



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**September 11, 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 Resource Director
Mark Lovern, 1st Sergeant, RMPD
Mark W. Moore, Assistant Town Manager
Daniel Pinard, Economic & Cultural Development Director
Brian Schofield, Public Works Superintendent
Phillip Young, Chief of Police, RMPD

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 that all members were present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Perdue led in the pledge of allegiance.

After the pledge, Mayor Perdue asked for a brief moment of silence for the victims of September 11, 2001.

3. Approval of Agenda

Prior to the meeting, Council received the agenda for review and consideration. Mayor Perdue amended the agenda by adding an update on the Harvester Performance Center as 9.2 under New Business and asked Economic & Cultural Development Director Pinard to give an update on the 150 Fest as 9.3 also under New Business.

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 Draft Minutes

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

4.1 Town Council Regular Meeting Draft Minutes – August 14, 2023

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

5.1 Miscellaneous Action

Franklin County High School Homecoming Parade

Miracle Hope Race

Rocky Mount Rotary Club Christmas Parade for 2023

5.2 Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations

5.3 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)

6. Special Items

6.1 GFOA Award received by Finance Director Vincent Copenhaver

The award for Finance Director Copenhaver is for outstanding work in many areas of financial recordkeeping and reporting for the Town. The award is a testament of the assistance Finance Director Copenhaver receives from Assistant Finance Director Gordon and the other staff in the Finance Department.

6.2 150th Anniversary Highlight

Mr. Peter Cooper was one of Franklin County's finest musicians that lived from 1924-2001. Mr. Cooper was a self-taught accomplished musician that played banjo, guitar, dobro, mandolin, and fiddle. Mr. Cooper was born without a left hip joint. Mr. Cooper was a cleaner in a machine room at the Lane Company, and while working at Lane Company, he experienced an accident with a band saw and sadly lost a limb. Mr. Cooper was later fitted with a prosthetic limb. He retaught himself how to play music and was successful doing so at a very high level. Mr. Cooper went on to form a band called the Pumpkin Vines and to make records.

7. **Public Hearing**

7.1 Amending FY22-23 Budget

A public hearing is required by law anytime there is an addition to the budget that exceeds 1% of the adopted budget. Finance Director Copenhaver asked Council to approve the amended FY22-23 budget by \$1.3 million. A large portion of the \$1.3 million came from the State of Good Repair Grant.

No one signed up to speak during this portion of the public hearing.

Motion: To approve the Amended FY22-23 Budget as presented

Motion By: Council Member Mullins

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 – 0)

7.2 Amending FY23-24 Budget

Finance Director Copenhaver asked Council to approve the amended FY23-24 budget by \$5 million to replace the funds that the Town borrowed for the land purchase that was not in the original budget that Council adopted.

No one signed up to speak during this portion of the public hearing.

Motion: To approve the Amended FY23-24 Budget as presented

Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton

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 – 0)

7.3 Disposition of Real Property Tax Map #204.00-385.00

The Cox Property located on Weaver Street in Rocky Mount, was divided into three parcels'. Rocky Mount Ready Mix will relocate the concrete plant to the 20-acre parcel now that the Town has purchased the land where it is currently located. Behind Davis Heating and Air, there is a second parcel earmarked for future use and the last parcel is located at the impound lot that the Rocky Mount Police Department uses. The public hearing is to transfer all three of the properties to the Economic Development Authority (EDA) which will transfer the 20-acre parcel of land to Rocky Mount Ready Mix. The remaining two parcels will be held at this time.

No one signed up to speak during this portion of the public hearing.

Motion: To approve the disposition of real property tax map # 204.00-385.00 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 – 0)

8. Hearing of Citizens

Mrs. Brenda Muse, 1456 Perdue Lane, Rocky Mount, VA spoke to Council regarding the property at 255 Perdue Lane that had fallen into a state of disrepair. The property is a 5-unit apartment building that will be directly across from the new Career and Technical Education Building that is proposed by the Franklin County Board of Supervisors.

9. New Business

9.1 Water Plant Mud Valve Replacement

Assistant Town Manager Moore shared that 22 mud valves in the sanitation basin at the water plant that was in the CIP budget in FY23 but was then placed in the FY24 budget for \$125,000. The Town worked with Thompson and Litton to bid the job out. The bids came in with contingency of \$238,000. Staff requested to move forward with the project with the additional funds being taken out of utility capital reserves.

The mud valves have been in place in the basin so long, that a contingency of \$53,000 was added to the project amount in the event the valves could not be removed easily.

Motion: To approve the request for water plant mud valve replacements

Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton

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 – 0)

9.2 Update on the Harvester Performance Center

Over the course of the past few years, there were many changes that occurred at the Harvester, especially during COVID. The information Assistant Town Manager Moore shared with Council was information reflective of the first full year after COVID, masks mandates and a change in management for the Harvester.

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

Total Income: \$1.285 million

Total Show Expenses: \$761,000

Venue Expenses: \$314,000

Total expenses \$1.076 million

Total Income: \$1.285 million

Total profit for the Harvester: \$209,083.28

For 46 shows, the total attendance was: 12,523 (an increase)

Average Attendance: 282 (an increase)

Average Capacity: out of a 425-seat venue is at 67% (an increase)

9.3 Update on 150 Fest

September 30, 2023 will be Rocky Mount's 150 Fest. The event will run from 3:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. The streets will begin shutting down on that day at 12:00 noon. There will be 13 bands playing on various stages that will be set up throughout downtown Rocky Mount as well as a kid zone, crafters, Cruisin' Rocky Mount and food vendors. There is no rain date.

10. **Closed Meeting and Action**

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

Time: 6:26 p.m.

Virginia Code Section:

10.1 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).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.

Motion: To go into closed session

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: 7:28 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, September 11, 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 come out of closed session
Motion By: Council Member Casey

Second: 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)

8. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Time: 7:31 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