



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL  
FISCAL YEAR 2024  
BUDGET WORK SESSION NO. 1  
APRIL 18, 2023  
5:00 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:

Robert J. Wood, Town Manager  
Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk/Executive Admin. Assistant  
Mark W. Moore, Assistant Town Manager  
Daniel Pinard, Cultural Economic Development Director  
Brian Schofield, Public Works Superintendent  
Dennis "Moe" Potter, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent  
Amy D. Gordon, Assistant Finance Director/Human Resources Director  
Vincent Copenhaver, Finance Director  
Phillip Young, Chief of Police

**The FY2024 Budget Work Session No.1 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 C. Holland Perdue III presiding.**

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**1. Roll Call**

The Town Clerk called the names of the members, and all members were present except Council Member Lee who arrived at 5:02 p.m.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

Prior to the meeting, Council received the agenda for review and consideration of approval. Mayor Perdue amended the agenda to include two items. The items were a discussion regarding the Client Professional Services Agreement and a presentation from Davenport & Company, LLC.

**Motion: To approve the amended 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 to 0)**

**3. Client Professional Services Agreement**

The Client Professional Services Agreement is a preliminary engineering and construction inspection services for a VDOT State of Good Repairs Paving Project for Route 40 and Franklin Street in Rocky Mount with Century Engineering, LLC. The Town received a \$1.2 million grant for a paving project from VDOT. Council was asked to authorize execution of the services agreement.

**Motion: To approve and authorize the execution of the Client Professional Services Agreement for the VDOT State of Good Repairs Paving Project**

**Motion By: Council Member Newbill**

**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)**

**4. Davenport & Company, LLC.**

A presentation was given by Mr. David Rose who was Senior Vice President and Manager of the Public Finance Office for Davenport and Company. Mr. Rose has been company advisor with clients all over the United States and has been with the company for more than 25 years.

Mr. Rose was asked to provide insight as to the financial health of the town. A booklet was provided and presented to members of Council.

The process of covering the booklet began with the General Fund and highlighted aspects of the Town's financial position. Mr. Rose attended the meeting to give insight to Council as to the financial health of the town and to provide the option to the Town of financing the purchase of 64.4 acres of land at Old Franklin Turnpike and 220 North.

## **5. Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Work Session No.1**

Town Manager Wood began the work session part of the meeting by presenting to Council a preliminary review of the budget.

The two main funds for the town are the Utility Fund and the General Fund.

- The Utility Fund is Water and Wastewater Utilities
- The General Fund is Public Works, Public Safety, Community Development and Administration

Inflation numbers are still up though they are less than one year ago, as the Municipal Cost Index for February 2023 was 6.27%

There is approximately \$3.8 million in capital projects for the town as prices continue to increase and trying to obtain items is difficult at best. \$2.4 million in general fund capital projects and \$1.4 million in utility fund capital projects. Included in the capital projects at approximately \$1 million was a pumper truck for the Fire Department that Council decided to purchase in 2022 and is being worked into the budget this year.

### **A. General Fund**

- Revenues  
The following items make up the revenues for FY2024. The revenues are projected at \$8.74 million.
  1. Real Estate and Personal Property taxes
  2. Other taxes such as sales tax, meals tax, lodging, and transient occupancy tax
  3. Approximately one-quarter of the general fund revenue comes from the Commonwealth of Virginia
- To Increase revenues
  1. There was a proposed meals tax increase of 1% that would increase revenues by approximately \$400,000.
  2. A solid waste rate increase of \$2.00 per cart per month for residential customers and \$4.00 per cart per month for commercial customers.

3. A proposed debt issuance of about \$3.2 million for general and utility fund capital projects and \$412,000 of reserves from the utility capital fund.
- Expenditures
    1. Projected for FY2024: \$8.7 million
    2. Public Safety 35%
    3. Public Works 23%
    4. Community Development 18%
    5. General Government Administration 14%
    6. Non-departmental 10%
    7. Capital \$2.4 million
    8. Personnel a proposed increase of 7.5% (including the cost of living and the step increases for RMPD that was put into practice in phases over the past years. A Grant Writer position was proposed to help find additional revenue for the town.

The following were questions that Council had or otherwise information that was requested from staff for Council as follow-up for budget work session number 2.

- Mayor Perdue requested a breakdown of SROs from the town and from Franklin County including the cost amount per officer and the total of all officers together. The Mayor was also interested to see what the town is receiving back from the public schools to help offset the cost of providing the SROs.
- Mayor Perdue asked if Town Manager Wood could provide a breakdown of what the purposed numbers would be if the meals tax did increase by 25%, 75% and if the increase was a full 1% for Council to review. Council Member Mullins asked if a breakdown could be provided of town residents. Staff explained that a breakdown of how many Town customers and Franklin County customers made meals tax purchases was not available. Mayor Perdue indicated that if the town restaurant owners wished to provide a breakdown of customers paying meals taxes in the town versus not in the town, the owners could do so for work session no.2. Council would like the data provided to be the meals tax rate of other local localities, each locality's real estate tax and personal property tax rate as well, to give a better total picture. The localities asked for were Roanoke City, Roanoke County, Vinton, Wytheville, Floyd, and Bedford.
- A 7.5% salary increase was proposed in the budget for town staff. Council Member Lee inquired about increasing town staff less and spreading some of those same funds to the fire department for the volunteers. Town Manager Wood explained to Council, a breakdown of what the Town pays to the town fire fighters and what Franklin County pays to assist with the cost. Franklin County pays 60% of the dollar amount the county pays the county fire fighters that fight fires outside of the town. The cost of equipment was not included. Town Manager Wood was asked to provide numbers at the second work session to review.

**6. Adjournment**

**Motion: To adjourn**

**Time: 6:26 p.m.**

**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 to 0)**

**Action: Meeting was adjourned**

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C. Holland Perdue III, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk