



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**June 12, 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

Council Member Benjamin K. Mullins was unable to attend

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
Amy D. Gordon, Assistant Finance Director/Human Resources 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
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 the members that were present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Perdue asked former Mayor Steve Angle to lead everyone in 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: 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 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 – May 8, 2023

Special Called town Council Meeting Draft Minutes – May 18, 2023

Town Council and Planning Commission Joint Work session Draft Minutes – May 18, 2023

6.2 Miscellaneous Action

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 Newbill

Seconded: Council Member 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)

5. **Special Items**

5.1 Presentation by Senator Bill Stanley

Senator Bill Stanley presented former Mayor Steven C. Angle with a Senate of Virginia Resolution commending the former Mayor for his years of service.

Senator Bill Stanley also presented to former Mayor Angle a flag that had been flown over the capital of the commonwealth of Virginia, in Richmond.

The proclamation was requested by Senator Stanley, signed by secretary of the Senate, Ms. Susan Clark Sharp, and read aloud for all in attendance to hear.

The former Mayor thanked everyone and shared that it was his pleasure to serve the citizens of the Town of Rocky Mount. The former Mayor is a lifelong citizen of the town and was happy he could contribute in some way during his tenure here.

Clerk Dillon then unveiled the former Mayor's portrait to be hung on the wall in Council Chambers along side the other former mayors that served before him.

5.2 150th Anniversary History Highlight:

Mr. Kevin Tosh shared about the Washington Iron Works and the Washington Iron Furnace to commemorate the Town of Rocky Mount's 150th anniversary. Dr. Francis Amos was remembered as a steward of history in Franklin County and as a master of the Washington Iron Furnace, the Washington Iron Works, and the Furnace Master's House. The Washington Iron Furnace was one of the oldest and best-preserved iron furnaces in the commonwealth. Records date back to 1770 during which time the furnace was operated by John Donaldson who was a father to Rachael Donaldson who later married Andrew Jackson. At this time, the furnace was called The Bloomery.

County tax returns from 1773 indicated that the furnace was operated by 10 men during that time. John Holloway, Charles Holloway, Amos Spain, Thomas Bolton, and six enslaved men, Moody, Dick, Harry, Thane, Judith, and Nell. In 1779, John and Rachael Donaldson sold the furnace to Jeremiah Early who was the great grandfather of General Jubal A. Early and James Calloway.

After Jeremiah Early passed away, John Early sold his father's interest to James Calloway.

During the pre-revolutionary period, artifacts were found as well as some of the casts which have been preserved. Mr. Tosh brought with him a piece of slag which was an actual leftover byproduct after the iron blasting operation.

In 1820, Peter Saunders, Jr., Samuel, and Fleming, purchased the Washington Iron Furnace as well as the Herring Furnace on Story Creek near Ferrum.

The Washington Iron Works was especially important to the town as approximately 100 men were employed at the Washington Iron Works while the entire town had only a population of (excluding the ironworkers) 200 people. Many of the men would walk back and forth to work up and down the hill that came to be known to us as Scuffling Hill Road.

The Furnace Master's House was constructed around 1818 for the Peter Saunders Jr. family. The house was extensively remodeled in 1850 when the house was converted into a classical revival structure which eventually was the site of the first court meeting in Franklin County. The house is known today as where Dr. Francis Amos lived for many years, prior to his death.

5.3 Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month Proclamation

Mayor Perdue and Town Manager Wood shared the reading of the proclamation to those in attendance. June 21st, from sunrise to sunset, symbolizes the challenging journey of those living with the disease and to those caring for others with the disease. In the Town of Rocky Mount, June is now proclaimed as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month.

Though arriving late, Ms. Lee Prom was given an opportunity to speak regarding the Alzheimer's Association where she is a volunteer.

6. **Public Hearings**

6.1 J. Cooke Towing is requesting a special exception permit to allow the storage of towed vehicles inside the existing garage located at 10 Pell Avenue, Rocky Mount, VA, 24151, Franklin County Tax Map and Parcel Number 2070009000. The property is zoned CBD (Central Business District).

Council Goes Into Recess

On June 6, 2023, the Town of Rocky Mount Planning Commission held a site visit and a public hearing for the application. There were no public comments for the application. The Planning Commission recommended approval of the special exception permit with the condition that there would be absolutely no parking, temporary or otherwise of towed vehicles on the outside of the garage structure, at any time for any reason. The motion passed with a vote of 7-0. The application was advertised in the Franklin News-Post as required by law, and the public hearing notice was posted on the site. J. Cooke Towing asked for the permit, so they would be able to apply to be on the Town's towing rotation.

No one signed up to speak.

Council Goes Back into Regular Session

Motion: To approve the special exception permit as recommended by the Town of Rocky Mount Planning Commission.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton

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)

6.2 Amendments to the Adopted FY 2022-2023 Budget

Anytime the town receives additional revenue throughout the fiscal year that exceeds 1%, of the town's adopted budget, the town is required to hold a public hearing before those funds can be appropriated. The total that the budget will be amended by would be \$908,331. When the budget for FY2022-2023 was created, the town did not know that amount of money would be received.

Motion: To approve the amended budget for FY2022-2023.

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

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)

6.3 The Intention of the Town to Authorize the Issuance of Not to Exceed \$5,150,000 Principal Amount of a General Obligation Bond for the Purpose of Financing Land Acquisition and Related Improvements by the Economic Development Authority of the Town of Rocky Mount.

At the May 8, 2023 regular Council meeting, there was discussion regarding a request for proposals.

Mr. David Rose with Davenport, and Mr. Dan Segal with Sands Anderson, spoke to Council regarding the results of the bids that were received and to give a recommendation regarding the financing process. Bids were received from five different banking institutions. An interest rate was obtained for the town at a fixed rate of 5.93% for 5-years with the National Bank of Blacksburg having met all the criteria given in addition to the payment plan being set up so that the town could pay off the borrowed amount anytime without paying a penalty.

If approved, closing would take place approximately mid July 2023.

No one from the public signed up to speak.

Mayor Perdue asked if there was a motion.

Motion: To approve and authorize the issuance of not to exceed \$5,150,000 principal amount of a general obligation bond as well as to give the authorization necessary to members of staff to sign documents where needed to complete the process of the bond issuance.

Motion By: Council Member Casey

Seconded: Vice Mayor Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

A Roll Call Vote Was Required

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

Ayes: (6): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Newbill, and Mayor C. Holland Perdue III

Nays: (0)

Action: Approved 6-0

7. Hearing of Citizens

Mrs. Brenda Muse, 145 Perdue Lane, Rocky Mount, VA spoke regarding the property at 255 Perdue Lane. The property is a 5-unit apartment building that has fallen into such a state of disrepair that the property was described as a disgrace.

8. Closed Meeting and Action

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

Time: 6:42 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.

8.3 Section 2.2-3711(A).5 Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry, or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the businesses or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community.

8.4 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: Vice Mayor Stockton

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: 8:02 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, June 12, 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: 8:04 p.m.

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Seconded By: 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)

Action: Meeting was adjourned

C. Holland Perdue III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk