



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**March 11, 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
Brad Basham, Assistant Fire Chief

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. Mayor Perdue amended the agenda by adding a resolution to Special Items to honor Franklin County retired baseball player, Mr. Ron Hodges.

Motion: To approve the amended 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

Publication of Notice to hold a Public Hearing for FY24-25 Tax Rate

Procurement Policy Update

4.2 Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations

4.3 Approval of Draft Minutes

Regular Town Council Meeting Draft Minutes – February 12, 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: Vice Mayor Stockton

Seconded: Council Member Clements

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 Resolution to Honor Franklin County Retired Baseball Player, Mr. Ron Hodges

Mayor Perdue read the resolution aloud to celebrate the life and legacy of Mr. Ron Hodges who played for the New York Mets from 1973 until his retirement in 1984. Mr. Hodges was a catcher and played 12 seasons for the Mets including going to the World Series one time. He was inducted into four Halls of Fame.

6. Hearing of Citizens

Mrs. Glenna H. Moore, 45 Scenic River Drive, Rocky Mount, VA shared regarding Women's History Month. The theme this year is Women who advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion. Early Franklin County court records show that black women, free and enslaved, played a vital part in the history of Franklin County.

Mrs. Moore spoke about Ms. Nancy Beverly in the 1700s who was the wife of a black revolutionary war soldier, Mr. Sylvester Beverly. Mrs. Beverly was the great grandmother of Carrott and Samuel Beverly who were brothers enlisted as United States colored troop soldiers in the Union Army during the Civil War.

Many black women worked in domestic jobs such as cooks in restaurants and housekeepers in hotels where they would not be allowed to eat or sleep. Many of the women worked poorly paid jobs without any social security benefits. Some as maids, strolled children of the people the black women worked for to Mary Elizabeth Park where the children of the maids could not take their own children to play.

In 1941, African American women in Rocky Mount organized a club named after Mary McCloud Bethune who was once one of the most powerful African Americans of her time for women's rights. The mission of the club was to support the needs of black children that were not being met due to Rocky Mount's harsh segregation policies. The black children were not allowed in Mary Elizabeth Park, so money was raised by The Bethune Club to build a park on East Street where black children could safely play.

7. New Business

7.1 Resolution regarding Franklin County Solid Waste Management Plan 2024

The Franklin County Solid Waste Management Plan must be updated and submitted to the state once every five years. Franklin County plans to adopt as well as Boones Mill.

Motion: To approve the resolution for the updated Franklin County Solid Waste Management Plan 2024.

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 to 0)

7.2 Approval Memorandum of Understanding with Ferrum College Police Department and Donation of Surplus Police Department Vehicle

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Police Chief Joe Kelley was in your packet for your review.

The Town of Rocky Mount and Ferrum College recognize the importance of enhancing public safety and security within each jurisdiction and would like to see the Explosives K9 Team provide services for the purpose of assisting with explosive detection activities. The Town of Rocky Mount also has a vehicle that will help with the use of the K9 Team that will go with the K9 to Ferrum College as well.

Motion: To approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Ferrum College Police Department and the donation of the surplus police department vehicle.

Motion By: Council Member Lee

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)

7.3 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for Fiscal Years 2025-2029

The budget schedule presented to Council was similar to ones in the past with a five-year capital improvement plan except new columns were added to indicate the current fiscal year already approved as well as any carry over projects and spending on those projects.

All projects were listed with their respective departments. Also listed are the projects estimates for the next five fiscal years. General Fund projects and Utility Fund projects are listed separately to better understand how to fund those projects within the budget.

8. **Closed Meeting and Action**

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

Time: 6:14 p.m.

Virginia Code Section:

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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.

Motion: To go into closed session

Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton

Second: Council Member Casey

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: 6:40 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, March 11, 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: Council Member Lee

Second: 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. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Time: 6:41 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