years and the loan would refund the 2009 and 2010 bonds to allow additional savings. She explained the City received three bids from consulting firms to conduct a feasibility study which came back favorable and revealed the City would not have to raise water and sewer rates to pay back the debt.

Ms. Moore noted staff would come back to Council for the adoption of a resolution for the bond order authorizing the LGC to sell the bonds. She added the anticipated close date is March 26, 2020.

Ms. Moore explained the City's existing debt is approximately \$3.9 million and in FY 2021 approximately \$650,000 will reach maturation. She noted the remaining debt would mature in FY 2028 and does not include the estimated refinancing savings on the 2009 and 2010 bonds which is approximately \$150,000 per year. She stated debt payments for the 2020 revenue bond will start next fiscal year at approximately \$1.6 million and then \$1.98 million every year after until FY 2045.

Ms. Moore noted the total debt service for 2021 with new funds added will be approximately \$4.9 million which is lower than the total debt service for FY 2011-2014. She pointed out in FY 2011 the debt service was \$6.5 million and 26.6% was the water and sewer budget. She mentioned for FY 2021 the water and sewer budget is expected to be approximately 18.9% of the debt service balance.

Mr. Corwin stated the transaction is well timed due to historically low interest rates. He mentioned the current rate for a 25 year loan is slightly below 3% which is very reasonable.

Mr. Behmer indicated staff will bring bid recommendations and a bond order to Council for its consideration.

UPDATE- 2020 UNITED STATES CENSUS

Mr. Peter Faison from the Census Bureau explained the 2020 United States Census has two huge impacts to the community: political power and the \$675 billion that is distributed across the country annually. He stated the outcome of the Census will determine which communities receive funds for low income housing, education grants, head start programs, unemployment insurance, school supplemental programs and medical assistance programs.

Mr. Faison stated the most important goal of the Census is to make sure everyone is counted. He mentioned the most critical aspect of the job is locating people who are hard to find and persuading them to give an interview. He noted the Census would like to partner with local communities to relay information and help citizens understand the importance of the Census.

Mr. Faison indicated the Census Bureau conducted a study in 2018 regarding the barriers to gaining maximum Census participation and the outcome exposed a massive mistrust of the government. He stated once individuals were educated and aware of how the data would affect their daily lives, there was a 70% greater chance of participation in the Census.

Mr. Faison stated the outcome of the Census will affect everyone for the next 10 years and there is a great need for assistance to contact veterans, the homeless, and other organizations that provide services to these groups of people. He mentioned it is usually the most vulnerable individuals who are in need of services who do not get counted.

Mr. Faison pointed out there are 44 days before the Census date of April 1, 2020 and 24 days before the initial mailings. He explained starting March 12, 2020 every address in the country will receive an invitation that will contain a URL and a telephone number that will allow for

participation in the Census. He stated everyone will be able to participate whether or not they have a Census Identification (ID).

Mr. Faison stated people often question the security of their information, and he noted every Census employee takes a lifelong oath to protect personal information. He mentioned personal information is never released to the public or to other government agencies. He explained the only information that can be released is statistical data which is all that remains after a person responds. He added personal data is automatically deleted.

Mr. Faison referenced information he distributed to Council regarding talking points leaders can provide via telephone, during speeches, and public engagements to spread the word about the Census. He stated everyone should work together to get the most accurate count possible to bring resources to the communities that need them the most.

Mayor Alexander asked how the City plans to get information to the non-English speaking population. Communications Director Linda McElroy stated her team is part of a larger County Steering Committee who met with representatives from the Hispanic community. She noted the Communications Department is also using multiple languages to inform citizens of the Census and how to respond.

Mayor Alexander asked about the national response rate for the Census. Mr. Faison stated that most states average 60%, and the rate for North Carolina in 2010 was approximately 78%. He noted overall the state does very well getting the word out and educating people about the Census.

Ms. McElroy stated computers are set up throughout the City and County to allow people who do not have access to computers to participate in the Census online. She mentioned people can also go to their local library to respond and additional locations will be shared as part of a ROCO alert on April 1, 2020.

Mr. Faison stated Census day is April 1, 2020, but people will be able to self-respond from March 12, 2020 through July 31, 2020.

Mayor Alexander and Mayor Pro Tem Heggins thanked the Census team for all of their hard work.

UPDATE - SALISBURY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Police Chief Jerry Stokes reviewed the Salisbury Police Department staffing and crime statistics.

Chief Stokes compared crime statistics for 2018 and 2019, and he pointed out a decrease in homicides, commercial robberies and assault with a dangerous weapon. He noted an increase in rape, individual robberies, and shooting into occupied dwellings. He added the overall violent crime decreased by nearly 16% and shots fired calls increased by 5%. He commented property crimes decreased by 13%, and the overall total Part 1 crime decreased by 13%.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked if any hotels have camera footage sent to the Police Department. Chief Stokes commented staff is in beginning stage on that project and is receiving equipment.

Chief Stokes commented the homicide rate is down compared to homicides in 2018, and he added total violent crime and total Part 1 crime numbers are at a 20-year low. He reviewed the violent crime, gun crime, and gun seizure statistics from the past several years of 2015-2019. He noted the Summer Cease Fire Program in coordination with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) seemed to assist in decreasing those statistics.

Chief Stokes pointed out crime and disorder directly affects property values and intangible costs. He indicated a single murder costs citizens \$531 to \$1,020 in higher taxes, higher insurance premiums, and lower property values. He added other crimes that increase cost to the City include robbery at \$48,869 to \$219,286; aggravated assault \$58, 295 to \$105,545; and burglary \$5,430 to \$30, 197.

Chief Stokes explained the focused deterrence and hot spot policing model. He commented the model includes prevention, intervention, and enforcement for people, places and behaviors.

Chief Stokes pointed out the Federal government has mandated the United States to report crime through the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) instead of through the Uniform Crime Reporting System the Police Department used. He added NIBRS is incident and people based for crime reports while the Uniform Crime Reporting System was based on events. He explained if three cars were broken into in the same area NIBRS would report it as one larceny from an auto incident with three victims instead of three reports for larceny from auto theft. He noted his concerns of comparing data during the reporting changes.

Mayor Alexander asked if the City's reporting system is now aligned with what has been requested. Chief Stokes agreed, and he noted the City had to align with the new reporting system in order to receive grants.

Councilmember Post asked if the Federal government is providing assistance in the migration of the old data into the new reporting format. Chief Stokes commented assistance has not been offered.

Chief Stokes provided updates to the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) Public Safety Partnership (PSP) engagement that will end in March. He stated he hoped to move from a diagnostic site to an operations site, but the DOJ is not accepting applications for new PSP operations. He noted the City applied in 2019 to be an operations site, but has not heard back.

Chief Stokes pointed out the City has engaged with a DOJ entity, Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (Cri-TAC). He noted staff participated in training and technical assistance related to data management. He added Cri-TAC will be available for support. He commented the Police Department was awarded the DOJ Policing Innovation Grant in 2019 for a two year training and technical assistance grant.

Chief Stokes explained the Police Department answered 51,739 calls for service in 2019 that resulted in:

- 1,951 arrests
 - 47 commitments (not included in the arrest number)
 - 508 felonies
 - 1,443 misdemeanors
- 3,786 citations issued
- 10.3% of total arrests are homeless individuals
- 4.3% of total citations are issued to homeless individuals

Chief Stokes explained the top five calls for service in 2019 were vehicle stops, 911 hang up calls/misdials, suspicious persons or vehicle, foot patrol, and vehicle collisions.

Councilmember Sheffield asked how shots fired are reported and recorded. Chief Stokes commented shots fired are recorded by someone calling to report them, and staff will investigate. Councilmember Sheffield asked if vehicle backfires create an increase in the numbers of shots fired and makes it seem the City has more calls than it should. Chief Stokes agreed, and he added there is software that can differentiate between an actual shot fired and a car backfiring, but it would not be cost effective for the City.

Chief Stokes pointed out the top five reported offenses in 2019 were larceny, miscellaneous, drug offense, other criminal offenses, and simple assault.

Chief Stokes stated 45 administrative employee conduct reviews took place in 2019 including 21 generated in house and 25 generated as a result of citizen complaints. He added body camera use audits were conducted and found police officers may not be using their body cameras when they should although it was not with any malicious intent.

Chief Stokes indicated forced incidents have decreased by 5.9% from 2018 and decreased 46.7% since 2016. He commented training and accountability are reasons the reduction in the forced incidents are seen.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked if the forced application data included school resource officers. Chief Stokes agreed, and he added the data includes any officer in the department. Mayor Pro Tem Heggins asked for a breakdown of forced incidents involving school resource officers. Chief Stokes noted he will get the information to Council.

Chief Stokes reviewed the Community Action Team's goals and progress:

- Goal: 95% staffing rate for authorized sworn officer positions by 2018
 - Progress: Currently 98.7% staffing
- Goal: Reduce gun violence and assault by 5% annually
 - Progress: Homicides down 67% in 2019
 - Progress: Assault with dangerous weapon/firearms down 44% in 2019

Chief Stokes explained the 2019 Santa Patrol devoted 702 police officer staff hours to the initiative from Black Friday through the end of the year. He indicated there was a cost of \$21,337.26 in overtime funding. He pointed out 15 traffic citations, 20 misdemeanor arrests, and 10 felony arrests took place.

Chief Stokes commented 18 police officers from the City have been requested by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department to assist at the Republican National Convention in Charlotte August 24-27, 2020.

Mayor Alexander thanked Chief Stokes and the Police Department for all it does for the community including their hard work in receiving \$71,000 in grants.

ORDINANCE – GREENWAY COMMITTEE

Parks and Recreation Director Nick Aceves asked Council for an ordinance amendment to change the name of the Greenway Committee to the Greenway, Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee. He requested membership be increased from nine members to 11 members to allow the new committee to receive applications and establish new committee rules and responsibilities.

Thereupon, Councilmember Sheffield made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 16, Article V, of the Code of the City of Salisbury, relating to renaming the Greenway Committee and the number of members serving on the committee. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins, and Councilmembers Post and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 16, ARTICLE V, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, RELATING TO THE GREENWAY COMMITTEE.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 29 at Page No. 16, and is known as Ordinance 2020-15.)

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Housing Advocacy Commission

Upon a motion by Councilmember Post. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins and Councilmembers Post and Sheffield voting AYE, the following re-appointment was made to the Housing Advocacy Commission:

Ms. Anne Lyles

Term Expires 03/31/2023

Transportation Advisory Board

Upon a motion by Councilmember Post, Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins and Councilmembers Post and Sheffield voting AYE, the following re-appointment was made to the Community Appearance Commission:

Ms. Tammara Walker
Mr. Quentin Woodward, Jr.

Term Expires 03/31/2023

Term Expires 03/31/2023

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

City Attorney Graham Corriher indicated he had nothing to report to Council.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

(a) Contractor Parking in the Central City Lot

City Engineer Wendy Brindle addressed Council regarding a request for a right-of-way use permit for Central Piedmont Builders who is working on two buildings at 112-114 East Innes Street and 120 East Innes Street. She added the permit would allow two spaces on East Innes Street directly in front of the buildings to be used solely for construction through the end of August.

Mayor Alexander asked if there are any businesses open in that area. Ms. Brindle commented the vacant building is the former Kay Dee jewelry store.

Councilmember Sheffield asked if the three dedicated parking spaces are still available behind the building. Ms. Brindle pointed out the owner owns a total of five spaces already used for construction purposes. Councilmember Sheffield asked if the contractor requested two additional parking spaces through August. Ms. Brindle agreed.

Councilmember Post asked if the new business owner next door was contacted. Ms. Brindle commented the owner has not been contacted due to the ordinance only allowing the request of the parking spaces directly adjacent to the building. She added the contractor would have to receive approval from the other business owners if more space within the block is needed.

Mayor Alexander noted the parking spaces should only be used during construction. Ms. Brindle agreed, and she added it is a right-of-way use permit for construction purposes.

Ms. Brindle commented the vehicles parking in those spaces have to be actively used in the construction and not just parked in the spaces. Mayor Alexander pointed out it is not for convenience parking. Ms. Brindle agreed.

Councilmember Sheffield asked about work hours and restrictions. Ms. Brindle noted there are not any restrictions indicated, but Council can request restrictions if needed.

Councilmember Sheffield commented she is concerned the proposed section is for two parking spaces that are located in a busy area in the City through the month of August.

Councilmember Sheffield asked if those parking spaces would be used during the Cheerwine Festival. Ms. Brindle commented Council can add restrictions as it has been done in the past due to certain downtown events.

Mayor Alexander asked about reducing the timeframe the parking spaces would be used. Ms. Brindle commented there is an option for the contractor to return for renewal based on needs. Councilmember Sheffield commented the parking should be available on the weekends. Mayor Alexander agreed, and she suggested a regular work week and hours timeframe.

Mayor Alexander asked if any time restrictions have been set in the permit. Ms. Brindle stated specific restrictions have not been set. City Attorney Graham Corriher pointed out conditions can be placed regarding the hours the contractor has a permit to use those spaces.

Councilmember Sheffield expressed concerns regarding a dumpster being placed on the street instead of vehicle parking. Ms. Brindle commented the permit can be modified for vehicle only and the contractor would be required to submit a dumpster request.

Mayor Alexander suggested limiting the permit to vehicle only and adding a specific timeframe for use. Ms. Brindle asked if the restrictions would be for week days and specific hours. Councilmember Sheffield suggested 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Councilmember Post clarified Council stated vehicles only unless the request is specific for a dumpster. Council unanimously agreed.

Assistant City Manager Zack Kyle asked about the timeframe through the end of August. Mayor Alexander noted the timeframe should be shortened and submitted for Council's review. Councilmember Sheffield suggested a three month time frame. Ms. Brindle asked if the permit will extend through May. Council unanimously agreed.

Thereupon, Councilmember Sheffield made a **motion** to approve a parking permit with the conditions established. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins, and Councilmembers Post and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Community Planning Open House

Mayor Alexander announced Community Planning Services is hosting three open house input sessions for members of the community to weigh in on a Vision for the Forward 2040 Comprehensive Plan, to help prioritize housing and community development needs for the 5-Year Consolidated Plan, and to learn about the 2020 Census. Visit the Park Avenue Community Center at 632 Park Avenue on Wednesday, February 19 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.; La Alcancia Grocery Store at 3023 South Main Street on Monday, February 24 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.; or the Salisbury Customer Service Center at 1415 South Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue on

Wednesday, February 26 from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. to share ideas.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Post commented Mr. Josh Barnhardt spoke with the towing operator for the Wells Fargo parking lot regarding the issue of towing vehicles after 5:00 p.m., but the owner stated towing will continue. He noted the new property owners have indicated parking will be available for all hours.

Councilmember Sheffield thanked Police Chief Jerry Stokes and the Police Department for the great work they do for the City and reaching a 20 year low on overall crime. She added there is always work to be done, but she appreciated efforts for improvement.

MAYOR PRO TEM COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins thanked Police Chief Stokes for the great work he and his staff do for the City. She also thanked staff for the great work they do for the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins thanked all who provided kind expressions of sympathy during the loss of her brother.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Alexander thanked staff for the work they do for the City.

Mayor Alexander commented a meeting took place with Hotwire Communications Vice President of Development Jonathan Bullock, Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Commissioner Brenden Carr, and Councilmember Post at the Hotwire Communications facility. She noted Mr. Carr was impressed with the model of public/private partnership to improve community broadband access.

Councilmember Post pointed out the group attended an internet installation at a house located in the Oakbrook Neighborhood off of Faith Road. He commented the area on the other side of the street only has access to DSL internet which creates a digital desert. He pointed out Rowan County Commission Chair Greg Edds attended the meeting and discussed the issue of citizens not having internet accessibility and opportunity for improvement.

Mayor Alexander read and presented the African American History Month Proclamation to the citizens of Salisbury.

CLOSED SESSION


Thereupon, Councilmember Post made a **motion** to go into closed session to consult with an attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3). Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins, and Councilmembers Post and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-0)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Council returned to open session. Mayor Alexander announced 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 10:00 p.m.



Karen Alexander, Mayor



Tiffany Crook, Deputy City Clerk