



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**March 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
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
Jessica Heckman, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Mark Lovern, 1st Sergeant /RMPD
Mark Moore, Assistant Town Manager
Shawn E. Richardson, Lieutenant of Investigations
Brian Schofield, Public Works Superintendent
Phillip Young, Chief of Police

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. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Perdue led in saying the pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Prior to the meeting, Council received the agenda for review and consideration. Mayor Perdue amended the agenda to add the 150th Anniversary History Highlight under Special Items.

Motion: To approve the amended agenda

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

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)

4. Special Items

4.1 Resolution – J&J Fashions 55 Years in Business

Mayor Perdue read aloud the resolution prepared sharing highlights with the public.

150th Anniversary History Highlight:

Cultural Development Director Pinard shared the beginning of the town now known as Rocky Mount.

When Franklin County was formed in 1785 around the iron industry, Rocky Mount became the county seat, and its first court was held in January 1786 at the home of James

Calloway's ironworks at the furnace (today known as the old iron furnace). By April 1786, a log courthouse was built near today's courthouse. James Calloway and Thomas Hill owned the old log courthouse at that time. At the new courthouse, Calloway constructed a tavern, an office, a dairy, and two houses. When James Calloway and Thomas Hill refused to sell lots to anyone else, citizens managed to get an act through the General Assembly asking the county justices to redetermine the center of the county in order to relocate the county seat. One half acre lots were laid off and Mount Pleasant was established. This pushed Calloway and Hill into selling some of their lots so the county seat would not be moved. In 1804, the town of Mount Pleasant was formed in 1804 and was mapped out on the east side of Maple Avenue in what we now know as Rocky Mount where it continued its existence until 1873 when a new act incorporated both villages into a small town called Rocky Mount.

In 1839, the isolated little town formed a closer link with the outside world in the section of the Pennsylvania, Franklin, and Botetourt Turnpike from Rocky Mount to Big Lick or known now as Roanoke, was completed. Many items such as agricultural crops and the iron industry's products, began moving along the turnpike and shifting to wider markets. There were animals such as herds of cattle, droves of hogs, and sheep, being moved along the turnpike, are a part of the county's colorful lore.

In 1880 Rocky Mount opened up even more when the Franklin and Pennsylvania Railroad came to Rocky Mount. The East West Line connected into the Southern Railroad that linked Lynchburg and Danville. In 1892, the Pumpkin Vine at the Roanoke Southern Railway was completed and enable travel to Winston-Salem, North Carolina. This railway went by the now known as Rocky Mount Train Depot, where folks would gather and watch to see who would get on and off of the railway.

The little town known as Rocky Mount that was originally settled on high dry land, (where the now existing courthouse is) was due to the land downtown being muddy, and wet without proper drainage. But now the town could be expanded on as the uptown and downtown we know today because the railway provided a means of transportation without having to travel through muddy, wet roads with mud holes that were exceedingly rough from one place to another. This is why Rocky Mount has an uptown and a downtown because at that time, the transportation was centered around the railroad.

5. Committee Reports

5.1 Public Safety & Utilities Committee Meeting February 21, 2023

The committee report was included in the information with the packet.
No action was needed at this time.

5.2 Charter Review Committee February 27, 2023

The committee report was included in the information with the packet and the recommendation from the committee meeting will be shared during the public hearing.

6. Approval of Draft Minutes

- February 13, 2023 – Regular Town Council Meeting Draft Minutes

Motion: To approve the draft minutes as presented.

Motion By: Council Member Casey

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 to 0)

- February 27, 2023 – Special Called Town Council Meeting Draft Minutes

Motion: To approve the draft minutes as presented.

Motion By: Council Member Casey

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 to 0)

7. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

7.1 Miscellaneous Action

Amended budget calendar

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 Mullins

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. Public Hearing

8.1 Adoption of Resolution for Amendments to Town Charter

The Charter Review Committee met twice to review and discuss potential changes to the charter. Council was given the proposed changes in their packet prior to the meeting.

As required by the Code of Virginia, this Public Hearing was advertised in the newspaper. After the public hearing is held, if Council wishes to proceed, a resolution will be adopted and the resolution with the approved changes to the charter amendments, will be sent to the Virginia General Assembly in Richmond where a request would be entered for the General Assembly to review the amendments and hopefully approve the amendments in the next General Assembly session in 2024.

No one signed up to speak.

Motion: To approve the adoption of proposed amendments as presented.

Motion By: Council Member Mullins

Seconded: Vice Mayor Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

Mayor Perdue asked for a roll call vote:

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)

9. Hearing of Citizens

Mr. David Phillips, of 133 Claiborne Avenue, Rocky Mount spoke regarding the amount of travel and speed of vehicles on Claiborne Avenue with children playing on the street particularly in the curve of the street was of great concern.

10. New Business

10.1 Town Partnership with Franklin County High School Electrical Class on Lighting Upgrades at Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Assistant Town Manager Moore shared with Council the partnership between Franklin County High School and Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Dennis “Moe” Potter. Superintendent Potter coordinated with the school’s electrical class to fill a need the wastewater plant had to upgrade the plant’s lighting to LEDs. Superintendent Potter worked to provide the class with the supplies needed, and the class did the work to upgrade the lighting. The class received the experience of learning to do the electrical work at substantial savings to the town.

10.2 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2024-2028

Finance Director Copenhaver shared with Council the Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan that went out to Council in their packet.

The CIP is not an appropriation but is a planning tool that is used to help staff identify capital projects and equipment purchases for each year, that when approved for further consideration, may lead to inclusion in an annual budget where the actual purchase or expenditure would be approved by Council.

No action was needed at this time.

15. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Time: 6:19 p.m.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton

Seconded By: 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)

Action: Meeting was adjourned

C. Holland Perdue III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk