REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT:  Mayor Karen Kirks Alexander, Presiding; Council Members Kenneth Hardin, William Brian Miller, and David Post; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; Deputy City Clerk Kelly Baker, and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

ABSENT:  Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell and City Clerk Myra B. Heard.

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.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Mayor Alexander noted the following change to the Agenda:

Postpone — Council to go into a closed session concerning a personnel matter as allowed by NCGS143-318.11(a)(6).
RECOGNITION – FIRE ENGINEER JAMES GARRIS, JR.

Fire Chief Bob Parnell read a letter received from Durham Fire Department Interim Chief Richard Ray thanking Fire Engineer James Garris, Jr. for his assistance during an apartment fire that took place in Durham, North Carolina. He commented Engineer Garris provided information to the Durham Fire Department and, without any protective gear, conducted a primary search of the unit. He added Engineer Garris searched all the apartments and determined no one was in the building. He stated Engineer Garris also helped the second engine company establish a positive water supply. He pointed out Engineer Garris displayed the highest honor and tradition of the fire service, and he is a valuable asset to the Salisbury Fire Department.

Engineer Garris recognized his family in attendance, and he indicated he did what he was trained to do. Mayor Alexander thanked Engineer Garris for his service to the citizens of Durham and for all he does for the City.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor to proclaim the following observance:

BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH May 2017

CONSENT AGENDA

(a)  Approval of Minutes


(b)  Temporary One-way Street – Emerald Avenue

Designate Emerald Avenue as a one-way street at 12:00 noon Friday, May 26, 2017 until 4:00 p.m. Saturday, May 27, 2017 and at 12:00 noon Friday, October 6, 2017 until 4:00 p.m. Saturday, October 7, 2017 for a charity yard sale.

(c)  Budget Ordinance Amendment – Street Light Replacement

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2016-2017 budget in the amount of $8,346 to appropriate insurance proceeds for the replacement of a decorative street light.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016-2017 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE INSURANCE PROCEEDS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 26 at Page No. 37, and is known as Ordinance 2017-22.)
(d) **Budget Ordinance Amendment – Water Sewer Fund**

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2016-2017 budget in the amount of $85,644 to appropriate insurance proceeds for the Water and Sewer fund.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016-2017 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE INSURANCE CLAIM PROCEEDS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 26 at Page No. 38, and is known as Ordinance 2017-23.)

(e) **Budget Ordinance Amendment – Community Development Block Grant Program Income**

Adopt a budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2016-2017 budget in the amount of $122,400 to appropriate proceeds from the repayment of funds loaned from the Community Development Block Grant fund.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2016-2017 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM INCOME.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 26 at Page No. 39, and is known as Ordinance 2017-24.)

(f) **Contract – Elliott Davis Decosimo, PLLC**

Award a contract in the amount of $32,600 to Elliott Davis Decosimo, PLLC for auditing services for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2017.

(g) **J.C. Price Legion Post Memorial Week Celebration**

Approve a temporary use, with conditions, for a carnival to operate at the J.C. Price Legion Post, 1433 Old Wilkesboro Road, for its annual Memorial Week Celebration.

(h) **Contract – Ramsey, Burgin, Smith Architects, Inc.**

Award a contract in the estimated amount of $288,310.75 for architectural and engineering design services to Ramsey Burgin Smith Architects, Inc. for Fire Station 3.

(i) **Contract – Ramsey, Burgin, Smith Architects, Inc.**

Award a contract in the estimated amount of $288,327.80 for architectural and engineering design services to Ramsey Burgin Smith Architects, Inc. for Fire Station 6.

Thereupon, Mr. Hardin made a **motion** to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Miller seconded the motion.
Councilmember Post asked if the Fire Department contracts were awarded through the bidding process. City Manager Lane Bailey explained the City submitted request for proposals and potential architects were interviewed. He stated staff believes Ramsey Burgin, Smith Architects, Inc. will provide the best value to the City.

Messrs. Hardin, Miller, and Post, and Ms. Alexander voted AYE. (4-0)

**UPDATE – SALISBURY POLICE CHIEF**

Police Chief Jerry Stokes provided an update to Council regarding Police Department staffing. He noted a conditional offer of employment was made to a police officer with three years’ experience. He stated staff has an interview with a prospective police officer on Thursday and another prospective police officer is being considered for employment.

Chief Stokes announced the hiring of Deputy Police Chief Major Shon Barnes. He added Deputy Chief Barnes previously served the City of Greensboro and has a strong background in community policing and crime prevention. He pointed out Deputy Chief Barnes will begin working with the Salisbury Police Department on May 15, 2017, and he will bring diversity to the Police Department command staff.

Chief Stokes noted the Police Department received a $750 grant from Dick’s Sporting Goods to assist with its GREAT camp. He stated North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) provided bike helmets worth approximately $250, and the Robertson Foundation provided a $6,550 and an $8,000 grant to support the GREAT Camp and the GREAT Program in the Rowan-Salisbury School System.

Chief Stokes pointed out the Police Department is serving as a support agency for Rowan Helping Ministries as it seeks a grant to assist those with mental health and substance abuse issues.

Chief Stokes stated Captain Melonie Thompson will attend a workshop hosted by Livingstone College to address police community relations.

Councilmember Hardin indicated he spoke with Chief Stokes and City Manager Lane Bailey regarding diversity in Police Department leadership. He stated the hiring of Deputy Chief Barnes is not just about diversity, but also about experience, qualifications, and improving community relations. He suggested Chief Stokes provide crime statistics to Council quarterly, and he thanked him for all he is doing for the Police Department and the City.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FY 2017-2018 FUNDING REQUEST

Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission (EDC) Interim Executive Director Scott Shelton reviewed the history of the EDC and its current staffing and funding needs. He noted the EDC is funded by Rowan County and its municipalities. He explained Rowan County is the largest funding contributor followed by the City of Salisbury and other municipalities. He commented the EDC Board is appointed proportionately by funding partners with the City appointing two members.

Mr. Shelton noted the EDC is working to secure private sector funding to offset the taxpayer burden. He reviewed recent projects, and he indicated the most recent City announcement was Royce Apparel. He pointed out EDC projects have provided over $12 million dollars in additional net revenue for the City. He stated since 2007 EDC projects have generated over $1.1 billion dollars in new capital investment in Rowan County and created over 2,100 new jobs.

Mr. Shelton reviewed an activity summary and compared it to previous years. He noted there are currently two potential projects with existing industry expansions and a gourmet food distributor that could locate downtown.

Mr. Shelton stated the EDC is requesting $114,088 in funding for FY2017-2018, which includes a $25,000 increase that would be used to hire a new executive director. He pointed out Rowan County agreed to increase its funding. He commented the EDC Board is negotiating with a candidate and hopes to have an announcement by the end of the week. He thanked Council for its continued support of the EDC.

Councilmember Hardin asked for clarification regarding recent project announcements. Mr. Shelton explained the recent announcements included activity that has taken place in the last 18 months. Mr. Hardin noted EDC projects have funded approximately $800,000 in additional net revenue to the City annually. Mr. Shelton pointed out the money the City invests to fund the EDC and incentivize companies has been removed from the net revenue total. Mr. Hardin commented when the salary for the EDC Director and the request for funding is considered it would seem the City is paying more than it receives.

Councilmember Miller commented the City awards incentives, and the community receives a net gain when an investment is made. He indicated each project is considered on an individual basis and very good for the community.

Mr. Hardin stated he needs more information before he can support the additional funding request.

City Manager Lane Bailey explained revenue growth is calculated per project and it takes property values into consideration. He pointed out property values could be positive, but the community could see a decline because of the economy. He stated two years ago the City experienced a revaluation that decreased property values in the City. He stated the numbers may
be down, but the City has been successful in its support of individual projects. He thanked Mr. Shelton for his work as the EDC’s Interim Executive Director.

Mr. Miller pointed out the City only grants incentives if the project takes place. He added the active projects of interest have already made an investment in the community, and an additional investment indicates the company plans to stay in the City.

Councilmember Post noted he served on the search committee for the EDC Executive Director. He pointed out the previous executive director received a 30% salary increase to relocate to Fayetteville. He stated the County contributed approximately $200,000 to increase the EDC’s budget, and the City is being asked to contribute an additional $25,000. He commented attracting someone who will meet the needs of the community will require a market-rate salary. He pointed out the goal is to hire someone who will retain the existing employee base and bring in additional jobs.

Mr. Post clarified in the last 15 years the City has contributed approximately $1.2 million to the EDC and it has received a $12 return on each $1 invested. He pointed out the City is 25% of Rowan County’s population, but it only contributes 14% of the EDC’s budget. He thanked Mr. Shelton for all he has done for the EDC and the community.

Mayor Alexander thanked Mr. Shelton for his presentation and his work with the EDC.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

Ms. Dee Dee Wright noted the Community Job Fair will take place Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at the West End Plaza, and she added 55 potential employers are expected to attend. She stated Walmart has crime-related issues, and she asked how many police hours are spent at Walmart each month for theft-related issues. She pointed out traffic in the area is very congested, and the area is very dark at night.

Ms. Carolyn Logan thanked City Manager Lane Bailey for the grant information she received. She referenced information about Project Safe grants that included a YMCA Fun Day and asked how many offenders attended the Fun Day. Ms. Charvona Sanchez gave her three minutes to Ms. Logan. Ms. Logan referenced funds used to employ the Project Safe Coordinator, and she asked how many hours the Project Safe Coordinator worked. She then asked about the funds that were used for gang intervention and about the distribution of beatification funds throughout the City.

City Manager Lane Bailey explained the salary for the Project Safe Coordinator was paid over five years, and he added staff is researching the information.

Mr. Michael Kirksey referred to the City’s hiring practices, and he noted the hiring practices do not reflect the demographics of the community. He stated the City should hire people
who live within the City limits. He noted citizens have requested sidewalks along Old Wilkesboro Road to Kelsey Scott Park, and he commented sidewalks are needed around Livingstone College.

Ms. Lola Floss stated she lives in the Westcliffe community that was annexed in 2003. She noted public transportation stops at Lash Drive and does not provide service to her neighborhood. She explained Rowan Transit only operates one day per week, and she requested the City provide public transportation to her neighborhood. Mayor Alexander asked staff to contact Ms. Floss.

Mr. Todd Paris referred to an investigation of Councilmember Hardin. He stated Council did not vote to authorize the investigation or the expenditure of public funds. He questioned if State laws and the City’s ethics policies were violated.

Mayor Alexander clarified Council did not call for investigation of Mr. Hardin. She stated an employee filed a complaint against Mr. Hardin and the City’s attorney suggested she contact the City’s insurance company which is the North Carolina League of Municipalities. She explained the insurance representative contacted a lawyer in Charlotte because a claim had been filed. She commented the insurance company is paying for the attorney. She pointed out it is standard procedure, and Council will receive a report from the North Carolina League of Municipalities. Mr. Hardin stated he stands behind his statements.

Ms. M.T. Sidolli stated she is pleased with the hiring of a Deputy Chief, and she noted the City of Greensboro has a successful community policing program. She invited Councilmembers and police officers to attend a Stop the Violence Summit to be held Saturday, April 22, 2017 at East Square Artwork.

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

Thereupon Mr. Miller made a motion to take a short recess. Mr. Post seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller, and Post, and Ms. Alexander voted AYE. (4-0)

Mayor Alexander reconvened the meeting

**PARKING RESTRICTIONS – 700 BLOCK OF HEDRICK STREET**

City Engineer Wendy Brindle referred to Ms. Dee Dee Wright’s concerns regarding street lighting on Old Concord Road and Arlington Street. She noted a project is in the design phase with Duke Energy and will require North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) approval.

Ms. Brindle noted the parking request before Council is for Hedrick Street. She explained in 2016 Council received a petition and adopted an Ordinance to establish 30-minute parking for four parking spaces in the 700 block of Hedrick Street near the VA Hospital and Brenner Avenue. She stated the petitioner requested the number of parking spaces be reduced from four parking
spaces to three, and the time limit be changed to one hour to allow patrons additional time to 
conduct their business.

Councilmember Post asked if the petitioner is the business owner. Ms. Brindle agreed. 
Mr. Post noted the VA Hospital provides parking for its employees, but it is more convenient for 
employees to park on the adjacent streets.

Ms. Brindle pointed out policing of the area is complaint driven.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a motion to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 13, Article 
X, of the Code of the City of Salisbury, relating to parking limited to thirty minutes. Mr. Post 
seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller, and Post, and Ms. Alexander voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE X, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF 
SALISBURY, RELATING TO PARKING LIMITED TO THIRTY MINUTES.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 26 at Page No. 40, and is known 
as Ordinance 2017-25.)

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a motion to adopt an Ordinance amending Chapter 13, Article 
X, of the Code of the City of Salisbury, relating to parking limited to one hour between 8:00 a.m. 
and 6:00 p.m. Mr. Post seconded the motion. Messrs. Hardin, Miller, and Post, and Ms. Alexander 
voted AYE. (4-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 13, ARTICLE X, OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF 
SALISBURY, RELATING TO PARKING LIMITED TO ONE HOUR BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. 
AND 6:00 P.M..

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 26 at Page No. 41, and is known 
as Ordinance 2017-26.)

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Community Appearance Commission

Upon a motion by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Post, and with Mr. Hardin and Ms. 
Alexander voting AYE, the following appointment was made to the Community Appearance 
Commission to fill an unexpired term:

Ms. Judy McDaniel

Term Expires 3/31/18
CITY MANAGER’S COMMENTS

(a) Recruitment

City Manager Lane Bailey referenced a recruitment issue raised by Mr. Michael Kirksey. He noted the City’s employment does not accurately reflect the makeup of the community, but the City is working to address the issue. He stated during his time at the City he has hired five department heads, and he noted those appointments better reflect community demographics. He noted the Management Team understands the City’s desire to hire the best people while working to increase diversity. He pointed out the City cannot exclude potential employees who are not City residents. He added he is committed to hiring the best possible employees and having an organization that looks like the community.

(b) 3rd Quarter Financial Update

City Manager Lane Bailey asked Financial Services Director Teresa Harris to present the third quarter financial update.

Ms. Harris referenced property tax values for the third quarter, and she noted $2.817 million is budgeted, $2.761 million had been billed, and $2.838 million is projected to be billed. She pointed out sales tax revenue continues to increase and is projected to create $600,000 in additional sales tax revenue. She noted State franchise tax is also over the budgeted amount for third quarter.

Ms. Harris reviewed the budget verses actual and variance for each department. She reviewed special projects, and she noted Planning and Community Development are 43.3% expended due to budgeted incentive grants not being paid and Engineering special projects are 25.7% expended.

Councilmember Post asked if the Transfer to Fibrant Fund is equal to the debt service payment. Ms. Harris noted the Transfer to Fibrant Fund is the amount budgeted for transfer to the Fibrant Fund. Mr. Post asked if $2.19 million is the transfer for this year. Ms. Harris agreed, and she explained 75% has been transferred to the Fibrant fund. Mr. Post pointed out the transfer is much smaller than last year.

Ms. Harris noted the Street Department is 51% expended, and she indicated street paving will be completed in the spring and early summer. She stated the General Fund is approximately 66% expended.

Ms. Harris reviewed the Water and Sewer Fund revenue for the third quarter and the monthly usage trend. She explained Water and Sewer Fund revenue is $19,257,032 slightly over the $19,041,776 budgeted for the third quarter. She indicated large Water and Sewer Fund expenditures will come due by the end of the fiscal year.
Ms. Harris reviewed Fibrant customers billed, and she noted the usage trend has remained steady. She also reviewed Fibrant income and expenses. She pointed out a net operating income of $462,011 for nine months, and she added Fibrant has a net deficit of $2,207,247. She indicated the transfer from the General Fund to the Fibrant Fund is very close to the debt service payment. She pointed out the gross profit margin has remained consistent at 45%, and the Broadband Systems is 54.2% expended due to special projects and services that have not been spent.

Ms. Harris explained Transit fare revenues are ahead of projections and expenditures are 50.7% expended due to unexpended capital purchases. She noted Stormwater revenues remain level for the third quarter, and expenditures are below budget.

Councilmember Miller noted it appears the City is receiving more revenue than initially projected. He asked where the City might finish at year-end. Ms. Harris stated it is too early to estimate because of special projects and other projects that take place throughout the year. She explained some of the projects are grant related and if the money is not spent the grant revenue is not received. Mr. Bailey stated he believes year-end will be tight, but he is not worried because of the overall health of the Fund Balance.

Councilmember Post noted many of the operating expenditures were below 75% of the budgeted amount. He asked if there is an upturn in operating expenses in the fourth quarter. Ms. Harris explained the City’s expenditures can be difficult to track. Mr. Bailey noted there could be a bump in fourth quarter expenditures for certain departments such as Parks and Recreations who experience an increase in programs and maintenance during the summer months.

Mr. Post asked if the City uses the cash or accrual basis of accounting. Ms. Harris explained the City uses the cash basis of accounting except for the Fibrant Fund which uses accrual for programming expenses that have not been received. Mr. Post asked if the budget is based on cash or accrual. Ms. Harris explained the budget is accrual at year-end.

**MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) “Community Action Planning Sessions”

Mayor Alexander announced the last of four “Community Action Planning Sessions” will be held Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. at the J.F. Hurley YMCA. All citizens are encouraged to attend, and childcare will be provided. Details will be shared via social media, flyers, Nextdoor.com and Nixle.

(b) **11th Annual Touch a Truck**

Mayor Alexander announced Salisbury Parks and Recreation will hold its 11th Annual Touch a Truck event Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in the City Hall parking lot at 217 South Main Street. Participants will have an opportunity to have a hands-on, up close and personal education experience with a wide variety of vehicles including dump trucks, monster trucks, a helicopter, ambulances, and more. The event is free and open to the public.
(c) **Middle School Prom**

Mayor Alexander announced Parks and Recreation will host its annual Middle School Prom Saturday, May 13, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. All middle school students in Rowan County are welcome to enjoy an evening of dancing, photos and a good time with friends. Refreshments will be served and photo packages will be available for purchase. Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance. For more information or to purchase tickets please call 704-216-PLAY.

(d) **Community Job Fair**

Mayor Alexander announced the Community Job Fair will be held April 19, 2017. The Employer Panel will take place from 9:00 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. and the job fair will take place from 10:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Early admission is available at 10:00 a.m. for those who completed the North Carolina Career Program. Salisbury Transit will provide transportation to and from job fair.

(e) **Bench Dedication**

Mayor Alexander announced the Dixonville-Lincoln Memorial Task Force will host a bench dedication in memory of former Task Force member Floyd Kerr. The event will take place May 5, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. and will begin at the new Dixonville Cemetery sign kiosk located at 110 Old Concord Road. A reception and light lunch will follow in the Fellowship Hall of First Calvary Baptist Church, 400 South Long Street. Parking will be available in the parking lots adjacent to Lincoln Pool and First Calvary Baptist Church. Trolleys will provide transportation from the parking lots to the kiosk and then return to the church. The public is invited to attend.

(f) **West End Assistance**

Mayor Alexander reviewed City assisted or funded programs that have benefited the West End community over the last several years:

- Helped sponsor a Little League baseball team
- Remodeled the Miller Recreation Center lobby and offered free Wi-Fi
- Featured a young book author on a movie night
- Community day events and back to school events
- Easter egg events
- Youth football
- Co-sponsored West End Pride and Livingstone event
- Started a GED Program
- Held a pre-workshop program for the first Community Job Fair
- Helped the Mini-Funk band purchase instruments and provided bus transportation
- Provided space for the GEM Stone Program at Miller Recreation Center
She stated staff is working on a list of funding that has been invested in the West End community. She noted a portion of the funds were spent through the Salisbury Community Development Corporation (CDC).

(g) Special Event Permit Committee Meeting

Councilmember Miller proposed the Special Event Permit Committee meet one of the first three Wednesdays in June. Mr. Post tentatively suggested June 7, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Miller agreed, and he suggested removing the fee schedule from the proposal and addressing it at a later time. Mr. Post agreed, and he noted the form was consolidated from 19 pages to 4 pages. He suggested streamlining the form with addendums.

CLOSED SESSION

This item was postponed.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Post. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

Karen Kirks Alexander, Mayor

Kelly Baker, Deputy City Clerk