

ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**August 10, 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
- Council Member Bobby M. Cundiff
- Council Member J. Tyler Lee
- Council Member Mark H. Newbill
- Council Member Billie W. Stockton

The following members of Council joined the meeting via conference call:

- Vice Mayor, Jon W. Snead
- Council Member Robert L. Moyer

The following staff members were also present:

- John T. Boitnott, Town Attorney
- Tim Burton, Waste Water Treatment Superintendent
- Ken Criner, Chief of Police
- Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk/Executive Administrative Assistant
- C. James Ervin, Town Manager
- Michael “Kevin” Adkins, Acting Water Superintendent
- Jessica Heckman, Town Planner/Planning Administrator
- Brian Schofield, Public Works Superintendent
- Elizabeth “Beth” Simms, Economic Dev. Cultural Placemaking
- Linda P. Woody, Finance Director

1. Roll Call

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

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Angle led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Prior to the meeting, Council had received the agenda for review and consideration of approval. Council Member Lee asked to amend the agenda to include a closed session under the code section 2.2-3711(A).1. (Town Manager's Office)

Motion: To approve the amended agenda

Moved: Council Member Newbill

Seconded: Council Member Stockton

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

Approved (6 to 0)

4. Special Items

4.1 Unveiling of Mayor's Plaque

Mayor Angle and the Town Clerk, Mrs. Rebecca Dillon, unveiled the Mayor's Plaque. There had been questions of when certain Mayor's served and for how long, etc. Mrs. Dillon researched each of the Mayor's names and dates appropriately and had the plaque made for all to see. The Mayor's Plaque will be placed on the wall, out in the lobby of the Municipal Building. Mayor Angle thanked Mrs. Dillon for her many months of work to complete the plaque.

5. Public Hearing (None at this time)

6. Approval of Draft Minutes

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

6.1. July 13, 2020 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the draft minutes for July 13, 2020 as presented.

Moved: Council Member Stockton

Seconded: Council Member Newbill

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

Result: Approved (6 to 0)

6.2. July 28, 2020 – Special Called Meeting

Motion: To approve the draft minutes for July 28, 2020 as presented.

Moved: Council Member Stockton

Seconded: Council Member Newbill

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

Result: Approved (6 to 0)

7. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

7.1 Miscellaneous Action

Affirmation of the Recommendation of the Finance and Human Services Committee from July 6, 2020.

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. The motion, though not specifically stated as such, did include the 7.1 Miscellaneous Action item regarding the Finance and Human Services Committee meeting from July 6, 2020, noted by Mayor Angle. As stated by Town Manager Ervin, no other action was needed for the Committee item.

Moved: Council Member Newbill

Seconded: Council Member Stockton

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Cundiff, Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill, Council Member Stockton
Result: Approved (6 to 0)

8. Hearing of Citizens

Mayor Angle opened the floor to any citizens wishing to speak. The citizens were limited to 5 minutes or less.

Mr. William Dyer, Jr. , 342 Dyer Lane, Henry, VA. Mr. Dyer spoke on gun control and the resolution that was on the agenda for the evening's meeting.

Mr. William Pagen, 877 Hatchet Creek Lane, Calloway, VA. Mr. Pagen spoke in favor of no new gun laws due to the unrest across the nation. Mr. Pagen was in attendance to support Council in passing the Second Amendment resolution and being able to carry a gun in public.

For this meeting, Mayor Angle required anyone wishing to speak to sign in. Only these two people signed in to speak.

9. Old Business

9.1 30 Mary Coger Lane Nuisance Property

Presented to Council was 30 Mary Coger Lane as a nuisance property. The property was formerly a single-family residence that had been significantly damaged by fire, neglect, was open to trespass, and was attracting pests and vermin. The Town of Rocky Mount Community Development staff determined the property to be a nuisance and a neighborhood blight due to condition and subject to the Code of Virginia, Sections 15.2-900, 15.2-906, et al, and Town of Rocky Mount Code Section 22. Tax records indicate that the property in question is owned by Ms. Karen Preston of Green Meadow Lane. A public notice was given in the Franklin News Post in which the Town gave 30 days from publication of the notice to cure the blight which included razing damaged improvements, clearing the lot, clearing brush, junk, debris, weeds, pests and vermin from the property. Council received in their packet prior to the meeting a resolution in determination of remediation and abatement of public health and safety issues at 30 Mary Coger Lane.

Motion: To approve moving forward with remediation and abatement of public health and safety issues with the structures and lot at 30 Mary Coger Lane.

Moved: Council Member Stockton

Seconded: Council Member Lee

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

Result: Approved (6 to 0)

9.2 Parker's Drive Nuisance Property

Presented to Council as a nuisance property were structures and a lot at Parkers Drive. The property was a trailer court with single-wide mobile homes determined to be unfit for habitation through neglect, lack of use, and lack of property maintenance. The property in question is open to trespass as well as being attractive to pests and vermin. Local tax records indicate the property was owned by Kenneth and Dorothy Parker of Rocky Mount, VA. The Town of Rocky Mount Community Development staff determined the units listed here to be a nuisance and to be a neighborhood blight according to the Code of Virginia, Sections 15.2-900, 15.2-906, et al, and the Town of Rocky Mount Code Section 22 for units 98, 100, 102, 162, 168, 170, and 164. A Public Notice was given in the Franklin News Post in which the Town gave 30 days from publication of the notice to cure the blight, to include removing uninhabitable improvements, clearing the lot, removing pests and vermin as well as removal of tree species, trash, junk, weeds and debris from the premises. Council received in their packet prior to the meeting a resolution in determination of remediation and abatement of public health and safety issues with the structures and lot on Parkers Drive.

Motion: To approve moving forward with remediation and abatement of public health and safety issues with the structures and lot at Parkers Drive.

Moved: Council Member Stockton

Seconded: Council Member Lee

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

Result: Approved (6 to 0)

10. New Business

10.1 Supplemental Appropriation Resolution for School Resource Officer

The Town of Rocky Mount received a State grant in the amount of \$42,329 with a local cash match of \$27,671 for a total award of \$70,000 that will be used to continue providing a third School Resource Officer (SRO) to the schools within the Town Limits.

Council Member Moyer asked where the SRO would be used at. Town Manager Ervin and Police Chief Criner replied there would be an officer stationed at the high

school, middle school and one officer would be a roving officer to travel around at the elementary schools.

Council Member Moyer asked why the SRO's were needed this year as only about one half of the students would be in the school system this year due to many students being educated off campus some days. Town Manager Ervin explained then that it was not a question of if the funding for the SRO was in the budget or not because funding was available, but rather the question was if Council wanted to accept the funds given for the purpose of an SRO.

Council Member Cundiff and Council Member Moyer shared that the Franklin County Schools were controlled by Franklin County and should be funded by Franklin County as opposed to the Town taking on debit for the purpose of the SRO. Council Member Moyer also expressed the importance of keeping the children safe.

Motion: To approve the allocation of funding by resolution.

Moved: Vice Mayor Snead

Seconded: Council Member Newbill

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

Nays: (1): Council Member Cundiff

Result: Approved (5 to 1)

10.2 Resolution for Second Amendment

July 1, 2020 marked the effective date of State legislation that allows localities to regulate firearms in public places such as municipal buildings and parks, etc. Council Member Snead asked that the Town declare that it had no intent to use such regulatory power. A resolution was given to Council in their packet for review prior to the meeting. In December 2019, the Council passed a resolution in regard of the second amendment and a copy was sent to Governor Northam. That resolution was an encouraging action to the Governor sharing where Rocky Mount stood on the issue of firearms. The resolution before the Council at this meeting, was a response in regard of banning lawfully carried firearms in public places. The resolution states that the Town of Rocky Mount does not intend to act upon the new authority granted to the Town.

Motion: To approve the resolution as presented.

Moved: Vice Mayor Snead

Seconded: Council Member Stockton

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

Result: Approved (6 to 0)

10.3 Going Out of Business Sales

Section 18.2-223 of State Code requires that a business have a permit in order to have a going out of business sale. The permit has not been established by the Town as it would involve auditing the merchandise intended for the sale and seeing that the merchant would not be adding additional items during the course of the sale. When that inventory is sold; the sale has to end. Town Manager Ervin introduced the application and the fee of \$50.00 for the application.

Council Member Moyer shared that he could not entertain such a permit.

The consensus of Council was not to pass the application, thus Town Attorney Boitnott stated that no action was needed at this time. Town Manager Ervin suggested that if Council would like to pass the application in the future, the application could be revisited.

10.4 Branding and Marketing by the Economic Development Authority

The RFP for branding was drafted and was released in the Fall of 2019. Ms. Simms spoke on the idea of branding and marketing strategies set within that RFP of which three companies were selected to come to the Town and speak regarding their processes. Ms. Simms explained that there was a committee of 5 people made up of members of the EDA, Town Council, the Planning Commission as well as two staff members with the Town. It was unanimously agreed on that ACCESS, which is a company from Roanoke, should be the company selected. ACCESS has been the premier marketing company in this area. Ferrum College and the Roanoke Regional Partnership have also worked with ACCESS.

Three things will be presented:

1. Rocky Mount as a good place to live.
2. Rocky Mount as a good place to do business.
3. Rocky Mount as a good place to visit.

Among the first to be looked at will be the Harvester Performance Center, the Farmers' Market, and the small-town appeal of the Town of Rocky Mount. Also, a part of the appeal will be the uptown/downtown feel. Mary Elizabeth and Mary Bethune Park will be reviewed as well. There will be a goal for the Town to try to stay as close as possible to \$20,000 for the branding and marketing. Any funds that would need to be spent on the branding and marketing, will have to be presented back to Council for Council's approval prior to any spending taking place.

The question was asked by Council Member Moyer as to why the Town would like to move forward with branding and marketing now in which Ms. Simms replied that

the Town of Rocky Mount does not at this time have any type of logo or slogan to be of an enticement to recruit people to want to move here, do business here, or be a part of our community. The Harvester is a small part of that messaging but only one piece of the message as the Town of Rocky Mount is so much more that is wonderful. The Town would like for all the other attributes that the Town has, to be marketed and shared with others to perhaps make more people want to come here as we are rural, yet modern and welcoming. To share those qualities helps the Town to be a good place to visit and even perhaps to live. Funding for this messaging will come from a mixture of funds that has been set aside for this project that will come from the Harvester Performance Center, branding and marketing, and from Community Development.

Motion: To approve and allow Town Manager Ervin to enter into an agreement with ACCESS for the branding and marketing services stated in the agreement that ACCESS will provide.

Moved: Council Member Lee

Seconded: Vice Mayor Snead

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

Result: Approved (6 to 0)

10.5 Sponsorship of the Cruisin' Rocky Mount Events

Ms. Simms shared with Council that there was money in the budget that Council had put aside for community events, but the money had not been used with all the events that had been cancelled. Ms. Simms presented to Council to redirect a portion of those funds towards a \$600.00 sponsorship for the Cruisin' Rocky Mount group to host events on September 5, October 3, and November 7, 2020.

Motion: To approve the request

Moved: Council Member Newbill

Seconded: Council Member Lee

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

Result: Approved (6 to 0)

11. Committee Reports (None at this time)

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

Town Manager Ervin was on Rise 'N Shine this morning.

No other matters or concerns were stated at this time.

13. Closed Meeting and Action

Mayor Angle read aloud sections.

Enter Closed Meeting

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

Time: 7:45 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. (Town Manager's Office)

Moved: Council Member Newbill

Seconded: Council Member Stockton

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

Approved (6 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.

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

14. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn meeting

Moved: Council Member Newbill

Seconded: Council Member Stockton

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

Action: Meeting was adjourned

Time: 8:20 p.m.

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk