



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**November 13, 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, Captain, RMPD
Mark W. Moore, Assistant Town Manager
Brian Schofield, Public Works Superintendent

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.

3. Approval of Agenda

Prior to the meeting, Council received the agenda for review and consideration.

Motion: To approve the agenda

Motion By: Council Member Lee

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. Special Items

4.1 150th History Highlight

Mr. Justin Muse shared some history on the Muse family ballfield. The Muse family ballfield was built on the family farm in the late 1930's. The ballfield was the home of the original Rocky Mount Seahawks and later the Rocky Mount Hawks. Many teams in many leagues have played on the field, including some professional players. The ballfield was used by Franklin County High School and Ferrum College before each of them had their own ballfield to play on. Mr. John Muse was the manager of the Seahawks and the Hawks and helped build the field to what it is today. A Muse family ballfield music festival is planned for the Spring of 2024 to help revitalize the field.

5. Public Hearing

5.1 Amended FY2022-2023 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 because of two purchases the Town made through lease purchase for tasers of \$38,273 and the lease proceeds for the in-car and body worn cameras of \$167,580 for a total amendment of \$205,853.

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: 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)

6. Approval of Draft Minutes

6.1 Special Called Town Council Meeting Draft Minutes – October 9, 2023

6.2 Rocky Mount Town Council Regular Meeting Draft Minutes – October 16, 2023

Motion: To approve the draft minutes 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)

7. Approval of Consent Agenda

7.1 Miscellaneous Action

2024 Town Meetings Calendar

Request for Community Christmas Tree Lighting November 24, 2023 and
Come Home to a Franklin County Christmas December 1, 2023

7.2 Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations

7.3 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: 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 – 0)

8. **Hearing of Citizens**

No one at this time

9. **New Business**

9.1 Purchase of Equipment for Water Storage Tank on Scuffling Hill Road

The equipment purchase would be for the existing water storage tank on Scuffling Hill Road. The water in the tank during the day heats up and as new colder water is added to the tank, the equipment will mix the water together to better distribute the chlorine so the tank will not have varying levels of chlorine in it.

Motion: To approve the purchase of the equipment on staff's recommendation as presented.

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

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)

9.2 Paving of Franklin Street between Claiborne Avenue and North Main Street

The town received a grant of approximately \$1.25 million to pave Franklin Street from the Town limits near Dent Street to Claiborne Avenue, also including some sidewalk work and repairs for accessibility reasons. The Town would like to obtain a price from the contractor of what it would cost to finish the paving from Claiborne Avenue to North Main Street since the contractor will already be working in the town. The bid price is \$143,000 to complete the street. Paving will take place in the Spring of 2024.

Motion: To approve finishing the paving from Claiborne Avenue to North Main Street.

Motion By: Council Member Mullins

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 – 0)

9.3 Update from Finance Department on Utility Billing and Online Payments

The Finance Department proposed some changes to utility billing. The changes are to disconnections, disconnection fees, in-town and out of town water deposits, credit card fees, and to returned checks. Also, during the pandemic, the State required utilities to wait for accounts to be 60 days past due before shutting off the water service. The Town's policy had always been 30 days before the pandemic. The proposed billing change also includes returning to a policy of shutting off water service when accounts are thirty days past due. All proposed changes would be effective January 1, 2024.

Motion: To proceed with staff's recommendations to adjust all proposed updates to Utility Billing

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)

10. Closed Meeting and Action

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

Time: 6:19 p.m.

Virginia Code Section:

- 10.1 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.
- 10.2 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.
- 10.3 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: 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: 7:26 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, November 13, 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 Lee

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)

9. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Time: 7:28 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