

October 25, 2008

The Honorable Mayor Susan W. Kluttz,
City Council, City Manager,
and the Citizens of the
City of Salisbury, North Carolina

We are pleased to present the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (Report) of the City of Salisbury (City) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008 (FY08). We are particularly proud of the fact that this Report has been entirely prepared by the City's Management Services Department. Responsibility for both the accuracy of the data presented and the completeness and fairness of presentation, including all disclosures, rests with the City. We believe the data is accurate in all material respects, and it is presented in a manner designed to set forth fairly the financial position and the results of operations of the City as measured by the financial activity of its various funds. All disclosures necessary to enable the reader to gain the maximum understanding of the City's financial affairs have been included. The accompanying financial statements have been audited by Martin Starnes & Associates, CPAs, P.A., an independent firm of certified public accountants, and their opinion is included in the Report.

Generally accepted accounting principles require that management provide a narrative introduction, overview, and analysis to accompany the basic financial statements in the form of a Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A). This letter of transmittal is designed to complement the MD&A and should be read in conjunction with it.

GENERAL

The financial statements have been prepared in compliance with applicable requirements of the General Statutes of North Carolina and are consistent with the standards and guidelines recognized for governmental accounting and reporting contained in both *Audits of State and Local Governmental Units*, an audit guide prepared by the Committee of Governmental Accounting of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Among the other resources used in the preparation of the financial statements, the Management Services Department Staff has given particular attention to the *Governmental Accounting, Auditing and Financial Reporting* (GAAFR) issued by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA), and Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements.

The City is also required to undergo an annual single audit in conformity with the provisions of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996, the State Single Audit Implementation Act, and U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133, *Audits of States, Local Governments, and Nonprofit Organizations*. Information related to the compliance audit and the schedule of expenditures of federal and state awards are included in the Compliance section of this report.

The City participates in the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting awards program sponsored by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada. In order to be awarded a Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report, whose contents conform to program standards. Such reports must satisfy both accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and applicable legal requirements.

The City's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2007, was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current Comprehensive Annual Financial Report meets the Certificate of Achievement Program's requirements and intend to submit it to the GFOA to determine its eligibility for another certificate.

ECONOMIC CONDITION AND OUTLOOK

The City of Salisbury is located in the heart of North Carolina. Situated along the I-85 corridor which links the community to the state's economic centers, the City is located midway between two major metropolitan regions: Charlotte to the south, and the Piedmont Triad (Greensboro, High Point and Winston-Salem) to the north. In addition to the interstate highway, the City is also served by two major rail lines which intersect in town and an airport on the outskirts of the community. This location offers widely diversified employment opportunities for residents in areas ranging from financial, educational, medical, and governmental to industrial and research activities. In summary, the diverse local economic base and long-term planning coupled with the region's advantages have made the City an attractive place to do business and to live.

The location also allows the City to serve as a trading and distribution center for the County and portions of surrounding counties. Salisbury, like the entire United States, is in the middle of an economic downturn. Taxable retail sales in Salisbury for the twelve months ended June 30, 2008 decreased \$13.5 million (2.6%) from the prior fiscal year to \$505,848,887 as compared to the statewide average decrease of 0.27%. Taxable retail sales in Salisbury were higher in FY07 than in any fiscal year in history. Despite the decrease in taxable sales, the City's sales tax revenues actually increased 5.9% in the past fiscal year to \$5,220,704. Continuing additions to the area's retail centers and new restaurants have helped to stabilize the local economy. In the spring of 2008, construction began on a new shopping center. The shopping center has celebrated its first grand opening when Kohl's recently opened for business. The addition of Kohl's and other new stores in the future should help Salisbury and Rowan County citizens spend their tax dollars locally instead of going out of town to shop. Also, a new five-story hotel and restaurant will soon replace older structures at the City's main entrance off of Interstate 85. The local economy is still relatively strong and these new developments will help Salisbury continue to thrive in the future.

The downtown business district continues to be a thriving retail center for area merchants. The City supports and encourages the revitalization of the downtown business district that began in the early 1980's. Since that time almost \$100 million has been invested in the redevelopment of Salisbury's downtown. In the downtown area, over 93% of the first floor business and retail space is currently occupied. The past fiscal year has seen the opening of sixteen new downtown businesses and nine building renovations. The downtown area had a net increase of 49 jobs during the past fiscal year. The story of downtown Salisbury is one of public-private partnerships committed to maintaining our place as one of the best downtown districts in North Carolina.

Another reason for a positive economic outlook for our region is the construction of the new North Carolina Research Campus in neighboring Kannapolis, which is approximately 20 miles south of Salisbury. The Campus is being built on the site of a former textile mill and will house biotechnology research and development facilities of some of the state's major universities including Duke University, North Carolina State University, and the University of North Carolina. The first four buildings of the 350-acre biotech center has been completed and will open this fall. The campus will create an estimated 5,535 jobs by 2013 and is

expected to attract another 9,000 jobs to Cabarrus and Rowan Counties by 2032. The new jobs are estimated to have a total annual income of \$2.1 billion.

The City's proximity to the State's metropolitan regions provides many advantages and challenges. The Piedmont is one of the country's largest growth corridors. The City's management, the City Council, and the citizens continue to explore and develop goals and plans to keep the City of Salisbury financially sound while providing the services domestic and corporate citizens require.

MAJOR INITIATIVES

The City of Salisbury's Council and Management team were very pleased with the results of recent citizens' surveys. Responses from those surveys showed that our citizens have a high level of satisfaction with the various services that the City provides. City Council and Management have used our citizens' comments to formulate goals and objectives for the City at the annual Future Directions and Goal Setting Conference. City management and staff have been working hard to meet those goals and take Salisbury from good to great. Areas of progress that are worth noting are the continued revitalization effort of the City's downtown area, the adoption of a new land development ordinance,, and the City's new Customer Service Initiative. Also, the various departments that make up City government continue to thrive, as evidenced by the receipt of several national, state, and local awards.

The revitalization of Salisbury's downtown area continues to surge ahead. Over two million dollars were invested into the downtown during FY08 by various public and private organizations. A walk through the downtown provides much evidence of this continued revitalization as you see cranes and various renovation projects currently underway. The City has worked with Downtown Salisbury, Inc. to bring more people to the downtown. In addition to serving as a retail center, the downtown has become a great place for events and festivals such as the Lord Salisbury Festivals, Pops at the Post, Arts on Easy Street, and the annual Blues and Jazz Festival. The City was excited to complete the South Square Streetscape Enhancement Project, which substantially changed the appearance of portions of East Fisher and South Lee Streets. This Project is already helping to transform the South Square into an arts and entertainment district. Festival street lights have been added and several new restaurants have opened in the past year. Salisbury's vibrant downtown district and its many festivals are a major reason for the increase in tourism in our area. The City's downtown revitalization effort is admired statewide, as evidenced by the receipt of several awards in the North Carolina Main Street Awards competition.

In response to the comprehensive plan of Salisbury Vision 2020, the City adopted the Land Development Ordinance of the City of Salisbury North Carolina on December 18, 2007 to take effect on January 1, 2008. This Ordinance embodies the principle of "Sustainable Growth", which is the City's principle for accommodating and maintaining population growth and economic expansion using coordinated planning and design. In adopting this ordinance, the City seeks to implement the policy recommendations from Salisbury Vision 2020, including establishing the collective vision of their Citizens for Small Town Character and Community Identity, Environmental Quality, Getting Around, Community Appearance, Historic Preservation, Downtown Salisbury, Neighborhoods, Public Safety, Housing, Economic Opportunity, and Fiscal Responsibility and Better Services.

At the Future Directions and Goal Setting Conference, City Council made creating "a culture of excellent customer service within the City organization" its number one goal. Prior to that conference much work had already been done toward developing a comprehensive customer service plan for all City employees. All of the City's employees have participated in an initial training session that introduced the City's Customer Service Initiative. Also, most of the City's employees have gone through a second round of departmental level customer service training. City employees are encouraged to continually live up to the City's customer service motto and be truly "Driven to Serve." Based on the many positive comments we are receiving from

our citizens and customers, a change in our culture is definitely underway because our employees have embraced the Customer Service Initiative.

City Council also desires to maintain quality management of the City and each of its departments. One way of validating the quality of a City department is to seek national, state, and local recognition. For the twelfth straight year, the City has been designated a Certified Local Government by the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office for the City's work in historic preservation. The City has also been named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. The City's Police, Fire and Parks and Recreation Departments have received national re-accreditation. Salisbury Parks and Recreation is one of only two departments in North Carolina and one of 60 in the United States that are nationally accredited and was recently one of only five cities in the state awarded a designation of being a "Fit Community." The City's Management Services Department continues to excel as well, winning awards for both the Annual Budget and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

City Council and staff are moving ahead with its "Fiber to the Home" project. City Council identified Fiber to the Home as one of its six tactical goals for FY2006-07. The proposed new Enterprise Fund would put the City into the business of offering cable television, telephone and Internet services. With its fiber-optic cable, the Fiber to the Home project would provide customers with greater bandwidth, translating to much faster speeds and greater capacity for data. While this would be a big investment (an estimated \$30 million), it could assure that leading-edge communications and entertainment services will be available to our residents and businesses. The project could be a tremendous asset for economic development as businesses look to move here or maintain their presence here.

The City is looking forward to the redevelopment of the former Empire Hotel. The potential rejuvenation of the Empire Hotel has long been considered to be a keystone to the revitalization of the South Main Street area. The Hotel is an 88,000 square foot property located in the heart of the downtown, less than a block away from the recently completed South Square Streetscape Enhancement Project. Downtown Salisbury, Inc. has advertised the property and received information from seven interested development firms. DSI has narrowed the search to one developer who will soon begin a one-year feasibility study with the goal of returning the building back into an operational hotel. The redevelopment of the hotel could have a major economic impact on the City and the downtown area.

The Parks and Recreation Department will soon have a grand re-opening of the Jaycee Optimist Sports Complex. In the past year Council has award contracts for the total renovation of the park. The project includes two new softball fields, two three-on-three basketball courts, a play structure, bocce courts, horseshoe pits, a picnic area, a concession stand, and a paved walking trail around the entire complex. This project is being funded by a donation from the Robertson Family Foundation and a grant from the North Carolina Parks and Recreation Trust Fund in addition to City funds.

The City's Water and Sewer department will be extremely busy with infrastructure expansions and renovations over the next couple of years. Aging sewer infrastructure and stiffer federal and state regulations will be addressed through upgrades and additions to the Grant Creek and Town Creek Wastewater Treatment Plants. These projects, which should be completed by the fall of 2009, will upgrade obsolete facilities and provide additional treatment capacity. Also, the City and Rowan County have partnered to extend sewer service along Interstate 85 from Salisbury to southern Rowan County. This \$7.0 million project should stimulate growth and economic development along the County's primary growth corridor. In a matter unrelated to the expansion, the City will continue its due diligence in protecting its water rights with regard to the Yadkin River through participation of the re-licensing process by ALCOA for their hydropower operation.

REPORTING ENTITY

In conformity with the standards of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, this Report includes all funds of the City, as well as its component unit. The City of Salisbury (as legally defined) is considered to be a primary government. Current governmental standards for accounting and financial reporting require inclusion of the primary government as well as its component unit in a published comprehensive annual financial report. The component unit is a legally separate entity for which the primary government is primarily financially accountable or for which the nature and significance of their relationship with the primary government are such that their exclusion would cause the reporting entity's financial statements to be misleading or incomplete.

The primary government is considered financially accountable if it appoints a voting majority of the organization's governing body; and 1) it is able to impose its will on that organization; or, 2) there is a potential for the organization to provide specific financial benefits to, or impose specific financial burden on, the primary government.

The discretely presented component unit, Downtown Salisbury Inc., is reported in a separate column in the government-wide financial statements to emphasize that it is legally separate from the primary government and to differentiate its financial position, results of operations, and cash flows from those of the primary government.

SERVICES PROVIDED

The City of Salisbury provides a full range of municipal services allowable under State law including law enforcement, fire protection, planning and development services, zoning and code enforcement, recreation centers and parks, cemeteries, street maintenance, and sanitation. In addition to these general government activities, the City provides and maintains water and sewer utilities and operates a mass transit system. This report includes all the City's fiscal activities in maintaining these services.

GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

The City employs a Council-Manager form of government as provided in the City's Charter. The governing body consists of five council members, elected on a nonpartisan basis at large for a two-year term. The Council elects the Mayor from among them. The Mayor is usually the council member receiving the highest number of votes in the general election. Elections are held in November of odd numbered years. The City Manager (the chief executive officer) is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Mayor and Council. The Mayor and Council adopt a balanced budget and establish a tax rate for the support of City services prior to the beginning of each July 1 to June 30 fiscal year. The City Manager administers City programs in accordance with local policy and the annual budget.

ACCOUNTING SYSTEMS AND BUDGETARY CONTROL

In developing and evaluating the City's accounting systems, consideration is given to the adequacies of internal controls. Internal accounting controls are designed to provide reasonable, but not absolute, assurance regarding: (1) the safeguarding of assets against loss from unauthorized use or disposition; and (2) the reliability of financial records for preparing financial statements and maintaining accountability for assets. The concept of reasonable assurance recognizes that: (1) the cost of a control should not exceed the benefits likely to be derived; and (2) the evaluation of costs and benefits requires estimates and judgments by management.

All internal control evaluations occur within the above framework. We believe the City's internal accounting controls adequately safeguard assets and provide reasonable assurance of proper recording of financial transactions.

