

Salisbury, North Carolina
January 15, 2013

REGULAR MEETING

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

ABSENT: None

Salisbury City Council met in Council Chambers in City Hall located at 217 South Main Street. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Woodson at 4:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Councilmember Miller.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Mayor Woodson welcomed all visitors present. He recognized Rowan County Commission Vice-Chair Craig Pierce who was in attendance.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Add – Council to go into closed session concerning an economic development matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4).

OATH OF OFFICE – COUNCILMEMBER KAREN KIRKS ALEXANDER

Ms. Karen Kirks Alexander came forward to take the Oath of Office for Salisbury City Council, her minister Reverend Carol Hallman of First United Church of Christ provided a blessing for the oath. City Clerk Myra Heard administered the oath to Ms. Alexander who was joined by her family.

Ms. Alexander recognized her family in the audience and Ms. Patty Mason, her son's mother-in-law. She thanked everyone who came to support her and promised to serve the City with a servant's heart and consider all citizens when deliberating the issues brought before Council.

OATH OF OFFICE – MAYOR PRO TEM MAGGIE A. BLACKWELL

Ms. Maggie Blackwell came forward to take the Oath of Office for Mayor Pro Tem for Salisbury City Council. City Clerk Myra Heard administered the oath to Ms. Blackwell who was joined by her husband Jody.

Ms. Blackwell stated she is proud to serve as Mayor Pro Tem and promised to work hard and do her best each day.

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 3, 2013 and the Special Meeting of January 3, 2013.

(b) Temporary Street Closure – 100 Block East Fisher Street

Close the 100 block of East Fisher Street Saturday, June 22, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. to accommodate the Salisbury PRIDE celebration.

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

HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – HURLEY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Landscape Architect Jane Ritchie and Ms. Daphne Beck, staff liaison, presented the Hurley Park Advisory Board Highlights for 2012 and Goals for 2013. Ms. Ritchie reviewed the 2012 Highlights:

- Held Spring Celebration
- Hosted Arbor Day with the Salisbury Tree Board
- Completed Phase 2 replanting
 - Funded by Hurley Foundation in addition to normal maintenance contributions
- Installed a new bench in Priscilla's Fragrance Garden
- Hosted six weddings and two events for Rowan Regional Medical Center
- Provided the setting for many local high school prom photographs
- Continued routine maintenance
- Updated irrigation map – in progress

Ms. Ritchie reviewed the Level 1 Goals for 2012-2013:

- Fill the vacant employee position - \$12,000
 - Matched with \$12,000 from the Hurley Foundation
- Plan for Phase 3 replanting - \$3,000
- Continue Spring Celebration and annual lecture - \$2,000

Ms. Ritchie explained Hurley Park operated with two staff positions for 23 years until a hiring freeze was implemented. She noted the Hurley Foundation provides half of the funding for employee salaries and maintenance costs for the park. She stated the Hurley Foundation currently pays for half of Ms. Beck's salary and will pay half of the salary for an additional employee for the park.

Ms. Ritchie reviewed the Level 2 Goals for 2012-2013

- Pond dredging - \$3,000
- Add an additional trash can along Annandale Avenue - \$375

Ms. Ritchie thanked the Hurley Foundation, staff, and Council for its support of Hurley Park.

Mayor Woodson thanked the Hurley Park Advisory Board and staff for all they do, noting the park is a beautiful asset to the City.

HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – SALISBURY TOURISM AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Community Planning Services Director Joe Morris introduced Salisbury Tourism and Cultural Development Commission (STCDC) Chair Bill Burgin, and Executive Director of the Rowan County Convention and Visitors Bureau James Meacham. Mr. Burgin thanked Council for allowing the STCDC to join efforts with the Rowan County Convention and Visitors Bureau, and he pointed out this joint effort has been key to STCDC's success. He stated the organizations have pooled their three percent occupancy tax funds and as a result, the whole surpasses two halves.

Mr. Meacham stated since 2010 the Rowan County Tourism Authority and the Salisbury Tourism Authority have worked together allowing this sector of the economy to grow. He presented the STCDC 2012-2013 operating budget:

Projected Total Revenues	\$312,000
Marketing Expense	\$194,400
Capital Expense	\$103,300
Administrative Fee	\$9,300
Operating Expenses	\$5,000
Total	<u>\$312,000</u>

Mr. Meacham noted the 2012 Highlights focused on three major areas:

- Structural Development and Sustainable Partnerships
- Destination and Product Development
- Tourism Programming and Destination Marketing

Mr. Meacham reviewed Structural Development and Sustainable Partnerships:

- Completed the restructuring of the Rowan Arts Council and finalized the Arts Council/Tourism Partnership
- Adopted Completion and Connection: A 10-year Visitor Industry Master Plan for Salisbury-Rowan County
- Realigned Downtown Salisbury Inc. event management and downtown marketing within the joint program of work of the Rowan County and Salisbury Tourism Authorities
- Sustainable partnership between both Tourism Authorities

Mr. Meacham reviewed Destination and Product Development and noted, by law, these funds can only be spent in the City of Salisbury:

- Adopted a 5-year capital expenditure budget
- Purchased Christmas decorations
- Two new trolleys
- Purchase pieces of public art

- Set aside funds for way-finding signage
- \$125,000 Our Town Grant to be distributed over the next five years dedicated to a center piece project in the downtown area

Mr. Meacham addressed Tourism Programming and Destination Marketing:

- Two major marketing campaigns (spring and summer)
- Awarded approximately \$60,000 in marketing grants
- Launched Arts Night Out with the Rowan Arts Council
- Managed and marketed Downtown events (July through December)
- Secured the 2013 Main Street Managers Conference
- Increased portfolio of sporting tournaments
- North Carolina Grassroots Grants
- Rowan Arts Council Visioning
- Groundwork for new digital infrastructure aimed at visitors
- Launched the Scrooge Trolley Tours in partnership with F&M Bank, Historic Salisbury Foundation and the Lee Street Theater

Mayor Woodson thanked Mr. Meacham and Mr. Burgin for their hard work and dedication to the community.

HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD

Ms. Nancy Brandt, Chair of the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), and Mr. Rodney Harrison, staff liaison, presented the Highlights and Goals for the TAB. Ms. Brandt reviewed the Goals for the TAB:

- Goal 1 – Consistently provide exceptional service to all customers
 - System Safety Program Plan
 - 98 percent compliance rate – 104 out of 106 sections in compliance
- Goal 2 – Evaluate fixed routes for efficiency, effectiveness as well as the feasibility to expand routes and services
 - Service improvements
 - Regular service to Lash Drive
 - Five Year Community Transportation Service Plan
 - Continue evaluating proposed routes
- Goal 3 – Better market and spread the word about public transit by “telling the story through a benefits campaign” to local elected bodies and the community at large
 - Outreach Programs
 - Rowan Cabarrus Community College Resource Fair
 - East Spencer Board of Alderman
 - La Fiesta de Rowan
 - Spencer’s Arbor Day
 - Rufty Holmes Senior Center
 - RHA Carter House

- Halloween Funfest
 - Touch-A-Truck
- Goal 4 – Improve transit connectivity inside and outside the City of Salisbury by focusing on connecting customers to places:
 - Rowan Express East and Rowan Express South
 - Partnerships with Rowan Transit System and Concord Kannapolis Area Transit (RIDER)
 - Centralina Mobility Management Project
 - South End/Main Line Forum
- Goal 5 – Maintain transit infrastructure at a high level and improve the aesthetic appeal of shelters, bus stops, benches, and signs:
 - Utilizing partnerships
 - Salisbury Housing Authority
 - East Spencer
 - Shelters scheduled for installation in 2013
 - Wal-Mart
 - City of Salisbury Customer Service Center
 - Department of Social Services – Health Department
 - Jersey City – Mocksville Avenue
 - Rufty-Holmes Senior Center
 - Harris Teeter

Ms. Brandt stated the Fixed Route ridership has continued to increase and noted ridership for fiscal year 2012 increased five percent. She reviewed the ridership figures:

	<u>Fixed Route</u>	<u>ADA</u>
FY2012	231,136	5,450
FY2011	220,278	7,292
FY2010	182,294	7,587
FY2009	176,856	8,381
FY2008	170,521	8,664

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated she was pleased to see additional shelters planned for the coming year. She thanked the TAB and staff for its work to provide service to the Lash Drive community.

Mayor Woodson thanked Ms. Brandt and Mr. Harrison for their service on the TAB.

HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – TREE BOARD

Mr. Rodney Queen, Chair of the Salisbury Tree Board, and Mr. Mark Martin, staff liaison, presented the Highlights and Goals for the Tree Board. Mr. Queen presented the Highlights for 2012:

- Conducted Arbor Day at Hurley Park – Status: Complete
 - Planted a Weeping Willow
- Eight street trees replaced downtown – Status: Complete
- Lee Street planted 17 trees – Status: Complete
- 100 South Lee Street Grant Project planted four trees – Status: Complete
- Tree City USA 26 Years – Status: Complete
- City GIS Tree Inventory Phase II – Status: Complete
 - Cost of \$2,495.25
- Continue subcommittee work reviewing current standards, Chapter 9 Environmental Protection of the Land Development Ordinance, and making recommendations to address pre-developing grading, clear-cutting, tree preservation, and tree planting – Status: Submitted to Planning Board for review

Mr. Queen reviewed the Tree Board Goals for 2013:

- City GIS Tree Inventory Phase III – Status: Requesting \$2,500
- Replace seven trees in the downtown area
 - Spring 2013
 - Funded \$5,700
- Provide funding for neighborhood tree planting projects and dead tree replacement along rights-of-way \$2,500
- Sponsor a Fall Conference on the economic benefits of Urban Forestry in partnership with local and State organizations \$2,500
- Continue educational training for tree companies, businesses and the general public
 - Purchase classified advertising
 - Newspaper articles
 - Handouts in water bills
 - Utilize Access Channel 16 and social networking sites
- Continue to seek grants and alternative funding for urban forestry programming
- Continue to participate in Arbor Day and Tree City USA programs
- Amend City Code to change public tree infractions from civil penalties to citations/fines enforceable by Code Enforcement

Mayor Woodson thanked Mr. Queen, members of the Tree Board, and staff for all they do for the City of Salisbury.

ECONOMIC INCENTIVE GRANT – THE DRIVESHAFT

Mr. Robert Van Geons, Executive Director of the Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission, and Mr. Frank Rehak, owner of The Driveshaft, addressed Council regarding an Economic Incentive Grant. Mr. Van Geons explained the grant is through the Industrial Building and Revitalization Program which targets older vacant buildings for reutilization.

Mr. Van Geons noted The Driveshaft has a 30-year history with the City. He stated the company is being forced to relocate due to the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) realignment of Klumac Road. He indicated the company wishes to stay in Salisbury and is considering renovation and rehabilitation of an existing building in the community.

Mr. Rehak stated The Driveshaft has been in business for 35 years and manufactures performance products for the racing industry.

Mr. Van Geons stated The Driveshaft has identified the former Power Box Solutions building that has been vacant for approximately five years. He reviewed the anticipated renovations and pointed out it will cost approximately \$213,000 to complete. He explained the qualifications for the grant:

- Building or tenant space has been vacant for more than six months
 - Southmark has been vacant for five years
- Property must be located in a designated Community and Economic Development Project Area, Urban Progress Zone, or Urban Progress Zone eligible area of the City
- Applicant must provide a detailed cost estimate outlining the proposed improvements and estimated costs
- Total improvements to the property must exceed \$20,000, including the requested grant
- Eligible buildings are built prior to 1990
- Proposed operation must employ one person per \$5,000 of grant funds approved
 - Driveshaft has 20 employees and is looking to add five additional employees

Councilmember Miller stated he has had conversations with Mr. Rehak regarding financing opportunities for this property and asked to be recused.

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a **motion** to recuse Mr. Miller. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

(b) Mayor Woodson convened a hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding an Economic Incentive Grant for The Driveshaft.

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

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell thanked Mr. Rehak for increasing the employment base and keeping his operation in Salisbury.

Councilmember Alexander stated this is a good example of how the City can assist and keep businesses in the City.

Councilmember Kennedy noted it is a great opportunity to retain 20 jobs and add five additional jobs.

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a **motion** to approve an Economic Incentive Grant in the amount of \$25,000 for The Driveshaft. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

CONTRACT – BUCKEYE CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) Director Jim Behmer and Engineering Manager Jason Wilson addressed Council regarding the Second Creek Waste Water Treatment Elimination Project. Mr. Behmer stated the project will eliminate a 30,000 gallon per day small package waste water plant that serves West Rowan Middle School and Magna Composites and currently discharges into Second Creek. He noted the project will reduce yearly operation and maintenance cost and eliminate a discharge permit. He explained SRU:

- Prequalified six contractors
- Three bids were received on December 11, 2012
- Buckeye Construction Company of Canton, North Carolina submitted the apparent low bid of \$1,130,420.92

Mr. Behmer reviewed the project costs:

Engineering (design, survey, permitting, CA/CO)	\$351,500.00
Easement Acquisition	\$15,000.00
Construction (includes 5 percent contingency)	<u>\$1,130,420.92</u>
Total Project Cost	\$1,496,920.92

Mr. Behmer pointed out the projected total cost is slightly lower than \$1.5 million, well below the \$1.77 million presented in June. He stated the project was originally presented with four funding partners but currently has three. He explained since January 2012 several conditions at Magna Composites have changed affecting its participation in the project. He stated an additional \$85,220.92 in funding is needed to allow the project to proceed. He explained the project has a 14-year payback with no rate increase for customers.

Mr. Behmer noted the revised funding option:

SRU	\$696,920.92
Clean Water Management Trust Fund (CWMTF) Grant	\$600,000.00
Rowan-Salisbury School System	<u>\$200,000.00</u>
Total Project Cost	\$1,496,920.92

Mr. Behmer reviewed the SCWWTP Elimination Project timeline and noted staff recommends awarding the contract to Buckeye Construction Company:

August 19, 2011	CWMTF \$600,000 grant award
October 17, 2011	RSSS \$200,000 participation
December 11, 2012	Bids received for construction
January 15, 2013	Construction contract award
March – September 2013	Project construction (210 days)

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** to award a contract to Buckeye Construction Company in the amount of \$1,130,420.92 for the Second Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant Elimination Project contingent upon funding from the Rowan-Salisbury School System and the Clean Air Water Management Trust Fund. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

BUDGET ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – SECOND CREEK WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT ELIMINATION PROJECT

Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) Director Jim Behmer stated staff would like to appropriate \$200,000 in developer contributions from Rowan-Salisbury School System and a \$600,000 grant from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant to use toward the Second Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant Elimination Project.

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance amending the 2012-2013 Budget Ordinance of the City of Salisbury, North Carolina to appropriate developer contributions and a Clean Water Management Trust Fund Grant for the Second Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant Elimination Project. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2012-2013 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS AND CLEAN WATER MANAGEMENT TRUST FUND (CWMTF) GRANT FOR THE SECOND CREEK WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT ELIMINATION.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 24 at Page No. 1, and is known as Ordinance 2013-01)

UPDATE – STREET LIGHTING

Street Lighting Technician Vickie Eddleman updated Council on street lighting throughout the City. She explained the results of nighttime patrols performed by Fire Department light duty personnel:

- 2010 Patrols: 177 malfunctioning lights
- 2011 Patrols: 102 malfunctioning lights
- 2012 Patrols: 65 malfunctioning lights

Ms. Eddleman reviewed citizens reported outages and noted an average of 18 malfunctioning lights per month in 2012:

- 2010: 19 malfunctions per month
- 2011: 21 malfunctions per month
- 2012: 18 malfunctions per month

Mayor Woodson thanked Ms. Eddleman for the report and all she does for the City.

APPOINTMENT – PLANNING BOARD

Community Planning Services Director Joe Morris stated Mr. Josh Lavis, a resident of the Fulton Heights community, has been accepted at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in the Masters Degree Program in Planning. He recommended Mr. Lavis for service on the Planning Board.

Councilmember Alexander supported Mr. Lavis to fill the vacant position on the Planning Board.

Upon a **motion** by Ms. Alexander, seconded by Mr. Miller, and with Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voting AYE, the following appointment was made fill an unexpired term on the Planning Board:

Mr. Josh Lavis

Term expires 3/31/15

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Woodson opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. William Peoples, 522 North Fulton Street, stated he is upset with the way Council chose to fill its vacant position. He indicated the election process was by-passed and citizens were not given the opportunity to participate. Mr. Peoples stated in 2004 he began to track the City's hiring practices, and there were problems in 2004 that are still evident today. He noted City Council is charged with diversity and inclusion. He stated the City has 500 employees and less than 80 are African-Americans. He noted there are street lights out in the African-American community, and he referenced a street light near the City garage that has been out for over two years. He stated Council's actions in recent months have not been transparent and all departments within the City are not treated the same. He asked Council if it has done its best to improve the quality of life in the City.

Mayor Woodson asked City Manager Doug Paris to check into the street light Mr. Peoples referenced.

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

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

(a) 2nd Quarter Financial Update

City Manager Doug Paris asked Assistant City Manager John Sofley to present the second quarter financial update. Mr. Sofley noted revenues in nearly every fund have either met or exceeded expectation and expenditures are under the projected amount.

Mr. Sofley referenced a graph of property tax values at mid-year and noted \$2.701 million is budgeted at mid-year, \$2.692 had been billed and \$2.798 is projected to be billed. He explained properties are billed at different times throughout the year.

Mr. Sofley displayed noted property tax collection is the highest it has been in six years. He stated property tax is the largest revenue item for the City and having collected a significant portion drives General Fund revenue:

- FY2009 - 61%
- FY2010 - 63%
- FY2011 - 66%
- FY2012 - 66%
- FY2013 - 68%

Mr. Sofley reviewed sales tax revenue and noted it is slightly higher than last year at the same time. He noted staff was concerned sales tax revenue may decline due to consumer confidence and budgeted less than the previous year.

Mr. Sofley displayed a graph of State franchise tax receipts for mid-year and noted the City has received one of four payments. He noted the last two payments will be received at the end of the year. He stated collection is where staff expected it to be, and he pointed out \$630,538 of the projected \$2.5 million has been collected.

Mr. Sofley stated General Fund revenue is at 56 percent received, which is slightly over the expected amount due to property tax receipts. He noted expenditures are at 45 percent, slightly under the projected amount. He pointed out General Fund revenue exceeds expenditures at this point.

Mr. Sofley reviewed the Water and Sewer Fund revenue for the second quarter. He explained revenue is where it is expected to be. He examined Water and Sewer Fund through mid-year and pointed out sales are slightly over the projected amount due to peak use customers. He noted the Water and Sewer Fund revenue is at 52 percent received, or \$11,779,163, of the budgeted \$22,642,499. He noted the Water and Sewer Fund is at 35 percent expended, or \$7,970,280, of the budgeted \$22,642,499.

Councilmember Miller stated some of the Water and Sewer Fund expenditures are timed through the year. He pointed out the contract Council approved for Buckeye Construction will affect the funds once the money is spent. Mr. Sofley stated that is correct and noted the City has significant debt services payments due in the later part of the year. He explained due to careful management the City was able to fund the Capital Project just approved by Council.

Mr. Sofley indicated Fibrant is having consistent but conservative growth. He reviewed the average revenues per user. He noted most customers sign up for at least two services and the average is slightly over two services. He pointed out during the third quarter of 2012 Fibrant exceeded Time Warner Cable and Verizon in average revenue per user.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell clarified this does not mean Fibrant is charging customers more, but that customers are investing in more services from Fibrant than from its competitors. Mr. Sofley stated that is correct.

Mr. Sofley noted the percentages of uptime and pointed out in December 2012 Fibrant was up over 99.9 percent. He reviewed revenues versus expenditures for the second quarter, and he noted Fibrant has taken in \$2,219,782 in revenue and has \$2,219,782 in expenses, including \$477,376 for interfund loans. He pointed out to date the City has used 19 percent of the interfund loan Council approved.

Mr. Sofley explained Transit is funded by grants and rider fares. He stated Transit fare revenues are at 50 percent, or \$59,707, of the budgeted \$118,480, and expenditures are at 40 percent, or \$478,305, of the budgeted \$1,193,315 for the second quarter.

Mr. Sofley reviewed the Stormwater budget for the second quarter. He noted revenue is at 44 percent billed, or \$568,657, of the budgeted \$1,297,333. He noted staff projected collecting 93 percent, and actual collections are at 93 percent. He indicated billings are under budget, and staff is managing expenses based on the amount that has billed. He stated expenditures are at 40 percent, or \$523,767, of the budgeted \$1,297,333.

Mayor Woodson stated the City is making improvements as money becomes available. Mr. Sofley indicated improvements are based on available cash.

Mr. Sofley stated revenues across the board are exceeding projected amounts, especially on large revenue items. He indicated staff is doing a great job managing expenditures. He noted City Manager Doug Pairs and the Finance staff will meet with each department to review expenditures through the first quarter and discuss objectives for the last two quarters.

Mayor Woodson thanked Mr. Sofley for the excellent report.

Mr. Miller stated he is pleased to see statistics for the Fibrant utility and to share with citizens how progress is measured. He pointed out this will help build trust needed for the utility to grow. He indicated it is great to see citizens are buying more services from Fibrant than from its competitors. He stated he would like to see more of this reporting for Fibrant because the information is an asset to Council. He thanked Mr. Sofley and staff for the report.

Mr. Sofley noted the report will be posted on the City's website.

City Manager Doug Paris stated things are looking well. He pointed out it is not time to celebrate, instead the City must maintain its financial discipline and finish the job at hand.

Mr. Miller noted several people have brought the \$2 million surplus from last year's budget to his attention. He pointed out that the amount was from last year's budget and did not include funding for fire and public safety which is included in the current year's budget.

Mr. Paris pointed out this is not a strong recovery but there are positive signs. He stated the City needs to be conservative and offer strong financial leadership so that national or international events will not affect its economy.

Mayor Woodson thanked Mr. Paris and the Management Team for its hard work.

RECOGNITION – BOY SCOUT TROOP 448

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell recognized members of Boy Scout Troop 448 who were in the audience.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration

Mayor Woodson announced the W.G. "Bill" Hefner V.A. Medical Center will host a celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday Friday, January 18, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. The celebration will be held in the Social Room, Building 6 at the Hefner V.A. Medical Center located at 1601 Brenner Avenue.

(b) Mt. Zion Humanitarian Awards

Mayor Woodson announced Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church will host the annual Humanitarian Awards Sunday, January 20, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. The Awards will be held at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church located at 1920 Shirley Avenue.

(c) Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast

Mayor Woodson announced the Salisbury-Rowan Human Relations Council will host the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast, Monday, January 21, 2013 at 7:00 a.m. The Breakfast will be held at the J. F. Hurley YMCA, 828 Jake Alexander Boulevard. Tickets are \$8.00 in advance or \$10 at the door. To purchase tickets or for additional information please call 704-638-5217 or 704-638-2168.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated this year tickets are \$8.00 at the door.

(d) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Activities Parade and Activities

Mayor Woodson announced the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade will be held Monday, January 21, 2013. The parade will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the corner of Kerr Street and North Main Street and will end at the Salisbury Civic Center, 315 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, where activities celebrating Dr. King will be held from 12:00 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

(e) Open House – City Park Recreation Center

Mayor Woodson announced Salisbury Parks and Recreation will host a neighborhood meeting/open house at the City Park Recreation Center located at 315 Lake Drive Thursday, January 24, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

(f) The North Carolina Main Street Conference

Mayor Woodson announced the North Carolina Main Street Conference will be held in downtown Salisbury, January 30, 2013 through February 1, 2013. For more information or to register visit www.ncmainstreetcenter.com.

(g) 17th Annual Father and Daughter Dance

Mayor Woodson announced the Salisbury Parks and Recreation Department will host the 17th Annual Father and Daughter Dance Saturday, February 9, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at the Civic Center, 315 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue. Tickets are available at the Civic Center or by calling (704) 638-5275.

(h) 28th Annual Future Directions and Goal Setting Retreat

Mayor Woodson announced Salisbury City Council will hold its 28th Annual Future Directions and Goal Setting Retreat February 14-15, 2013.

(i) Boards and Commissions

Mayor Woodson announced the City of Salisbury is seeking citizens who have an interest in serving on one of the City's Boards and Commissions. Seats are currently available on the Planning Board. Council is also seeking citizens to serve on a Committee to Study Nuisance Animals and a Committee to Review the Historic District Guidelines. Information regarding the Boards and Commissions and applications are available online at www.salisburync.gov under the Boards and Commissions tab. Applications are also available at the City Clerk's Office located at 217 South Main Street, or by calling 704-638-5224.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Woodson indicated a motion is needed to go into closed session concerning an economic development matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4).

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a **motion** to go into closed session to consult with an attorney concerning an economic development matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4). Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

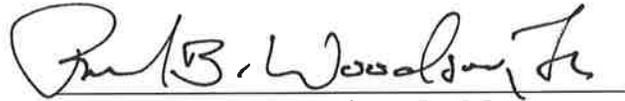
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

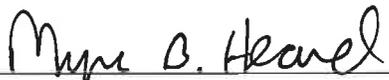
Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** to return to open session. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

Mayor Woodson announced no action was taken in Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Blackwell seconded by Ms. Alexander. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.


Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Mayor


Myra B. Heard, City Clerk