



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**January 22, 2024 at  
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  
Vincent Copenhaver, Finance Director  
Mark Lovern, Captain, RMPD  
Michael "Kevin" Adkins, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent  
Jessica Angle, Planning & Zoning Administrator  
Daniel Pinard, Economic & Cultural Development Director  
Dennis "Moe" Potter, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent  
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.**

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**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. Mayor Perdue amended the agenda by adding an item to New Business as 8.4, Appointment to the STEP, Inc. Board.

**Motion:** To approve the amended agenda

**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)**

**4. Approval of Consent Agenda**

4.1 Miscellaneous Action

Approval of FY2024-2025 Budget Calendar

Resolution Regarding Health Insurance Benefits

Supplemental Budgetary Appropriations for FY2023-2024 Budget

4.2 Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations

4.3 Approval of Draft Minutes

Rocky Mount Town Council Regular Meeting Draft Minutes – December 11, 2023

4.4 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**

**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 to 0)**

5. **Special Items**

5.1 150<sup>th</sup> History Highlight

Economic and Cultural Development Director Pinard shared the history of one of the largest employers in the earlier years of Rocky Mount called Bald Knob Furniture Company. Bald Knob Furniture was started by Mr. Nathaniel V. Angle who was a Rocky Mount merchant and entrepreneur. In the early years, the factory made primarily bedroom furniture that was shipped around the country by railroad cars. The quality of the furniture resulted in the brand becoming popular and well known, which resulted in the second factory being built in 1927 to meet the demand for the company's products. The factory had plans to employ 600 men as well as to expand its products to include dining room furniture and chest drawers. In 1956, the Bald Knob Furniture Company was purchased by the Lane Company. Bald Knob Furniture Company was a steady employer in Rocky Mount during the great depression thus making it particularly important to the stability and growth of the town.

**6. Public Hearing**

**6.1 Amending Utility Fees**

The utility fees being amended were discussed previously and nothing had been added since that time. Town Manager Wood shared that a notice for public hearing had been published in the Franklin News Post as is required by law.

There were no comments from the public signed up to speak or through email.

**Motion:** To proceed with amending the utility fees as Council had previously discussed.

**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. New Business**

**8.1 Selection of Contractor for Improvements to Cox Property (2040038500) at 755 Weaver Street**

To make the entrance road into the Cox Property ready for Rocky Mount Ready Mix to relocate on the property. Weaver Street will be extended and the water line on Weaver Street will be extended as well. The Town advertised for bids from contractors and received two. One for \$191,951 and one for \$342,000. Staff recommends accepting the bid from Mr. Paul R. Shively, Inc. for \$191,951 to cover both items needing to be done.

**Motion:** To accept the bid for \$191,951 from Paul R. Shively, Inc.

**Motion By:** Council Member Newbill

**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)**

8.2 Ordinance to amend definitions in Transient Occupancy Tax section of Town Code

The Transient Occupancy Tax section of the Town Code needs to be brought up to date with a more standardized language. Town Attorney Boitnott, reviewed the language and Staff recommends adoption by Council.

**Motion:** To adopt the updated language for the Transient Occupancy Tax in the Town Code.

**Motion By:** Vice Mayor Stockton

**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)**

8.3 Discuss Virginia Main Street Program

Economic & Cultural Development Director Pinard shared a broad overview of the Virginia Main Street Program. The Virginia Main Street Program is open to all communities, has certain base line requirements, and there are three tiers of participation to the program. The Main Street Program comes from a national program that sets certain best common practices for managing business districts and downtowns. It is ultimately a standard that shows the investment and care in which the community has put into their commitment of taking care of the architecture and history of the community and shows the amount of public and private investment that have come along with the implementation of the program.

Tier two was expanded on by sharing that it would be a two-year program where a community that wanted to advance to the top tier could go through, and having met all the criteria, could arrive at the advanced tier. Marion, Wythville, Bristol, and Danville are enlisted into the Virginia Main Street Program.

All three of the tiers revolve around significant community commitment. In order to advance to the top tier, the community would have to employ a full-time Executive Director. The person would likely be an employee of the Town, but would work under the direction of a non-profit to bring to fruition what the Virginia Main Street Program sets forth.

One important point is that the Community Partnership for Revitalization brings a lot of events to the town already however, the organization is made up of volunteers and to ask that organization to do more events when the organization is overworked; there

should be someone in place to handle the job full-time and help grow the town such as would be the objective of a full-time position.

**Motion:** To move forward in communications with the Virginia Main Street Program to learn more about them.

**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)**

#### 8.4 Appointment to the Board of STEP, Inc.

The Town was contacted by STEP, Inc. and asked if the Town of Rocky Mount would recommend and send someone to sit on the board there.

The Mayor opened the floor for nominations.

**Motion:** Nomination that Council Member Mullins be considered to serve on the board of STEP, Inc.

**Motion By:** Council Member Lee

**Seconded:** Vice Mayor 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) Council unanimously approved the appointment of Council Member Mullins to the Board of STEP, Inc. No board term limit was discussed.**

## 9. **Closed Meeting and Action**

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

**Time:** 6:24 p.m.

**Virginia Code Section:**

- 9.1 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.

- 9.2 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 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: 7:16 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, January 22, 2024, 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.

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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)**

**10. Adjournment**

**Motion:** To adjourn

**Time:** 7:18 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

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C. Holland Perdue III, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk