



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**February 13, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

The following members
of Council were present:

Mayor C. Holland Perdue III
Vice Mayor Billie W. Stockton
Council Member A. Ralph Casey
Council Member David K. Clements
Council Member J. Tyler Lee
Council Member Benjamin K. Mullins
Council Member Mark H. Newbill

The following staff
members were also
present:

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

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 C. Holland Perdue III 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. Approval of Agenda

Prior to the meeting, Council received the agenda for review and consideration. Mayor Perdue asked Council to amend the agenda to move all four of the 5K races from New Business to the Consent Agenda.

Motion: To approve the amended agenda

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Seconded: Vice Mayor Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill.

Approved (6 to 0)

3. Special Items

3.1 Adoption of Proclamation Regarding Town of Rocky Mount 150th Anniversary

Cultural and Economic Development Director shared the highlights planned for celebrating the Town's 150th Anniversary beginning with the kick off at the Depot Welcome Center on Friday, February 17, 2023. The Town will hold many events to celebrate, ending with a music festival in downtown Rocky Mount that will highlight the music of Rocky Mount's rich heritage.

No action was required for this item.

Rocky Mount History Highlight:

Prior to Rocky Mount being settled, the area was occupied by various eastern tribes. In the 1740's Robert Hill was a fort that was used for training with native tribes. In 1770, the Washington Iron Furnace was built creating a first industry in the community. The furnace supplied materials to patriot fighters during the Revolutionary War. Mount Pleasant was incorporated, and the village of Rocky Mount came to be known as Rocky Mount because of the nearby Bald Knob. In February of 1873, the Town of Rocky Mount incorporated with Mr. Robert Scott serving as Rocky Mount's first Mayor.

4. **Public Hearing**

4.1 Proposed Amendment of the Zoning Ordinance to Add the Definition of short-term rental.

Council Goes Into Recess

Town Planner Heckman presented to Council the recommendation from the Virginia Municipal League to place language in the town's ordinance regarding short term rentals. The recommendation was heard by the Planning Commission who reviewed the language and recommended only adopting a definition at this time. Town Council was provided in their packet for this meeting, the definition of short-term rentals as the Planning Commission recommended.

No one signed up to speak.

Council Goes Back into Regular Session

5. **Approval of Draft Minutes**

- January 5, 2023 – Reorganizational Town Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the draft minutes as presented.

Motion By: Council Member Casey

Seconded: Council Member Mullins

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (6 to 0)

- January 9, 2023 – Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the draft minutes as presented.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (6 to 0)

- January 30, 2023 – Special Called Town Council Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve the draft minutes as presented.

Motion By: Council Member Casey

Seconded: Council Member Clements

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (6 to 0)

6. **Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

6.1 Miscellaneous Action

Request for Street Closures for Eagle Strut 5K Fundraiser

Request for Street Closures for Chug for the Jug 5K

Request for Street Closures for Kingdom Run 5K

Johnny CASA 5 Miler 5K Run Walk

6.2 Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations

6.3 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 including the four events moved from New Business to the Consent Agenda under Miscellaneous Action as presented

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Seconded: Council Member Mullins

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill
Approved (6 – 0)

7. Hearing of Citizens

Mayor Perdue introduced the new timer light for speakers and explained how the timer would work.

Ms. Bridget Craighead, spoke to Council regarding Rising Stars Training and Development; a non-profit organization that provides an educational atmosphere that builds confidence, encourages entrepreneurship and encourages the building of many other skills to help children to reach their full potential. Ms. Craighead, who is President of the organization, shared that the organization was seeking a permanent location.

Hannah Spurgeon, who is the Vice President of Rising Stars Training and Development spoke to Council regarding the organization and the cosmetology and barbering training that the organization offers.

Alex Jimenez, shared with Council how she would like to see the Rising Stars program help students to achieve being able to do what each student dreams of doing in life.

Mari Childress spoke to Council about how the Rising Stars Program is helping to equip her on how to open her own salon.

Bronson Craighead shared that he liked going to the Rising Stars Program that teaches him how to be a barber and gives back to others.

Henry & Alice Jean Bertine were brother and sister. The children shared how much they liked going to the Rising Stars program.

Janica Jamison & Amaia Mitchell: Amaia shared with Council how the Rising Stars program had taught her to take care of her hair and nails. Amaia wants to have her own business one day.

8. New Business

8.1 Request for Street Closures for Eagle Strut 5K Fundraiser

This item moved to the Consent Agenda.

8.2 Request for Street Closures for Chug for the Jug 5K

This item moved to the Consent Agenda.

8.3 Request for Street Closures for Kingdom Run 5K

This item moved to the Consent Agenda.

8.4 Johnny CASA 5 Miler 5K Run Walk

This item moved to the Consent Agenda.

8.5 Short Term Rentals Ordinance Amendment

The item was presented during the public hearing.

Motion: To approve the recommendation of the definition only from the Planning Commission as presented by Town Planner Heckman.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (6 – 0)

8.6 Approve Financing for Capital Projects Through VML/VACo Finance

Recently the Virginia Municipal League and Virginia Association of Counties Finance, assisted staff in soliciting and receiving bids from various banks in the Town of Rocky Mount and the state of Virginia to borrow \$704,650. The bank with the lowest interest rate was HomeTrust Bank at just 3.96% for a 10-year financing term. Loan proceeds will be used to purchase 2 dump trucks, 1 pick-up truck, and a replacement loader for public works as well as work related to the settling basin sludge removal system at the water plant.

Motion: To approve the borrowing of \$704,650 and the resolution as presented at 3.96% for a 10-year financing term for equipment, the execution, and delivery of documents prepared.

Motion By: Council Member Mullins

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS REQUIRED:

MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE	VOTE
Vice Mayor Stockton	Present	Yes
A. Ralph Casey	Present	Yes
David K. Clements	Present	Yes
J. Tyler Lee	Present	Yes
Benjamin K. Mullins	Present	Yes
Mark H. Newbill	Present	Yes
Mayor, C. Holland Perdue III	Present	Yes

Ayes: (7): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, Council Member Newbill, and Mayor C. Holland Perdue III

Approved (7 – 0)

Let the Record Show that under Special Items, the resolution for the 150th Anniversary of the Town was approved with a motion and a second listed below.

Motion: To approve the resolution for the 150th Anniversary of the Town of Rocky Mount.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (6 – 0)

8.7 Economic Development Strategic Plan

As part of a regional application, intended as a “match” for a grant application to the Federal Economic Development Administration in the Fiscal Year 2023 Budget, was funding for an Economic Development Strategic Plan which was not selected for funding. The allocated funding, while still in the budget, falls short of what is needed for a complete plan. There were funds saved from the Tobacco Commission Grant for Tier Improvements at the Cox Site in the Industrial Park and those funds would be available to assist the Economic Development Strategic Plan. The plan will provide strategies to capitalize on how to better reach Ferrum College and Smith Mountain Lake as well as other points of interest.

No action was needed at this time.

8.8 Property Leased to YMCA

The Town has ownership of a parcel of land that is currently on a long-term lease with the YMCA that the YMCA has interest in ending. The Town of Rocky Mount has entertained the idea of a possible dog walking park on this parcel of land. Rocky Mount Rotary Club will support the park and is willing to contribute \$10,000 towards the building of the park. The Town Economic Development Authority supports the dog walking park as well.

Town Attorney Boitnott advised town staff to obtain a request from the YMCA to terminate the lease.

Motion: To approve the Town of Rocky Mount taking ownership of the land in question back over subject to the YMCA's request to do so.

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Seconded: Council Member Mullins

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (6 – 0)

9. **Referrals to Public Safety and Utilities Committee**

9.1 Request for Crosswalk on Pell Avenue Between Ply Gem and Parking Lot

9.2 Request for Stop Signs at Greenview Drive and Creekwood Drive

Let the record show Mayor Perdue named a third request not previously listed on the agenda, for lights at the Park & Ride at the intersection of Old Franklin Turnpike and the 220N exit ramp.

Mayor Perdue requested all three items be referred to the Public Safety and Utilities Committee for discussion and consideration.

Motion: To approve the three items be referred to the Public Safety and Utilities Committee.

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Seconded: Council Member Newbill

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill
Approved (6 – 0)

10. Closed Session and Action

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

Time: 6:40 p.m.

Virginia Code Section:

Section 2.2-3711(A).7 Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

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.

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Second: Council Member Mullins

Motion Discussion: None

Action: To go into a closed meeting

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (6 – 0)

Going Into Closed Session

Returning from Closed Session

Town Clerk Dillon Stated the Recording had Resumed

Time: 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Perdue Called for a Roll Call Vote for each Council Member to Certify Discussion During the Closed Meeting.

A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS REQUIRED:

MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE	VOTE
Vice Mayor Stockton	Present	Certify
A. Ralph Casey	Present	Certify
David K. Clements	Present	Certify
J. Tyler Lee	Present	Certify
Benjamin K. Mullins	Present	Certify
Mark H. Newbill	Present	Certify
Mayor, C. Holland Perdue III	Present	Certify

Certified: (7): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, Council Member Newbill, and Mayor C. Holland Perdue III

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 13, 2023, 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.

C. Holland Perdue III, Mayor

Motion: To move out of closed session

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Seconded By: Vice Mayor Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements,
Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member
Newbill

Approved (6 – 0)

15. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn

Time: 7:19 p.m.

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

Seconded By: Vice Mayor Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements,
Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member
Newbill

Approved (6 – 0)

Action: Meeting was adjourned

C. Holland Perdue III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk