



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**February 12, 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:

Robert J. Wood, Town Manager
Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk/Executive Admin. Assistant
Vincent Copenhaver, Finance Director
Michael "Kevin" Adkins, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent
Daniel Pinard, Economic & Cultural Development Director
Dennis "Moe" Potter, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent
Brian Schofield, Public Works Superintendent
Phillip Young, Chief of Police, RMPD

Town Attorney John T. Boitnott was unable to attend

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. Approval of Consent Agenda

4.1 Miscellaneous Action

Kingdom Run 5K

Johnny CASA 5 Miler 5K Run Walk

Eagle Strut 5K Fundraiser

4.2 Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations

4.3 Approval of Draft Minutes

Regular Town Council Meeting Draft Minutes – January 22, 2024

Town Council & Planning Commission Joint Work Session Draft Minutes
– January 23, 2024

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: 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)

5. **Special Items**

5.1 Presentation from RVARC Executive Director Mr. Jermey Holmes

The RVARC is one of twenty-one planning districts created by the state, specifically chartered by the Code of Virginia, assisting in matters of more than local significance. Some issues RVARC works with are transportation, economic development, environmental planning, with a focus on developing plans and projects that are delivered in the most cost-efficient way possible. Mr. Holmes shared a booklet of information with Council and touched on the topics of addiction crisis, the Virginia Opioid Grant Authority Cooperative Response Program, and Future Smart Scale Programming,

5.2 150th Anniversary History Highlights

Mrs. Glenna Moore shared some African American history to help observe Black History month in February.

In 1992 and in 1993, two buildings on the campus of Franklin County High School were named in honor of two African American educators; the Dorothy Phelps Student

Services Building and the Samuel Hawkins Central Gym. Both African American educators were hired in the 1940s to teach at the all black Franklin County Training School, later renamed Lee M. Waid High School. Mrs. Phelps was born in Bluefield, Virginia. Samuel Hawkins was born in Salisbury, North Carolina. Mrs. Phelps and Mr. Hawkins received their degrees from Bluefield State College and Livingstone College with graduate degrees from Wayne State and Radford University. The Federal Government forced Franklin County Public Schools to fully integrate in 1970 and afterwards, both educators were assigned to the Franklin County High School and Junior High campus.

Mrs. Phelps was an art and math teacher. Mrs. Phelps and her husband, Waid Phelps, owned Midway Cleaners on Warren Street. In 1970, Mr. Waid Phelps became the first elected African American on the Rocky Mount Town Council. After 15 years of service, Councilman Phelps passed away and his wife Dorothy was appointed to complete his term from 1985 – 1988 making Dorothy the first African American woman on the Rocky Mount Town Council.

During this time in Rocky Mount's history, the NAACP organized protest regarding employment practices at the newly established Kroger store and at other town businesses.

Mr. Samuel Hawkins retired after 37 years as a teacher at Lee M. Waid High School. Mr. Hawkins was also a coach and a Franklin County High School Administrator. After the Central Gym was built, many referred to it as "the house that Hawk built." The Lee M. Waid High School basketball team was called the Hawks. Mr. Hawkins encouraged players from Lee M. Waid High School to play for the Franklin County High School team and with many of them doing so, not only did the team grow, but the gym the players played their games in at Ramsey Hall became too small to hold the crowds that would come out to see the teams play.

Mr. Robert Wray became a successful educator and coach in Roanoke and in Bluefield West Virginia. In 1996, Mr. Robert Elmore Wray, Sr. (Robert Wray's father) became the third African American to serve on the Rocky Mount Town Council and he served honorably until his death in 1997.

In August 2001, Mrs. Sadie Tunning became the fourth African American to serve on the Rocky Mount Town Council. Mrs. Tunning was appointed to finish the term for Mr. John Lester when he stepped back from serving on Town Council. Mrs. Tunning later ran for election and became the first African American woman to be elected to serve on the Rocky Mount Town Council.

Mr. Billie W. Stockton ran for Town Council in 2012 and was elected and became the fifth African American to serve on the Town Council. On July 2, 2019, Mr. Stockton was appointed as the Town's first African American Vice Mayor.

Mr. Abron Ralph Casey then became the sixth African American to serve on the Rocky Mount Town Council. Mr. Casey was appointed to finish the term of former Council Member Mr. Bobby M. Cundiff when he stepped back from serving on Town Council. Mr. Casey ran for office and was elected in November 2022 to a four-year term.

5.3 Introduction of Tamika Royal as New Staff Member

New Employee, Assistant Town Manager Moore introduced Ms. Tamika Royal as the Town's new grant coordinator position. Ms. Royal comes to the Town from the West Piedmont Planning District Commission in Martinsville, Virginia.

6. **Hearing of Citizens**

None at this time

7. **New Business**

7.1 Fluoride Award from Water

The Water Treatment Plant received a Water Fluoridation Quality Award from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for the year 2022. Council recognized everyone at the Water Treatment Plant for their diligence in receiving the award.

7.2 Data Collection Platform for Economic Development

With funds set aside for an economic development strategic plan, staff would like to use those funds differently than what they were earmarked for and therefore brought to Council staff's new recommendation.

The first primary reason for an economic development strategic plan is the growth of the economy with the second primary reason being data.

Staff recommended a service called Placer which is a data service that provides insights to municipalities seeking to optimize planning and economic development strategies. The Town would be able to utilize the information to make more informed decisions about retail recruitment, tourism promotion, and the information given by Placer would provide data that the Town could share with local businesses that might be helpful to them.

Traffic analysis would be available to the Town and Placer would also be helpful in applying for grants.

Placer is available by subscription that the Town would purchase yearly. With advanced geofencing techniques, Placer would create and define a virtual area of any size on a map. A perimeter would be placed around an event that would give the Town data on that virtual area, which could go back 5 years.

Motion: To approve the reallocation of funds for the Placer.

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 to 0)

8. Closed Meeting and Action

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

Time: 6:38 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 Mullins

Second: Council Member Newbill

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: 6:59 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, February 12, 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.

C. Holland Perdue III, Mayor

Motion: To come out of closed session

Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton

Second: 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)

10. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn

Time: 7:01 p.m.

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

Seconded By: 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)

Action: Meeting was adjourned

C. Holland Perdue III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk