



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**April 10, 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 Mark H. Newbill

Absent: Council Member Benjamin K. Mullins

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
Jessica Heckman, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Mark Moore, Assistant Town Manager
Daniel Pinard, Economic & Cultural Development Director
Dennis "Moe" Potter, Wastewater Treatment Plant
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 that were 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.

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Seconded: Council Member Newbill

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, and Council Member Newbill.

Approved (5 to 0)

4. Special Items

4.1 Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation

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

An event set up by Franklin County Department of Social Services will be held on April 22nd at 120 East Court Street to draw awareness to child abuse prevention month.

4.2 *150th Anniversary History Highlight:*

Mrs. Linda Stanley who is over the Franklin County History Museum shared with everyone some history highlights regarding the Tanyard Cemetery located on Tanyard Road in Rocky Mount. Although no one knows how many people are buried in the cemetery, Franklin County recently completed a book that details history regarding the cemetery and contains 59 documented burials there.

The cemetery was started in the mid 1700's as Hill Family Graveyard. The property at that time was part of a 300-acre land grant secured by early settler Mr. Robert Hill. The Indian

fort, 4-5 block house ruins are on the property of Christian Heritage Academy in Rocky Mount. The first person to be buried in the cemetery was an adult son of Mr. Robert Hill who was said to have been shot with an Indian's arrow from the vicinity of Bald Knob. In 1777, Mr. Robert Hill himself was buried in the cemetery.

Hill family members, descendants and incumbents, and the Bernard's would continue to be buried in the cemetery. There were many patriots such as Mr. Robert Hill's son Thomas who was a revolutionary war hero and later a gentlemen justice when Franklin County was first formed. Walter Bernard was a revolutionary war soldier who became a judge.

There is a grave within the cemetery of a seven-year-old boy that died from measles in 1865. The name of the boy was George Solomon Craft who was the son of Thomas Shay and Susan Solomon Craft. Mr. George Solomon Craft was a teacher, a county jailer, and an owner of a stage line. Mr. Craft was paid \$6.00 a seat by the government to take people between Rocky Mount and Danville and Martinsville. Mr. Craft also had a mail carrying business and had a contract in 1864. After the boy died, the family moved away.

4.3 2022 Gold Award for Excellence in Waterworks Operations/Performance

Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Adkins and the men that work in the department, received the 2022 Gold Award for excellence in waterworks operations and performance of the water plant.

Superintendent Adkins shared with Council and the audience that the silver, bronze, or gold award had been awarded to the water plant and its staff every year since 2010.

5. **Public Hearing**

5.1 Public Hearing for Franchise Agreement with Cox Communications

Shentel had a franchise agreement with the Town as an incumbent provider of cable television. Mr. Barrett Stork with Cox Communications spoke to Council about bringing additional cable television and high-speed internet services to the town. Mr. Stork, is Director of Government and Regulatory Affairs at Cox Communications. Cox Communications is the largest family owned, privately held broadband provider in the United States.

Motion: To approve the Franchise Agreement and to adopt the Resolution to allow Cox Communications to enter into an agreement with the Town to provide services.

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, and Council Member Newbill
Approved (5 – 0)

6. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

6.1 Approval of Draft Minutes

Regular Town Council Meeting Draft Minutes – March 13, 2023

Special Called Town Council Meeting Draft Minutes – March 14, 2023

Town Council & Planning Commission Joint Worksession Draft Minutes – March 20, 2023

6.2 Miscellaneous Action

Miracle Hope 5K Race

Family Resource Center – 5K Race

6.3 Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations

6.4 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: Vice Mayor Stockton

Seconded: Council Member Clements

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, and Council Member Newbill
Approved (5 – 0)

7. Action Items

7.1 Purchase of three Police Department vehicles

There are three new police department vehicles in the proposed FY2024 budget. Two of the three vehicles will be paid for by a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act. Since Chief Young was able to find three new vehicles that would meet the needs of the department, Town Manager Wood asked Council to approve the purchase of the three new sport utility vehicles prior to budget time in an effort to secure the vehicles before any other locality could do so as it is difficult to find new vehicles, especially ones under state contract.

The grant does allow for regular police vehicles to be purchased ahead of budget time and those cost to be reimbursed back to the locality that purchased the vehicle(s).

Motion: To approve giving pre-approval to purchase three new sport utility vehicles for the Rocky Mount Police Department as presented.

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

Seconded: Vice Mayor Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (5 – 0)

7.2 Collection Delinquent Accounts

Town Manager Wood presented for Finance Director Copenhaver who could not be present. Following state law, towns and localities are allowed to use collection companies to collect delinquent accounts such as utilities, taxes and other money owed to the town. A locality seeking to have use of a collection company to collect moneys owed to their town, can do so by resolution. The resolution prepared should appear like the resolution that went out in Council's packet.

Motion: To approve the resolution allowing the Town of Rocky Mount to employ the use of a collection company to collect delinquent moneys owed to the town as presented.

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, and Council Member Newbill
Approved (5 – 0)

7.3 Proposed FY2024 Budget

Town Manager Wood presented a high-level overview of the FY2024 Budget to Council. The town has two main funds which are the General Fund and the Utility Fund. For the FY2024, the American Rescue Plan Act that was helpful with capital needs is no longer available. There are now a backlog of capital needs to be funded. There is approximately \$3.8 million to fund which is made up of \$2.4 million in general fund projects and \$1.4 million in utility fund projects.

Approximately 1/3 of the \$3.8 million to fund is for the Rocky Mount Volunteer Fire Department's new pumper truck.

There are many expenditures in personnel, however it is noteworthy that the insurance does not increase this year.

The revenues for FY2024 are projected at \$8.47 million.

There was a proposed increase in meals tax from 5% to 6%.

There are proposed increases of 4% to utility and wastewater on the utility bill.

There is also a proposed increase to the solid waste collection of \$2.00 per cart per month.

There is a proposed grant writer position for FY2024.

There are two additional police department positions proposed to be funded. The police department was not fully staffed previously, so it was not necessary to fully fund the two positions being spoken of.

There is a proposed debt issuance of \$3.2 million that would be split between the general fund and the utility fund to cover projects as well as \$412,000 from the utility capital fund that would help finance the proposed capital improvements.

No action was needed at this time.

8. **Hearing of Citizens**

Mrs. Ellen Holland, 410 Hilltop Drive, Rocky Mount, expressed thanks to members of Council and the Town Manager for the jobs they perform for the town and its citizens. Mrs. Holland also expressed appreciation for the Public Works department, especially the men who do the beginning of the month heavy clean up.

Mr. Brian Hochstein, 2403 Goldfield Court, Greensboro, N.C. shared with Council how expensive and underutilized the Harvester Performance Center is to the Town of Rocky Mount. Mr. Hochstein proposed the idea of the Town renting or selling the HPC to his management team with financial backers.

9. Updates

9.1 Update on Potential Purchase of 64.4 acres of land

Town Manager Wood gave update on the Town's and Economic Development Authority's (EDA) potential purchase of 64.4 acres of land just inside the town limits near Old Franklin Turnpike and 220 North.

There were some conditions to the contract to purchase the acreage. One of the conditions was to do a boundary survey and another was to do an environmental study on the property. Contractors to do both jobs have been secured.

9.2 Harvester Performance Center update

Assistant Town Manager Moore gave members of Council an update on the Harvester Performance Center including the running of the operation and some of the people the venue brings to town to attend its shows.

10. Closed Session and Action

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

Time: 7:00 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.

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.

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.

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Second: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Action: To go into a closed meeting

Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (5 – 0)

Going Into Closed Session

Returning from Closed Session

Town Clerk Dillon Stated the Recording had Resumed

Time: 7:34 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	Absent	-
Mark H. Newbill	Present	Certify
Mayor, C. Holland Perdue III	Present	Certify

Certified: (6): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, 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, April 10, 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: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (5 – 0)

15. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Time: 7:35 p.m.

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Seconded By: Vice Mayor Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements,
Council Member Lee, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (5 – 0)

Action: Meeting was adjourned

C. Holland Perdue III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk