



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**July 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 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
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
Mark W. Moore, Assistant Town Manager
Daniel Pinard, Economic & Cultural Development Director
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 the pledge of allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Prior to the meeting, Council received the agenda for review and consideration. Mayor Perdue asked to move Special Items to #5, above New Business, move New Business to #6. Added to the agenda was 6.5 as a new business item being proposed as proposed hotel on North Main Street.

Motion: To approve the amended agenda

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

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)

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 – June 12, 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: Vice Mayor Stockton

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 – 0)

5. Special Items

5.1 150th Anniversary Highlight

Economic and Cultural Development Director Pinard presented this meeting's highlight on Mr. Rabbit Muse. Mr. Muse was an African American musician, singer, and blues ukulele player who was born and raised in Rocky Mount. Mr. Muse lived from May 11, 1908 – August 27, 1982. Mr. Muse and his cousins played together in a family band along the streets of Rocky Mount as well as playing at folklife festivals, stage shows, fiddlers contests, and, on occasion, Mr. Muse and his cousins played on Roanoke television stations as well. There are some digital recordings of Mr. Muse that will be played downtown on the speakers during the coming weeks to commemorate Mr. Muse and his family.

6. New Business

6.1 Mary Bethune Park Playground Purchase

Assistant Town Manager Moore gave some background on the playground equipment in the town parks. Over the past few years, the town has been updating the parks. On June 28th of 2022, the Town opened Celeste Park with a ribbon cutting to

mark the opening of the park which was made ready by the Town's Public Works department along with volunteers. The playground equipment at Mary Elizabeth Park was replaced in FY2023. Similar to the purchase at Mary Elizabeth Park, is the purchase of the playground equipment in Mary Bethune park that will be purchased via cooperative purchasing agreement with All Recreation of Virginia, Inc. The new equipment was included in the Capital Improvement Plan and funded through the FY2024 budget. The project came in under budget. The equipment will be installed in the fall of 2023.

Motion: To approve the purchase of the playground equipment for Mary Bethune Park

Motion By: Council Member Casey

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)

6.2 Connection fees for water service for Blue Ridge Bible College (445 Blue Ridge Court)

The Blue Ridge Bible College contacted the town regarding water service and a fire suppression system. A 6-inch water meter would be needed for the college to hook onto town water and have a fire suppression system in place. There would be impact fees of several thousand dollars that the college would be responsible for because the college is located outside of town limits where the impact fees charged are more than the impact fees inside town limits. Connection fees were discussed at the Public Safety and Utilities committee meeting held on June 27, 2023.

The recommendation of the committee was to allow the Blue Ridge Bible College up to 5-years to pay all impact and connection fees. A finance charge was not discussed by the committee, but Town Manager Wood shared with Council that staff recommended for Council to consider charging interest to the college at the rate of 6% annual interest. When asked, Council Member Lee, who is employed with a bank, shared that was a fair rate.

Impact Fee = \$50,000 outside of town limits

Connection Fee = cost + 25%

An agreement will be drafted, reviewed by Town Attorney Boitnott, and signed by Town Manager Wood on behalf of the Town regarding the terms agreed upon.

Motion: To approve the request as stated by Mayor Perdue to accept the recommendation of the Public Safety and Utilities committee and allow up to a 5-year amortization to pay for the 6-inch meter, the fire suppression system, the connection fee, and the impact fee all to be charged at an interest rate of 6% annual interest. The agreement may be paid off early without penalty.

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)

6.3 School Resource Officer Grant

The Rocky Mount Police Department was awarded a grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services for \$53,002. The SRO grant was already budgeted in the adopted FY23-24 budget at \$49,506. The grant will be disbursed over a 4-year period of time. Staff recommended approving the award.

Motion: To accept the awarded grant and authorize the Town Manager to sign the Statement of Grant Award (SOGA)

Motion By: Council Member Lee

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)

6.4 Lease for tough book computers for police officers

The police department was in need of upgrading the computers that the RMPD uses from Surface Pros to tough book computers that would be more suited to the wear and tear of a police officer. The funding for the tough book computers will be a combination of \$11,000 already allotted in the FY2024 budget for that purpose and financing the balance.

Motion: To approve accept the awarded grant and authorize the Town Manager to sign the Statement of Grant Award (SOGA)

Motion By: Council Member Lee

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)

6.5 Proposed Hotel on North Main Street

At the Town Council regular meeting on June 10th, Council by provision of state code, spoke to Mr. Patel in closed session regarding the proposed addition of a hotel in town limits at the intersection of North Main Street and Grassy Hill Road.

Mr. Amit Patel spoke to Council sharing the name of his company, OM SHREE Suites, LLC. The investment will be approximately \$14 million. Construction of the hotel will bring construction jobs to the Town and as the hotel nears opening, there will be jobs available in hospitality, maintenance, management, etc. The plans include 85 rooms, free breakfast, an indoor pool, and approximately 1,500 square feet of meeting room area. Opening could be in the last quarter of 2025.

Motion: For Council to authorize Staff including Town Attorney Boitnott to draft an agreement based upon the terms discussed at the July 10th regular Council meeting and to authorize Mayor Perdue or Town Manager Wood to sign the agreement once it is finalized.

Motion By: Council Member Mullins

Seconded: Council Member Lee

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. **Hearing of Citizens**

No one at this time

8. **Closed Meeting and Action**

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

Time: 6:29 p.m.

Virginia Code Section:

8.1 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.

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.

Motion: To go into closed session

Motion By: Council Member Casey

Second: Council Member Lee

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: 6:57 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: (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

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, July 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

9. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn

Time: 7:00 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