

Salisbury, North Carolina
April 21, 2020

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Karen K. Alexander, Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Al Heggins; Council Members William Brian Miller, David Post and Tamara Sheffield; City Manager W. Lane Bailey; Deputy City Clerk Tiffany Crook; and City Attorney J. Graham Corriher.

ABSENT: City Clerk Diane Gilmore.

In response to the State of Emergency declaration related to the spread of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) and to limit physical interactions and the potential spread of COVID-19 the Salisbury City Council met electronically. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Alexander at 6:00 p.m. A moment of silence was taken.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Alexander led participants in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.

RECOGNITION OF VIEWERS

Mayor Alexander welcomed all viewers.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

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

PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor to proclaim the following observances:

EARTH DAY

April 22, 2020

BETTER HEARING AND SPEECH MONTH

May, 2020

Mayor Alexander stated April 22, 2020 is the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and she read the Earth Day Proclamation.

Mayor Alexander read the Better Hearing and Speech Month Proclamation.

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Minutes

Adopt Minutes of the Regular meeting of April 7, 2020.

(b) CD-01-2018 - Aaronfield of Salisbury

Extend the approval of CD-01-2018 Aaronfield of Salisbury, which is expiring due to non-development within the specified two years as required by the Land Development Ordinance.

(c) Contract Renewal-Atlantic Coast Contractors, Inc.

Authorize the City Manager to execute a contract renewal with Atlantic Coast Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$400,000 for construction related to the fourth phase of the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project. The funds for this project have been approved and are included in the FY2019-2020 budget.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Alexander opened the floor to receive public comments.

Administrative Services Director Kelly Baker read comments submitted by Mr. Clyde. Mr. Clyde referred to recycling. He mentioned citizens should not have to pay for services they are not using and urged Council not to commit to three more years of recycling.

There being no other comments, Mayor Alexander closed the public comment session.

CURBSIDE RECYCLING BID

Public Works Director Craig Powers stated he received three bids for a recycling contract. He noted the current vendor opted out of renewing the contract. He mentioned the lowest bid received was from Republic Services for \$4.43 per month per can. He stated the quoted price is a 23% increase from last year and a 60% increase from the last time the project was bid three years ago.

Mr. Powers explained one bid option included the City providing recycling cans under a one year contract, but quotes for the option were expensive. He noted a second bid option was a three year contract with the vendor providing recycling cans. He stated a three year contract would allow a new vendor time to recover their costs because they would have to hire staff, learn routes, and buy equipment.

Mr. Powers noted staff opened a bid to determine the cost of recycling bins. He explained the low bid was \$467,830 and the high bid was \$545,270 which prompted staff to select Republic Services at \$4.43, the most economical available option. He stated the company is a nationwide contractor that provides services to several large cities west of Salisbury. He mentioned the contract requires collected items to be recycled and not taken to a landfill.

Mr. Powers stated the contract will begin July 1, 2020, and the biggest concern is switching the recycling cans. He mentioned staff will work with the Communications Department and the current vendor to make the transition as smooth as possible. He recommended Council award a three year contract to Republic Services in the amount of \$4.43 per pick up point.

Mayor Alexander asked if there will be an increase in cost to customers. City Manager Lane Bailey stated there will be an increase of \$0.94 per month, per can. He noted staff explored charging only the residents who will use the service but determined trucks will drive complete routes even when there is only one person on a street who recycles. He pointed out the cost of recycling is more than the cost to take items to the landfill.

Councilmember Sheffield asked if a collection center option was considered. Mr. Bailey stated the feedback regarding a collection center was that a large number of people may have trouble accessing the center and would not be able to participate.

Councilmember Sheffield asked if the current vendor has the option to renew its contract. Mr. Bailey stated the vendor has the option to renew the contract but decided against it because of a decrease in the recycling market. He stated the vendor cannot continue the contract at the previously quoted rate.

Councilmember Post asked if an option to purchase recycling cans and hire a local vendor had been explored. Mr. Bailey stated staff reached out to local vendors, but no bids were received.

Councilmember Post asked if the contract will include an option for the City to cancel if conditions change and recycling prices decrease. Mr. Powers stated the contract can be cancelled if the vendor fails to provide the services specified within the contract.

Councilmember Post asked if other cities have opted out of recycling. Mr. Bailey stated there are communities in North Carolina and around the country who have opted out, and there may be more in the next fiscal year. Mr. Post asked if the City should consider opting out or awarding a one year contract in consideration of the difficult budget year approaching.

Councilmember Miller asked about the current monthly cost per house and the cost to the City for having a recycling program. Mr. Powers stated the total cost is \$5.43 after adding a \$1.00 finance charge to recover costs. Mr. Miller stated if there is no cost to the City, staff should find out if citizens want to recycle.

Mayor Alexander asked if signing the contract could be delayed in order to get information and surveys out to the public to determine the percentage of those who would like to recycle. Mr. Bailey stated the decision can be delayed for one week.

Mr. Powers stated the current contractor has reported an 80% participation rate in recycling. Councilmember Miller noted the percentage of participants reflects most citizens would like to recycle and there is no need to delay the contract or distribute surveys.

Councilmember Post stated citizens may be recycling because everyone is being charged whether they recycle or not. He mentioned the percentage of participants does not necessarily reflect those who want to recycle.

Thereupon, Councilmember Sheffield made a **motion** to award the Curbside Recycling bid to Republic Services for a three year period beginning July 1, 2020 at an estimated annual cost of \$574,128. Mayor Alexander, Mayor Pro Tem Heggins, and Councilmembers Miller and Sheffield voted AYE. (4-1)

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT

(a) Update - Resolution to protect the City's water supply

City Attorney Graham Corriher explained in response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) approval of Cube Hydro's inadequate flood plan for the City's river pump station, the City has filed a request for a re-hearing and is awaiting a response. He noted the most current information on the request can be found on the City's website.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

(a) Pre-Budget Discussion

City Manager Lane Bailey asked if Council will be available to change the meeting time of the Special Meeting scheduled for April 28, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. By consensus, Council agreed to the change.

(b) HUD Funding

City Manager Lane Bailey explained the City will receive \$168,950 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. He stated the funds are specifically for COVID-19 and funded through the federal stimulus Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. He noted staff has created a website, www.salisburync.gov/cdbg, that addresses frequently asked questions and criteria for eligibility. He requested Council schedule a public hearing for May 5, 2020.

Planning Director Hannah Jacobson stated the public hearing will help staff gain understanding of community needs, and Council will not be expected to make a decision at that time. She noted applications will be evaluated and a selection committee will provide recommendations to Council.

Councilmember Miller asked if the CDBG funds are part of the CARES Act allocating provisions to local and state governments.

Mr. Bailey pointed out the biggest challenge the City is facing is the loss of sales tax revenue. He noted the act that was passed only provided direct support to units of government that have a population of 500,000 or more. He explained funds provided to large units of government are not to off-set revenue but for COVID-19 related expenses. He stated the City does not have significant COVID-19 related expenses but is struggling with a loss in revenue.

Mayor Alexander stated she is working with other Mayors involved in the NC League of Municipalities, US Congress of Mayors, and the National League of Cities to encourage the Congress and Senate to support funding for the loss in revenue. She noted focus is currently on small businesses and she will continue to work with other Mayors to obtain funding.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Update-Citadel

Mayor Alexander mentioned she spoke with Ms. Patricia Cowan, Centralina Council of Governments Ombudsmen for nursing facilities in Rowan County, who is working with The Citadel staff during its COVID-19 outbreak. She acknowledged there is incorrect information circulating regarding the Citadel and they are in need of support from the community. She stated the City, County, and Novant are rallying to provide support to the Citadel.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Sheffield thanked Mr. Powers and staff for providing great service to citizens.

Councilmember Post expressed his concern with Citadel staff. He thanked City staff for all they do and suggested Council start a letter writing campaign to send letters to Senators and

members of Congress describing the City's current financial situation. He requested talking points for the letters to maintain consistency and increase impact.

Councilmember Miller thanked everyone in the community for all that they are doing to keep the community safe and functioning.

MAYOR PRO TEM COMMENTS

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins thanked citizens, staff, and Council for their continued efforts throughout the COVID-19 crisis and reminded everyone to practice social distancing and wear masks.

Mayor Pro Tem Heggins encouraged everyone to participate in the United States Census.

MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Alexander thanked citizens, staff, and Council for their continued efforts throughout the COVID-19 crisis. She mentioned everyone is affected by COVID-19 and the City will get through the crisis by working together, encouraging others to stay at home, and wearing a mask when going out.

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 7:27 p.m.



Karen Alexander, Mayor



Tiffany Crook, Deputy City Clerk