



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**May 13, 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
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
Jessica Angle, Planning & Zoning Administrator

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 being present.

Before the meeting proceeded, Mayor Perdue asked everyone to join in a moment of silence for the passing of Ms. Donna Wray who passed away on Friday, May 3, 2024.

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 amended agenda

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Mayor Perdue added that the agenda needed to be amended due to the Public Safety and Utilities Committee meeting prior to the Council meeting and to allow the committee to bring a recommendation back to the Council. Mayor Perdue also removed the Closed Meeting and Action from the agenda as it was not needed at this time.

Motion Retraction: Council Member Lee retracted his motion just made and made a new motion.

Motion: To approve the amended agenda due to the Public Safety and Utilities Committee meeting and having a recommendation to share with Council in addition to the removal of the Closed Meeting and Action.

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

Doggie Dash 5K Race

Farm Days Parade

Franklin County Wrestling Booster Club Fundraising Event

4.2 Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations

Supplemental Appropriation for FY 2023-2024 Budget

4.3 Approval of Draft Minutes

Regular Town Council Meeting Draft Minutes – April 8, 2024

Town Council Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Proposed Budget Work Session
No. 1 – April 11, 2024

Town Council Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Proposed Budget Work Session
No. 2 – April 15, 2024

Town Council fiscal Year 2024-2025 Proposed Budget and Capital
Improvement Plan Public hearing – May 6, 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

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 to 0)

5. Old Business

5.1 Resolution to adopt and appropriate the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, adopt the Tax Rates Fees and Utility Rates, and adopt the Fiscal Year 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan

There were two public work sessions, a public hearing, and changes made within the budget that Council wanted to see. Town Manager Wood called for Council to vote on the budget.

Motion: To approve and pass the budget, and to adopt the Tax Rates, and Fees, and the Utility Rates, and also to adopt the Fiscal Year 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan

Motion By: Council Member Mullins

Second: 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)

MEMBERS	ATTENDANCE	VOTE
J. Tyler Lee	Present	Yes
Mark H. Newbill	Present	Yes
A. Ralph Casey	Present	Yes
David K. Clements	Present	Yes
Benjamin K. Mullins	Present	Yes
Billie W. Stockton	Present	Yes
Mayor, C. Holland Perdue III	Present	Yes

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Action: The Budget for FY2025 as presented was approved, including Mayor Perdue voting, for a vote of 7 to 0 in favor of approving and passing the budget, to adopt the Tax Rates, and Fees, adopt the Utility Rates, and adopt the Fiscal Year 2025-2029 Capital Improvement Plan.

6. Special Items

6.1 Recognition of Winner of Virginia Municipal League's If I Were Mayor Contest

Miss Avery Galimore from Region II was this year's winner of the Virginia Municipal League's If I Were Mayor Contest. Miss Galimore is an 8th grade student at Christian Heritage Academy.

6.2 Recognition of Virginia Farmers Market Association Certification

The Virginia Certified Farmers Market Program was organized to recognize markets throughout Virginia for meeting and exceeding best practices. There are three levels of certifications; bronze, silver, and gold. Each level is based on a point system that covers food safety, continuing education, and public safety. The more points a market accumulates, the higher the certification the market receives. Under the leadership of the Market Manager, Ms. Amanda Holland, and under the leadership of Cultural Development Director, Daniel Pinard, the VAMFA has awarded our Farmers Market the gold certification award. With more than 240 markets throughout Virginia, only 18 of them are gold.

6.3 2023 Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Distinguished Budget Presentation

The GFOA is a national organization made up of public finance professionals across the United States and Canada. The organization aims to advance the mission of excellence in public finance. The Town has received the GFOA award for excellence in financial reporting previously, but this is the first time the Town has received the award for excellence in governmental budgeting. This award is the highest form of recognition in governmental budgeting and its attainment represents a significant achievement by the organization.

7. **Public Hearing**

7.1 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

Economic & Cultural Development Director Pinard presented to Council that the town has a planning grant from Virginia Housing Community Development (VHCD) for the North Main Street revitalization.

The planning grant is the first phase and then the town will prepare for the next phase which will be to implement the plan.

The town has been working with Hill Studio in Roanoke and those folks will be here at the regular council meeting in July to present the final plan two to Council. The application for the invitation will be in July at which time the Town will require two public hearings.

The amount of funding for the project is \$1,200,000. Although this information was shared with Council and the public, there was no action needing to be taken at this time.

7.2 Twin Creeks Distillery is requesting a special exception permit under Article 29-1-32, to operate a micro-distillery at 140 Franklin Street, Rocky Mount, Virginia

Planning & Zoning Administrator Angle shared with Council that Twin Creeks Distillery has a new location of 140 Franklin Street and would like to operate a micro-distillery there as well as provide educational demonstrations for visitors and guests that they might witness the traditional side of distilling. The new location will operate just as the previous one did with retail distilling and a tasting room.

On Tuesday, May 7th, the Planning Commission held a public hearing regarding the requested special exception permit. Staff recommended approval based on the conformance with the Comprehensive Plan and the contributions they have made toward economic development and tourism. The Planning Commission recommended approval to Council with the vote of 7-0 in favor of the permit.

No one signed up to speak at either one of the public hearings prior to the meeting or at the meeting.

There were no questions from Council, so Mayor Perdue entertained a motion.

Motion: To approve the special exception permit for Twin Creeks Distillery at 140 Franklin Street to operate a micro-distillery as presented.

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 – 0)

8. Hearing of Citizens

Mrs. Glenna Moore, 45 Scenic River Drive, Rocky Mount, VA shared after the Civil War, many southerners did not look favorably on northern philanthropists who contributed financially to black causes in the south. Education was one example. Booker T. Washington befriended and encouraged their support. One of those philanthropists was Anna T. Jeans who was a wealthy quaker from Philadelphia who worked with Booker T. Washington to establish a foundation known as the Negro Rural School Fund. Ms. Jeans wanted her money to benefit Black schools and the idea was to provide supervisors for rural Black schools which would serve as consultants and assistants to Black teachers

some of whom had not taught previously. Ms. Jeans was so impressed with Booker T. Washinton and gave him power to put together a board of trustees to spend her donated money on the rural areas. Ms. Jeans insisted Booker T. Washington sit on the board and choose the other members. Mr. Washington selected Black men who favored industrial education for Black people and hired southern white men to approach the southern public officials to hire Black teachers for the schools.

In 1929, Minnie Moorman who is a resident of Rocky Mount, was hired as the first Jeans supervisor for Franklin County Negro Schools. Ms. Moorman supervised all of the Black schools in Franklin County. There were 30 one room schools, a training school at L.M. Waid, Booker T. Washington Elementary, and Truevine. After 41 years, she retired in 1963 as Franklin County Public Schools were federally mandated to desegregate. After retiring, Ms. Moorman traveled extensively and served as a Black society writer for the local paper. Ms. Moorman's brick home on Warren Street still stands today as does the 4-plex apartment building across the street that she had built to accommodate African American professionals that came to this area during Jim Crowe segregation.

9. Committee Reports

9.1 The Public Safety & Utilities Committee met to discuss Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) on potential street improvements

The Public Safety & Utilities Committee met at 4:30 p.m. just prior to the Council meeting to review the intersection along Tanyard and Franklin Street for safety improvements, street crossings and raised medians to limit collisions. Also, discussed was the intersection of Floyd and Franklin Street regarding a Smart-Scale project for a round-about being built. Even if the projects were funded by VDOT, the projects would likely be at least 6-7 years down the road from now.

Motion: To recommend proceeding forward with all of the potential street improvements by submitting the applications to VDOT for the projects.

Motion By: Council Member Casey

Second: 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)

9. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Time: 6:24 p.m.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton

Seconded By: 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)

Action: Meeting was adjourned

C. Holland Perdue III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk