

Salisbury, North Carolina  
February 4, 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; 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 Alexander.

## **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.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

(a) Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 21, 2014.

(b) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Insurance Proceeds

Adopt a Budget **ORDINANCE** amendment to the FY2013-2014 budget in the amount of \$74,540 to appropriate insurance proceeds.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2013-2014 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE INSURANCE PROCEEDS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 24 at Page No. 5, and is known as Ordinance 2014-03)

(c) Contract – Martin Starnes and Associates

Award a contract in the amount of \$33,800 to Martin Starnes and Associates, CPA's, P.A. for auditing services for Year 2014.

(d) Pool Hall Permit – Mr. Robert Moore

Receive an application from Mr. Robert Moore, for a permit to operate a pool hall located at 2141 Statesville Boulevard, and set a public hearing for February 18, 2014.

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

**HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – HOUSING ADVOCACY COMMISSION**

Housing Advocacy Commission (HAC) Chair Barbara Perry, and Mr. Chris Branham, staff liaison, presented highlights and goals for the HAC. Mr. Branham explained the HAC:

- Meets monthly with staff to develop programs and receive reports regarding activities related to housing and neighborhood conditions
- Distributes educational materials to community residents summarizing the Tenant and Landlord Handbook – which clearly addresses tenant rights and tenant/landlord responsibilities
- Provides a forum for issues related to fair housing and tenant/landlord responsibilities
- Partners with neighborhood groups to improve community conditions
- Promotes efforts to improve the eviction process by amending local Ordinances to be consistent with State legislation
- Reviews and recommends changes to City Ordinances to create strengthened, common-sense, minimum housing standards
- Formulates and recommends to Council the adoption or amendment of Ordinances that will, in the opinion of the commission, improve the condition of housing and neighborhoods within the City and surrounding areas

- Directs City officials to needed enforcement of any Ordinance that may affect the quality of housing and neighborhood conditions within the City
- Promotes public interest and understanding of its recommendations, studies, and plans, and, prepares, publishes, and distributes studies and reports to advance the cause of improved housing and neighborhoods
- Conducts public meetings, hearings, community forums, and informational workshops while giving reasonable notice to the public thereof

Ms. Branham noted the FY2013-2014 Highlights:

- Created and provided pamphlets to neighborhood groups and organizations
  - Final draft approved by HAC January 2014 to be presented to Council
- Recommended updates to Chapter 10 of the City Code of Ordinances pertaining to minimum housing standards:
  - Boarded up Structures
    - Adopted by Council – March 2013
  - Unsafe Conditions
    - Presented to Council – February 4, 2014
  - Minimum Standards
    - Presenting to Council – February 4, 2014
- Pamphlets
  - What to Know Before You Rent
  - Tenants Rights
  - The Role of a Landlord
  - Being a Good Tenant

Ms. Perry reviewed the FY2014-2015 Goals:

- Partner with the Human Relations Council (HRC) to host Fair Housing Workshops for the community:
  - Speakers will discuss current housing issues and the tenant/landlord relationship
  - Scheduling workshops for fall and spring
- Partner with the Community Appearance Commission (CAC) for BlockWork:
  - Participate in the planning, area selection, and implementation of the 2014 BlockWork
- Distribute materials to citizens regarding updated housing codes and tenant/landlord guidelines:
  - Print and distribute tenant/landlord informational pamphlets
  - Reach out to community groups and provide education regarding Ordinances and guidelines to protect tenants and landlords
  - Post information on the City's website
- Receive input from citizens regarding housing needs within the City
  - Create a plan to address the concerns:
- Continue updating Chapter 10 of the City Code of Ordinances pertaining to Minimum Housing – Abandoned and Vacant Structures

Ms. Perry explained the requested funding:

	<u>FY2013-2014</u>	<u>FY 2014-2015</u> <u>Request</u>
Fair Housing Workshops	\$1,000	\$2,000
Yearly Meeting Costs	\$1,200	\$500
Material Printing	\$500	\$0
Total	<u>\$2,700</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>

Ms. Perry thanked Council for its support of the HAC.

Mayor Woodson thanked Ms. Perry and the HAC for all they do for the City.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell explained the HAC is comprised of neighborhood leaders, realtors, and property managers. She pointed out the brochures are written so citizens with various reading levels can understand them. She indicated Chapter 10 of the City Code has not been updated since 1977. She noted the Fair Housing Workshop held two years ago was extremely successful, and the HAC is looking forward to the next workshop.

### **HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – ALTERNATE METHODS OF DESIGN COMMISSION**

Planning and Development Services Manager Preston Mitchell presented the Highlights and Goals of the Alternate Methods of Design Commission. He explained the Alternate Methods of Design Commission:

- Considers requests for alternate methods of compliance to certain sections of the Land Development Ordinance (LDO)
- May approve, or assist in finding, alternate ways to meet the spirit and intent of the LDO
- Does not replace the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) variances; however, the quasi-judicial process is replicated
- Members must have experience, education, or licensure in design, construction, or development

Mr. Mitchell presented the FY2014-2015 Goals:

- Develop an Application and Submittal Guide for prospective applicants to reduce confusion associated with the quasi-judicial process
- Review for possible recommendation to the Planning Board and Council all LDO design provisions eligible for alternate methods of compliance
- Conduct board training of the quasi-judicial process

Mr. Mitchell noted the Commission has heard four cases since its October 2013 launch.

Mayor Woodson asked how often the Alternate Methods of Design Commission meets. Mr. Mitchell stated meetings are scheduled for the first and third Thursday of the month if needed.

### **HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – PLANNING BOARD**

Mr. Carl Repsher, Chair of the Planning Board, and Mr. Preston Mitchell, staff liaison, presented the Highlights and Goals for the Planning Board.

Mr. Repsher reviewed the 2013-2014 Goals:

- Continue goals from previous years:
  - Finalize the Open Space Study
  - Finalize the Use Matrix Study
  - Conduct a Split-Zoning Study by district
- Current year goals:
  - Facilitate and grow the multi-jurisdictional I-85 Economic Development Initiative
  - Facilitate development of a Brooklyn-South Square Small-Area/Neighborhood Plan
  - Investigate a zoning strategy and corridor overlay for the South Main Street Corridor from the square to Five-Points
  - Investigate zoning corrections for split-zoned properties by district

Mr. Repsher reviewed the 2014-2015 Goals:

- Continue to encourage and support development of the multi-jurisdictional I-85 Economic Development Initiative
- Assist Council and other stakeholders in the development of the South Main Corridor Study/Plan
- Initiate process for a comprehensive re-write of the Sign Ordinance included in the Land Development Ordinance (LDO)
- Continue development of a Brooklyn-South Square Small-Area/Neighborhood Plan to be brought before Council
- Investigate zoning corrections for split-zoned properties by district

Mayor Woodson asked if the re-write of the Sign Ordinance would include electronic signs. Mr. Repsher stated it would.

Mr. Mitchell stated the Sign Ordinance was intentionally excluded from the LDO re-write. He explained the Land Development Ordinance Committee (LDOC) decided to address the Sign Ordinance after the revised LDO was adopted.

Mayor Woodson stated serving on the Planning Board takes a great deal of time. He thanked members of the Planning Board for all they do for the City, and he thanked Mr. Repsher for serving as Chair.

## **HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY BOARD**

East Spencer Mayor Barbara Mallet, Chair of the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB), and Mr. Rodney Harrison, staff liaison, presented the Highlights and Goals for the TAB. Ms. Mallet reviewed the Goals:

- Goal 1 – Consistently provide exceptional service to all customers
  - Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) – GPS real-time tracking
  - Improve connectivity to other modes of public transportation
  - Establishing partnerships:
    - Salisbury Housing Authority
    - East Spencer
    - Community Planning Services
  - Summer intern Michael Rustin
- Goal 2 – Evaluate fixed routes for efficiency, effectiveness and ways to expand routes and services
  - Implement Lash Drive service improvements
  - Five-year Community Transportation Service Plan
    - Focus on Julian Road and Wallace Commons
- Goal 3 – Better marketing of the public transit system by “telling the story through a benefits campaign” to local elected bodies and the community
  - Outreach Programs
    - Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Resource Fair
    - Catawba College
    - Smart Start
    - Community Day at Miller Recreation Center/Hall Gym
    - Mt. Zion Baptist Church
    - Rufty Holmes Senior Center
    - Halloween Funfest
    - Touch-A-Truck
    - Growing Green Kids - Center for the Environment and Chick-Fil-A
    - First United Methodist Church
- Goal 4 – Improve transit connectivity inside and outside the City by focusing on connecting customers to places:
  - Local Coordinated Transportation Plan
  - Centralina Mobility Management Project
  - Rowan Express East and Rowan Express South
  - Partnerships with Rowan Transit System and Concord Kannapolis Area Transit (RIDER)

- Goal 5 – Maintain transit infrastructure and improve the aesthetic appeal of shelters, bus stops, benches, and signs:
  - Shelters installed (Community Planning Services partnership)
    - Wal-Mart
    - City of Salisbury Customer Service Center
    - Department of Social Services – Health Department
    - Jersey City – Mocksville Avenue
    - Rufty-Holmes Senior Center
    - Harris Teeter
  - Shelters installed (Salisbury Housing Authority partnership)
    - Old Concord Road and Shaver Street
    - Cedar Street
    - Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue (Brookview Apartments)
    - East Lafayette Street
    - 400 block of South Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue (near the Civic Center)

Ms. Mallet reviewed ridership data and pointed out ridership was up in 2011 and 2012 due to free bus rides offered on ozone action days:

	<u>Fixed Route</u>	<u>ADA</u>
FY2013	191,981	5,594
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

Mr. Harrison pointed out public transportation allows seniors and persons with disabilities to maintain their independence.

Mayor Woodson asked about the decline in Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ridership. Mr. Harrison explained ADA ridership fluctuates, and he pointed out ADA ridership now requires certification.

Councilmember Kennedy thanked Ms. Mallet for serving as Chair of the TAB. He pointed out public transportation is needed in the community. He added the AVL will allow riders to track the location of buses for added convenience.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell thanked the TAB for its work to serve the Lash Drive community.

Councilmember Alexander thanked Ms. Mallet for her work on the TAB and noted it is a wonderful example of communities working together.

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

## **HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – ZONING BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT**

Ms. Dee Dee Wright, Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) Vice-Chair, and Mr. David Phillips, staff liaison, presented the Highlights and Goals for the ZBA.

Ms. Wright reviewed the responsibilities of the ZBA:

- To hear and decide appeals from any order, decision, determination, or interpretation made by the Administrator pursuant to or regarding these regulations
- To hear and decide appeals from any order, decision, determination, or interpretation made by the Technical Review Committee (TRC) or the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) pursuant to or regarding these regulations
- To hear and decide petitions for variances from the requirements of these regulations
- To change the use of or expand certain nonconformities

Ms. Wright reviewed the 2013 Highlights:

- Meetings held – 2
  - Variance - Johnson Concrete on Klumac Road was granted relief from sidewalk standards
  - Use Variance/Appeal – 200 Mitchell Avenue – ZBA elected not to hear the case

Ms. Wright reviewed the 2014 Goals:

- Continue training ZBA members as workshops become available

Mayor Woodson thanked Ms. Wright and members of the ZBA for the important service they provide to the community.

Councilmember Kennedy acknowledged Ms. Wright's seven and one-half years of service to the Planning Board, and he pointed out she was the Planning Board's first female Chair.

## **NAPOLEAN B. MCCANLESS HOUSE – NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

Community Planning Services Director Janet Gapen and Planner Catherine Garner addressed Council regarding the nomination of the Napoleon B. McCanless House to the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. Garner noted the Napoleon B. McCanless house was constructed in 1897 and is located at 619 South Main Street.

Ms. Garner noted the structure is a second empire style home with a detached colonial revival kitchen. She indicated the home is currently on North Carolina's National Register study list. She stated Livingstone College owns the property, and she pointed out the nomination will make the property eligible for historic rehabilitation tax credits.

Ms. Garner stated Napoleon B. McCanless was an important businessman and investor in the City. She noted the home was part of the five-acre McCanless homestead.

Ms. Garner explained the areas of significance and noted properties nominated must qualify under one of four criteria. She added the McCanless property qualifies under Criterion B which states the property is associated with the lives of persons of past significance in commerce or industry.

Ms. Garner reviewed the nomination process and noted the McCanless house is at the Local Governing Body phase:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Local Preservation Commission
- Local Governing Body
- North Carolina National Register Advisory Committee
- National Park Service – Keeper of the national register

(b) Mayor Woodson convened a public hearing, after due notice thereof, to receive comments regarding the nomination of the Napoleon B. McCanless to the National Register of Historic Places.

Ms. Dee Dee Wright, 418 South Caldwell Street, and Mr. State Alexander representing Livingstone College, addressed Council regarding the nomination of the Napoleon B. McCanless house to the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. Wright asked who will apply for grants if the property receives the nomination.

Ms. Gapen stated the nomination is an economic development tool. She indicated a listing on the National Register of Historic Places would allow Livingstone College, as property owner, to apply for historic preservation tax credits that could offset a portion of the rehabilitation cost.

Mr. Alexander asked Council to support the nomination which would allow Livingstone to apply for historic grants to rehabilitate the facility.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell asked Mr. Alexander about the plans for the building. Mr. Alexander stated Livingstone would like to use the facility for its Culinary Arts Program that will be supported by the Livingstone Farm.

Mr. Brain Davis, Executive Director Historic Salisbury Foundation, stated the Historic Salisbury Foundation supports the nomination of the Napoleon B. McCanless house to the National Register of Historic Places. He pointed out the nomination is a critical step in the rehabilitation of an important City landmark.

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

Councilmember Miller noted tax credits will make rehabilitation and redevelopment easier, and he supports the nomination.

Councilmember Kennedy stated he supports the nomination.

Councilmember Alexander indicated she supports the nomination. She pointed out redevelopment of the Napoleon B. McCanless House is a great example of reusing a beautiful residence for a business purpose.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** to recommend the Napoleon B. McCanless House, located at 619 South Main Street, for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CITY CODE**

Code Services Division Manager Chris Branham addressed Council regarding recommendations from the Housing Advocacy Commission (HAC) for amendments to the City Housing Code. He noted the sections of the Code affected by the proposed amendments:

- 10-7 Buildings unfit for human habitation declared nuisance
- 10-9 Responsibilities of owners and occupants
- 10-77 Minimum standards of fitness- Unsafe Conditions
- 10-78 Minimum standards of fitness- Minor Violations

Mr. Branham reviewed highlights of the amendment process:

- Reformatting existing code language
  - Categorized the unsafe conditions into two repair timeframes
  - Organized minimum standards in order of the typical inspection process
- Some language has been removed, some language was added to the Code
- Reduced allowed compliance time for property owner from 30 days to two days
  - After receipt of notice

Mr. Branham presented new Section 10-7 Buildings unfit for human habitation declared nuisance:

- All buildings or portions of buildings which are used or intended for use as places of habitation and which are, under this chapter, unfit for human habitation are hereby declared to be a public nuisance and shall be repaired or rehabilitated to the standards of this chapter or demolished in accordance with the procedure set forth in this chapter

Mr. Branham reviewed Section 10-9 Responsibilities of owners and occupants which includes new text:

- 10.9 (b) *Responsibility for violations.* Every owner shall remain ultimately responsible for violations of responsibilities imposed upon him by this chapter or any other Ordinance, although a similar responsibility may also be imposed upon the occupant

Mr. Branham noted Section 10.77 Minimum Standards of fitness – unsafe conditions

- (a) The owner shall, within forty-eight (48) hours of being notified in writing or in person, have the unsafe conditions corrected or be in violation of this article
  - Unsafe fuel containers stored inside
  - Egress path or exit point is blocked
  - Presence of raw sewage or no sanitary facilities
  - No operable smoke and/or carbon dioxide detectors
  - Internal accumulation of garbage
  - Flammable/combustible items
- b) The owner shall, within forty-eight (48) hours of being notified in writing or in person, have the unsafe conditions corrected or present a *compliance plan* in writing
  - No operating heat
  - No water
  - No electricity
  - Unsafe or inoperable mechanical equipment
  - Unsafe cooking equipment
  - Failing structural members
  - Overloaded or unsafe electrical system
  - Missing roof
  - Unsafe chimney flues
  - Interior wall sheathing missing
  - Holes in floor creating a hazard
  - Five or more minor violations in Section 10-78

Mr. Branham stated the “Compliance plan” must state:

- Reason for being unable to correct the unsafe conditions within 48 hours
- Who will be performing the repair work
- Whether or not a permit will be required to complete the work.

Mr. Branham stated the current compliance process for unsafe conditions provides 30 days before a hearing is held and a minimum of 30 additional days to fix the issue, which allows a person to stay in an unsafe condition for 60 days. He explained the proposal would allow the process to start two days after the person is notified.

Councilmember Miller pointed out two days is not much time if a person is out of town. Mr. Branham explained Greensboro has used the proposed process for several years, and it seems to be working.

Mr. Branham noted the changes to Section 10-78 Minimum standards of fitness – Minor Violations:

- General Requirements
  - Foundation, exterior walls, roofs, attics, means of egress, stairs and railings, windows, doors, floors, outbuildings
- Light, Ventilation and Space limitations
  - Room sizes, ceiling heights, window screens, ventilation of habitable rooms
- Plumbing facilities and fixture requirements
  - Location of facilities, sanitary conditions
- Mechanical and Electrical requirements
  - Mechanical equipment, lights and outlets

Councilmember Alexander asked if Section 10-77 regarding internal accumulation of garbage is referring to a tenant-occupied facility. Mr. Branham explained in most cases the tenant would be responsible for the garbage.

Mr. Branham noted if a property is determined to be below the minimum housing standard, the dwelling would be rendered uninhabitable, and notices would be sent to the property owner and the occupant.

Ms. Alexander asked who is responsible if there is no water or electricity at a rental location. Mr. Branham explained rental agreements vary and in some cases the landlord is responsible for utilities and in some cases the tenant. Ms. Alexander pointed out the landlord should make sure the utilities are on if the property is occupied no matter who is paying the utility bills. Mr. Branham agreed and he emphasized the home must be in an inhabitable state.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell pointed out HAC members contacted other municipalities for their input and suggestions and examined similar ordinances. She indicated the proposals have been successful in other municipalities, and the International Property Maintenance Code was used as the formatting guide for the amendments.

Mr. Miller asked if the process is complaint driven. Mr. Branham stated it is, and he noted there must be reasonable cause for inspection. Mr. Miller indicated if the landlord is not providing a home that meets the minimum housing standard the process would help the tenant. He asked if the process would help the landlord evict a tenant that is not compiling. Mr. Branham stated the proposed amendments would speed up the eviction process.

Councilmember Kennedy pointed out eviction is governed by State law, not City Code. Mr. Branham stated the eviction process is determined by the State, but the tenant would not be allowed to remain in the property if it is condemned for unsafe conditions. He explained the landlord would have to go through the normal eviction process unless the tenant willingly leaves.

Mr. Miller pointed out the eviction process would be required unless the tenant is out of the property. Mr. Branham stated that is correct, and he noted in order to rent the property to another tenant the landlord must go through the entire process.

Mr. Kennedy stated the City seems to be moving toward inspecting rental properties before they are occupied. Mr. Branham noted State legislation was passed two years ago that prevents inspection of a rental property prior to its occupancy.

Mayor Woodson stated he is concerned about reducing the current process from 60 days to 48 hours. He asked about the maximum distance required for a tenant to reach an exit or stairs in multi-story, multi-family housing. Mr. Branham pointed out a window is considered a means of egress in an emergency situation. Mr. Miller stated the access for a tenant in an upstairs bedroom must not be more than 30 feet from a stairwell. Mr. Branham stated that is correct.

Ms. Alexander asked if the proposal aligns with the North Carolina Building Code. Mr. Branham stated it does.

Mr. Miller referenced a prior boarding house case where a walk-in closet was rented as a bedroom. He asked if boarding houses should be an allowed use since they may not encourage the best living conditions. Mr. Branham noted to be considered a rooming house the property has to have six or more unrelated persons living in the building.

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a **motion** to set a public hearing for February 18, 2014 to receive comments regarding amendments to the City Housing Code. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

### **TEMPORARY USE OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY**

City Engineer Wendy Brindle explained City Code allows contractors or property owners to use the public right-of-way during construction. She noted staff can issue a permit for up to 14 days, but if the time exceeds 14 days the item must be brought to Council.

Ms. Brindle displayed a map of the area and noted the request is for 120 North Church Street. She indicated the request is for four parking spaces in front of the building to be used for a three month period beginning February 6, 2014 and expiring May 5, 2014. She noted staff has reviewed the request and recommends approval with the following conditions:

- The four consecutive parking spaces are adjacent to the building of 120 North Church Street
- Work vehicles related to the renovations are the only vehicles allowed in the reserved spaces. Said vehicles would hold tools and/or materials for renovations

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell asked if the request would apply on Sundays. Ms. Brindle stated the permit will apply to every day of the week. Ms. Blackwell asked staff to notify St. John's Lutheran Church of the request. Ms. Brindle stated she would notify the Church, and she pointed out the spaces would be available to the public if the contractor is not using them.

Thereupon, Ms. Alexander made a **motion** to approve a permit for Central Piedmont

Builders for use of the public right-of-way for four parking spaces adjacent to 120 North Church Street beginning February 6, 2014 and expiring May 5, 2014. Mr. Miler seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

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

This item was postponed.

## **CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS**

### **(a) Finance Team Budget Award**

City Manager Doug Paris recognized Financial Services Manager Teresa Harris and the Financial Services Team for winning the national Government Finance Officers Association Budget Award for the 22<sup>nd</sup> year. He noted the Financial Services Team has done an outstanding job producing financially stable budgets and tracking expenditures on a quarterly basis. He thanked Ms. Harris and the Financial Services Team for working to ensure the City's financial successful.

Mayor Woodson congratulated Ms. Harris and the Financial Services Team. He thanked them for all they do for the City.

## **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **(a) 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. Applications are being accepted for all boards and will be forwarded to Council as it considers its Boards and Commissions appointments beginning March 2014. Information regarding the Boards and Commissions and applications are available online at [www.salisburync.gov](http://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.

### **(b) 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Future Directions and Goal Setting Retreat**

Mayor Woodson announced Salisbury City Council will hold its 29th Annual Future Directions and Goal Setting Retreat February 12-13, 2014.

### **(c) Tree Limb Pickup**

Mayor Woodson announced he received compliments regarding the City's limb pickup. He thanked staff for picking up the limbs and cleaning the debris left behind.

(d) Mayors Conference Washington D.C.

Mayor Woodson announced he was recently in Washington, D.C. He stated President Obama spoke about the need for broadband in the nation's cities, and Mayor Woodson pointed out Salisbury is one of only two cities in North Carolina that have broadband internet. He noted the City is approximately 300 customers short of its goal of 3,000 subscribers. He encouraged citizens to support Fibrant.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell pointed out it has been 14 months since Fibrant experienced and outage.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Mayor Woodson indicated a motion is needed to go into closed session concerning an acquisition of property located on Tax Map 011 Parcel 055 as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(5), an economic development matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4), and a personnel matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(6).

Thereupon, Mr. Miller made a **motion** to go into closed session concerning acquisition of property located on Tax Map 011 Parcel 055 as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(5), an economic development matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4), and a personnel matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(6). Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

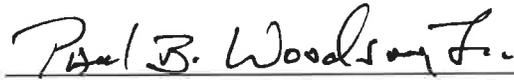
**RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

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)

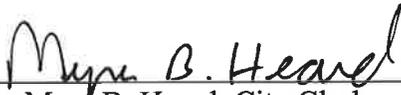
Mayor Woodson announced no action was taken in Closed Session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Miller seconded by Mr. Kennedy. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:06 p.m.



Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Mayor



Myra B. Heard, City Clerk