



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**September 12, 2022
7:00 p.m.**

The following members
of Council were present:

Mayor Steven C. Angle
Vice Mayor Jon W. Snead
Council Member A. Ralph Casey
Council Member J. Tyler Lee
Council Member Robert L. Moyer
Council Member Mark H. Newbill
Council Member Billie W. Stockton

The following staff
members were also
present:

John T. Boitnott, Town Attorney
Robert J. Wood, Town Manager
Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk/Executive Admin. Assistant
Kevin Adkins, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent
Dennis "Moe" Potter, Interim Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent
Vincent Copenhaver, Finance Director, CPA
Jason Divers, 1st Sergeant of Patrol/RMPD
Jessica Heckman, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Mark Lovern, Captain/RMPD
Mark Moore, Assistant Town Manager
Daniel Pinard, Cultural Economic Development Director
Shawn Richardson, 1st Sergeant of Investigations/RMPD
Brian Schofield, Public Works Superintendent
Phillip Young, Chief of Police/RMPD

The Regular Council Meeting of the Rocky Mount Town Council (hereafter referred to as "Council") was held in the Council Chambers of the Rocky Mount Municipal Building located at 345 Donald Avenue, Rocky Mount, Virginia, with Mayor Steven C. Angle presiding.

1. Roll Call

The Town Clerk called each member of the Rocky Mount Town Council by name to account for all members present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Angle led in saying the pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Prior to the meeting, Council received the agenda for review and consideration of approval.

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented

Motion By: Council Member Casey

Seconded: Council Member Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Casey, Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill and Council Member Stockton

Approved (6 to 0)

4. Special Items

4.1 Introduction of Finance Director Vincent Copenhaver

Finance Director Copenhaver joins the Town of Rocky Mount with approximately 35 years of combined local government experience. Finance Director Copenhaver and his wife and daughter are local residents and have been for over 40 years.

5. Public Hearing

(none at this time)

6. Approval of Draft Minutes

- August 8, 2022 – August Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the draft minutes as presented.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Snead

Seconded: Council Member Moyer

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Casey, Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill and Council Member Stockton

Approved (6 to 0)

7. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

This month's consent agenda consists of the following items:

7.1 Miscellaneous Action

7.2 Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations

7.3 Departmental Monthly Reports

Community Development Department

Finance Department

Fire Department

Police Department

Public Works Department

Wastewater Department

Water Department

Motion: To approve the consent agenda as presented

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

Seconded: Council Member Lee

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Casey, Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill and Council Member Stockton

Approved (6 – 0)

8. **Hearing of Citizens**

Mr. Phillip Bane, 252 High Street, Rocky Mount, Va. spoke regarding the building at 325 Franklin Street and the dilemmas that have accompanied that building.

Mr. Steven Caplan, 20 Warren Street, Rocky Mount, Va. spoke of the many homeless people in Rocky Mount and just a few of the challenges those people face.

Ms. Michelle Bezy, 365 Anderson Street, Rocky Mount, Va. shared some of the experiences she had when she was homeless previously.

Ms. Paris Swain, 20 Warren Street, Rocky Mount, Va. spoke regarding the homeless population in Rocky Mount and how some of the people are becoming ill from the hot, wet elements of the outside.

Mr. Art Divers, 425 Knollwood Drive, Rocky Mount, Va. shared with the Council that he had never before seen so many homeless people around the Farmers Market downtown.

9. Old Business

9.1 Request from Phillip Bane to Purchase Angle Street Property

Mr. Phillip Bane was interested in purchasing the property behind 325 Franklin Street. A proposal of \$500.00 was made to the Town from Mr. Bane without any conditions being given. Mayor Angle asked if any Council members had any questions and what Council would like to do.

Questions regarding a possible performance agreement were discussed and Town Attorney Boitnott was asked to share the details regarding the performance agreement from a previous Council meeting where the alleyway at back of the property of 325 Franklin Street was located. Town Attorney Boitnott recollected that Council had given the developer a chance to use the property and then the property would be gifted to Mr. Bane. However, the performance agreement was never drawn up as the Town was notified that Mr. Bane did not want to enter into the agreement.

Vice Mayor Snead indicated that the Town should move forward with giving the property to Mr. Bane. Therefore, the Town will hold a public hearing to consider giving the property to Mr. Bane. The public hearing is to be held at the next regular Council meeting.

Motion: To hold a public hearing in order to gift the property to Mr. Bane.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Snead

Seconded: Council Member Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Casey, Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill and Council Member Stockton

Approved (6 – 0)

10. New Business

10.1 Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) Discussion

A designated outdoor refreshment area is a new designated area granted by the Virginia General Assembly and the Virginia ABC that will allow localities to implement a geographic area under which participating restaurants can issue certain cups that would enable the participant to take the beverage in that certain cup outside of the establishment inside of the designated area to continue partaking the beverage inside of the designated area. The recommendation from the Economic Development Authority (EDA) was to recommend the designated outdoor refreshment specified area at predetermined special events only.

Motion: To send to the Community & Economic Development Committee to meet with a representative of the Economic Development Authority (all members would be invited) to discuss further.

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Seconded: Council Member Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Casey, Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill and Council Member Stockton

Approved (6 – 0)

10.2 Request for 2022 Homecoming Parade

The event has not been held for the past couple of years due to Covid. Plans for the event have been approved by the police department.

Motion: To approve the request as presented

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Seconded: Vice Mayor Snead

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Casey, Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill and Council Member Stockton

Approved (6 – 0)

11. Committee Reports

11.1 Finance & Human Services Committee Meeting August 30, 2022

The updated draft procurement policy prepared by Staff, was recommended for approval by the committee as presented.

Motion: To approve the request as presented

Motion By: Vice Mayor Snead

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Casey, Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill and Council Member Stockton

Approved (6 – 0)

The second recommendation from the committee meeting was to modify the compensation for the police department to help make the Rocky Mount Police Department more competitive to better retain and attract the best officers to the department. There are to be two modifications done for the department in phases. First, to be done as soon as possible was to convert the monthly uniform stipend to salary as this minor change will make a difference as to how each retirement is calculated for each officer. Secondly, to recognize experience rather than the years the officer had been with the Rocky Mount Police Department. This recognition for each officer would be to better retain the department's experienced officers and to increase the starting pay for law enforcement officers to \$45,187.84.

Phase two recommended by the committee, beginning January 1, 2023, is to increase the starting pay to \$48,642.36.

The cost of making these changes would be \$109,439.00 for one full fiscal year and would cover the increase in compensation plus the corresponding benefit increase because social security, etc. all goes up with the increase. This particular year for 9 months would be approximately \$80,000 to implement that change.

Phase two should be revisited before January 1, 2023 to discuss how to implement.

Motion: To approve the recommendation as presented

Motion By: Vice Mayor Snead

Seconded: Council Member Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Casey, Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill and Council Member Stockton

Approved (6 – 0)

11.2 Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting August 30, 2022

The recommendation from the committee was to adopt the zoning ordinance that amended the regulations for mobile food vendors. The committee recommended for the change of 150 feet to be made to the ordinance regarding distance for mobile food vendors from restaurants.

Motion: To approve the recommendation as presented

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: Council Member Lee shared with Council that he disagreed with the 150 feet referenced in the ordinance as being the distance in which a mobile food vendor selling prepared food shall not locate within an established restaurant during the restaurant's operating hours unless permission of the restaurant owner is provided because of that restriction. Council Member Lee expressed how great it was that food trucks could go into areas of the community, but he disagreed with the 150 feet.

Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Casey, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill and Council Member Stockton

Nays: (1): Council Member Lee

Approved (5 – 1)

12. Referrals to Planning

None at this time

13. Other Matters, Concerns and Rise 'N Shine Appearances

Mayor Angle and Town Manager Wood appeared on Rise 'N Shine today.

The Rocky Mount Volunteer Fire Department with other area law enforcement at the local level (Rocky Mount Town Police and the Sheriff's Department) and the state level (Virginia State Police) paid tribute to the 911 emergency responders around September 11th by marching from the fire station on North Main Street to the fire station in downtown Rocky Mount.

14. Closed Meeting and Action

Mayor Angle read aloud the section.

Enter Closed Meeting

Motion: To go into closed session under the Virginia Code Section cited below.

Time: 7:39 p.m.

Virginia Code Section:

Section 2.2-3711(A).1 Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries,

disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body. (EDA)

Section 2.2-3711(A).3 Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. (Industrial Park)

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Second: Council Member Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Casey, Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill and Council Member Stockton

Approved (6 – 0)

Action: To go into a closed meeting

Certificate of Closed Meeting Discussion:

Council certified unanimously that nothing was discussed in the closed meeting other than what was stated in the motion to enter the closed meeting. No action was taken during the closed meeting.

Whereas, the Rocky Mount Town Council has convened a closed meeting on Monday, February 14, 2022, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, requires certification by this Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

Now, therefore, Be It Resolved that the Rocky Mount Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each members' knowledge: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the public body.

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

15. **Adjournment**
Motion: To adjourn
Time: 8:13 p.m.
Motion By: Council Member Lee
Seconded By: Vice Mayor Snead
Motion Discussion: None
Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Casey, Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill and Council Member Stockton
Approved (6 to 0)
Action: Meeting was adjourned

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk