



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**May 8, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

The following members
of Council were present:

Mayor C. Holland Perdue III
Council Member A. Ralph Casey
Council Member David K. Clements
Council Member Benjamin K. Mullins
Council Member Mark H. Newbill

Vice Mayor Billie W. Stockton arrived at 6:20 p.m.

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
Michael "Kevin" Adkins, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent
Vincent Copenhaver, Finance Director
Jessica H. Heckman, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Mark W. Moore, Assistant Town Manager
Daniel Pinard, Economic & Cultural Development Director
Dennis "Moe" Potter, Wastewater Treatment Plant
Brian Schofield, Public Works Superintendent
Jason T. Divers, Lieutenant of Patrol, RMPD
Justin Woodrow, Fire Chief, RMVFD

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 the members that were present.

Vice Mayor Stockton arrived at 6:20 p.m. due to a prior engagement he had to attend.

Now therefore a quorum of the Rocky Mount Town Council had assembled for this meeting, at Town Attorney Boitnott's direction, a vote was taken to allow Council Member Lee to participate in this meeting by conference phone due to him being absent in person which was due to personal reasons of him being out of town for work. The location of Council Member Lee was Homewood Suites by Hilton, Washington DC Convention Center, New York Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC 20001. The policy to allow remote participation in the meeting was approved at the Regular Council Meeting on December 12, 2022. It was passed by a unanimous vote.

Motion: To allow Council Member Lee to participate remotely in this Town Council Regular Meeting as presented by Mayor C. Holland Perdue III.

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

Second: Council Member Mullins

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (4): Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (4 to 0)

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 Newbill

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill.

Approved (5 to 0)

4. **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 – April 10, 2023

Proposed FY2024 Budget Worksession No. 1 Draft Meeting Minutes -
April 18, 2023

Proposed FY2024 Budget Worksession No. 2 Draft Meeting Minutes –
April 20, 2023

Proposed FY2024 Budget Public Hearing Draft Meeting Minutes – May 1,
2023

6.2 Miscellaneous Action

Community Partnership Revitalization request to hold three events:

1. Court Days – June 10, 2023
2. Community Christmas Tree Lighting – November 24, 2023
3. Come Home to a Franklin County Christmas – December 1, 2023

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: Council Member Mullins

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee,
Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (5 – 0)

5. Special Items

150th Anniversary History Highlight:

Ms. Barbara Chauncey gave Council and the audience a brief look into the history of the Town of Rocky Mount's courthouse.

In 1785, the county of Franklin was decreed by the state assembly and shortly after that, Governor Patrick Henry, appointed a commission whose duty was to appoint justices of Franklin County. Some of the names appointed were Mr. Moses Greer, and Mr. Peter Saunders. Since Rocky Mount at that time did not have a courthouse, the justices were to meet once a month at where we know today as Dr. Francis Amos's house.

A permanent courthouse was constructed after that time period, near where the courthouse is located currently. The building was built of log with a substantial foundation and a roof made of chestnut shingles. In 1831, the structure was demolished, and a more substantial building was built. The courthouse that is known today, was completed in 1910. Mr. Higgins, a prominent well-known architect from Roanoke designed the building.

6. Action Items

6.1 Resolution to petition the Virginia Department of Transportation to accept street additions for street maintenance payments.

Funding is given to the Town each year from the state to use for road maintenance such as lane miles. The town has three streets that need to be added to the town's street inventory for maintenance payments.

Motion: To approve the submission of the resolution presented to Council regarding petitioning VDOT to review and add to the town's street inventory for maintenance payments as presented.

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

Seconded: Council Member Mullins

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (5 – 0)

6.2 Proposed Scheduling for Financing for the potential purchase of 64.4 acres of land at Old Franklin Turnpike and 220 North.

A draft calendar was brought to Council for their approval at the April 10th regular meeting so the Town will be in a position to secure funding for the recent land purchase. Finance Director Copenhaver shared with Council the calendar that was in their packet with one change. The Economic Development Authority meeting has been moved to June 27th, from May 23rd. Staff requested Council's approval on the revised calendar so Davenport might be able to proceed with the request for proposal (RFP) for a competitive bank loan. The results of the RFP will be presented to Council at the June 12th regular Council meeting.

Motion: To approve the draft calendar as presented

Motion By: Council Member Mullins

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (5 – 0)

6.3 Approve Utility Easement AEP on Town owned property on Windy Lane

During the past winter, the electric power would go off as it was overloaded due to the line in the Windy Lane section of town (including the Windy Lane apartment building) becoming overloaded and shutting down, sometimes even for a couple of days. It was determined that the line that serves the area was overloaded during the extreme cold weather due to all of the heaters that were being used for citizens to keep warm.

AEP would like to run an additional line to the area that would divide up the load of electricity going to the area into two lines to take some of the weight off of the one existing line. To perform the work needed, AEP has asked for an easement to the property that is owned by the Town at the end of Windy Lane.

Council Member Casey shared with Council the power line in the area is critical to have the additional line run as when the temperature drops below 20 degrees, the AEP is not able to restore the power until the temperature rises back to 32 degrees.

Town Manager Wood shared with Council that AEP would build the electric line and perform all of the work. The Town has only been asked to provide the easement to allow the work to be done. There will be no charge to the town.

Motion: To approve the easement for AEP to build an additional electric line to serve the property in the Windy Lane section of town that is owned by the Town as presented.

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (5 – 0)

Mayor Perdue requested holding a short recess of the meeting to allow Vice Mayor Stockton time to join the other members of Council from a previously scheduled engagement.

Motion: To hold a short recess as Mayor Perdue requested.

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

Seconded: Council Member Clements

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (5 – 0)

Vice Mayor Stockton arrived at 6:15 p.m.; Mayor Perdue called the meeting back into session at 6:22 p.m.

6.4 Resolution to adopt and appropriate the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget, adopt the Tax Rates, Fees, and Utility Rates, and adopt the Fiscal year 2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program and Ordinance to Amend Town Code.

Council was presented with a draft budget and the draft budget was reviewed during two work sessions on April 18th and April 20th. The proposed budget was advertised for public input and a public hearing was held on May 1st. There were comments made during the public hearing by a total of four people. All four expressed interest in not approving the FY2024 budget.

Motion: To approve the resolution to adopt the FY2024 budget and to adopt the Meals Tax ordinance to amend the Town Code concerning the increase on the amount of meals tax the town can charge on purchased meals.

Motion By: Council Member Mullins

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion on the Resolution to Adopt the FY2024 Budget, Adopt the Tax Rates, Fees, and Utility Rates and Adopt the FY2024-2028 Capital Improvement Program OR to Adopt the Meals Tax Ordinance to Amend the Town Code Concerning the Increase on the Amount of Meals Tax the Town can Charge on Purchased Meals: There was no discussion on any of the items under 6.4.

MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE	VOTE
J. Tyler Lee	Present	No
Mark H. Newbill	Present	Yes
A. Ralph Casey	Present	Yes
David K. Clements	Present	Yes
Benjamin K. Mullins	Present	Yes
Billie W. Stockton	Present	Yes
Mayor, C. Holland Perdue III	Present	Yes

Ayes: 6

Nays: 1

Action: The Budget for FY2024, including Mayor Perdue voting, was approved on a vote of 6 to 1 in favor of The Budget as presented and to adopt the Meals Tax ordinance to amend the Town Code concerning the amount of meals tax the town can charge on purchased meals.

7. Hearing of Citizens

Mr. Josh Smallwood, 625 Glenn Wood Drive, Rocky Mount, Va., he is headmaster of Christian Heritage Academy (CHA). Mr. Smallwood shared that he had only been over the school for a short time but has been a resident of Franklin County for 10 years. Mr. Smallwood asked to come before Council to put a name to a face and to share with council that CHA as a member of the community, is here to serve the Town of Rocky Mount.

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Chase (Patricia), moved to Franklin County nine months ago and came to the meeting to express thanks to Council for their service.

8. Closed Meeting and Action

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

Time: 6:33 p.m.

Virginia Code Section:

8.1 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.

8.2 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.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton

Second: Council Member Clements

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: 6:55 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: (6): 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, May 8, 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

15. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Time: 7:05 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 – 0)

Action: Meeting was adjourned

C. Holland Perdue III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk