REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Karen Kirks Alexander, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell; Council Members Kenneth Hardin, William Brian Miller, and David Post; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; City Clerk Diane Gilmore, 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 invocation was given by Councilmember Miller. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alexander at 5:00 p.m.

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.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor to proclaim the following observance:

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

October 8-14, 2017
CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Speed Limits – Jake Alexander Boulevard

Adopt a concurring Ordinance with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to update the City Code regarding speed limits on Jake Alexander Boulevard.

ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 13-336, ARTICLE X, CHAPTER 13 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, RELATING TO SPEED LIMITS-GENERALLY.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 26 at Page No.177, and is known as Ordinance 2017-55.)

(b) Temporary Road Closures

Adopt an Ordinance declaring temporary road closures on Main Street between Liberty and Bank Streets and for the intersection of South Long Street and East Bank Street for the Martin Luther King, Jr. parade.

ORDINANCE DECLARING A TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE FOR THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. PARADE.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 26 at Page No.178, and is known as Ordinance 2017-56.)

(c) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Police Department Donations

Adopt a budget Ordinance amending the FY2017-2018 budget ordinance in the amount of $15,500 to appropriate various Police Department donations.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2017-2018 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE POLICE DEPARTMENT DONATIONS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 26 at Page No. 179, and is known as Ordinance 2017-57.)

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

City Arborist Mark Martin and Rowan County Cooperative Extension Director Amy-Lynn Albertson addressed council regarding the Southern Piedmont Tree Professionals workshop to be held at Integro Technologies Thursday, October 12, 2017. Mr. Martin explained the workshop is a cooperative effort between North Carolina Urban Forest Council, Rowan County, and the City. He noted the workshop will offer educational credits and lectures that focus on regional pest and fungal management and urban landscape planting selections and techniques. Mrs. Albertson indicated workshop discussion will be held on possible new tree plantings along Innes Street in the newly installed tree pits. She noted the professional workshop is open to the public.

SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT ORDINANCE

Assistant to the City Manager Kelly Baker addressed Council regarding proposed changes to the Special Event Permit Ordinance. She noted the process began in November 2016 when Councilmembers Miller and Post were appointed as a Committee. She pointed out a staff committee had met previously in 2013 regarding the Special Event Permit Ordinance, and the Council Committee revisited the proposals from the previous committee. She stated seven meetings were held and attendance ranged from 12 to 38 citizens and included a variety of community representatives.

Ms. Baker reviewed the proposed changes to the Ordinance, and she pointed out the goal was to create consistency in the definitions throughout the Ordinance and the Permit Guide. She pointed out exceptions were defined to address activities not covered by the Ordinance including spontaneous demonstrations expected to last less than 24 hours and events engaged in by fewer than 10 people. She stated the Committee was intentional when it addressed activities associated with free speech, and it made a deliberate effort not to impact First Amendment rights in any way.

Ms. Baker noted rather than requiring an Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) permit be obtained for alcohol sales and submitted with the application, the Committee determined participants should comply with all ABC laws and regulations and submit the ABC permit 15 days before the event takes place. She explained two sections in the Ordinance contained conflicting information regarding how alcohol was to be served. She indicated the sections were combined to allow alcohol to be poured or served in its original container as long as the container is not made of glass.

Ms. Baker noted the Committee worked to make the Permit and the Permit Guide as user friendly as possible. She added the application timeline and fees were addressed by the Committee, who originally thought different events would require a different timeline, but it noted 60 days is required by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) to close a public street. She explained an event organizer would have to apply to NCDOT to close the street, and they could work concurrently with the City during the permit process. She pointed out there is no charge for picketing and demonstrations, and they are exempt from the Permit Guide requirements.
Ms. Baker explained the Committee discussed special event fees and reviewed fee schedules for other communities. She noted the Committee decided to raise the fee to $50 for all events. She commented the initial fee of $25 has been in place since 1980, and the increase took inflation into consideration without creating a hardship for event organizers.

Ms. Baker pointed out the proposed changes to the Ordinance were brought to Council in November to address public safety and staffing issues for special events. She explained off-duty sworn police officers were hired to provide security for special events, but it became a drain on the Police Department and its staffing levels. She indicated the Committee recommends events with up to 500 estimated participants have one police officer per event and events with over 500 estimated participants have an additional police officer for every 500 estimated participants. She added the Police Chief may require private security be hired for events that are estimated to have over 2,500 participants.

Ms. Baker stated, in the past, event organizers would contract directly with off-duty police officers. She noted the Committee recommends the payment come through the City because off-duty police officers are not covered by workers compensation insurance, and when they are paid through the City they are protected. She added the Fire Department has the same issue regarding payment, and there was concern since Fire Department companies currently stand-by for events at no charge. She indicated that will not change. She explained the Fire Department will still attend events and stand-by, but it would have to leave if a call is received and the event would not have first aid assistance. She pointed out only a dedicated Fire Department company of off-duty fire fighters serving as EMTs would require payment. She stated events with over 1,000 estimated participants require a first aid station. She pointed out as long as medical personnel are at the event, the requirement would be met.

Ms. Baker noted the next step would be for Council to consider adopting the Ordinance. She explained the Ordinance contains two sections, the first section covers definitions of free speech activities and the second part of the Ordinance covers public street festivals and outdoor and special events. She noted the Committee focused on special events and street festivals. She pointed out the Committee recommends a Council Committee be established to review the elements of the Ordinance that relate to free speech.

Councilmember Post recognized members of the public who participated in the process. He thanked Police Chief Jerry Stokes for bringing the issue before Council and working to protect citizens First Amendment rights. He added there was some resistance from the community regarding proposed fee changes. He noted the Committee took inflation into consideration and it determined the proposed fees to be reasonable. He commented many people who attended the Committee meetings were focused on how the proposed changes would affect their particular event instead of the community a whole. He added the Committee had to continually steer its focus back to the larger community.

Councilmember Miller noted the proposed Ordinance provides workers compensation coverage to off-duty police officers and firefighters who provide security and first aid for special events. He explained the proposed Ordinance also allows the Police Chief to require additional security for events he believes could be of a higher public safety concern. He indicated an event
organizer would only focus on the sections of the permit application that affect their particular event. He added the goal was to make the application process as user friendly as possible. He commented the recommended proposal is a first step, and he suggested Council implement the program January 1, 2018. He suggested after one year Council examine the proposal to see if it is working or if adjustments are needed.

Mr. Post pointed out the current Ordinance has been in place for over 30 years. He indicted the City had one event in 1980 and currently it has approximately 25 events per year with additional events being held at City parks that are controlled by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell pointed out in the past an event organizer would pay the off-duty police officer providing protection $30 per hour. She asked if the City has a way to make sure off-duty police officers working special events receive $30 per hour. City Manager Lane Bailey agreed, and he pointed out the proposal allows off-duty police officers and firefighters who may be injured working an event to receive their full salary.

Chief Stokes clarified off-duty police officers working security receive $25 per hour, and he pointed out the extra $5 goes to pay taxes and administrative fees to handle the transactions. Mayor Alexander clarified police officers will receive the $25 per hour they currently receive. Chief Stokes agreed, and he commented out there is a three-hour minimum for security work so police officers would receive a minimum of $75 for providing security.

(b) Mayor Alexander convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding the Special Event Ordinance.

Ms. Tamara Shefield thanked Mr. Post and Mr. Miller for leading the Committee which received a lot of citizen input. She explained she is concerned the proposal could impede free speech and spontaneous demonstrations. She commented much work has been done on the proposal, but it is not complete. She added the events that take place in the City make Salisbury great, and she does not want to do anything that could deter events. She asked Council to postpone the vote or to vote against it so the proposal can be finished.

Councilmember Hardin asked if the proposal would be evaluated after one calendar year. Mr. Miller stated he suggested the item be evaluated after a calendar year which has been a procedure for past Agenda items.

Ms. Whitney Peckman noted staff has identified areas in the proposal regarding free speech and First Amendment rights that need to be addressed. She thanked everyone who worked on the proposal, and she asked Council to deny the request or to send it back to Committee so the unresolved issues can be addressed.

Mr. Hardin asked Ms. Peckman if her free speech concerns are specific or general. Ms. Peckman stated staff identified areas of concern regarding First Amendment rights and free speech which indicated to her the item is not ready for a vote to be taken.
Mr. Miller clarified irregularities in the Ordinance regarding free speech and First Amendment rights were brought to the Committee during citizen input. He reminded Council the Committee was tasked with addressing the special events portion of the Ordinance. He added it is unfortunate that this Ordinance contains both elements. He noted during the Committee meetings citizens stated the free speech element of the Ordinance also needed to be considered. He stated at Council’s last meeting he requested authority to address the free speech section of the Ordinance because the Committee was only authorized to examine the special event permit language.

Mr. Todd Paris stated he reviewed the proposed Ordinance, and he questioned if the proposal would give the City Manager flexibility regarding the timeframe for certain events. Mr. Miller noted all events would have a 60-day time frame. Mr. Paris referenced Section 22-147 of the proposed Ordinance, and he asked how many days the City Manager would have to consider a proposed protest under the current Ordinance. Ms. Baker stated protests are exempt from the 60-day timeframe. Mr. Miller noted the proposed changes address special events. Mr. Paris asked how many days the City Manager has for consideration if citizens want to have a protest under the existing Ordinance. Mr. Post stated up to 24 hours, and he noted the timeframe was added. Mr. Miller stated citizens can hold a spontaneous demonstration for up to 24 hours before a permit is required.

Ms. Regina Dancy referenced spontaneous demonstrations, and she asked if a permit is required after the 24 hours period when a spontaneous demonstration takes place. She then asked if the permit would be issued immediately so the spontaneous demonstration can continue.

Ms. Renee McNutt requested the proposed Ordinance be tabled and sent back to Committee. She asked if citizens have to get permission from the City Manager for each demonstration. She commented the language in the proposal is confusing, and the item should be tabled until the details can be addressed.

Ms. Dora Mbuwayesango stated she is confused and requested the job description of the City Manager.

Ms. Sue McHugh thanked Council for allowing the Committee to examine the Special Event Permit Ordinance. She pointed out citizens brought their individual experience to the table to create an Ordinance that would benefit the entire community. She stated she is concerned the requirement for police officers per capita of attendees could exceed the number of police officers available to work an event. She asked Council to consider tabling the item.

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

Chief Stokes stated it is his duty as a sworn police officer to uphold citizen’s rights including their First Amendment rights. He stated the government can regulate time and place of a First Amendment demonstration, but not its content. He added staff will do its best to accommodate a spontaneous demonstration, but at the end of 24 hours the organizers will need to work with staff to develop a plan regarding the length of the event and the type of resources needed. He added a permit provides the Police Department a way to facilitate a demonstration that is out of control and becomes could potentially become unlawful assembly. He noted if the
demonstration continues, the Police Department will just issue the permit.

Mayor Alexander clarified the goal is to keep citizens safe. Chief Stokes agreed, and he pointed out the number of people and the distance between people is included in the current Ordinance to allow sidewalk passage to citizens who are not involved in a demonstration.

Mayor Alexander stated she has heard public comment indicating the 40 year old part of the Ordinance regarding public demonstration and freedom of speech is changing. Mr. Miller referenced Section 22-127 of the Ordinance, and he pointed out demonstrating was added along with spontaneous demonstrations. He pointed out the Committee was not asked to address free speech, it was asked to address special permits. He clarified nothing has been changed about the section of the Ordinance regarding free speech except to add the concept of demonstrating to the concept of picketing and to add the spontaneous element which many citizens have indicated is an improvement. He stated citizens indicated they wanted spontaneous demonstrations to be left in the proposal, but they noted additional discussion was needed. He pointed out seven citizens spoke during the public hearing and six of the citizens had concerns regarding the free speech element of the proposal. He asked Council to consider approving the special event section of the Ordinance and bringing the free speech section back for further consideration.

Ms. Blackwell stated it is one Ordinance, and Council cannot pass one section of it. Mr. Miller pointed out the language is currently included in the Ordinance. Ms. Blackwell noted anything Council decides about a future committee may not take place after the election. Mr. Miller indicated he would be willing to address the issue in November, and he added if he or Mr. Post are not elected to Council an alternate Committee member could be found. Ms. Blackwell stated free speech must be addressed. Mr. Miller agreed, and he pointed out an update is needed to the free speech portion of the Ordinance, but it was not included in the Committee’s scope.

Mr. Hardin noted if there is no time constraint there will not be a stop and go type of process so the spontaneous demonstration can continue. He asked if there is a time constraint or how long it is going to take after the first 24 hours for a permit to be issued. Chief Stokes explained the special event permit is intended to be duplicated for demonstrations, but it will not include costs, and he noted it is a short document that allows the Police Department to know a spontaneous demonstration is being held. He stated event organizers would be made aware they have 24 hours for a spontaneous demonstrations, and they would be given an application if the demonstration extends beyond 24 hours. He added the event organizer would be encouraged to complete the application so the Police Department will know how it can provide assistance to event organizers.

Mr. Post noted the proposed Ordinance expands the First Amendment issue, and he pointed out the 15-foot issue is currently in place in the Ordinance. He commented Section 22-127 of the Ordinance contains more restrictions than the proposed Ordinance. He suggested the free speech portion of the Ordinance be placed on the Agenda to appoint a Council Committee after the election. He stated Council should consider the portions of the Ordinance that have been reviewed.

Mr. Miller noted the Committee could meet to define the issues and bring the information to the newly elected Council. He added if the item goes to vote he would like the motion to include consideration of free speech language in the current Ordinance. Mr. Post agreed, and he pointed
out it will be difficult to get everyone in a meeting but this needs to be done as soon after the election as possible. Mr. Miller noted if the Committee were to meet the second week of November it would give citizens time to relay their concerns to staff and the Committee. He suggested the Ordinance be voted upon with a condition to schedule a Committee meeting in November.

Ms. Blackwell asked about the urgency to vote on the proposed Ordinance. Mr. Hardin agreed with Ms. Blackwell, and he pointed out he would feel more comfortable if everything was ready when a vote was taken.

Mr. Post pointed out revisions to the First Amendment portion of the Ordinance could take months and require multiple meetings and during that time parades and special events will take place. Mr. Miller commented he believes there is a consensus among Council that the special events portion of the Ordinance is ready, except for how the number of police officers for a special event is determined. He suggested separating the Ordinance into two sections to avoid confusion.

Ms. Blackwell stated if a motion were to pass she would offer an amendment to remove some of the language in section 127 and 146 regarding demonstrations. Mr. Post pointed out the new language allows for a demonstration without a permit for 24 hours while the old language states that a demonstration is unlawful until a permit is obtained. Ms. Blackwell noted she will make an amendment that the public assembly part of the Ordinance be waived until the Committee meets. Mr. Post clarified Ms. Blackwell’s proposal for Sections 22-127 and 22-146 is to revert back to the old language which makes demonstrations without a permit from the City Manager unlawful. Ms. Blackwell agreed.

Mr. Miller noted he spoke to citizens who requested the spontaneous demonstration portion of the Ordinance be maintained. Ms. Blackwell again asked about the urgency of the vote. Mr. Hardin indicated the item needs to be tabled.

Mr. Post stated he does not support making a demonstration unlawful.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a motion to table the proposed Ordinance until such a time as it can contain valid language in every component. Mr. Hardin seconded the motion. Mr. Hardin and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. Messrs. Miller and Post voted NAY (3-2)

Mayor Alexander thanked Mr. Miller and Mr. Post for their work on the proposed Ordinance.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mayor Alexander read a statement and the Resolution establishing rules and procedures for public comment periods. She then opened the floor to receive public comments.
Mr. John O’Reilly referred to a public notice regarding a rezoning on Faith Road for the Faith Road shopping center. Mr. O’Reilly stated the issue was listed to be reviewed however no public notice was given.

Mayor Alexander requested Community Planning Services Director Janet Gapen respond to Mr. O’Reilly. Ms. Gapen confirmed the Planning Board public notice was advertised in the Salisbury Post but the item was postponed.

Mr. Ronald L. Smith shared information regarding the 70th anniversary of the United States Air Force and the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. He requested Council’s support for the Rowan Library’s Vietnam exhibit at the West End Plaza on November 11, 2017.

Mr. Rodney Queen stated he is a disabled Vietnam Veteran and supports Mr. Ronnie Smith. Mr. Queen acknowledged the importance of the Veterans Memorial wall.

Ms. Betty Jo Hardy indicated she is a member of the governing board of North Carolina Churches, and she referenced a statement regarding Confederate Monuments published by the Board.

Ms. Emily Ford provided a statement regarding the Confederate Monument. She referenced the lives lost during the 19th Century and stated she hopes the center of Salisbury can be a welcoming place for all people.

Ms. Allison Parker made a statement in remembrance of Ms. Jimmie Moomaw, who passed October 2, 2017. She referenced the Confederate Memorial known as “Fame” and requested staff work with the private owner to relocate the monument.

Ms. Renee MacNutt spoke about the statue “Fame” and referenced practices during Confederate era. Ms. Judy Corrher yielded her time to Ms. MacNutt. Ms. MacNutt shared quotes to bring awareness to the ongoing issue surrounding “Fame” and African Americans. She indicated a need for Salisbury to acknowledge the wrong represented by the statue before the community can prosper.

Mr. Todd Paris referenced an easement in the 1940s regarding the property owner on Innes Street and legislative rights regarding the “Fame” monument. Mr. Paris acknowledged the new electronic water meters and noted they are battery operated.

Ms. Carolyn Logan stated she feels violence in the community still persists. She indicated her First Amendment Right was compromised at a previous Council meeting, and she believes the community is still struggling.

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

City Manager W. Lane Bailey noted the water meter batteries have a 20 year lifespan.
SECOND READING – LAND DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE AND DISTRICT MAP AMENDMENT CD-02-2017 - FIRE STATION 3

This item was postponed.

UPDATE – DIXONVILLE CEMETERY MEMORIAL WALK

Urban Design Planner Alyssa Nelson, Dixonville-Lincoln Memorial Task Force Chair Emily Perry and retired Urban Design Planner Lynn Raker addressed Council regarding the Dixonville Cemetery Memorial Walk.

Ms. Perry stated approximately 580 African American citizens were buried in the Dixonville Cemetery, many of whom have not been identified. She acknowledged Task Force members who had passed away, and she noted the Task Force had endured some challenges, but it was time to move forward.

Ms. Raker reviewed the history of the Dixonville Cemetery. She pointed out the cemetery provided a final resting place for both prominent and ordinary African-American citizens. She stated based on local historian Betty Dan Spencer’s research, there were 500 documented burials since 1910, but there were likely hundreds more. She explained in 2010, former Mayor Susan Kluttz recognized the cemetery and Lincoln School’s importance to the community.

Ms. Raker noted there are three phases to the Dixonville Lincoln Memorial: Phase 1-the Dixonville Lincoln Memorial Walk; Phase 2-the Interpretive Walk; and Phase 3-Revitalization of Lincoln School.

Ms. Raker stated the Interpretive Walk would connect to the Memorial Walk with interpretive stops along a perpendicular path where visitors can gather, study and reflect on the history of the Cemetery and the Dixonville neighborhood. She stated the estimated cost is approximately $150,000 with anticipated completion in the summer of 2019.

Ms. Raker noted the Lincoln School Revitalization plan would transform the vacant historic African-American elementary school into useful space with one possibility being senior housing through the North Carolina Housing Coalition’s tax credit housing program.

Ms. Raker indicated the Task Force is ready to implement Phase 1 for the Memorial Walk. She noted construction and bid documents have been completed, and funding is in order. She informed Council that in addition to the City allocation, donations had been received from the Blanche and Julian Robertson Family Foundation, the Margaret C. Woodson Foundation, and private donations. She stated the plan would improve the safety of the crossing of South Long Street at the busy Monroe Street intersection.

Ms. Raker requested Council consider approving advertisement of the Dixonville Memorial Walk to potential bidders.
Councilmember Hardin asked who owned the Lincoln School. Ms. Perry stated First Calvary Baptist Church owned the property. Mr. Hardin then asked about fire ants on the property. Ms. Raker informed Council the ant situation is being treated.

Mayor Alexander asked if the Complete Streets Plan will be included in Phase 1. Ms. Raker indicated not at this time.

Councilmember David Post asked about the cost of the project. Ms. Raker indicated the preliminary cost is approximately $225,000, but the Task Force is working to reduce the cost to $200,000.

Thereupon Mr. Hardin made a motion to approve the advertisement of the Dixonville Memorial Walk to potential bidders. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller and Post, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

There were no appointments.

CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS

(a) Downtown Salisbury, Inc. Director Larissa Harper

City Manager Lane Bailey introduced Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI) Main Street Director Larissa Harper who will begin employment with the City Monday, October 9, 2017. He explained the non-profit DSI Board will remain in place. He noted Ms. Harper previously served as the Building Development Specialist for the City of Wilson’s Main Street program and also served as Downtown Director for the Town of Kernersville.

Ms. Harper thanked everyone for the warm welcome she has received, and she stated she looks forward to working with citizens and the downtown merchants.

Mr. Bailey noted a reception will be held to welcome Ms. Harper to the City Tuesday, October 10, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Plaza building.

Mayor Alexander welcomed Ms. Harper to the City.

(b) Update – West End Projects

City Manager Lane Bailey asked City Engineer Wendy Brindle to address Council regarding West End projects.
Ms. Brindle noted three bus shelters have been installed in the West End community: one at College Park Apartments, one at Brenner Park Crossing, and one near Livingstone College at the intersection of Monroe and Craig Streets. She stated the three bus shelters cost approximately $40,000 and were funded with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) 5307 funds.

Ms. Brindle explained the City has approximately $12,000 in grant funding for a sign and landscaping at the West End Gateway. She pointed out the project is being coordinated by the Planning Department and is in the design phase.

Ms. Brindle indicated a paved Greenway trail at Old Wilkesboro Road near College Park Apartments and connecting to Jake Alexander Boulevard is being considered. She noted Engineering and the Parks and Recreation Departments received a combined $191,000 of Carolina Thread Trail funds to fund the project. She noted Public Services will install the trail.

Ms. Brindle indicated Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program funds will fund sidewalks along Monroe Street between Grimes Street and Brenner Avenue in Fiscal Year 2018-2019. She noted the project will cost approximately $90,000. She explained citizens have expressed concerns regarding the need for sidewalks along Old Plank Road between Partee and Thomas Streets. She indicated the project would cost approximately $80,000 and staff is looking to secure funding for the project during the current fiscal year.

Ms. Brindle stated staff is in the preliminary stages of development for a Greenway Trail that would connect Kelsey Scott Park to Catawba College. She stated the City received $700,000 in Transportation Alternative Program Funding which requires a 20% match from the City for a total of $875,000 in funding for the project. She noted the project should be constructed by 2021.

Councilmember Hardin asked about the possibility of removing on-street along Horah Street near Brenner Avenue. He pointed out the sidewalks and on-street parking seem to create congestion issues on the narrow street. Ms. Brindle noted staff can look at parking in the area to determine if it should be removed, and she pointed out parking in neighborhoods is considered by petition. She added staff will reach out to the neighborhood to help them through the process if residents and property owners have an interest in removing the parking spaces.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated the new bus shelters seem to be larger, include solar power to illuminate them in the evening, and are transparent which alleviates security concerns. She noted a large trash can is located near the bus stop. She pointed out the bus stops were expensive, but a worthy expense for citizens.

Mr. Bailey noted staff is working on a Transit app that will let citizens know the location of a bus on its route.
MAYOR ’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Family Camp Out

Mayor Alexander announced Parks and Recreation will hold its Family Camp Out on Friday and Saturday, October 6 and 7, 2017 at Salisbury Community Park. Participants will enjoy nature sessions, fishing, camp fire with s’mores, an outdoor movie and more. Pre-registration is required. Campsites are $20 per family of 4. Limited tent rental is available. For more information, please call 704-216-PLAY.

(b) Halloween Fun Fest

Mayor Alexander announced Salisbury Parks and Recreation, in partnership with Downtown Salisbury, Inc., will host the annual Halloween Fun Fest Saturday, October 28, 2017 from 3:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall parking lot. Activities will include carnival games, live entertainment, trick or treating, a hay bale maze, costume contest, pet costume contest and more. Game tickets are $5.00 for an unlimited pass.

(c) Empire Project Community Update

Mayor Alexander announced an An Empire Project community update is scheduled for Monday, October 16, 2017 from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall. Representatives from Blackpoint Investments will provide updates on the progress of the Empire Project and light refreshments will be provided.

(d) 15th Annual Christmas Bicycle Giveaway Program

Mayor Alexander announced the Salisbury Police Department will partner with Gerry Wood Auto Group to conduct its 15th Annual Christmas Bicycle Giveaway program. A total of 140 bicycles and helmets will be distributed just before Christmas on December 21. In order to determine the recipients of the bicycles, applications must be completed by a parent or guardian. Applications are available at the Salisbury Police Department located at 130 East Liberty Street during regular business hours. Applications must be submitted to the Police Department by Friday, November 3, 2017.

(e) Buskers Bash

Mayor Alexander announced the Buskers Bash will be held Friday, October 6, 2017 in the downtown area.
(f) **Community Action Team Orientation**

Mayor Alexander announced the Community Action Team orientation was held Monday, October 2, 2017 at the Civic Center and was well attended. Attendees met team members, formed group charters, selected team leaders and co-chairs, determined meeting times and frequency, and approved the group strategy. Community Action Planning Ambassadors and staff were on hand to offer support. She noted those who are interested in registering for an action team or focus area can sign up at salisburync.gov or caps@salisburync.gov or call (704) 638-4460 for additional information.

(g) **Pray Rowan**

Mayor Alexander announced Pray Rowan will assemble Saturday, October 7, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the flag pole at the Courthouse.

(h) **Schneider Electric**

Mayor Alexander announced she received a letter from Schneider Electric announcing they are staying in the City. She pointed out another company was working with the EDC and relatees to locate in the Schneider Electric building so they will be looking for another location for their expansion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Miller seconded by Ms. Blackwell. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Karen Kirks Alexander, Mayor

Diane Gilmore, City Clerk