As a recipient of federal and state awards, the City is also responsible for ensuring that an adequate internal control structure is in place to ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations related to those programs. This internal control structure is subject to periodic evaluation by management. As a part of the City's single audit described earlier, tests are made to determine the adequacy of the internal control structure, including that portion related to federal and state awards, as well as to determine that the City has complied with applicable laws and regulations. The results of the City's single audit for FY08 provided no instances of material weaknesses in the internal control structure or significant violations of applicable laws and regulations.

Budgetary control is maintained at the departmental level by the encumbrance of estimated purchase amounts prior to the release of purchase orders to vendors. Purchase orders which result in an overrun of departmental balances are not released until additional appropriations are made available. Open encumbrances lapse at year end and are reinstated against the subsequent year's appropriation. They are shown as a reservation of fund balance at June 30, 2008.

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The City's accounting records for governmental funds are maintained on a modified accrual basis whereby revenues are recognized when measurable and available, and expenditures are recognized in the accounting period in which the liability is incurred except for unpaid interest on general long-term debt. Proprietary fund and pension trust fund revenues and expenses are recognized on the accrual basis whereby revenues are recognized in the accounting period in which they are earned, and expenses are recognized in the period in which they are incurred. Fiduciary funds are accounted for on the modified accrual basis, the same as for governmental funds.

FUND ACCOUNTING

Governmental accounting systems should be organized and operated on a fund basis. A fund is defined as a fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts, recording cash and other financial resources together with all related liabilities and residual equities or balances, and changes therein, which are segregated for the purpose of carrying on specific activities or obtaining certain objectives in accordance with special regulations, restrictions, or limitations. Thus a governmental unit is a combination of several distinctly different fiscal and accounting entities, each having a separate set of accounts and functions.

FUND CATEGORIES

Governmental funds are those through which governmental functions typically are financed. The acquisition, use, and balances of the government's expendable financial resources and the related current liabilities, except those accounted for in the proprietary fund, are accounted for through governmental funds. The governmental fund measurement focus is based upon determination of financial position and changes in financial position (sources, usage, and balances of financial resources), rather than upon net income determination. The statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balance is the primary governmental fund operating statement. It may be supported or supplemented by more detailed schedules of revenues, expenditures, transfers, and other changes in fund balance.

Proprietary funds are used to account for a government's ongoing organizations and activities which are similar to those found in the private sector. All assets, liabilities, equity, revenues, expenses, and transfers relating to the government's business and quasi-business activities (where net income and capital maintenance are measured) are accounted for through proprietary funds. The generally accepted accounting principles used here are those applicable to similar businesses in the private sector and the measurement focus is upon determination of net income, financial position, and cash flows.

Fiduciary funds are used to account for assets held by governmental units in a trustee capacity or as an agent for individuals, private organizations, other governmental units and/or other funds. Agency funds are purely custodial in nature and do not measure the results of operations. Pension trust funds are accounted for in essentially the same manner as proprietary funds.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

The City's financial management program continues to provide the citizens of the City with an approach which has served to enhance the City's excellent financial position by:

1. Investing all available funds not needed on a daily basis in order to maximize interest earnings, and
2. Allocating City resources only to program areas that meet community needs, and
3. Monitoring these program areas to ensure they are carried out within authorized levels.

This financial management program allows the City to achieve its goal of expanded and improved services to the citizens of Salisbury. As discussed in the Management's Discussion and Analysis, the City continues to receive excellent bond ratings from various rating agencies. This is a reflection of the City's continued sound financial condition.

CASH MANAGEMENT

The City's temporary idle cash is invested in interest-bearing demand deposits, certificates of deposit, obligations of the U.S. Treasury and federal agencies, banker's acceptances, commercial paper, and the North Carolina Capital Management Trust. All revenues received are deposited the same day in a consolidated interest-bearing bank account. This bank account is drawn upon to meet all payroll and payable obligations, and the City maintains in this account only as much money as is required to meet current obligations. All other idle cash is invested in instruments authorized by the General Statutes of North Carolina. The average yield on investments was 4.17% for the year ended June 30, 2008.

The City's investment policy is to minimize credit and market risks while maintaining a competitive yield on its portfolio. Accordingly, deposits were either insured by federal depository insurance or collateralized. The majority of the City's investment portfolio at June 30, 2008, is classified in the category of lowest credit risk as defined by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board. The remainder of the City's investment portfolio is exempt from risk categorization because it was invested in the NC Capital Management Trust, an SEC registered mutual fund where the City is only a shareholder of a percentage of the fund and does not own any identifiable securities.

RISK MANAGEMENT

In the efforts to maintain services at a reasonable cost to the citizens of Salisbury, the City has developed and maintained a risk management program that encompasses nearly every aspect of the City's operations. Insurance liability coverage is obtained through a combination of commercial insurers, the insurance pool administered by the NC League of Municipalities, and self-insurance. This approach has allowed the City to obtain maximal amounts of property and liability coverage at the most economical cost.

CONCLUSION

FY08 and the beginning of FY09 have been challenging and trying times for our City leaders, management, and staff. On March 7, 2008, a major fire broke out in a local millwork plant. The fire turned tragic as two of our firefighters were killed while fighting the blaze. The loss of these two heroes devastated all of us that work for and live in the City of Salisbury. Although the financial impact of the fire on the City is not nearly as great as the loss of two lives, our Fire Department did incur some expenses and is still in the process of replacing lost equipment. Also, as previously discussed in this transmittal letter, the national economy is in a

downtown. While we are confident that new retail stores and the continued redevelopment in the downtown will help to stabilize the local economy, our City management is preparing for leaner times ahead. With the possibility of decreased revenues due to layoffs and home foreclosures, management and staff are looking for ways to control operating and capital expenditures while continuing to assure our citizens that the City will be able to provide the quality of services that they have come to enjoy and expect.

The future continues to hold many other uncertainties as well. Federal and State mandates continue to impact local governments in all areas of operations. Nevertheless, the citizens of Salisbury have come to expect and appreciate high levels of service they enjoy. The management of the City is charged with managing its resources in the best possible manner to deliver those services at a cost citizens will agree to bear. The City will continue to focus on its core values, mission, and vision to provide quality services to all of our citizens. Although, the City faces rising operational costs, our Council and management are constantly guarding against unnecessary tax and utility rate increases. All City operations are being asked to maintain their readiness to respond to our citizens even as we face the possibilities of decreasing resources. Overall, new retail in the City and sound management by our City Council will continue to provide the City a stable financial position from which we may serve the citizens of Salisbury for years to come.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to thank the Mayor, City Council and the City Manager for the support and trust they have given the Management Services Department. On behalf of the team of the Management Services Department, we promise our continued dedication to proving ourselves worthy of their support and trust. We are confident that together we can provide the citizens of Salisbury with responsible and progressive financial management.

For the preparation of this Report, the City is especially indebted to Teresa P. Harris, Budget and Performance Management Manager, Mark D. Drye, Management Analyst, and Kizzy N. Lea, Accountant. Without their assistance, this Report could not have been prepared on a timely basis.

Each year, we strive to prepare a financial report which provides a meaningful analysis and disclosure of the City's financial activities and financial position. We believe this Report conforms substantially to the standards of financial reporting of the appropriate professional organizations.

Respectfully submitted,

John A. Sofley, Jr.
Management Services Director

S. Wade Furches
Finance Manager

Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

Presented to

City of Salisbury
North Carolina

For its Comprehensive Annual
Financial Report
for the Fiscal Year Ended
June 30, 2007

A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada to government units and public employee retirement systems whose comprehensive annual financial reports (CAFRs) achieve the highest standards in government accounting and financial reporting.



Chloe S. Cox

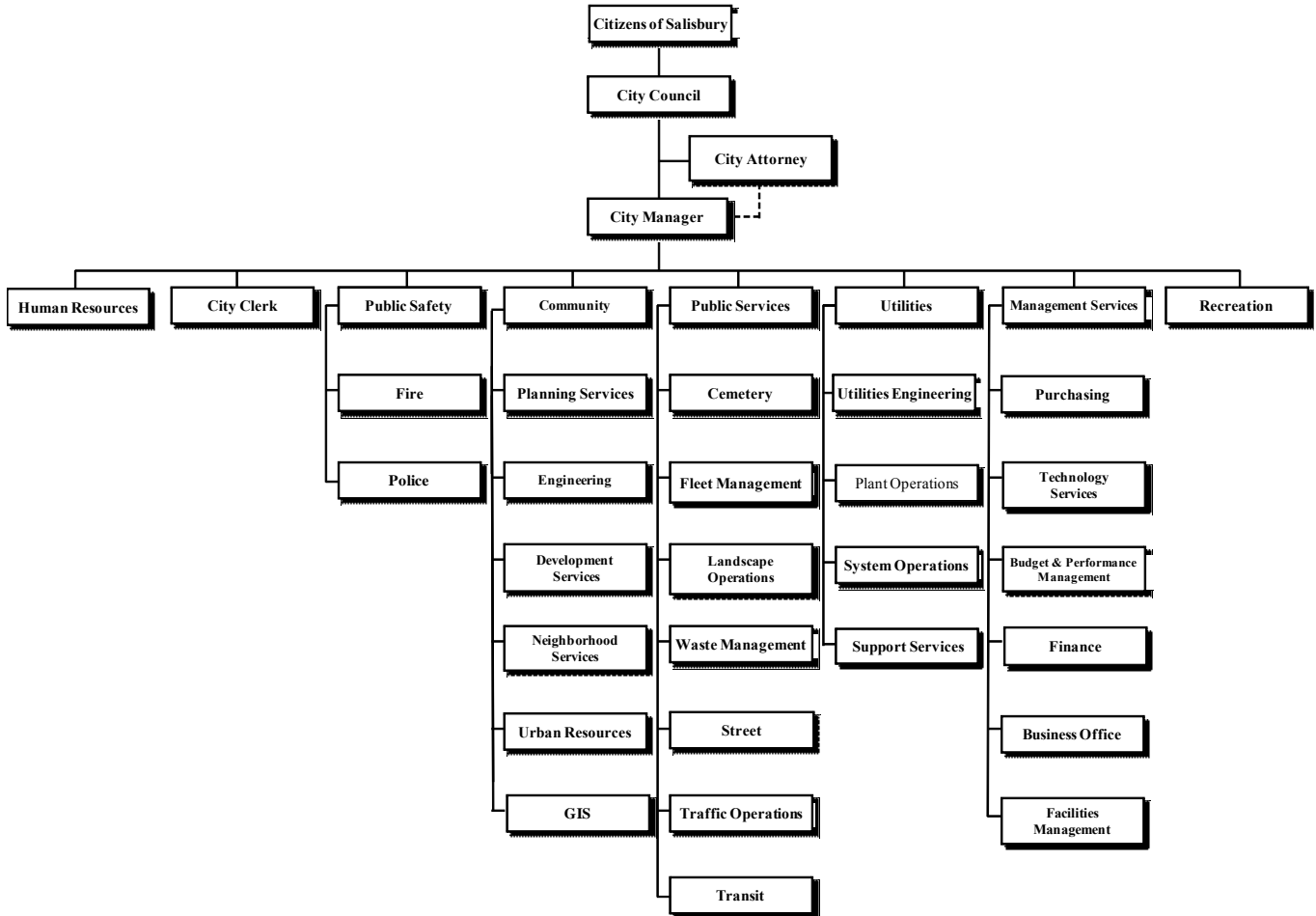
President

Jeffrey R. Emer

Executive Director

CITY OF SALISBURY

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



CITY OF SALISBURY
LIST OF PRINCIPAL OFFICIALS

June 30, 2008

Mayor	Susan W. Kluttz
Mayor Pro Tem	Paul B. Woodson, Jr.
Council Member	William R. Burgin
Council Member	William R. Kennedy
Council Member	Mark N. Lewis
City Manager	David W. Treme
City Clerk	Myra B. Heard
Management Services Director	John A. Sofley, Jr.
Fire Chief	Robert A. Parnell
Land Management and Development Director	Daniel J. Mikkelson
Interim Human Resources Director	K. Joe Eagle
Police Chief	L. Mark Wilhelm
Public Services Director	Tony L. Cinquemani
Parks and Recreation Director	Gail Elder-White
Interim Utilities Director	James D. Behmer
Purchasing Agent	Dewey D. Peck
Technology Services Manager	C. Michael Crowell

FACTS AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY OF SALISBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

LOCATION

Salisbury, the county seat of Rowan County, is located in the heart of the beautiful Piedmont area, the industrial heart of the State. Salisbury is located midway between Charlotte and Winston-Salem, 296 miles from Atlanta, Georgia and 368 miles from Washington, D.C.

CLIMATE

The climate of the Salisbury area is moderate, a definite advantage to those who live and work here. The massive mountains of Western North Carolina form a natural barrier against the cold east-west winds. While definitely southern in climate, Salisbury is far enough north and has sufficient altitude to escape the humid summers of many other southern regions. Extremes in climate are very rare and short-lived. In winter the high temperature is about 50 degrees, with a low around 32 degrees. The total snowfall is normally about 6 inches each year. In the summer, the high averages about 87 degrees, with a low of 66 degrees.

POPULATION

The population of the City of Salisbury has increased steadily during the past decade. This is due to both annexations and internal growth stimulated by the local economy. Population currently is estimated to be 31,024 based upon estimates from the North Carolina Office of State Planning.

HISTORY

Scotch-Irish, who originally settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, moved down the "Great Wagon Road" 435 miles to Trading Ford on the Yadkin River to become the first settlers in Rowan County.

The County of Rowan was established in 1753. At this time, Rowan included all territory north to Virginia and east to what we know now as Guilford County and west to the mountains. Eventually, 26 counties were formed from Rowan. Rowan County was named for Matthew Rowan, acting governor for the colony in 1753.

The deed for Salisbury is dated February 11, 1755. The court center, called prior to this time Rowan Court House, was a bustling little village of seven or eight log cabins, a court house, jail and pillory, according to Governor Arthur Dobbs who visited here in late 1755.

The Court House dates to 1753 and consists of deeds, marriages, and miscellaneous records of value. Papers formerly in the Clerk's Office such as the early court minutes are stored at the State Department of Archives in Raleigh. Familiar names in American history adorn these records.

Andrew Jackson, Richard Henderson, William R. Davis, Daniel Boone, Lord Cornwallis, Richard Caswell and many other prominent local families as the Barkleys, Hoovers, and Polks, all ancestors of presidents or vice-presidents, appear time and again in the deeds and court minutes of the county.

Two years before the national Declaration of Independence and one year before the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, a group of patriotic citizens of Rowan County, serving as a Committee of Safety, on August 8, 1774 adopted the Rowan Resolves containing the pioneer element toward liberty and independence from Britain. These resolves reached the highest note of any passed in the colony in calling for the abolishment of the African Slave trade and urging the colonies to "unite in an indissoluble union and association". These resolves are located in the State Archives and are the only ones of the many passed in this period that are preserved.

So many legends and lifestyles have been passed down over the passage of time. Daniel Boone began his exploration of the Blue Ridge Mountains from here in Salisbury. Near the present-day library is the small office where Andrew Jackson studied law and was admitted to the bar before he moved westward.

For all the struggles and hardships our ancestors endured, they have provided Salisbury with character and a rich heritage.

GOVERNMENT

The City of Salisbury's government is organized according to the Council-Manager form of government. The City Council, which formulates policy for the Administration of the City, together with the Mayor, constitutes the governing body of the City. The five (5) members are elected to serve two (2) year terms of office. The Mayor is elected from the five Council members. The Mayor presides at City Council meetings. Also, a Mayor Pro Tem is elected by City Council members to serve as Mayor during her absence or disability.

The City Council appoints the City Manager to serve as the City's Chief Executive Officer. The City Manager is responsible for implementing the policies of the City Council, directing business and administrative procedures, and appointing departmental officers. At the present time, the City Manager is assisted by the City Clerk and eight staff departments: Management Services, Human Resources, Fire, Police, Land Management and Development, Public Services, Parks and Recreation, and Public Utilities. The City provides a full range of municipal services allowable under State law including law enforcement, fire protection, zoning and code enforcement, recreation centers and parks, cemeteries, street maintenance, sanitation, and water and sewer systems.

UTILITIES

Salisbury operates its own water and sewer system. The Yadkin River, which forms the northeast boundary of Rowan County, provides Salisbury with an abundant supply of good water. The average daily flow is nearly 2 billion gallons per day, and the minimum recorded one-day flow is 150 million gallons. The Salisbury water system, conventional in design and closely controlled, has a treatment capacity of 12 million gallons per day. Average daily production during fiscal year 2008 was 7.5 million gallons per day. The filter plant is designed for expansion as needed to 18 million gallons per day by adding pumping and settling capacity. An arterial system of distribution mains has been constructed to assure maximum fire protection to all parts of the city.

The Salisbury water system supplies the following towns in Rowan County: Spencer, East Spencer, Granite Quarry, Rockwell, China Grove, Landis, and Kannapolis and service has been extended to a number of industrial sites well beyond the city limits. The water supply meets all federal and State quality requirements.

Salisbury's three wastewater treatment facilities serve as the area's regional wastewater utility with service expansion to the towns of Landis, China Grove, Spencer, East Spencer, Granite Quarry, and Rockwell. Total daily treatment capacity in 2006 was 12.5 million gallons.

Other utilities are provided by Duke Energy, Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Bellsouth Telephone, CT Communications, and Time Warner Cable.

TRANSPORTATION

Salisbury, nearly the geographic and population center of North Carolina, is located on Interstate Highway 85, 42 miles from Charlotte, 52 miles from Greensboro and

39 miles from Winston-Salem. It is the crossroads of I-85, U.S. 29, 52, 70, 601 and N.C. 150. Over 3.5 million people live within 90 miles of Salisbury, 1.75 million within 55 miles and 60% of the population of the United States within an overnight truck haul. The seaports of Wilmington, Morehead City, Charleston, and Norfolk are less than a one-day truck haul away.

Rowan County Airport, three (3) miles from downtown Salisbury, has a 5,800 ft. x 100 ft. paved and lighted runway. Hangar space and private plane servicing are available.

Two major commercial airports are within a one-hour drive of Salisbury – Charlotte-Douglas International in Charlotte and Piedmont Triad International (PTI) in Greensboro. With the planned new FedEx package-sorting facility at PTI, Salisbury is well positioned for providing local businesses a critical link in their logistics chain. Additionally, these airports provide regular air passenger services to all parts of the United States via AirTran, American, Continental, Delta, United, and US Airways. There are also non-stop, international flight options available to Frankfurt, London, and San Juan, among other global destinations.

Greyhound provides bus service to Salisbury with daily arrivals and departures. Local bus service is provided by the City's Transit System.

Amtrak provides rail transportation with service on the Piedmont and the Carolinian from New York City to Charlotte, North Carolina. Arrivals and departures are from The Depot, a renovated station of the Salisbury Railroad Station Depot, originally built in 1907.

MOTELS

An ideal area for meetings and conventions, Salisbury has fourteen (14) motels, with over 1,100 rooms, and two (2) bed and breakfast establishments in our historic district.

EDUCATION

Salisbury is home to two (2) colleges and a technical school. Catawba College was founded in Newton, North Carolina in 1851, and moved to Salisbury in 1925. Catawba has thirty (30) buildings comprising a physical plant unsurpassed in the East for a college of this size and style. It has a total enrollment of 1,500 Liberal Arts students and is affiliated with the United Church of Christ.

Livingstone College was founded in 1879, and has 1,000 Liberal Arts students. It is supported by the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College offers two-year educational programs leading to the associate's degree in applied science. In addition, one-year diploma programs are offered in five fields. There is a total enrollment of approximately 4,700 full-time students.

In addition to the Salisbury-Rowan public school system, there are several private and church related schools.

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

The cultural atmosphere of the Salisbury area is significantly enriched by the outstanding programs of Catawba and Livingstone Colleges and the other colleges in the area. Each year the Catawba College Shuford School of Performing Art brings a minimum of four musical events to Salisbury. Catawba's fine Drama department offers several professional type drama productions each year. Livingstone College also has a cultural series that brings artists to the community as well as an excellent drama group, The Julia B. Duncan Players.

The Piedmont Players, a community little theater organization, provides excellent entertainment as well as a chance to participate in both its acting and technical activities. They have completely restored the historic Meroney Theater, built in 1905, for their home. The Piedmont Players present five shows each season. In addition to these five shows, all fourth and fifth graders in the Rowan-Salisbury School System attend the theater for an annual production that is cast entirely with children. Piedmont Players has received an award at the annual North Carolina Theatre Conference for having the best community theater in the state.

The Salisbury-Rowan Symphony, consisting of musicians from the area, presents four concerts each season. In addition to participation in the regular concert series, the string quartet of the Salisbury Symphony visits the elementary schools to present programs. The object of this mini-concert series is to give the students some knowledge of music and famous composers.

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College participates in the North Carolina Visiting Artist Program. Each year a professional artist is employed and in residence at the college. Concerts and musical programs are provided regularly by many artists throughout the state as well as the Visiting Artist. In addition, Rowan-Cabarrus Community College sponsors a Folk Heritage Center. This center serves as a network for professional and local folk artists and presents classes, concerts, and other folk artist activities for the general public.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Salisbury is served daily by The Salisbury Post. Four (4) radio stations provide for local programming. WBTV has a satellite newsroom located in Salisbury. Local reception provides coverage of all major networks in addition to cable television facilities.

A full-time year-round recreation staff offers activities for both young and old. In addition to organized activities, the City provides several parks and facilities for general use.

The Salisbury Community Park and Athletic Complex opened in April 2001. Amenities at the 314 acre park include baseball/softball fields, soccer fields, picnic shelters, play structures and a nine-acre lake suitable for fishing and equipped with a handicap accessible pier.

City Park has two large playgrounds, tennis courts, a five (5) acre lake for fishing, picnic shelters, and a Recreation Center that offers programs/classes throughout the year. Salisbury has a Civic Center with a weight room, racquetball courts, auditorium, tennis courts and a handicap exercise trail.

Kelsey-Scott Park is a twenty-two (22) acre park located on Old Wilkesboro Road. It includes a nine-hole disc golf course, a baseball/softball field, an outdoor basketball court, and a picnic shelter. The Jaycee Sports Complex is a multi-use area that is currently under reconstruction and will include two (2) ball fields, basketball courts, and a walking trail. The Miller Recreation Center located on West Bank Street has a play structure and an indoor basketball court. The Center offers programs throughout the year.

Hurley Park is a municipal garden which has a unique collection of plants to the area. The Park provides an educational experience as well as a pleasurable place to stroll.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Each year, the Salisbury-Rowan Chamber of Commerce presents the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Awards Program. The program has been a big success. The National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Awards Program has attracted national attention to the City. Each year nationally renowned sportscasters and sportswriters visit Salisbury to attend the annual awards program.

