

Salisbury, North Carolina
January 20, 2015

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; Interim City Manager John Sofley; 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.

PROCLAMATION

Mayor to proclaim the following observance:

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

January 26-30, 2015

CONSENT AGENDA

(a) Approval of Minutes

Approve Minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 6, 2015 and the Recessed Meeting of January 12, 2015.

(b) Sidewalk Agreement – North Carolina Department of Transportation

Authorize the Mayor and City Clerk to execute an agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation regarding construction of sidewalk on the south side of Jake Alexander Boulevard between Rowan Tech Road and Klumac Road.

(c) Pool Hall Permit – Ms. Mary Kotsalis

Receive an application from Ms. Mary Kotsalis, for a permit to operate a pool hall located at 2141 Statesville Boulevard, and set a public hearing for February 3, 2015.

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

HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Mr. Andrew Pitner, Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), and Ms. Catherine Garner, staff liaison, presented the 2014 Highlights and 2015 Goals for the Historic Preservation Commission.

Mr. Pitner noted the HPC received 147 applications in 2014:

- 45 were approved by the HPC
- 27 were approved by the Minor Works Committee
- 75 were approved by staff

Mr. Pitner reviewed additions to the National Register listings:

- Napoleon Bonaparte McCanless House – listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Spring 2014
- Chestnut Hill Historic District – submitted to the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office for study list review, Winter 2015

Mr. Pitner then reviewed local rehabilitation projects:

- Bernhardt rehabilitation
 - Central Piedmont Construction has overseen the rehabilitation of the Bernhardt Hardware building into upper floor apartments and ground floor retail spaces
- Hedrick rehabilitation
 - Central Piedmont Construction finished rehabilitation of the Hedrick Building on North Church Street which includes office, retail, and indoor parking space
- St. John's Lutheran Church
 - Davie Construction is working on the façade, including repairs to the stone entryways and reconstruction of the limestone steps
- Fulton-Mock-Blackmer-Dixon House
 - Alfred C. Wilson and Company is completing rehabilitation of the Fulton-Mock-Blackmer-Dixon House on South Fulton Street, which sat vacant for decades

Mr. Pitner explained Historic Preservation incentive grants are awarded by a special committee of HPC and Community Appearance Commission (CAC) members to homeowners in local historic districts. He noted the Historic Preservation Incentive Grants:

- FY 2013-2014 Awards: \$20,000
- Private investment leveraged: \$71,932.28
- Every dollar awarded generated \$3.60 in private investment

Mr. Pitner reviewed the 2015 Goals:

- Historic Preservation Incentive Grant Program – Request: \$50,000
 - To help offset the loss of State Historic Tax Credits
- Develop and convene the Master Plan Implementation Team
- Increase engagement with the public:
 - Provide client resources to real estate agents/brokers
 - Promote National Trust's Preservation Month
 - Support BlockWork and other neighborhood initiatives
 - Partner with Downtown Salisbury, Inc. (DSI), Historic Salisbury Foundation (HSF), CAC, Community Development Corporation (CDC), and others regarding historic neighborhood initiatives
- Internal procedures
 - Complete the Design Guidelines update
 - Obtain additional training
 - Audit an HPC meeting in another community
 - Improve tracking and enforcement of Certificates of Appropriateness (COA)
 - Research and develop a method to track projects and issued COAs
 - Complete and adopt an After-the-Fact COA process
 - Conduct an annual HPC review
 - Reinstate the Design Review Advisory Committee to its fullest potential
 - Develop a review process for demolition requests

- External procedures
 - Conduct education/outreach
 - Create specialized and direct resources tailored to individual groups such as new residents, visitors, and out of town landlords
 - Reinstated the biannual newsletter
 - Create a digital submittal process
 - Actively recruit potential commission members
- Identify historic resources
 - Chestnut Hill nomination to National Register – Request \$20,000
 - Assist neighborhoods regarding local designation
- Partner with other groups regarding projects that involve historic resources
 - Housing Advocacy Commission (HAC) on a Housing Stabilization Pilot Program
 - Support the West End Transformation Plan
 - Planning Board on code, zoning, and other issues affecting historic areas

Mayor Woodson questioned the legislation allowing the State Historic Tax Credits to sunset. He pointed out the credits are critical to rehabilitation of old buildings across the State.

Councilmember Miller noted North Carolina Secretary of Cultural Resources and former Salisbury Mayor Susan Kluttz is working to reinstate some of the State Tax Credits.

Mayor Woodson thanked Mr. Pitner and Ms. Garner for their presentation.

HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – HURLEY PARK ADVISORY BOARD

Hurley Park Advisory Board Chair Jane Ritchie and Ms. Daphne Beck, staff liaison, presented the Hurley Park Advisory Board Highlights for 2014 and Goals for 2015. Ms. Ritchie reviewed the 2014 Highlights:

- Held 26th Spring Celebration
- Hosted Arbor Day celebration with the Tree Board
- Annual Lecture and plant giveaway
- Hosted five weddings and two events for Rowan Regional Medical Center
- Hosted prom pictures for area high schools
- Continued routine maintenance on the 16-acre park
- Continued Phase III planting
- Honored Elaine China for her service to the Hurley Park Advisory Board

Ms. Ritchie reviewed the Level 1 Goals for 2015-2016:

- Continue Spring Celebration and Annual Lecture – \$2,000
- Replace picnic tables – \$3,100
- Irrigation upgrade – \$1,800
- New plans for garden renovations – \$1,500

Ms. Ritchie then reviewed the Level 2 Goal for 2015-2016:

- Update the park's irrigation map and brochure to include recently adopted structures, gardens, and the land donation by the Borland family

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

Mayor Woodson commended Ms. Ritchie, Ms. Beck, and the Hurley Park Advisory Board for all they do for the City. He recognized Ms. Ritchie for her years of service. He asked if the 16-acre park includes the recent land donation by the Borland family. Ms. Ritchie noted the park is now closer to 17-acres.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell asked when the 2015 Spring Celebration would take place. Ms. Beck noted the Spring Celebration will be held Sunday, April 12, 2015.

HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Col. Jack Brunton, Jr., Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member, and Mr. Steve Clark, staff liaison, presented the Highlights and Goals for the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

Mr. Brunton reviewed the Highlights for 2014:

- Lincoln Park Pool renovations
- New events
- Wi-Fi at all facilities
- Renovations at the Miller Center lobby
- Staff centralized at the City Office Building on the 4th floor
- ActiveNet online registration
- Flonomics people counter
- Updated branding, marketing strategies

Mr. Brunton then reviewed the 2014 Goals:

- Facility appearance
 - Uniform signage
 - Landscaping at facilities
 - Flooring at the Civic Center
 - Lincoln Park Pool
 - Landscaping, painting, and a new water feature

- Adding to facilities
 - Installation of outdoor activities
 - Permanent concession structure at the Sports Complex
 - Permanent Graffiti Park
 - City Park weight room
 - HVAC at Hall Gym
- Programming
 - Continue to find channels to get the word out
 - Seek partnerships to promote healthy eating/living
 - Be reactive and conducive to active living and recreation trends
 - Expand age range of available health and wellness programming
 - Adopt-a-Park
 - Innovative summer specialty camps
 - Transition Camp, Sound/Technical Camp, Aquatics Camps
 - Youth Advisory Board
 - Increase emphasis on Science Technology Engineering Art Math (STEAM)
 - Programs for active older adults
- Events
 - Enjoying a productive partnership with Downtown Salisbury Inc. (DSI)
 - Summer/Downtown Concert Series
 - Mobile stage to accommodate larger events

Mayor Woodson asked when the weight room will be completed at City Park. Mr. Clark noted the weight room should be installed February 2015. Mayor Woodson asked if the weight room is being moved from the Civic Center. Mr. Clark stated that is correct.

Mayor Woodson asked if attendance has increased at Lincoln Park Pool since the splash pad was installed. Mr. Clark noted pool attendance has increased, and he pointed out the splash pad is a great addition to the facility.

Mayor Woodson thanked members of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board for their work in the community.

HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – TOURISM AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

Salisbury Tourism and Cultural Development Commission (STCDC) Chair Bill Burgin, and Ms. Tara Ludwig, Destination Marketing and Digital Communication Manager, addressed Council regarding STCDC Highlights and Goals. Mr. Burgin noted the 2014 Highlights focused on:

- Destination Marketing
- Destination Development
- Tourism Master Plan implementation

Ms. Ludwig stated in 2014 tourism concentrated on four main areas:

- Destination Marketing
 - Launched a series of marketing campaigns that targeted primary destination visitors and created approximately 16,000 direct visitor inquiries
 - Primary focus on family travel, arts and culture, transportation, heritage, sports and agritourism
- Digital Marketing through website, social media, and electronic newsletter
 - Total digital engagement of approximately 1.2 million people in 2014
 - Implemented multiple digital marketing campaigns and promotions through various digital platforms
- Partnerships and Groups
 - Worked with local partners on 26 different group business opportunities resulting in over 3,600 room nights that generated \$306,000 in hotel revenue
- Trolley
 - Total ridership of over 6,000 in 2014
 - Trolley program supported 526 room nights resulting in approximately \$44,000 in hotel revenue

Ms. Ludwig reviewed the Tourism Capital Program:

- Purchased additional downtown Christmas decorations
- Provided funding for Centerpiece design charrette
- Finalized and submitted Wayfinding System to the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT)
- Updated digital capacity and infrastructure at the Gateway Building and secured Fibrant as the data and voice service provider
- Established funding for the purchase of public art

Mr. Burgin emphasized the connection between Tourism's capital program and marketing. He noted legislation allows the STCDC to invest up to one-third of its occupancy tax into capital.

Mr. Burgin presented the Tourism Master Plan implementation:

- Engaged in Rowan County branding effort
- Developing a partner driven Arts and Cultural Marketing Plan
- Partnership with the Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission (EDC) to expand digital image inventory through aerial photography

Mr. Burgin noted the annual economic impact:

- Local hotel revenue increased 10.4 percent from the previous fiscal year to \$11,597,650
- Annual growth rate remains above 5 percent
 - Eighth fastest growth rate in North Carolina in 2014

- \$145 million in tourism expenditures in 2014
 - \$12.24 million in tax revenue
 - 1,200 jobs in Rowan County

Mayor Woodson asked about the possibility of year-round street tree lights along the intersection of Main and Innes Streets. Mr. Burgin explained the STCDC uses its funding to purchase capital and it would need a partner willing to maintain and manage the investment.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell noted she attended the Barbeque Cook-off at Tilley Harley Davidson. She pointed out the STCDC gave several hotel nights to judges for the Cook-off and because of STCDC's hospitality many of the judges will return next year.

Mayor Woodson pointed out several thousand people attend the Barbeque Cook-off. Mr. Burgin added there have been several exceptional community events this year. He noted the Polar Express at the Transportation Museum was a big hit, and the STCDC partnered with the Transportation Museum to market the event.

Councilmember Alexander stated the Arts and Cultural Grant Program is geared toward overnight groups. She explained the grant is tied to the number of hotel room nights an event would require. She thanked Ms. Ludwig for her work to digitally market the City.

Councilmember Miller pointed out tourism in Rowan County is the envy of the State.

Councilmember Kennedy thanked Mr. Burgin and Ms. Ludwig for their service to the community.

HIGHLIGHTS AND GOALS – TREE BOARD

Mr. Rodney Queen, Tree Board Chair, and Mr. Mark Martin, staff liaison, presented the Tree Board Highlights and Goals. Mr. Queen explained trees are an asset to urban environments and contribute to the overall health and livability of a community by:

- Reducing pollution
- Helping trap and hold harmful pollutants
- Absorbing carbon dioxide and other dangerous gases; replenishing oxygen
- Producing enough oxygen per acre for 18 people daily
- Absorbing enough carbon dioxide, per acre each year to equal driving a car 26,000 miles
- Rowan County is a non-attainment county

Mr. Queen presented the Highlights for 2014:

- Chapter 8 of Landscaping Ordinance, Tree Protection, Preservation and Replacement – Status: under observation

- Community Appearance Commission/Tree Board Awards
 - Tree Stewart Award winner Rodney Queen
- Conducted Arbor Day at Hurley Park – Status: complete
 - Planted a Crepe Myrtle tree
- 81 Removals
- 11 Plantings
- Tree City USA for 29 Years
- City GIS Tree Inventory – Status: on hold

Mr. Queen noted 81 trees were lost in 2014. He pointed out if the City had a tree inventory and maintenance plan some of those trees could have been saved. He added it is debatable who owns the trees in a public right-of-way, but if anyone calls with a tree related safety issue the City is quick to respond.

Mr. Queen reviewed the Tree Board Goals for 2015:

- City GIS Tree Inventory – \$5,000 to complete sections six and eight
- Provide funding for neighborhood tree planting projects and dead tree replacement along rights-of-way – \$2,000
- Sponsor a fall conference on the economic benefits of urban forestry in partnership with State and local organizations
- Continue educational training for tree companies, businesses and the general public
 - Purchase classified advertising
 - Newspaper articles
 - Handouts in utility bills
 - Utilize Access Channel 17 and social networking sites
- Continue to seek grants and alternative funding for urban forestry programming
- Continue to participate in Arbor Day and Tree City USA programs
- Continue to develop a Tree Preservation Plan
- Continue to develop a Community Tree Planting Plan
- Continue to improve the Landscape Ordinance

Mr. Queen referred to the earlier question regarding tree lights downtown. He explained the Tree Board completed a study regarding street tree lights, and it determined the wiring was incomplete. He pointed out the City does not own its own power grid, and it would be costly to run electricity to the trees and power the lights. He asked if street tree lights should be a taxpayer burden or covered by private funding.

Mayor Woodson asked about the cost to fund the project. Mr. Martin noted it would cost approximately \$40,000, and he pointed out the wiring would require drilling under the sidewalks which could possibly damage the infrastructure or the trees. He explained the existing infrastructure may need improvements to bring it to code.

Mr. Queen stated the Tree Board traveled to other cities where street tree lights were a downtown asset. Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell asked if any of the cities used solar powered outlets. Mr. Queen indicated he did not see any solar powered outlets. He explained the Tree Board determined street tree lights would enhance the City, but Council would need to address the issue.

Councilmember Kennedy recognized members of the Tree Board in the audience.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mayor Woodson opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Geoffrey Hoy, 510 Maupin Avenue, stated he regularly attends Salisbury Neighborhood Action Group (SNAG) meetings. He noted he is concerned about Code Enforcement in the City. He submitted a petition to Council with 125 signatures requesting an additional full-time Code Enforcement officer and a full-time clerical worker. He asked Council to consider shifting the Code Enforcement Department to the Police Department so Code Enforcement Officers could be armed. He thanked Council for hearing the request.

Mayor Woodson noted Council is looking into Code Enforcement.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell recognized Dr. Windsor Eagle who was in the audience for receiving the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award at Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday. She thanked Dr. Eagle for his service to the City.

Mr. George Wilson, 518 Maupin Avenue, noted he serves on the Housing Advocacy Commission (HAC), and he supports the changes to Code Enforcement proposed by Mr. Hoy. He stated moving Code Enforcement to the Police Department would benefit the City. He pointed out the Police Department operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and downtown Police officers could report code violations. He stated if the departments were combined the Police Department would be more informed regarding Code Enforcement issues.

Ms. Sue McHugh, 910 North Main Street, thanked Council for trimming along North Main Street. She added she received a letter stating the trimming was a one-time service. She noted the neighborhood hoped to be put on a regular trimming schedule but if that cannot happen, she thinks implementing the North Main Small Area Improvement Plan would make the area safer for residents to do their trimming. She explained North Main Street is a highway, and drivers do not abide by the 35 mph posted speed. She pointed out on-street parking proposed in the North Main Small Area Plan would provide a buffer for neighbors to maintain their property. She presented a letter from the neighborhood asking Council to consider the North Main Small Area Improvement Plan at its Retreat.

Reverend William Turner addressed Council representing the East and West Sides of the City. He stated he attends SNAG meetings on a monthly basis. He noted absentee landlords are a problem in the City and additional Code Enforcement workers are needed to address the situation. He explained three officers cannot do the job of four or five people while doing clerical work. He stated a disheveled home takes away from the appearance of the entire community and decreases neighboring property values. He asked Council to consider the request for additional Code Enforcement personnel.

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

INTERIM CITY MANAGER'S COMMENTS

(a) Code Enforcement

Interim City Manager John Sofley noted staff reductions were made across the City during the recession. He stated he asked Community Planning Services Director Janet Gapen to review the Code Enforcement Departments work load with Code Services Manager Chris Branham. He stated Code Enforcement was considered during last year's budget meetings but additional staff was not included in the budget. Mr. Sofley pointed out a majority of Code Enforcement violations are written to absentee landlords. He noted in 2014 Council added \$100,000 to the budget for property demolitions, and there is an item on the Retreat Agenda for Council to consider housing stabilization. He stated staff will review the Code Enforcement staffing level to determine if additional staff is needed.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell pointed out a clerical person is also needed in Code Enforcement. She noted the former clerk made approximately \$30,000 and generated \$90,000 in overdue fines and fees. She explained the revenue stream was eliminated with the position. She asked Mr. Sofley to look at reinstating the clerical position. Mr. Sofley pointed out revenue is still being received. He noted due to a smaller staff Code Enforcement is writing fewer citations and generating less revenue.

