



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**April 8, 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 Benjamin K. Mullins
Council Member Mark H. Newbill

Council Member J. Tyler Lee was unable to attend.

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
John T. Boitnott, Town Attorney
Mark W. Moore, Assistant Town Manager
Phillip Young, Chief of Police, RMPD
Brian Schofield, Public Works Superintendent
Amy D. Gordon, Assistant Finance Director/Human Resource Director

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 for all members that were present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Perdue led in the pledge of allegiance.

Council Member Lee was unable to attend the meeting and asked Mayor Perdue to share with Council that he would like to thank the folks that picked up the trash on Scuffling Hill as he appreciated their efforts.

3. Approval of Agenda

Prior to the meeting, Council received the agenda for review and consideration. Mayor Perdue amended the agenda by adding a closed session to the meeting and recited the Virginia Code pertaining to that closed session as Section 2.2-3711(A).3 and 7.

Motion: To approve the amended agenda

Motion By: Council Member Casey

Seconded: Council Member Mullins

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill.

Approved (5 to 0)

4. Approval of Consent Agenda

4.1 Miscellaneous Action

- Request for:
1. Court Days June 8, 2024
 2. Community Christmas Tree Lighting December 6, 2024
 3. Come Home to a Franklin County Christmas December 7, 2024

4.2 Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations

4.3 Approval of Draft Minutes

Regular Town Council Meeting Draft Minutes – March 11, 2024
Town Council & Planning Commission Joint Work Session Draft Minutes
– March 19, 2024
Special Called Town Council Meeting Draft Minutes – March 25, 2024

4.4 Departmental Monthly Reports

Community Development Department

Finance Department

Fire Department

Police Department

Public Works Department

Wastewater Department

Water Department

4.5 Bulk Fuel Procurement

Motion: To approve the consent agenda

Motion By: Council Member Mullins

Seconded: Vice Mayor Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (5 to 0)

5. **Special Items**

5.1 Water Treatment Plant 2023 Gold Performance Award for Excellence in Clarification, Filtration, and Backwash

The staff at the Water Treatment Plant were recently recognized for receiving the 2023 Gold Performance Award for Excellence in the operation of the Water Plant. Town Manager Wood and Council commended staff for providing good, safe drinking water for all town citizens. Receiving the gold award is the highest award of its kind that can be awarded.

6. Public Hearing

6.1 Public Hearing for the 2024 Reassessment Effective Real Estate Tax Rate

No one from the public called or signed in to speak.

7. Hearing of Citizens

Mrs. Glenna Moore, 45 Scenic River Drive, Rocky Mount, VA shared a true story regarding two cemeteries in Rocky Mount. Mrs. Moore rode the African American Sunday School bus from Patterson Avenue to the original church located on Franklin Street. Mr. Ervin Smith, who drove the bus, drove 40 black children from Diamond Avenue Extension to Mary Cogar Lane, State Street, and the Tank Hill communities would pass by Byrd View and High Street Cemetery. Mrs. Moore knew them as the white cemetery and the colored cemetery.

According to the Franklin County Historical Society, the High Street Cemetery began as a family burial ground when Dr. Richard Taliaferro's wife Polly died in 1837.

Union Veteran and Captain K. Byrd settled in Rocky Mount after the Civil War. Mrs. Moore shared a story about Yankee Captain K. Byrd loving a black woman by the name of Cecilie Sarah Frith. The census showed the two people living as husband and wife and their 1930s tomb stone indicated they were married though it was unlikely that they were legally married as interracial marriage was illegal in Virginia until 1967.

Mrs. Lula Saunders who was a black town resident, and an educator, met Captain K. Byrd and verified that he purchased burial plots in High Street Cemetery though his request was denied as it was believed that he planned to bury not only himself there but Cecilie Frith there also on a property that only white people were buried on. For that reason, Captain Byrd established his own cemetery on Byrd Lane called Byrd View Cemetery that became a resting place for African Americans.

Mr. Richard Woods, who was a black man, was lynched in Franklin County 5 miles West of Rocky Mount in 1880 for living with a white woman. His lynching is recognized at the Montgomery Alabama National Memorial for Peace and Justice. He was one among 4,500 other blacks lynched in America.

Franklin County erected two statues celebrating a confederate effort to preserve a way of life that subjugated 4 million enslaved people. One was during the Jim Crow segregation and the other the 21st Century.

8. New Business

8.1 Presentation of Town of Rocky Mount Proposed FY2024-2025 Budget

Town Manager Wood gave a high overview of contents in the budget and reminded Council of the dates and times for the first and second work session as well as the public hearing that will be in May.

No action was needed at this time.

9. Closed Meeting and Action

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

Time: 6:10 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: Council Member Clements

Second: Council Member Mullins

Motion Discussion: None

Action: To go into a closed meeting

Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (5 – 0)

Going Into Closed Session

Returning from Closed Session

Town Clerk Dillon Stated the Recording had Resumed

Time: 6:29 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	Absent	-
Benjamin K. Mullins	Present	Certify
Mark H. Newbill	Present	Certify
Mayor, C. Holland Perdue III	Present	Certify

Certified: (6): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, 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, April 8, 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 Clements

Second: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (5 – 0)

10. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn

Time: 6:31 p.m.

Motion By: Council Member Mullins

Seconded By: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Vice Mayor Stockton, Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (5 – 0)

Action: Meeting was adjourned

C. Holland Perdue III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk