

Salisbury, North Carolina  
January 7, 2014

**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; Deputy City Clerk Kelly Baker; and City Attorney F. Rivers Lawther, Jr.

**ABSENT:** City Clerk Myra B. Heard

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 Kennedy.

**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.

**RECOGNITION – SALISBURY-ROWAN UTILITIES PLATINUM 9 AND GOLD PEAK PERFORMANCE AWARDS**

Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) Director Jim Behmer informed Council that SRU has been recognized by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies for Outstanding Record of Compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for 2012. He indicated there are approximately 300 municipal waste water facilities in the State, and the SRU Wastewater Treatment Plant was one of seven in North Carolina to receive the Platinum Award. He explained the award signifies five or more years of 100 percent NPDES permit compliance. He commended plant operations employees in the Environmental Services Divisions for their success.

Mr. Behmer noted this is the fourth Platinum Award SRU has received, and it is a Platinum 9 Award in recognition of nine years of 100 percent NPDES permit compliance.

Mayor Woodson presented the Platinum Award to Mr. Martin Trexler, Wastewater Treatment Operations Manager and Operator of Responsible Charge for Salisbury-Rowan Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mr. Behmer informed Council SRU also received the Gold Award for the Second Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. He explained this award recognizes facilities that have received 100 percent NPDES permit compliance in a calendar year. He noted the Second Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant has been converted to a package plant, and this will be the last award for the facility.

Mayor Woodson presented the Gold Award to Mr. Charles Wood, Senior Operator and Operator of Responsible Charge and Mr. James Barringer, Back-up Operator of Responsible Charge for Second Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Mayor Woodson congratulated the staff of SRU and thanked Mr. Behmer for his leadership.

**RECOGNITION – SALISBURY-ROWAN UTILITIES NORTH CAROLINA AREA-WIDE OPTIMIZATION AWARD**

Salisbury-Rowan Utilities (SRU) Director Jim Behmer informed Council SRU has been recognized by the North Carolina Division of Water Resources-Public Water Supply section for surpassing Federal and State drinking water standards for 2012. He noted the Salisbury-Rowan Water Treatment Plant is one of 49 in the State to receive the North Carolina Area-Wide Optimization Award.

Mr. Mark Hahn, North Carolina Division of Water Resources, explained the award is part of the National Area-Wide Optimization Program (AWOP) that calls for additional public health protection standards. He pointed out the award recognizes systems that demonstrate outstanding turbidity and microbial removal, two important factors for determining drinking water quality.

Mayor Woodson presented the award to Mr. Keith Bowersox, Water Treatment Plant Operations Manager and Operator in Responsible Charge. Mayor Woodson thanked Mr. Hahn and recognized the SRU staff for all they do for the City.

## **PROCLAMATION**

Mayor to proclaim the following observance:

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

January 20, 2014

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

(a) **Approval of Minutes**

Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 17, 2013.

(b) **Lease – Zimmerman Building**

Ratify a lease between Christopher J. Gregg and David A. Brown and the City of Salisbury for the Zimmerman Building located at 110 North Main Street.

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

## **HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – COMMUNITY APPEARANCE COMMISSION**

Ms. Sue McHugh, Chair of the Community Appearance Commission (CAC), and Ms. Lynn Raker, staff liaison, presented the CAC Highlights and Goals.

Ms. McHugh reviewed the Highlights for 2013:

- Awarded eight Municipal Service District Incentive Grants
  - Total Grants – \$19,690 of \$22,000
  - Total Project Amounts – \$402,326
- Awarded six Innes Street Improvement Grants
  - Total Grants – \$13,370 of \$20,000
  - Total Project Amounts – \$55,513, a 400 percent return on investment
- Public Art Committee
  - Continued to promote the Salisbury History and Art Trail
  - 2013 Salisbury Sculpture Show
    - Governor Pat McCrory, “...extremely innovative. Maybe that’s an idea we can borrow throughout the State.”

- Neighborhoods and Education Committee
  - Neighborhood Leaders Alliance
    - Bi-annual meetings
    - Continued support for Housing Advocacy Commission (HAC)
    - Third BlockWork event – 700 block of East Franklin Street
  - Co-sponsored Spring and Fall spruce-up with the Public Services Department
  - Adopt-a-Street program
    - Rowan Helping Ministries
    - Brooklyn South Square Neighborhood
    - Food Lion – Harrison Road
- Landscape Committee
  - Landscape of the Month Awards
  - Holiday Storefront Decorations Awards

Ms. McHugh reviewed the 2014-2015 Level 1 Goals:

- Support implementation of the Innes Street /Long Street “Complete Streets” Corridor Study recommendations
- Collaborate with staff, Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI) and other stakeholders on implementation of Council goals for economic development
  - Improve and enhance downtown Salisbury
  - Develop a downtown streetscape improvement plan
- Collaborate on continued improvements along the North Main Street corridor per North Main Small Area Plan proposals
  - Complete improvements at 1131 North Main Street
- Support planning and implementation of “Centerpiece” multi-purpose cultural plaza and farmers market
- Support planning efforts for the South Main Street corridor
- Support phased development and implementation of the West End Transformation Plan

Ms. McHugh explained the CAC’s Incentive Grant Programs have a proven benefit to cost ratio. She stated the CAC is requesting the Municipal Service District Grant and the Innes Street Improvement Grant Programs be funded at \$25,000 each. She noted the Municipal Service District Grant, administered from 1981 through December 2013 yielded a total of \$470,000 in public investment and leveraged \$7.1 million in private investment, a ratio of 1 to 15 public to private investment. She indicated this investment results in a dramatic increase in tax revenues, tourism dollars, sales tax revenues, and jobs.

Ms. McHugh reviewed the Innes Street Improvement Grant and pointed out \$353,000 in public investment has leveraged more than \$4.8 million in private investment, for a ratio of 1 to 14 public to private investment.

Ms. McHugh stated the continued improvements in downtown Salisbury show a strong connection between the incentive grants and economic development. She pointed out the grants support Council goals for:

- Renovation projects
- An attractive downtown
- Upper-floor use
- Higher tax values
- Increased tourism
- More jobs

Ms. McHugh reviewed the Level 1 goals requiring funding:

- Continue the Municipal Service District Grant – \$25,000
- Continue the Innes Street Incentive Grant – \$25,000
- Continue promotion of programs – \$1,500
  - Spring and Fall Spruce-up Days
  - Landscape of the Month
  - Adopt a Salisbury Street
  - Other programs
- Hold the annual BlockWork program to promote neighborhood accountability block-by-block – \$10,000
- Continue to expand the Salisbury History and Art Trail marker program and host the 6<sup>th</sup> Sculpture Show – \$20,000
- Bi-annual plantings in downtown planters – \$1,000

Ms. McHugh discussed other key Goals for the CAC:

- Support efforts of the Housing Advocacy Commission (HAC), Code Services, and other City efforts to address deteriorated housing
- Continue to raise awareness of public art opportunities
- Continue to serve as liaison for neighborhood leaders and to host bi-annual neighborhood leader meetings

Ms. McHugh thanked Council for its support of the CAC and its vision for the City.

Mayor Woodson recognized Ms. McHugh for her work and the CAC for all it does for the community.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated she is honored to serve as the Council liaison for the CAC, and it is a privilege to work with each member.

Ms. Raker thanked Ms. Blackwell for serving as Council liaison and noted she is very active with the Commission.

## **HIGHLIGHTS AND GOAL – GREENWAY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Stephen Brown, staff liaison, and Ms. Carol Massey, Greenway Committee member, presented the Greenway Committee's 2013 Highlights and 2014 Goals.

Ms. Massey explained the Greenway system consists of 5.2 miles of trails that include walk connectors. She displayed a map of the Greenway and pointed out the trail markers have been installed. She reviewed 2013 Highlights:

- Greenway area:
  - Memorial Park – .4 mile
  - Forest Hills – .4 mile
  - Prescott – .8 mile
  - Grants Creek – .7 mile
  - Kelsey Scott – .3 mile
  - Brenner Avenue – .8 mile
- Earth Day Exploratory at the Greenway
- 16<sup>th</sup> annual Run Walk for the Greenway 5K

Ms. Massey then reviewed the Greenway Committees Goals for 2014:

- Continue phase three of Greenway development
  - Kelsey Scott/Grants Creek Connector
  - Support a subcommittee to pursue grants and easement agreements for phase three of the Greenway
- Coordinate the 17<sup>th</sup> annual 5K Run Walk for the Greenway
  - July 19, 2014
- Coordinate the Earth Day Exploratory
  - April 10, 2014

Ms. Massey thanked Council for its support of the Greenway Committee.

Mayor Woodson thanked Ms. Massey and Mr. Brown for the presentation and expressed Council's gratitude to the Greenway Committee.

## **HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL**

Ms. Milena Sifuentes, Human Relations Council (HRC) staff liaison, introduced Mr. John Mitchell, HRC Chair. Mr. Mitchell reviewed the 2013-2014 Highlights:

- New Partnerships – United Way, Salvation Army, Communities in Schools, Waterworks Gallery, Charlotte Latin American Coalition and Livingstone College Clubs and Organizations
- New Initiatives
  - A Salisbury Youth Council representative attends HRC meetings
  - Cultural background presentations before HRC meetings
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. parade to be held Saturday January 18, 2014 and post parade festivities at the Miller Center in the West End Community
- Elizabeth Duncan Koontz Humanitarian Awards location change to the Depot
  - 2013 Honorees
    - Dr. Albert Aymer
    - Mr. Wilson Cherry
    - Dr. Mary Frances Edens
    - The Hurley Family
- La Fiesta de Rowan – Fisher Street, downtown Salisbury

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the continued projects:

- Fair Housing Workshop
- Mayor's Sprit Luncheon
- Let's Get Connected Day – Peace Poles
- Meet Your Neighbor Public Forums
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration
- La Fiesta de Rowan
- Supporting the Salisbury Youth Council
- Elizabeth Duncan Koontz Humanitarian Awards

Mr. Mitchell presented the community education programs supported by the HRC:

- Meet Your Neighbor Forum on race relations
- Communities at Risk parenting classes on drugs, bullying and gangs

Mr. Mitchell reviewed the FY2014-2015 Goals:

- Present recommended Ordinance changes to Council
- Evaluate events
- Continue to work on a resource directory
- Support the Salisbury Youth Council
- Address community needs identified through Communities at Risk discussions

- Partner with the Housing Advocacy Commission (HAC) for the Fair Housing Workshop

Ms. Sifuentes presented a proposed 2014-2015 Budget:

	<u>2012-2013 Program Expenses</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>	<u>Current Program Expenses</u>	<u>2014-2015 Projected Budget</u>
HRC	\$3,261.00	\$5,300.00	\$1,721.81	\$3,500.00
Hispanic Coalition	\$5,417.34	\$5,125.00	\$10,855.72	\$5,500.00
Covenant Community Connection	\$5,368.60		\$62.50	\$5,500.00
Elizabeth Duncan Koontz Banquet	\$3,815.86			\$2,000.00
<u>Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration</u>	<u>\$13,902.97</u>	\$8,400.00	\$364.12	\$14,000.00
Total	\$31,765.77			
<u>2013 Revenue Received</u>		\$18,825.00		
Council Sponsorship Request				<u>\$5,150.00</u>

Ms. Sifuentes stated many of the HRC’s projects are funded by community sponsors. She indicated the HRC is requesting \$5,150 for FY2014-2015.

Mr. Mitchell thanked Council for its continued support of the HRC as it embraces diversity and inclusion.

Mayor Woodson thanked Mr. Mitchell and Ms. Sifuentes for their service and the HRC for all it does for the community.

**HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – SALISBURY TOURISM AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

Salisbury Tourism and Cultural Development Commission (STCDC) Chair Bill Burgin, and Executive Director of the Rowan County Convention and Visitors Bureau James Meacham addressed Council regarding Highlights and Goals for the STCDC.

Mr. Meacham noted the 2013 Highlights focused on Master Plan implementation:

- Sustainable Structure
- Destination Marketing
- Destination Development

Mr. Meacham reviewed Sustainable Structure:

- Completed the restructuring of the Gateway Building partnership and renovations
- Formalized the relationship between the Salisbury Tourism and Authority and the Rowan Tourism Authority with the creation of the Salisbury-Rowan County Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Entered into a structured partnership with the North Carolina Transportation Museum Foundation to focus on tourism events and activities at the Museum
- Continued support of Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI) during its transitional period through marketing, events and administration

Mr. Meacham presented 2013 Destination Marketing:

- January 2013 to November 2013 Occupancy Tax revenues were up 9.2 percent
- Partnership Marketing
  - North Carolina Transportation Museum
  - DSI
- Group business
  - Hosted the North Carolina Main Street Managers Conference
  - Sporting activities
- North Carolina Tourism (Visit NC) Cooperative Marketing Program
- F&M Bank Trolley System
- Digital and social media
- Focus on expanding and increasing overnight stays

Mr. Meacham addressed Destination Development projects:

- F&M Bank trolley system
- Public art – dedication of Jeremiah the Frog Spring 2013
- Capital funds – Lee Street Theater
- Gateway Building renovations
- Wayfinding Signage System which is funded and waiting North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) approval

Mr. Meacham stated in 2014 the STCDC will focus on what is outlined in the Master Plan:

- Sustainable Structure
- Partnerships
- Additional marketing staff
- Growing the overnight visitor
- Expanding into digital marketing
- Growth in group business
- Trolley System
- More public art purchases

- Finalizing the Christmas decoration purchase
- Centerpiece project

Mr. Burgin emphasized the City's importance to tourism in Rowan County.

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

### **BAN OF SMOKING AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS IN SALISBURY'S PARK SYSTEMS**

Ms. Amy Smith, Chair Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and Mr. Jeff Jones, Vice-Chair Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, shared their concerns regarding tobacco use at park facilities. Ms. Smith stated in North Carolina second-hand smoke costs \$288.8 million annually. She pointed out 193,000 people who are under the age of 18 and alive in North Carolina, will die prematurely from smoking

Ms. Smith explained second-hand smoke contains more than 7,000 chemicals. She pointed out hundreds of the chemicals are toxic, and about 70 are cancer causing chemical compounds. She indicated cigarette litter represents over 20 percent of all litter collected in community cleanup initiatives.

Ms. Smith stated Rowan County's top four causes of death are diseases of the heart, cancer, cerebrovascular disease, and chronic lower respiratory diseases, and they are all related to tobacco use. She noted 79 percent of Rowan County residents are non-smoking, and 73.1 percent of the residents surveyed prefer smoke-free playgrounds. She indicated parks should be healthy places for youth, families, pets and the community.

Ms. Smith displayed an updated sample of signage that could be purchased with grant funds from the Community Transformation Project through the Rowan County Health Department at no cost to the City. She referenced a letter to the editor from the January 4, 2013 *Salisbury Post*, and a letter from Rowan County Health Department Interim Health Director Nina M. Oliver supporting adoption of the proposed Ordinance.

(b) Mayor Woodson convened a hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding prohibiting smoking and the use of other tobacco products on the grounds and in the buildings of the City of Salisbury's Park System.

Mr. Jeff Jones, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member, stated he supports the Ordinance as a Board member and parent of a child that plays tennis in the City parks.

Mr. Steve Joslyn, 125 Waters Road, Rowan County Health Department Allied Health Manager, shared information regarding second-hand smoke. He explained second-hand smoke is a mixture of gasses and fine particles that include smoke from burning cigarettes, cigars or pipes that has been inhaled and breathed out by the smoker. He listed cancer causing agents in cigarette smoke, and he pointed out second-hand smoke contributes to ear infections, more frequent and severe asthmas attacks, respiratory symptoms and infections, and a greater risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in children. He indicated second-hand smoke is responsible for an estimated 150,000 to 300,000 new cases of bronchitis and pneumonia each year and approximately 15,000 hospitalizations of children 18 months and younger annually in the United States. He asked Council to support the proposed Ordinance.

Mr. John Burke, 328 Mitchell Avenue, explained he is not a smoker but opposes the proposed Ordinance. He stated it is an attack on personal freedom and citizens have a right to engage in an unhealthy lifestyle. He questioned the cost of the proposed Ordinance and staff's ability to enforce it. He asked Council to table the proposed Ordinance.

Mr. John Henderlite, 3 North Road, Salisbury, stated he supports the proposed Ordinance. He quoted the United States Department of Interior Director Order 50D dated June 29, 2009, "The health and well being of its employees and visitors is of the utmost importance to the National Park Service as is the protection of its cultural and natural resources. Tobacco smoking has long been recognized as a major cause of death and disease responsible for an estimated 434,000 deaths per year in the United States. The health risk affect not only those who smoke but all those who are exposed to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) commonly known as second-hand smoke. Even when insufficient to cause cancer, ETS exposure can cause other health hazards for nonsmokers such as allergic reactions and can be a source of discomfort and annoyance. The purpose of this Directors Order is to establish a National Park Service Policy for tobacco smoking that will protect employees and park visitors from the health hazards and annoyances associated with ETS exposure." He noted the Ordinance as presented will offer a high level of protection for citizens who visit City parks. He added he is a frequent visitor to Hurley Park and other parks within the City limits. He pointed out smokers discard cigarette butts on the grounds littering the entrance to Hurley Park. He emphasized park usage should be a healthy experience for all citizens. He asked Council to adopt the Ordinance as presented.

Mayor Woodson recognized Mr. Henderlite as a past Council member and former Mayor Pro Tem. He thanked Mr. Henderlite for his years of service to the City.

Ms. Dorothy Partlow indicated she supports smoke-free City parks because no one should have to breathe second-hand smoke, especially children. She noted second-hand smoke causes disease in nonsmokers. She stated she is exposed to second-hand smoke on her job and now suffers from asthma. She pointed out she supports the proposed Ordinance and noted smoking should be banned from all parks in Rowan County.

Ms. Mary Arey, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member and City resident, stated she has spoken to many citizens and all of them support the proposed Ordinance. She pointed out second-hand smoke is offensive, and it should be eliminated from parks that are designed to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Ms. Elaine China, 1414 Ludwick Heights Lane, Chair Hurley Park Advisory Board, noted she is an ex-smoker. She stated smoking is dirty and pollutes the environment. She indicated the Hurley Park Advisory Board is aware of cigarette butts littering the park. She explained cigarette butts take approximately 30 years to disintegrate but never go away due to the particulate matter that remains. She added cigarettes contain disease carrying organisms that affect plants. She noted Hurley Park is a horticultural gem that is being littered by cigarette butts. She stated when the hospital banned smoking the smokers moved to Hurley Park. She asked Council to do its part to keep the City's parks clean and smoke-free. She indicated people have a right to smoke but not to endanger the public.

Nancy Vick, 302 Windmill Road, explained government is taking citizen's rights. She stated government should not dictate what the public can and cannot do. She pointed out City parks are littered with more than cigarette butts, and she suggested a designated smoking area in all City parks.

Mayor Woodson clarified the proposed Ordinance will affect all City parks and not just Hurley Park.

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

Councilmember Alexander explained she is the Council liaison to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. She recognized Board Members for their work and research on the proposed Ordinance. She stated she supports the proposed Ordinance, and she emphasized it does not take away individual rights but protects the rights of all citizens. She noted smokers can use the park but cannot smoke in it. She stated Council should protect citizens from dangerous substances, and she pointed out the City has air quality issues.

Councilmember Miller pointed out cigarette butts on park grounds will be reduced for the cost of a few signs. He explained City Parks make up a small percentage of land in the City, and the request is reasonable. He noted if someone is violating the Ordinance they will be asked to stop. He stated if the proposed Ordinance is enforced in a common sense way it will improve park conditions, and he supports the proposed Ordinance.

Councilmember Kennedy stated he supports the proposed Ordinance. He pointed out Salisbury-Rowan is in a non-attainment area, and it has been proven much of the pollution is from other areas. He indicated it is Council's responsibility to protect citizens from health problems, and he emphasized second-hand smoke is unhealthy. He noted the City Park System includes the Civic Center, Miller Recreation Center and Hall Gym.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell noted she supports the proposed Ordinance.

Mayor Woodson stated he appreciates comments from citizens on both sides of the issue, and noted he supports the proposed Ordinance.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** to adopt an Ordinance prohibiting smoking and the use of other tobacco products on the grounds and in the buildings located in the City of Salisbury's Park System. Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

**ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT SMOKING AND THE USE OF OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS ON THE GROUNDS OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY'S PARKS SYSTEM AND IN BUILDINGS LOCATED IN THE CITY OF SALISBURY'S PARK SYSTEM.**

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 24 at Page No. 1, and is known as Ordinance 2014-01)

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT GRANT APPLICATION**

Senior Planner Trey Cleaton addressed Council regarding the Salisbury Brownfields Program, a grant under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Brownfields Program. He explained a Brownfield is:

- Abandoned industrial sites
- Abandoned gas stations
- Hazardous materials storage or dump sites

Mr. Cleaton explained a Brownfield is a property with major liabilities that deter redevelopment. He stated the City is applying for a 2014 Assessment Grant that would secure up to \$400,000 to:

- Inventory sites
- Characterize sites by identifying past uses
- Determine type and degree of contamination
- Help with cleanup and redevelopment planning
- Encourage community awareness, support and involvement

Mr. Cleaton stated the public hearing will help gather information from citizens regarding Brownfield sites. He noted the City received letters of support from:

- Historic Salisbury Foundation
- Salisbury Housing Authority
- Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI)
- Park Avenue Redevelopment Corporation
- Park Avenue Neighborhood Association
- Livingstone College
- Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission (EDC)

Mr. Cleaton explained the Assessment Grant is for the entire City. He noted the City began working on its first application in 2012. He indicated the grant can be used on multiple sites throughout the City. He added the City will continue to seek community input. He noted cleaning and redevelopment of Brownfields would bring health and economic benefits to the community.

Councilmember Alexander stated she supports the 2014 Assessment Grant application. She indicated it is an opportunity for the City to lead the effort to address Brownfields. She explained the first order of business should be a comprehensive assessment to be used on future grant applications for specific projects.

Mayor Woodson asked Mr. Cleaton about the City's chances of being selected for the grant. Mr. Cleaton noted the 2013 application received a high score even though it did not secure funding. He indicated another strong application will be sent in, and staff is hopeful this one will be successful.

Ms. Alexander asked if the Assessment Grant requires any matching funds from the City. Mr. Cleaton stated the Assessment Grant does not require traditional matching funds, but normal staff time and resources would be necessary.

Councilmember Miller asked if a Resolution or Letter of Support from Rowan County would enhance the application. City Manager Doug Paris stated it would be helpful, and he noted the Commissioners have expressed a desire to work together to clean up the Kesler Mill site.

By consensus, Council agreed to ask City Manager Doug Paris to pursue a Letter of Support from Rowan County Commissioners regarding the City's 2014 Assessment Grant application.

(b) Mayor Woodson convened a hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding the City's 2014 EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant application.

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

Mayor Woodson stated the presentation and public hearing are for information purposes. Mr. Cleaton indicated the public hearing is to promote continued awareness and community outreach.

Mr. Cleaton indicated the North Carolina Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (NCDENR) recently sent a letter of support and will offer resources that remove redevelopment barriers for Brownfield sites.

Mr. Miller asked Mr. Cleaton about the application timeline. Mr. Cleaton stated the application deadline is January 22, 2014. He noted grant recipients will be notified in early spring. He explained grant recipients are partnered with an EPA Consultant/Project Manager to develop an implementation plan. He explained staff must show how the funds are spent, and he emphasized all funds must be depleted within three years.

Councilmember Kennedy asked how the City will seek support from the Rowan County Commissioner's. Mr. Paris indicated he will share the program with County Manager Gary Page. He added a Resolution or letter of support would be sufficient.

### **RESOLUTION OF COMMITMENT TO WORK WITH ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Mayor Woodson stated by adopting a Resolution of Commitment, Council is declaring publically to Rowan County Commissioners and all citizens that it is committed to working with the County Commission. He emphasized by working together, Council and the County Commissioners can save taxpayer's money. He commended Rowan County for appropriating funding for a Central School Office Building on North Main Street.

Councilmember Miller stated Council and the County Commissioners must find ways to work together. He emphasized elected officials have an obligation to the citizens they serve. He added Council is stating publically it is willing to put prior issues aside and do what it can to move the entire community forward, and he asked the County Commissioners to do likewise.

Councilmember Kennedy noted he is willing to work with the County Commissioners.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell agreed with Mr. Kennedy and stated she thinks the Board of Commissioners will respond likewise.

Mayor Woodson noted everyone who lives in Rowan County can vote for a County Commissioner. He emphasized the City pays approximately 40 percent of the tax money collected by Rowan County, and Council wants to work with the Commissioners.

Thereupon, Ms. Alexander made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution of support and commitment to work with Rowan County Board of Commissioners on projects that benefit all citizens. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

### **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT AND COMMITMENT TO WORK WITH ROWAN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON PROJECTS THAT BENEFIT ALL CITIZENS**

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 14 at Page No. 1, and is known as Resolution 2014-01)

## **APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

### **Historic Preservation Commission**

Upon a motion by Ms. Blackwell, seconded by Ms. Alexander, and with Messrs. Kennedy, Miller and Woodson voting AYE, the following appointment was made to fill an unexpired term on the Historic Preservation Commission:

Mr. Carl Peters

Term Expires 3/31/16

## **CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

### **(a) Introduction of City Planner Katherine Garner**

City Manager Doug Paris introduced City Planner Katherine Garner to Council. He indicated she has a Bachelors Degree in Geography, with a focus on Urban Planning, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Masters Degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Georgia. He stated Ms. Garner will work in the One-Stop Shop and will be the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) liaison.

Ms. Garner thanked Council for the warm welcome and noted she is glad to be in North Carolina and working in the One-Stop Shop.

### **(b) 507 North Long Street Update**

City Manager Doug Paris stated after Council's December 17, 2013 meeting, two inspections were conducted at 507 North Long Street. He noted the property failed both inspections. He indicated, under Council's direction, staff has been lenient regarding the property, but the time has come to take action. He stated today at 3:45 p.m. the structure was ordered to be vacated. He explained City Code requires a 30-day notice be given before occupants are vacated from the premises. Mr. Paris pointed out the 30-day notice will begin when all occupants are notified, and the notices will include information regarding alternate housing options. He explained no further action is needed from Council and referenced the Ordinance Council adopted at its December 17, 2013 meeting.

### **(c) Crime Trends in the West End Neighborhood**

Police Chief Rory Collins reviewed a five-year crime trend for the City using the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) uniform crime reporting information. He explained Crime Index Crimes are the major crimes that plague a community impacting the quality of life. He noted Crime Index Crime statistics are reported to the FBI.

Chief Collins reviewed a City-wide population chart and noted population changes from 2009 to 2013. He referenced the 2009 population of 29,008 and the 2013 population of 33,442, and he pointed out this is an increase of 15.3 percent or 4,434 citizens.

Chief Collins presented a chart of the City-wide crimes from 2009 and 2013 that include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft. He pointed out burglary and larcenies are the most common crimes in the crime index. He indicated larcenies led the way in 2009 and 2013, but he pointed out in 2013 larcenies dropped while the number of burglaries increased.

Chief Collins presented a chart of City-wide crime from 2009 to 2013:

- Larceny 62.6 percent
- Burglary 21 percent
- Aggravated assault 6.2 percent
- Motor vehicle theft 5.2 percent
- Robbery 4.4 percent
- Rape .4 percent
- Homicide .2 percent

Chief Collins reviewed the crimes with a percentage change City-wide:

<u>Crime</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
Homicide	5	5	0%
Rape	12	1	(41.7 %)
Robbery	112	75	(33 %)
Aggravated Assault	137	124	(10.1 %)
Burglary	416	475	14.2 %
Larceny	1,433	1,229	(14.2 %)
Motor Vehicle Theft	105	114	8.6 %

Councilmember Miller asked Chief Collins to explain the difference between burglary and larceny. Chief Collins explained burglary is when someone breaks into a residential or commercial structure, and larceny is when a theft does not include entry into a structure. He clarified robbery is the forceful taking of property from an individual with or without a weapon.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell pointed out the 14.2 percent growth in burglary and the 14.2 percent reduction in larceny cancel each other out, leaving an 8.6 percent increase in motor vehicle theft and several large decreases in other crimes. She noted the reduction in City-wide crime.

Mayor Woodson asked Chief Collins how many stolen vehicles were unlocked with keys in the vehicle. Chief Collins stated a significant number of motor vehicle thefts involve an unlocked vehicle that contained keys.

Chief Collins emphasized City-wide crime has been reduced by 8.6 percent. He displayed a map of the West End Community and noted the City limits are 21.35 square miles, and the West End community is 1.02 square miles, or 4.8 percent of the City. He noted there are approximately 2,500 citizens in the West End Community. He reviewed a chart of the crimes in the West End Community from 2009 and 2013, and he pointed out burglary and larcenies were the most common. He noted in 2009 larceny was the highest crime and burglaries were second, but in 2013 burglary was the highest and larceny was second.

Chief Collins referenced a burglary spree that took place on the west side of the City, and he pointed out a few individuals can impact crime and the quality of life for a community. He stated the burglary spree began in mid-November and ended December 30, 2013 when the suspect was arrested after breaking into 15 homes in the West End Community. He presented a chart showing crimes that had taken place in the West End Community from 2009 to 2013:

- Burglary 35.9 percent
- Larceny 34.9 percent
- Aggravated assault 12 percent
- Robbery 8.2 percent
- Motor vehicle theft 7 percent
- Homicide 1.5 percent
- Rape .5 percent

Chief Collins reviewed the crimes with a percentage change for the West End Community:

<u>Crime</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>Percentage Change</u>
Homicide	3	3	0%
Rape	0	2	200 %
Robbery	21	12	(42.9%)
Aggravated Assault	27	21	(22.2 %)
Burglary	47	97	106.4 %
Larceny	81	59	(27.2 %)
Motor Vehicle Theft	10	18	80 %

Chief Collins displayed a chart of the total crimes in the West End Community, and noted a 12.2 percent increase from 2009 to 2013. He indicated with the 12.2 percent increase in crimes in mind, staff developed a crime reduction strategy for the West End Community. He stated Council authorized the resources for a second street crimes unit also known as a Police Interdiction Team (PIT). He explained the PIT Team:

- Will be implemented by the end of March 2014
- Will provide additional sworn personnel and pro-active policing throughout the community

- The work schedule and location of focus is flexible and determined by:
  - Citizen input
  - Crime trends and patterns
  - Incoming intelligence

Chief Collins stated due to the recent crime spree in the West End Community, the existing PIT Team has been focused on the West End. He pointed out the PIT Team worked to identify a pattern, and even though the suspect was apprehended, the team is still in the area until the situation is reevaluated.

Chief Collins noted a re-design of the patrol beats was required to implement a second PIT Team:

- Currently a total of nine patrol beats/zones
- Adjust number of patrol areas to four quadrants
- Allow the re-allocation of manpower into areas that need additional police officers
- Allocation of three police officers per shift within the quadrant that serves the West End community

Councilmember Kennedy asked if the three police officers allocated to the West End Community will ever leave their beat. Chief Collins explained, depending on the situation, the officers may have to assist in other areas of the City. Chief Collins stated currently there is one officer per shift serving the West End Community, and he noted the re-designed West End quadrant will be larger. He pointed out the West End quadrant will have three officers instead of one, allowing the officers to work together inside their beat.

Chief Collins stated in 2013 the Salisbury Police Department implemented a Community Relations Officer (CRO):

- To serve as liaison between the police department and the community
- Daily review of crime reports; contact victims to determine if they received needed services
- Contact leaders of Neighborhood Watch Programs to let them know about crimes taking place in their neighborhood
- Victim advocacy duties

Chief Collins stated he would like to deploy a second CRO to:

- Allow personalized, individual contact
- Form plans to meet neighborhoods needs
  - Proactive patrols
  - Surveillance
  - Communicate and work with Code Enforcement and Patrol Officers as needed
- Work a flexible schedule to meet neighborhood demands
- Assist citizens with implementation and operation of active “Community Watch” Programs

- Encourage citizens of the West End Community to engage in the Community Watch program by:
  - Partnering with the Police to be additional eyes and ears
  - Calling the police when something does not look right
  - Sharing information with the police to assist in resolving issues
  - Share information with one another

Chief Collins noted the second CRO officer will not be exclusive to the West End Community but will begin there. He emphasized their location and focus will be data driven.

Mr. Kennedy asked how the media is alerted to crimes that have taken place in the City. Chief Collins explained every morning from 8:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. the media is allowed to look through public records that involve crime index crimes. He pointed out the media chooses which incidents it focuses on. He noted a representative from the *Salisbury Post* and WBTV review the documents each day.

Chief Collins indicated the CRO officers will work closely with Code Enforcement to:

- Identify vacant homes used for criminal activity
- Secure Trespass Agreements with property owners
- Perform evening/night checks to confirm security

Chief Collins noted the CRO officers will work to educate citizens and minimize victimization by:

- Making homes a less-likely candidate for burglary
- Offering home visits to assess and make individualized recommendations
- Using local media to offer crime prevention tips
- Offering community crime prevention sessions

Chief Collins noted the Police Department is working to increase the time officers spend in the field and to reduce the time spent on paper work. He stated the Police Department is teaming up with Fibrant employees at the Network Operation Center (NOC) to create Police Expeditors to help with Police Reports. He noted training is underway and eventually reports will be dictated to Fibrant employees in the NOC. He noted citizen surveys consistently request additional officers in the field.

Chief Collins indicated he is very confident the strategies will have an impact in the West End Community.

Mr. Miller emphasized communication with the public is critical, and sharing the crime statistics with citizens will help build trust. He requested staff report crime statistics to Council on a regular basis. He noted Council is very concerned about crime in the City.

Mr. Kennedy thanked Chief Collins for the changes he is implementing. He indicated members of Council have talked to recent crime victims, and he requested the CRO officers speak to the victims as well.

Councilmember Alexander asked how many burglaries were attributed to the individual that burglarized homes in the West End. Chief Collins stated 15 burglaries were charged to one individual.

Mayor Woodson stated he is excited about the changes and the additional officers serving the West End Community. He thanked Chief Collins for the presentation, and noted he is confident the changes will have a positive impact on the West End Community.

Mr. Paris thanked Council for speaking with residents and providing feedback to him and Chief Collins.

### **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 17, 2014 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) **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade and Activities**

Mayor Woodson announced the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade will be held Saturday, January 18, 2014. The parade will begin at 11:00 a.m. at the corner of Kerr Street and North Main Street and will end at the Miller Recreation Center and Hall Gym. Following the parade, activities celebrating Dr. King will be held from 12:30 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at the Miller Recreation Center located at 1420 West Bank Street.

(c) **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Awards**

Mayor Woodson announced Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church will host the annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Awards Sunday, January 19, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. The Awards will be held at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church located at 1920 Shirley Avenue.

(d) **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 20, 2014 at 7:30 a.m. The Breakfast will be held at the J. F. Hurley YMCA, 828 Jake Alexander Boulevard. Tickets are \$8.00. To purchase tickets or for additional information please call 704-638-5217 or 704-638-5220.

(e) Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Ceremony

Mayor Woodson announced the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Ceremony will be held Monday, January 20, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at the Oak Grove-Freedman's Cemetery located at the corner of Liberty and North Church Streets.

(f) East Innes Street Complete Streets Corridor Study

Mayor Woodson announced a Complete Streets Corridor Study of East Innes Street from I-85 to Main Street and of Long Street from Bringle Ferry Road to Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue began this summer and included several steering committee meetings along with public input sessions. The consultant has developed plans based on the input. We want to make the plans readily available for the public to gather any additional comments. A drop-in public input session will be held at First Calvary Baptist Church at 432 South Long Street, Tuesday, January 14, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. The consultants and City staff will be available to answer questions regarding the study. This will be the final input session prior to a public hearing to be scheduled for City Council.

(g) Councilmember Alexander's trip to Hawaii

Councilmember Alexander shared photographs from her recent trip to Hawaii. She stated she was struck by the natural beauty of the island and the community's commitment to preservation. She pointed out solar panels are required on new homes, and she noted Maui implemented a grant program to assist with the cost. She explained the community has installed a wind farm and hopes to eliminate the use of fossil fuels by 2020. She suggested the City create an environmental policy statement as a community goal. She commended staff for its work to be environmentally conscious. She noted members of staff are LEED certified and others are working toward their certification. She pointed out the City could apply for Federal and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grants to work toward sustainability.

(h) New Year's Celebration

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell thanked everyone who worked on the Bell Tower New Year's celebration. She indicated staff found out at 12:00 noon on December 30, 2013 that the event was not going to take place. She recognized Council for allowing staff to coordinate the celebration, and she thanked staff for their work on the project. She noted the celebration was a tremendous success.

(i) Special Use Permit – Inksane Tattoo

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated three weeks ago Council approved a Special Use Permit (SUP) for Inksane Tattoo to serve beer to customers and their guests. She explained following the SUP approval, the owner's next step was to obtain a permit from the Alcoholic Beverage Commission (ABC) Board. She explained after the SUP was approved, a petition was filed on [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) asking Council to rescind the approval. Ms. Blackwell noted the petition cites concerns for health, safety, and welfare of customers with alcohol in their system. She stated the petition was signed by 60 tattoo artists across the nation. She noted the Alliance of Professional Tattooists recommends an artist never tattoo anyone with alcohol on their breath due to health concerns.

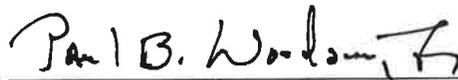
Ms. Blackwell explained no one could contact Council ahead of time because an SUP is a quasi-judicial process, and could be appealed in court. She indicated she contacted the City Attorney who pointed out alcohol and tattoos are legal, and if Council were to rescind the decision it could be overturned in court.

Ms. Blackwell indicated she is sharing this information to let the public know Council is aware of the petition and has given it careful consideration. She pointed out the SUP can be rescinded if there are any episodes as a result of its issuance.

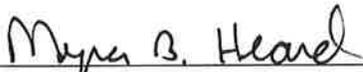
Councilmember Alexander pointed out only two or three of the petitioners are from the City, and the others are from across the nation.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Kennedy seconded by Ms. Blackwell. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m.



Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Mayor



Myra B. Heard, City Clerk