Mayor Woodson asked about the collection rate on citations. Mr. Sofley noted the collection rate is low. He added it is hard to collect the fees and fines from an absentee landlord. He stated Code Enforcement needs attention, and staff has started the process.

(b) 2nd Quarter Financial Update

Interim City Manager John Sofley asked Financial Services Director Teresa Harris to present the second quarter financial update.

Ms. Harris referenced property tax values for the second quarter and noted \$2.782 million is budgeted, \$2.574 million had been billed, and \$2.797 million is projected to be billed. She explained collections should be slightly over budget.

Ms. Harris noted sales tax receipts are climbing and projections are ahead of revenue.

Ms. Harris pointed out State Franchise Tax is on budget, and one distribution has been received.

Ms. Harris stated General Fund revenue is at 53 percent, or \$19,354,920 of the projected \$36,772,414 received, and 43 percent, or \$15,797,017, expended. She pointed out staff has worked diligently to keep expenditures low.

Ms. Harris reviewed the Water and Sewer Fund revenue for the second quarter and the monthly usage trend. She explained Water and Sewer Fund revenue is at 53 percent received, or \$12,143,581, of the budgeted \$22,707,337. She noted the Water and Sewer Fund is at 36 percent expended, or \$8,274,228, of the budgeted \$22,707,337. She added the debt service payment will be due the last six months of the fiscal year.

Ms. Harris noted Fibrant is billing additional customers each month, but signups stalled the last three months which is normal for the holiday season. She stated the average revenue per user remained solid and the uptime for Fibrant is at 99.99 percent. She reviewed Fibrant revenues verses expenditures for the second quarter. She pointed out revenues were at \$2,902,876 and expenditures were at \$2,089,167. She added Fibrant will have a \$2.4 million debt service payment due March 2015.

Ms. Harris explained Transit fare revenues are at 42 percent, or \$49,275, of the budgeted \$118,000, and expenditures are at 40 percent, or \$448,688, of the budgeted \$1,116,936 for the second quarter. She noted a route was changed during the year causing a dip in transit revenue.

Ms. Harris reviewed Stormwater revenues for the second quarter. She noted revenue is at 51 percent billed, or \$584,323, of the budgeted \$1,146,583 and expenditures are at 42 percent, or \$484,032. She pointed out the utility is managing expenses to the funds collected and currently has a 97.9 percent collection rate.

Mayor Woodson asked Ms. Harris when the debt service for Fibrant is due. Ms. Harris noted the debt service payment will be due March 2015. Mr. Sofley explained there will be a third quarter deficit due to the \$2.4 million debt service payment. He added revenue will pick up the last three months of the year. He noted the sales tax receipts and State Franchise Tax were stronger than anticipated.

Councilmember Miller noted he would like more information on sales tax revenue at Council's Retreat. He added the increase in sales tax revenue is good news that needs to be shared with citizens.

Mr. Sofley noted Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission Executive Director Robert Van Geons identified the sales tax revenue that leaks from Rowan County to other locations. He pointed out new development helps keeps revenue local. Mr. Miller noted he would like to see sales tax receipt projections for the coming year at Council's Retreat.

Councilmember Alexander asked if staff is working on a plan for capital improvements to increase the Fibrant customer base.

Mr. Sofley noted staff is looking at capital improvements. He pointed out the current year's budget includes funding to replace the system core routers and next year staff will look at replacing additional equipment that will age out.

Mr. Miller noted he recently met Kannapolis Mayor Darrell Hinnant who shared a capital improvement budget worksheet from the City of Kannapolis which could be a useful tool for the City.

Mr. Sofley indicated staff uses a similar sheet to track capital, technology and vehicles, and to identify funding sources. Mr. Miller stated he would like to see the sheet.

(c) Gigabit City Summit

Interim City Manager John Sofley noted last week he attended the Gigabit City Summit in Kansas City, Missouri along with Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell, Councilmember Alexander, Director of Broadband Ken Winrich, and Salisbury-Rowan Economic Development Commission Executive Director Robert Van Geons. He explained the Summit gave the delegation an opportunity to hear what is happening in Kansas City regarding Google. He noted the Summit also gave the team a chance to talk to other cities that have gigabit service and cities that want gigabit service.

Ms. Blackwell indicated the delegation heard from speakers who live and work in successful gigabit cities. She stated eight years ago Council pursued Fibrant to bring jobs to the community, and the statement she heard during the Summit that impacted her was fiber does not bring jobs to a community it brings talent, and jobs follow talent. She added the speakers shared ways to attract talent to a fiber city such as app competitions, software development, and gaming conventions.

Ms. Alexander stated Fibrant needs a broad and deep initiative that includes partners and non-profit fund raising to support the initiatives. She noted many speakers recognized the need to mitigate the digital divide between the more fluent community and its poor. She congratulated Fibrant for its digital hot spots throughout Community Centers within the City. She added partnerships with entities such as the Library and Rowan County will be essential to broad and deep community engagement.

Mr. Winrich indicated he was amazed at how far ahead Salisbury is of other cities. He noted there are 40 other cities in the United States that completely cover their citizens and businesses with fiber. He added he heard citizens from large and small cities saying they want fiber, but they do not have a plan in place to fund or manage the program. He pointed out Google is in Kansas City but its fiber service does not cover the entire city. Mr. Winrich emphasized other cities want what is established in Salisbury. He added Fibrant gives the City an advantage it must market to the world. He pointed out the City has assets it can utilize for other communities.

Ms. Alexander noted Mr. Craig Settles interviewed Mr. Van Geons and Mr. Winrich at the Summit. Mr. Miller asked for a copy of the interview.

Mayor Woodson welcomed Mr. Winrich to the City, and he added he is excited to learn of Mr. Winrich's long-term plans for Fibrant.

Mr. Sofley noted he heard multiple times at the Summit fiber does not create jobs, it brings talent. He stated the City must work to get the message out. He pointed out fiber is part of the basic structure a community must have for future growth. He emphasized the groundwork is in place, and the City will reap future benefits from Fibrant.

Mayor Woodson stated he believes the City will be booming in 2019. He noted he has received calls that Google is going to take over Fibrant. Mr. Sofley pointed out Google may expand to other cities, but he does not see it for Salisbury.

Ms. Blackwell emphasized the City must let the world know about Fibrant.

Councilmember Kennedy pointed out if an entity expressed an interest in purchasing Fibrant, Council would consider the request.

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(a) Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration

Mayor Woodson announced the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebrations were a huge success. He noted 450 people attended the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast. He added it was a great weekend. He stated Council heard from the community that more young people need to be involved in the celebration. He suggested having more youth participate in the program next year.

Mayor Pro Tem Blackwell noted the Human Relations Council organizes all of the City-sponsored events to honor Dr. King. She commended all the volunteers who work to make the events a success. She recognized Mr. Seth Labovitz and Mr. Greg Philpot for serving as Chairs of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast and Mr. Tony Flemming for serving as Parade Chair. She commended the City's Human Resources staff for its work and dedication throughout the event.

CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Woodson asked for a motion to go into closed session to consult with an attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) and concerning a personnel matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6).

Thereupon, Ms. Blackwell made a **motion** to go into closed session to consult with an attorney as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3) and concerning a personnel matter as allowed by NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6). Ms. Alexander seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy, Miller, and Woodson, and Meses. Alexander and Blackwell voted AYE. (5-0)

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

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

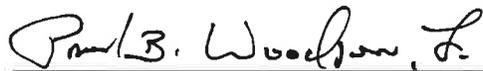
Mayor Woodson announced no action was taken in closed session. Councilmember Miller was excused from the Closed Session and left the meeting.

RECESS

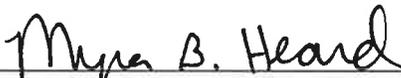
Mayor Woodson asked for a motion to recess the meeting until Friday, January 30, 2015 at 12:00 noon. in Council Chambers at City Hall, 217 South Main Street.

Thereupon, Mr. Kennedy made a **motion** to recess the meeting until Friday, January 30, 2015 at 12:00 noon in Council Chambers at City Hall, 217 South Main Street. Ms. Blackwell seconded the motion. Messrs. Kennedy and Woodson and Meses. Alexander Blackwell voted AYE. (4-0)

The meeting was recessed at 8:15 p.m.



Paul B. Woodson, Jr., Mayor



Myra B. Heard, City Clerk