

**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**June 8, 2020  
7:00 p.m.**

**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.**

The following members of Council were present:

- Mayor Steven C. Angle
- Vice Mayor Billie W. Stockton
- Council Member Bobby M. Cundiff
- Council Member Mark H. Newbill
- Council Member Jon W. Snead
- Council Member Gregory B. Walker

Council Member Robert L. Moyer was not present due to illness and hospitalization.

The following staff members were also present:

- John T. Boitnott, Town Attorney
  - Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk/Executive Administrative Assistant
  - C. James Ervin, Town Manager
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**1. Roll Call**

The Town Clerk called each member of the Rocky Mount Town Council by name to account that each one was present.

Due to Governor Ralph E. Northam's Executive Order #65, Phase Two Easing of Certain Temporary Restrictions Due to Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) please note that the Council Chambers had less than 50 people in total when the meeting began as was the limit set forth by the Governor. Everyone wore masks and still practiced social distancing.

## 2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Angle ask after the Pledge of Allegiance, for everyone to remain standing for a moment of silence to remember George Floyd and how the Town of Rocky Mount and the United States as a nation can learn to communicate with each other and listen to what other people have to say. Mayor Angle also ask to remember retired Police Sergeant Don Brown who was employed with the Town of Rocky Mount for many years. Mr. Brown passed away on Saturday, June 6, 2020. Mayor Angle then led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

## 3. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was amended for one item under New Business which was from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Emergency Management in regard of a grant award package.

**Motion: To approve the amended agenda.**

**Motion By: Council Member Newbill**

**Second: Council Member Snead**

**Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Cundiff, Council Member Newbill, Council Member Snead, Council Member Walker**

**Approved (5 to 0)**

## 4. **Special Items**

Before beginning with the Special Items, Mayor Angle asked Chief Criner to give Council an update on the damage done to the railroad trestle earlier in the afternoon on School Board Road in Rocky Mount. A dump truck belonging to hit the rail trestle on School Board Road Monday afternoon. The incident occurred near the Old Franklin Turnpike / School Board Road intersection near Sheetz. The road will possibly be closed several days while Norfolk Southern's repair team fixes damage to the trestle and track.

### 4.1 Presentation of Resolution and Plaque for Council Member Gregory B. Walker

Mayor Angle asked Council Member Walker to come forward with his wife and family to honor Council Member Walker and the many years that he had served as a member of the Rocky Mount Town Council. Council Member Walker served on the Rocky Mount Town Council for a total of 12 years, 8 years of which he served as Vice Mayor. Council Member Walker received a resolution which Mayor Angle read out loud, a Resilient Rocky Mount t-shirt, gifts from Haywood's Jewelers and a plaque from Full Armor to commemorate his years of service. Mayor Angle thanked Council Member Walker for his contribution to the Town of Rocky Mount as did the other members of Council.

4.2 Commonwealth of Virginia Office of Drinking Water Gold Award Performance Letter

The Town of Rocky Mount water treatment plant operations were recognized for their excellence in making safe, quality water for the residents of the Town and Franklin County to drink by complying with the required standards, rules and regulations set forth by the Commonwealth of Virginia, Office of Drinking Water. The gold award was a great achievement due to the water plant being one of the few operations to take surface water as their source and make great drinking water from it.

5. **Public Hearing (None at this time)**

6. **Approval of Draft Minutes**

6.1 May 11, 2020 Regular Meeting Draft Minutes

Received by Council in their packet for this scheduled meeting were draft minutes for review and consideration of approval:

**Motion: To approve the draft minutes for May 11, 2020 as presented.**

**Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton**

**Second: Council Member Cundiff**

**Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Cundiff, Council Member Newbill, Council Member Snead, Council Member Walker**

**Approved (5 to 0)**

6.2 May 21, 2020 Harvester Performance Center Quarterly Meeting Draft Minutes

Received by Council in their packet for this scheduled meeting were draft minutes for review and consideration of approval:

**Motion: To approve the draft minutes for May 21, 2020 as presented.**

**Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton**

**Second: Council Member Cundiff**

**Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Cundiff, Council Member Newbill, Council Member Snead, Council Member Walker**

**Approved (5 to 0)**

7. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

- 7.1 Miscellaneous Action (none at this time)
- 7.2 Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations (none at this time)
- 7.3 Departmental Monthly Reports
  - 7.3.1 Community Development Department
  - 7.3.2 Finance Department
  - 7.3.3 Fire Department
  - 7.3.4 Police Department
  - 7.3.5 Public Works Department
  - 7.3.6 Wastewater Department
  - 7.3.7 Water Department

**Motion: To approve the consent agenda as presented.**

**Motion By: Council Member Snead**

**Second: Council Member Newbill**

**Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Cundiff, Council Member Newbill, Council Member Snead, Council Member Walker**

**Approved (5 to 0)**

## **8. Hearing of Citizens**

Mayor Angle stated that no one had contacted the Town prior to the evenings meeting.

Mayor Angle then opened the floor to any citizens wishing to speak.

No one came forward.

## **9. Old Business**

### **9.1 Town of Rocky Mount Fiscal Year 2021 Approval of Budget**

Council was presented a draft budget on April 13, 2020 that was reviewed during two work sessions on April 20th and April 23, 2020. The proposed budget was advertised for public input and a public hearing was held on May 4, 2020. There was no public input received at the public hearing.

**Motion: To approve the budget as presented.**

**Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton**

**Second: Council Member Walker**

**Motion Discussion: None**

| MEMBERS            | ATTENDANCE | VOTE |
|--------------------|------------|------|
| Bobby M. Cundiff   | Present    | Yes  |
| Robert L. Moyer    | Absent     |      |
| Mark H. Newbill    | Present    | Yes  |
| Jon W. Snead       | Present    | Yes  |
| Billie W. Stockton | Present    | Yes  |
| Gregory B. Walker  | Present    | Yes  |

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Action: Mayor Angle voted yes to approve the budget. The motion to approve the budget for FY2021, including Mayor Angle, was approved on a vote of 6 to 0 in favor of the budget.**

**Mayor Angle stated the budget would be revisited closer to the end of this calendar year.**

## 9.2 Town of Rocky Mount Fiscal Year 2021 Approval of Tax Rates and Fees

There were no proposed changes in the tax rates of 13 cents per \$100 of assessed value for real estate, 51 cents per \$100 for personal property and 17 cents per \$100 for machinery and tools. Interest was still at 10% per annum. The General Fund was advertised at \$6,510,915 the Utility Operating Fund was advertised at \$3,318,269; the Utility Capital Fund was advertised at \$710,874; and the Harvester Performance Center was advertised at \$405,136.

**Motion: To approve the tax rates and fees as presented.**

**Motion By: Council Member Walker**

**Second: Vice Mayor Stockton**

**Motion Discussion: None**

| MEMBERS            | ATTENDANCE | VOTE |
|--------------------|------------|------|
| Bobby M. Cundiff   | Present    | Yes  |
| Robert L. Moyer    | Absent     |      |
| Mark H. Newbill    | Present    | Yes  |
| Jon W. Snead       | Present    | Yes  |
| Billie W. Stockton | Present    | Yes  |
| Gregory B. Walker  | Present    | Yes  |

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays: 0**

**Action: Mayor Angle voted yes to approve the Tax Rates and Fees. The motion to approve the Tax Rates and Fees for FY2021, including Mayor Angle, was passed on a vote of 6 to 0 in favor of the Tax Rates and Fees.**

**Mayor Angle again stated the budget would be revisited closer to the end of this calendar year.**

### 9.3 End of Fiscal Year 2020 Budget True Up

Adjustments to the fiscal year 2020 budget were needed to cover deficits of various accounts. Mr. Ervin stated that funding was needed to cover the deficits and to see that the Town closed its books for the FY2020, appropriately.

**Motion: To approve**

**Motion By: Council Member Snead**

**Second: Council Member Newbill**

**Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Cundiff, Council Member Newbill, Council Member Snead, Council Member Walker**

**Approved (5 to 0)**

## 10. New Business

### 10.1 Update on Nuisance Properties

Assistant Town Manager Hankins presented to Council the item of two properties located on Mary Coger Lane and Parkers Drive that the Town had begun the nuisance declaration process for. There are 7 trailers in Parkers Trailer Court as well the property located at 30 Mary Coger Lane. The Town had to give written notice by letter and by the newspaper for 2 consecutive weeks. Assistant Town Manager Hankins stated that if the Town did not receive a response from the property owners within 30 days regarding the ads for each in the Franklin News Post, then the Town will bring the properties back to Council in July and ask for a nuisance declaration which is a formal resolution that says the Town is authorized on behalf of the Town to raze and remove the blighted properties. The Town would then place a lien against the property owners to try and recover the cost to the Town.

Town Manager Ervin added that taking action regarding the Parkers Trailer Court blightment would exceed the funds appropriated. If the blightment did exceed the funds appropriated, then Town Manager Ervin would draft a document that would supplement for those funds.

### 10.2 Summary of 32 Go and Rocky Mount Cares

Cultural Director Ms. Simms spoke to Council and shared how appreciative the businesses were for the 32 Go & Rocky Mount Cares program. There were 1,256 coupons used at a total of \$3,768. In all, 19 restaurants participated. Ms. Simms thanked Council and the Town for acting so quickly to be of help to the area town businesses.

### 10.3 Angle Bridge Rehabilitation Project Award and Funding

Assistant Town Manager Hankins presented to Council that the Town had received two bids for the Angle Bridge rehabilitation project. Burleigh Construction with a bid of \$692,616.10 and Lanford Brothers' with a bid of \$978,503.50. Both bids came in under the estimate given by the engineer which was \$814,922. The Town's share will be \$528,570. The total of the project is expected to be \$1,118,762. The Town has received VDOT's authorization to proceed with the award. Though the project will be federally funded, the project will be locally administered and will take roughly five months to complete. Staff recommended proceeding with the project and would like to go forward with the contract and the notice to proceed. If given the order to proceed, the construction could get under way in July. The expense was purposed to be covered by a bond issue that would also include essential public works capital.

Mayor Angle asked if one half of Angle Bridge would be kept open at all times during the time of construction on the bridge with school buses in mind? Assistant Town Manager Hankins stated that the Town would be meeting and working with the schools to find what would be the safest and most expedient way to get the school children to and from school each day.

Town Manager Ervin that there were several ways to fund the bridge rehabilitation. Fund balance was one way and debt service were one way in that debt service allows future residents to help pay for the rehabilitation. Mayor Angle stated that he would like to see the project go forward but would also like to see the Finance Committee give guidance or preference as to the best way for the Town to fund the project and then report back to Council in July.

**Motion: To award the contract but the funding part of the contract was referred to the Finance Committee to review and arrive at a recommendation as to how to fund the project and report back to Council at the July Regular Meeting.**

**Motion By: Council Member Snead**

**Second: Council Member Newbill**

**Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Cundiff, Council Member Newbill, Council Member Snead, Council Member Walker**

**Approved (5 to 0)**

### 10.4 Va. Department of Emergency Management Awarded the Town Water Plant a Generator

In the FY2020 budget, there was funding for a requested generator to be used at the Water Plant. The funding was dependent upon a grant that Staff had applied for with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management. Presented to Council was documentation from the Federal Emergency Management Agency or FEMA and the Virginia Department of Emergency Management

awarding the Town a grant for a generator for the Water Plant in the amount of \$155,000 in which the Virginia Department of Emergency Management would be the distributor. In staying with the terms that the Town applied under, Town Manager Ervin asked Council's approval to allow Town Manager Ervin to initiate the project and accept the award thereby allowing Water Treatment Superintendent Gauldin to begin with the implementation stage. The Town's cost of the project would be \$7,000 with the total cost of the project being \$162,750.

**Motion By: Council Member Newbill**

**Second: Council Member Walker**

**Motion: To accept the award and go forward with the project.**

**Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Cundiff, Council Member Newbill, Council Member Snead, Council Member Walker**

**Approved (5 to 0)**

**11. Committee Reports (None at this time)**

**12. Other Matters, Concerns and Rise 'N Shine Appearances**

Assistant Town Manager Hankins was on Rise n' Shine today.

Mayor Angle shared with Council regarding a possible parade for the 2020 graduates of Franklin County High School. Mayor Angle had been asked by an official with the school system if the graduates might be allowed to hold a special parade around town following the route like the Homecoming Parade usually takes. The parade was thought about given the COVID-19 social distancing restraints that the graduating class of 2020 had been given such as not being allowed to graduate as normal. The possible parade would be for any of the senior students that wanted to participate inside automobiles with no convertibles or students riding in the back of pickup trucks allowed. Council discussed the many possibilities of holding such a parade though no date was given to Council because no date was communicated to the Mayor Angle himself as of the date of the Council meeting.

**Motion: To approve the graduating seniors of Franklin County High School to hold a parade around the Town of Rocky Mount following the Homecoming Parade route.**

**Motion By: Council Member Snead**

**Second: Council Member Walker**

**Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Cundiff, Council Member Newbill, Council Member Snead, and Council Member Walker**

**Approved (5 to 0)**

**13. Closed Session**

Mayor Angle read aloud sections.

Enter Closed Meeting

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

**Time:** 7:51 p.m.

**Virginia Code Section:**

**Section 2.2-3711(A)(5) Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry, or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community. (Industrial Park)**

**Section 2.2-3711(A)(5) Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry, or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community. (Warren Street)**

**Motion By:** Council Member Snead

**Second:** Council Member Walker

**Motion Discussion:** None

**Ayes: (5):** Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Cundiff, Council Member Newbill, Council Member Snead, and Council Member Walker

**Approved (5 to 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, March 14, 2016 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.

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Steven C. Angle, Mayor

**14. Adjournment**

**Motion: To adjourn meeting**

**Motion By: Council Member Newbill**

**Second: Council Member Snead**

**Motion Discussion: None**

**Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Cundiff, Council Member Newbill, Council Member Snead, and Council Member Walker**

**Approved (5 to 0)**

**Action: Meeting was adjourned**

**Time: 8:30 p.m.**

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Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk