

Salisbury, North Carolina
April 1, 2014

REGULAR MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Presiding; Mayor Pro Tem Maggie A. Blackwell, Council Members 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.

RECOGNITION OF SALISBURY HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL LUKE BROWN

Mayor Woodson welcomed Salisbury High School Principal Luke Brown to the community. He recognized the accomplishments of Salisbury High School and its contribution to the City.

Mr. Brown thanked Council for the warm welcome. He noted Salisbury High School's partnership with the City is critical to its success. He stated the school has experienced both turmoil and accomplishment including three State championships, three national merit scholars, and a finalist for the Morehead scholarship, since he accepted the position as principal January 21, 2014. He pointed out the United States News and World Report recently ranked Salisbury High School as the 10th best high school in North Carolina.

Mr. Brown explained Salisbury High School is very proud of its history, and he is partnering with former principal Dr. Windsor Eagle to ensure the heritage continues. He indicated Salisbury High School faces many challenges, and he noted literacy will be a major focus for students and teachers. He thanked Council for its continued support of Salisbury High School.

Mayor Woodson congratulated Mr. Brown and wished him the best.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell welcomed Mr. Brown to the community and pointed out two Council members have students at Salisbury High School. She assured Mr. Brown Council will do all it can to support him.

Councilmember Alexander noted Council is very proud of Salisbury High School and its accomplishments.

Councilmember Kennedy welcomed Mr. Brown, and he noted his granddaughter will be a student at Salisbury High School next year.

Mayor Woodson thanked Mr. Brown for addressing Council.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor Woodson proclaimed the following observance:

ARBOR DAY

April 13, 2014

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) **Approval of Minutes**

Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 4, 2014.

(b) **Budget Ordinance Amendment – Police Department Asset Forfeiture Funds**

Adopt a Budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2013-2014 budget in the amount of \$34,694 to appropriate Police Department Asset Forfeiture funds.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2013-2014 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE RESTRICTED FORFEITURE FUNDS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 24 at Page No. 28, and is known as Ordinance 2014-10)

(c) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Police Department Donations

Adopt a Budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2013-2014 budget in the amount of \$1,745 to appropriate Police Department donations.

ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2013-2014 BUDGET ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA TO APPROPRIATE VARIOUS POLICE DEPARTMENT DONATIONS.

(The above Ordinance is recorded in full in Ordinance Book No. 24 at Page No. 29, and is known as Ordinance 2014-11)

(d) Budget Ordinance Amendment – Insurance Proceeds

Adopt a Budget Ordinance amendment to the FY2013-2014 budget in the amount of \$17,907 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. 30, and is known as Ordinance 2014-12)

(e) Resolution – North Carolina Department of Transportation

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager and City Clerk to execute an agreement with North Carolina Department of Transportation regarding Schedule D - Computerized Traffic Signal System.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CONCERNING MAINTENANCE OF THE COMPUTERIZED TRAFFIC SIGNAL SYSTEM, SCHEDULE D.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 14 at Page No. 5, and is known as Resolution 2014-05)

(f) Deputy Finance Officers

Appoint Teresa Harris, Wade Furches, Anna Bumgarner, Shannon Moore, Renee Pierson, Evans Ballard, Melissa Drye, Jacira Garner, Mark Drye, and Diane Gilmore as Deputy Finance Officers as allowed by NCGS 159-28(a) until such time as they are no longer employed within the Financial Services Department.

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell 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)

SPECIAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS 2014-2015 CITY BUDGET REQUESTS

Mayor Woodson opened the floor to receive presentations from Special Community Organizations regarding 2014-2015 City Budget requests.

Ms. Vicky Slusser, Communities in Schools of Rowan County, requested funds to enhance their current work. She noted Communities in Schools serves Knox Middle and Overton Elementary Schools in Salisbury. She explained Communities in Schools has been in Rowan County since 1998 and works to create a support system for students. She pointed out in 2010-2011 Communities in Schools served 3,443 students with an annual budget of \$222,384. Ms. Slusser stated the net present value of Communities in Schools is \$3,382,674. She indicated the annual return rate to society is approximately 13 percent, or \$6.10, for every dollar spent on the program. She asked Council to consider \$10,000 to continue the programs at Knox Middle and Overton Elementary Schools. She indicated local graduates, on average, will have returned the investment by the time they are 29 years old and will continue to contribute to the economy for the rest of their working lives. She stated Communities in Schools is a United Way Agency, and she recognized Mr. Greg Dunn, the 2014 Rowan County United Way Campaign Chair, who was in the audience.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell pointed out Communities in Schools is also in Koontz Elementary School. She noted the school is not in the City limits, but City students attend the school.

Councilmember Alexander stated she serves on the Communities in Schools Board of Directors. She noted Communities in Schools is a great investment for the City.

Mr. Joe Morris, 600 West Henderson Street, addressed Council on behalf of the Pops at the Post Board of Directors. He invited everyone to attend the 10th Anniversary Pops at the Post event Saturday, June 7, 2014. He noted Pops at the Post has become an iconic event for the City. He explained *Salisbury Post* serves as corporate host, but the Pops at Post Board of Directors, which is comprised of citizen volunteers, organizes and incurs most of the cost associated with the event. Mr. Morris pointed out the annual budget is approximately \$48,000, with over 90 percent going to performance and productions costs. He indicated the majority of financial support comes from individual and corporate donations. He emphasized the event is free to the public with a fee charged to patrons who secure a tailgate location. He pointed out a donation taken at the last concert generated over \$2,000. Mr. Morris asked Council to consider \$800 to offset the cost of security in 2015.

Mayor Woodson asked about the attendance for Pops at the Post. Mr. Morris noted approximately 3,500 people attended the 2013 Pops at the Post.

Mr. Terry Holt and Ms. Margaret Basinger addressed Council on behalf of the Rowan Museum Board of Directors. Mr. Holt pointed out the Museum is experiencing financial issues and running out of space. He noted all Rowan County third and fourth graders visit the Rowan Museum, and monthly programs are also offered for adults. He indicated the Rowan Museum, the Old Stone House, and the Utzman-Chambers House are all facilities that comprise the Rowan Museum. Ms. Basinger stated the Rowan Museum is the repository for community heritage. She pointed out the downturn in the economy resulted in more people staying home and visiting the Museum. She noted the Museum needs financial help, and has reduced its hours and cut the salary of its only full-time employee. She thanked Council for its past support and asked it to consider \$10,000 for the Rowan Museum.

Mr. William Peoples, 522 North Fulton Street, stated he represents the Dixonville Cemetery Task Force started by former Mayor Susan W. Kluttz. He noted the Dixonville Cemetery is the oldest black cemetery in the City, with tombstones that date back to 1850. He pointed out the Dixonville Cemetery Task Force was founded in 2005 but has not moved past the first step of imaging. He stated something must be done to save the cemetery. He requested \$10,000 for imaging to determine where the graves are located and to place markers on the graves that are bare.

City Manager Doug Paris noted staff will update Council regarding the status of the project.

Mr. James Meacham addressed Council on behalf of Rowan Arts Council and its primary funding partners, Piedmont Players, the Salisbury Symphony, and Water Works Visual Arts Center. He stated for FY2014-2015 the Rowan Arts Council requests \$45,000 which is equal to the amount approved by Council for FY2011-2012. He noted the funds are split equally among the four organizations with current funding at \$40,500. He indicated the Rowan Arts Council uses 95 percent of its funding for arts and culture, while five percent is used for administration. Mr. Meacham noted in 2013 the Rowan Arts Council supported 22,000 citizens. He explained the Rowan Arts Council has awarded Arts and Culture Development Grants which fund artists at the grass roots level. He noted the Rowan Arts Council partnered with the Campion family to fund an anti-bullying mural at a local school and purchased cameras for photojournalism students. He asked Council to consider reinstating the funding reduction that took place several years ago. He thanked Council for its continued support of the arts.

Councilmember Miller pointed out the Rowan Arts Council is a model for the State that yields a high return on investment.

Mr. Mark Brown, Public Information Officer for the North Carolina Transportation Museum, and Ms. Misty Ebel, North Carolina Transportation Museum Foundation Membership Director and Development Coordinator, announced that an iconic steam locomotive Class J-611, will be featured at the Streamliners at Spencer event to be held May 29, 2014 until June 1, 2014. Mr. Brown pointed out several years ago the Norfolk Southern Heritage Event drew 4,000 rail fans from 39 states, two Canadian Provinces, and Japan. Ms. Ebel noted special events are critical to the Museum's marketing strategy because they give past visitors a reason to return and bring new visitors who stay in hotels, visit restaurants, and shop. She indicated the Norfolk Southern Heritage Event had an economic impact of \$700,000 to the area. Mr. Brown asked Council to consider a \$10,000 grant to the North Carolina Transportation Museum Foundation.

Ms. Trina Moore, Director of Ministries and Community Outreach at United Christian Fellowship Church, stated the church has started an initiative to assist students who are below grade level in reading and math. She noted the Church has developed an education advocacy program to bring students up to grade level by building a team that consists of the principal, parents, teachers, and other school staff. She pointed out past programs were comprised of volunteers, and the Church is requesting funds so it can help additional students. Ms. Moore emphasized the program works to develop an individualized education plan for each student. She stated the program is in partnership with Nehemiah Building Corporation. She noted United Christian Fellowship Church will provide the building, internet, and all utilities free of charge. She asked Council to consider funding this unique after school and summer program where students will receive individualized instruction from licensed teachers and administrators.

Ms. Beth Moore, 1215 South Main Street, addressed Council on behalf of Prevent Child Abuse Rowan. She explained Prevent Child Abuse Rowan is a child advocacy center, the only one in Rowan County, and is located in the Terry Hess House. She noted when a child abuse case is referred to the Department of Social Services or law enforcement, the child is brought to the Terry Hess House for an interview. She noted the Terry Hess House is used to minimize the trauma for the child and maximize the information for investigators. Ms. Moore explained Prevent Child Abuse Rowan provides medical exams and mental health services for the children, victim advocacy, and works with law enforcement on the child's behalf. She noted officers use the center for young adults who are afraid to speak to law enforcement. She indicated last year at this time the center had seen 32 cases, but the center has had 56 cases in the current year. She noted the Terry Hess House Child Advocacy Center is located at 130 Woodson Street. She pointed out work is needed to maintain the property, and the security system needs to be replaced. She requested Council consider \$5,000 to support Prevent Child Abuse Rowan.

Ms. Jennifer Canipe addressed Council on behalf of Rowan County Crosby Scholars Community Partnership. She explained in its initial year the program served over 1,700 students in grades 6 through 10 in the Rowan-Salisbury School System. She noted students are required to achieve a 2.0 grade point average, stay in school, attend an academy workshop, and perform two hours of community service. She stated the Rowan County Crosby Scholars is based on a successful program in Forsyth County that graduates 100 percent of its students with 98 percent moving on to secondary education. She noted Rowan County Crosby Scholars will have its first senior class in 2016. She indicated advisors work with high school students through the admissions process. She requested Council consider \$5,000 for the program.

Ms. Dee Dee Wright, 418 South Caldwell Street, representing the West End Community Organization, requested Council consider funding sidewalks along Old Plank Road.

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

SALISBURY-ROWAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION 2014-2015 CITY BUDGET REQUEST

Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission (EDC) Executive Director Robert Van Geons stated the EDC consists of four full-time employees. He noted a community without jobs exports its talent, its wealth, and eventually its residents. He reviewed the EDC organization and the work it has done since 2000, which has provided \$9 million in revenue to Rowan County. He reviewed recent projects within the City and projects that are being considered:

- Two distribution products
- Manufacturing/corporate headquarters project
- Food production project
- Four redevelopment/reuse proposals
- Seven retail/restaurant proposals
- Four of these would be in or adjacent to downtown

Mr. Van Geons noted the EDC has focused on existing industry, attracting new business, airport development, advanced data technology, and new retail recruitment. He pointed out the EDC has shared its leads with Downtown Salisbury Inc. (DSI) since the organizations collaborate. He noted the EDC budget was cut in 2011, and he requested \$78,472, an increase of \$5,000, which is a return to the 2004 funding formula. He pointed out the EDC needs Council's input and guidance throughout the year and appreciated its continued support.

Mr. Van Geons displayed a video of The Drive Shaft shop, which was a recent City project.

Councilmember Miller asked if the City competes with surrounding counties or other states for development. Mr. Van Geons noted the City competes with communities of similar size and profile in South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, and Texas. He noted the EDC's goal is to emphasize the advantages of doing business in Rowan County.

Councilmember Alexander asked if an exit interview is conducted with companies that consider our community but choose another. Mr. Van Geons noted if the community is cut early, there is rarely an opportunity for an exit interview. He indicated the EDC is able to find out why the Salisbury-Rowan area was overlooked when it is a finalist. He pointed out raw incentives are rarely the deciding factor, it often comes down to a cohesive and positive relationship with development, logistics, utility costs, or an available workforce.

Mayor Woodson thanked Mr. Van Geons for all he does for the community.

SCULPTURE INSTALLATION EXIT 76 ON INTERSTATE 85

Urban Design Planner Lynn Raker and Public Art Committee Chair Barbara Perry addressed Council regarding the placement of sculpture on Exit 76 on Interstate 85. Ms. Perry noted the 6th annual Salisbury Sculpture Show "Discover What's Outside" was installed Friday, March 28, 2014. She indicated there are 13 pieces in the show. She pointed out other cities such as Cary, Concord and Cornelius are now using the Salisbury Sculpture Show as a model for their sculpture shows. She noted five sculptures have been purchased at the previous shows creating revenue for future shows. She indicated the Salisbury Sculpture Show is included in the History Walk for local third and fourth graders.

Ms. Perry explained the Public Art Committee is asking for Council's permission to install four sculpture pieces at Exit 76 on Interstate 85. She noted the Public Art Committee has received requests from citizens, business leaders and the Tourism Board to consider installing art at the Interstate 85 interchange or the East Innes Street Bridge. She explained the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) would not allow art in the median, so the Committee concentrated on the Interstate 85 interchange.

Ms. Perry stated a committee of citizens, artists, and business people voted unanimously to place temporary art at Exit 76 on Interstate 85. She explained the show will be for 12 months and a special request was put out for art since the location would require large pieces. She noted the Public Art Committee received NCDOT's approval, and the pieces will be installed in May or June 2014. She pointed out the pieces will be paid for by a grant from the Rowan Arts Council and private donations. Ms. Perry recognized Ms. Raker for her work with the Public Art Committee and her rapport with the artists. She thanked Council for its continued support of the Public Art Committee and the Salisbury Sculpture Show.

Ms. Raker noted the sunflower sculpture at Interstate 85 has been removed. She explained the next group of sculptures will be installed, one in each of the four quadrants between the ramps. She displayed a photograph of the submittal by Artist Robert Winkler. She indicated Mr. Winkler has proposed four pieces that are similar in nature and will be approximately 16 feet tall. She noted she has worked with NCDOT throughout the approval process, and the recommendation has been approved but requires:

- Structural engineering details for footing plan and art
- Local plan for maintenance
- City Resolution indicating support
- All other required conditions contained in the Department's Public Art in the Right of Way Policy including:
 - Indemnification of the Department from liability
 - NCDOT's right to remove art due to safety/maintenance concerns, or conflict with future road construction at no cost to NCDOT
 - NCDOT reserves the right to reproduce art for promotional purposes without paying compensation, regardless of copyright status
 - NCDOT reserves the right to alter transportation related elements near and adjacent to the art when required for maintenance

Thereupon, Ms. Alexander made a **motion** to adopt a Resolution supporting temporary sculpture installation at Exit 76 off of Interstate 85 which will be four pieces on in each quadrant. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING TEMPORARY SCULPTURE INSTALLATION AT EXIT 76 OF INTERSTATE 85.

(The above Resolution is recorded in full in Resolution Book No. 14 at Page No. 6, and is known as Resolution 2014-06)

Mayor Woodson thanked Ms. Perry and Ms. Raker for their presentation.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell congratulated the Public Art Committee on another successful Salisbury Sculpture Show.

CDBG AND HOME PROGRAM FUNDS

Community Planning Services Director Janet Gapen and Senior Planner Trey Cleaton presented the 2014-2015 Budget for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Program Funds. Mr. Cleaton stated the budget reflects a 10 percent decrease in CDBG funding and a 15 percent increase in HOME funding as advised by United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). He reviewed the proposed budget:

CDBG	\$276,749
HOME	\$105,875
<u>Program Income</u>	<u>\$35,000</u>
Total	\$417,624

Mr. Cleaton reviewed the CDBG funding reductions from 2004 through 2014 and he pointed out a 30 percent decrease in funding since 2004:

<u>Year</u>	<u>CDBG Allocation</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>% Change</u>
2004-2005	\$397,000		
2005-2006	\$375,798	-\$21,202	-5.3%
2006-2007	\$341,450	-\$34,348	-9.1%
2007-2008	\$327,526	-\$13,924	-4.1%
2008-2009	\$305,040	-\$22,486	-6.9%
2009-2010	\$309,654	\$4,614	1.5%
2010-2011	\$335,518	\$25,864	8.4%
2011-2012	\$258,212	-\$77,312	-23%
2012-2013	\$253,956	-\$4,256	-1.6%
2013-2014	\$304,428	\$50,472	20%
2014-2015	\$276,749	-\$27,679	-9.1%

Mr. Cleaton noted the CDBG and HOME Programs use a five-year Consolidated Plan that is in its last year. He reviewed the Consolidated Plan priorities:

<u>Category</u>	<u>Priority Level</u>	<u>Geographic Distribution</u>
Housing	High	Focus in revitalized areas
Infrastructure and public facilities	High	Revitalization areas
Public Service	High	City-wide
Homeless and Special Needs	Medium	City-wide
Other Neighborhood Revitalization	Medium	Revitalization Areas

Mr. Cleaton explained when funds are invested in area-wide benefits such as park improvements or sidewalks, they must be designated to one of the four revitalization areas in the City: the West End Neighborhood, the Jersey City Neighborhood, the Park Avenue Neighborhood, or the East End. He noted at the February 18, 2014 public hearing, citizens requested sidewalk improvements for Old Wilkesboro Road in the West End Neighborhood. He stated staff looked into this but determined the project would cost approximately \$500,000. He pointed out staff is looking for other funding sources to address the issue.

Mr. Cleaton reviewed the CDBG proposed budget. He pointed out funds were shifted to the Salisbury Community Development Corporation (CDC) for project activities such as new construction and purchasing homes in foreclosure to put back on the market. He noted an increased demand for owner-occupied rehabilitation and emergency housing rehabilitation:

• Housing Activities		
○ Owner-occupied Rehabilitation	\$100,000.00	
○ Emergency Rehab	\$40,000.00	
○ Purchase/Rehab/Resale	\$21,400.00	
		\$161,400.00
• Public Services (15 percent cap)		
○ Rowan Helping Ministries	\$17,255.00	
○ Family Crisis Council	\$10,942.00	
○ Community Care Clinic	\$8,417.00	
○ Salisbury Youth Employment	\$5,472.00	
		\$42,086.00
• Program Administration (20 percent cap)		\$62,349.80
• Debt Service-Park Avenue Center		<u>\$45,913.20</u>
	Total CDBG Funds	<u>\$311,749.00</u>

Mr. Cleaton reviewed the HOME Investment Partnership Program proposed budget. He pointed out a set-aside will be used in conjunction with the CDC to allocate the funds for owner-occupied rehabilitation for up to two families:

• Owner-occupied rehabilitation		<u>\$105,875.00</u>
	Total HOME Program	\$105,875.00
	Combined Total CDBG and HOME Programs	\$417,624.00

Mr. Cleaton noted a public hearing was conducted February 18, 2014, and staff will publish the CDBG and HOME Program budget April 1, 2014 for a 30-day public review and comment period. He stated it will then be submitted to HUD May 7, 2014.

Mr. Cleaton explained this is the last year for the five-year consolidated plan, and staff will be putting a plan together for the next five years that is due May 2015.

Councilmember Alexander asked if the money, as a total, will be used for the four neighborhoods identified as Designated Revitalization Areas. Ms. Gapen stated it will be a combination and explained any household in the City's jurisdiction that meets the income guidelines can apply for the owner-occupied rehabilitation. She pointed out any monies used for infrastructure must be used in neighborhoods identified in the five-year plan. Ms. Alexander asked if there is a total for how much has been spent in those four neighborhoods over the past 5 years. Ms. Gapen stated staff will get the information for Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell asked when other neighborhoods could be considered for the next five-year plan. Ms. Gapen indicated staff will begin the process to update the five-year plan this summer and public meetings will be held in the fall. She noted the plan will be brought before Council for its review Spring 2015. She indicated staff will look at other neighborhoods during the planning phase.

City Manager Doug Paris stated the sidewalk project may be a good candidate for the financing tool that was spoken about during Council's retreat. He emphasized projects of that magnitude require a larger funding source.

Ms. Alexander asked if the sidewalk project includes the sidewalks on Old Plank Road discussed earlier in the meeting. Ms. Gapen stated the project includes the sidewalks on Old Plank Road and Old Wilkesboro Road. She noted there has been a long standing concern among citizens regarding the need for sidewalks in the area.

Mr. Paris explained Livingstone students walk along the road, and there are no sidewalks.

Ms. Alexander noted the sidewalk issue should be addressed outside of these funds. Ms. Gapen stated that is correct. She explained the project is a one-half million dollar project and would require reserving CDBG funds for several years. She added HUD does not allow municipalities to bank the funds for multiple years.

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a **motion** to approve the FY2014-2015 budget for CDBG and HOME program funds. Mr. Miller seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

TEMPORARY USE APPROVAL FOR A CARNIVAL TO OPERATE AT THE J.C. PRICE LEGION POST

Zoning Administrator David Phillips stated staff has received a request from the J.C. Price Legion Post for a permit for its annual Memorial Week Celebration. He noted the celebration has taken place for over 50 years and is scheduled for May 23, 2014 until June 3, 2014. He noted the Land Development Ordinance (LDO) requires carnival or circus events to obtain a temporary use permit from City Council, provided the use does not exceed 21 days.

Mr. Phillips indicated conditions have been placed on the permit in the past. He stated staff recommends the temporary use permit be approved with the conditions:

1. All alcohol must be kept inside the Post facility; No alcohol to be allowed in the carnival area
2. The Salisbury Police Chief, or his designee upon consultation with the Chief of Police, is authorized by City Council to close the event due to any problems that may arise
3. There shall be 11 police officers on duty (10 officers and 1 Supervisor) at all times

Mr. Phillips stated the J.C. Price Legion Post reimburses the City for police officers who provide security for the event. He noted the Police Department reported minor disturbances at last year's event.

Mayor Woodson recognized J.C. Legion Post 107 Commander Mae Carroll and J.C. Price Legion Post 107 Finance Officer Abe Daniels who were in the audience and invited them to address Council.

Ms. Carroll pointed out there have been minimal disruptions at the Memorial Week Celebration over the past several years. She added the J.C. Legion Price Post provides a great service to the community and sponsors events throughout the year.

Mr. Daniels stated he is concerned about the stipulations placed upon the carnival. He noted cutbacks have affected carnival revenue. He indicated the J.C. Price Legion Post has donated \$1,400 dollars toward security for the past several years. He stated the company that used to provide rides for the event also used to make a donation for security, but a new company is now handling the rides, and this company has not given any money towards security. He indicated there was an overabundance of police and equipment, and he is concerned the large presence may discourage people from attending the event. Mr. Daniels noted over the last three years the number of police officers has slowly decreased because he thinks the police realize that amount of protection is not needed. He questioned why the J.C. Price Legion Post is required to provide \$1,400 towards a service the police department already provides to the community. He noted last year the J.C. Price Legion Post had to use its savings to pay for the security and basically held a carnival just to pay for police. He emphasized the \$1,400 began as a donation and is now mandated for the carnival.

Mayor Woodson explained only the temporary permit is before Council for its consideration.

City Manager Doug Paris stated Council's packet includes a multi-page memo regarding the history of the event and incidents that have taken place, including a situation that was deterred last year. He explained security at the location ensures a safe environment for carnival participants, and the Police Department believes there could be an increase in crime if security is reduced.

Mr. Paris explained staff recommends coordinating with J.P. Price Legion Post in January next year to get approval for the event earlier which would allow the J.C. Price Legion Post four months to market the event. He noted additional marketing and advertising should increase attendance and revenue. He emphasized the recommendation of police presence was after the death of a teenager at a major event in 2008, and the security plan has been effective in reducing crime at these events. Mr. Paris indicated staff understands the J.C. Price Legion Post's desire to make a larger profit at the event, but he noted staff feels it should be secondary to ensuring guests safety. He noted the City will sponsor an event with the J.C. Price Legion Post to help offset the cost of security since the profits from the event are used to help children. He noted next year, given the earlier approval process, the event should be extremely successful. He pointed out the carnival is longstanding and enjoyable for families.

Councilmember Kennedy asked if the City will help offset the \$1,400 by sponsoring an event this year. Mayor Woodson stated the City is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt that will take place April 21, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. He noted there will be a speaker at the event to talk about anti-gang activities.

Ms. Carroll asked if the City is helping the J.C. Price Legion Post with the \$1,400 for event security. Mr. Paris stated staff recommends the fee remain. He explained the fee covers a fraction of the actual cost of security for the event with the remaining amount paid by the taxpayers.

Mayor Woodson noted Council wants to make sure the event is safe for patrons. He pointed out the J.C. Price Legion Post will receive help from the City for the Easter Egg Hunt.

Thereupon, Ms. Alexander made a **motion** to approve the temporary use approval for a carnival to operate at the J.C. Price Legion Post, 1433 Old Wilkesboro Road for its annual Memorial Week Celebration with the following conditions:

1. All alcohol must be kept inside the Post facility; No alcohol to be allowed in the carnival area.
2. The Salisbury Police Chief, or his designee upon consultation with the Chief of Police, is authorized by City Council to close the event due to any problems that may arise.
3. There shall be 11 police officers on duty (10 officers and 1 Supervisor) at all times.

Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

UPDATE – CENTRALINA COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS “CONNECT OUR FUTURE”

Senior Planner Trey Cleaton explained the City has partnered with the Centralina Council of Governments on “Connect Our Future,” a regional multi-year planning exercise. He presented a video update to Council.

Mr. Cleaton stated the City is involved with the housing component of “Connect Our Future.” He pointed out the City hosted Fair Housing Forums and will host a Growth Forum as well.

Mr. Cleaton requested citizens complete a survey that is linked to the City’s website <http://ConnectOurFuture.metroquest.com>.

APPOINTMENTS TO VARIOUS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

This item was postponed until the April, 15, 2014 meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

(a) West End Update

City Manager Doug Paris noted at its last meeting Council requested an update regarding abandoned homes and the crime reduction strategy for the West End community.

Police Chief Rory Collins stated on January 7, 2014 he presented information regarding the City's crime rate over the last five years. He noted the crime rate for the City had decreased by 8.6 percent, while the crime rate for the West End Community had risen by 12.6 percent. He indicated the numbers are based on the crime index reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigations.

Chief Collins noted at the January 7, 2014 meeting he shared a crime reduction strategy that includes working closely with Code Enforcement. He pointed out:

- The majority of vacant homes in the West End Community have been identified and secured by Code Enforcement
 - Vacant homes attract vagrants
 - There are 58 vacant homes in the West End Community
- Police personnel are making contact with property owners to secure Trespass Agreements - 37 percent complete
- Implemented checking system for vacant properties to check for trespassers during evening/night multiple times per week

Community Planning Services Director Janet Gapen displayed a map of the neighborhood that identified vacant and boarded-up properties. She pointed out the seven vacant and boarded-up properties owned by Livingstone College. She noted, as of today, all but one of the properties are secured, and the remaining property is too dilapidated to secure.

Chief Collins explained the police department is working to educate citizens and minimize victimization. He pointed out an article in the March 9, 2014 *Salisbury Post* included a diagram of a home with numerous recommendations to minimize burglary. He stated the Police Department has a Community Relations Officer who will visit a home to assess and make individualized recommendations to secure the property and lessen the chance of a home invasion.

Chief Collins noted a second street crimes unit "Police Interdiction Team" (PIT) will be implemented mid-April 2014. He pointed out he is working to re-design the patrol beats into a four quadrant system that will:

- Re-allocate three police officers per shift to the West End community quadrant
- Coincide with the move of Telecommunications and the new Compute Aided Design (CAD) system to the 9-1-1 facility
- Anticipated implementation mid-April, 2014

Chief Collins stated the Police Department will deploy a Community Relations Officer to serve as a liaison between the Police Department and the community. He noted the Community Relations Officers will relay information to the Street Crimes Unit and the patrol officers that work the area.

Chief Collins displayed statistics of the first two and one-half months of 2014 compared to the last two and one-half months of 2013 in the West End Community. He noted the total of reports taken has decreased by 24.7 percent. He added burglaries in the area have decreased by 15 percent, larcenies have decreased by 70 percent, and motor vehicle thefts have decreased by 55.6 percent. He pointed out additional changes are coming that should bring additional improvements in the area.

Councilmember Kennedy pointed out there has been a reduction in crime before the second PIT team has been implemented. Chief Collins stated that is correct. He pointed out the Street Crimes Unit has spent most of its time in the West End area creating a substantial increase in police coverage for the area.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell stated many of the abandoned homes are inherited, and the new owners live out of town. She asked if that is why less than 40 percent of the Trespass Agreements have been completed. Chief Collins stated that is correct. He noted the Agreements are slowly being returned.

Ms. Blackwell stated she and Mayor Woodson attended a neighborhood prayer vigil at Moore's Chapel AME Zion Church in January. She noted a citizen requested the Community Relations Officer visit properties in an unmarked car to protect the homeowner.

Mayor Woodson stated the Community Relations Officer will allow the Police Department to speak with citizens and find out what is happening in the Community. He noted it is an excellent idea.

Councilmember Miller asked about crosswalks for the neighborhood around Livingstone College.

City Engineer Wendy Brindle explained the project has begun. She noted the Street Division made curb cuts this week, and the signs have been ordered. She stated the crosswalk should be complete in the next couple of weeks.

(b) Livingstone College Campus Fire Safety

City Manager Doug Paris stated over the last several months he has brought to Council's attention discussions with Livingstone College regarding campus fire safety. He explained the Salisbury Fire Department is charged with enforcing the State Fire Code and conducting annual inspections. He recognized Salisbury Fire Chief Bob Parnell and members of the Fire Department in the audience. He pointed out there have been 1,023 fire code violations at the Livingstone College campus over the last four years. He displayed a box of the Livingstone College fire code violations and noted the number is extremely large.

Mr. Paris explained the fire code violations were not corrected in a timely fashion resulting in accumulated, unpaid, and delinquent fines in excess of \$63,000. He added over the past two years 68 percent of Salisbury Fire Department rollouts to the College have been false alarms. He pointed out this number is very high, and responding to false alarms is a large expense for the City that results in unneeded traffic interruptions and responding units being unavailable for legitimate emergencies.

Mr. Paris noted last Monday the Livingstone College campus was re-inspected, and it failed the re-inspection. He stated violations included missing, damaged and malfunctioning fire doors and exposed wiring. He stated a re-inspection is scheduled for late April 2014.

Mr. Paris indicated staff hoped to resolve the fire safety issues by working with College Administration, but he noted on-going meetings over the last several years have been unsuccessful. He referred to two letters written by Chief Parnell to the Board of Trustees that were placed at each Councilmember's seat. He noted he and Chief Parnell will request a formal meeting with the Board of Trustees where they will ask the Board to review current campus policies and adopt new policies designed to keep the campus up to Fire Code while also addressing the false alarms.

Mr. Paris emphasized staff is committed to helping the Board of Trustees resolve the issues and improve campus fire safety. He pointed out student safety is the number one priority, and he wanted to update Council regarding this safety issue before he meets with the Livingstone College Board of Trustees.

Mayor Woodson asked Chief Parnell if the inspections are mandated by the State. Chief Parnell stated the City's fire inspectors enforce State Fire Code.

Councilmember Kennedy stated in the beginning there were many violations. He noted the violations have been reduced to a few items that need to be corrected.

Chief Parnell explained when an inspector conducts a building inspection they document the violations and share the information with the representative who signs the violation. He noted the next inspection is completed in 30 days to check the items that failed or were in violation. He added once the violation is rectified it is a closed violation and requires no further action. He explained if the violations are not rectified, they are considered an open violation and a re-inspection is scheduled in 30 days. Chief Parnell noted the second inspection is not fineable, but there is a fine associated with the third inspection. Chief Parnell indicated if additional inspections are required, the fine increases up to a daily fine. He noted the fire department inspects buildings at Livingstone College annually and bi-annually based on a State schedule. He added the North Carolina Building Code Council identifies which buildings require additional inspections. He noted currently there are approximately 12 open violations.

Mr. Paris stated the 1,023 violations are cumulative over four years.

Chief Parnell emphasized the intent is to make the college as safe as possible for its students.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) 8th Annual Touch a Truck

Mayor Woodson announced the Salisbury Parks and Recreation Department will hold its 8th Annual Touch a Truck event Saturday, April 5, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in downtown Salisbury in the First Bank parking lot, 215 West Innes Street. The event is free and open to the public.

(b) Lighting the Way

Mayor Woodson announced the Dixonville Cemetery Task Force will host "Lighting the Way" Friday, April 11, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. The event will begin at First Calvary Baptist Church, 400 South Long Street, and then participants will walk to the Dixonville Cemetery where more than 500 luminaries will line the path to commemorate the individuals interred in the cemetery. Trolleys will be available to transport those who would like assistance getting to the cemetery. For more information contact Lynn Raker in the Community Planning Office at 704-638-5235.

(c) Community Fun Day

Mayor Woodson announced the Salisbury Parks and Recreation Department will hold an Egg Hunt and Community Fun Day Saturday, April 12, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at Kelsey Scott Park. There will be games and other activities. Bring your basket and be prepared to have a great time. The event is free and open to the public.

(d) Hurley Park Spring Celebration

Mayor Woodson announced the annual Hurley Park Spring Celebration will be held Sunday, April 13, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at Hurley Park located at the corner of Lake Drive and Annandale Avenue. The event will include music, carriage rides, Carolina Artists, Rowan County Master Gardeners, Salisbury Symphony Instrument Petting Zoo, refreshments and more. For more information call 704-638-4459.

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) and to consult with an attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3).

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell 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) and to consult with an attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3). Mr. Kennedy seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, Woodson, and Mses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

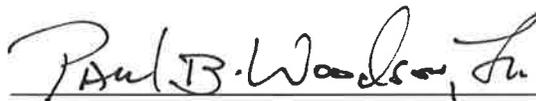
RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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

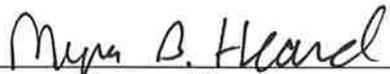
Mayor Woodson announced no action was taken in Closed Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Kennedy seconded by Mr. Miller. All council members in attendance agreed unanimously to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.



Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Mayor



Myra B. Heard, City Clerk