



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**June 10, 2024
6:00 p.m.**

The following members
of Council were present:

Mayor C. Holland Perdue III
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
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
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 the members that were present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Perdue led in the pledge of allegiance.

Now therefore a quorum of the Rocky Mount Town Council had assembled for this meeting, at Town Attorney Boitnott's direction, a vote was taken to allow Vice Mayor Stockton to participate in this meeting by conference phone due to him being absent in person which was due to illness. The location of Vice Mayor Stockton was his home located at 205 Musefield Road, Rocky Mount, VA 24151. The policy to allow remote participation in the meeting was approved at the Regular Council Meeting on December 12, 2022. It was passed by a unanimous vote.

Motion: To allow Vice Mayor Stockton to participate remotely in this Town Council Regular Meeting as presented by Mayor Perdue.

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Second: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5) Council Member Casey, Council Member Clements, Council Member Lee, Council Member Mullins, and Council Member Newbill

Approved (5 to 0)

3. Approval of Agenda

Prior to the meeting, Council received the agenda for review and consideration.

Mayor Perdue stated that the agenda needed to be amended to add a second closed meeting section. Section 2.2-3711(A).1 Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body with regard to boards and commissions.

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. Hearing of Citizens

Mrs. Glenna H. Moore of 45 Scenic River Drive, Rocky Mount, shared that in 1965, during Franklin County's Freedom of Choice School Integration System, Mrs. Moore was the only 13-year-old Black girl in her history class. Mrs. Moore's teacher taught about the south and how the Freedmen's Bureau was intrusive and unnecessary during reconstruction. Jubal Early pushed the philosophy prevalent in the south at that time and allowed southerners to declare that the reason for secession from the union was noble and for a good cause of keeping the southern culture.

Mrs. Moore paid homage to the four U.S. Military Officers that were assigned to Franklin County and the Town of Rocky Mount to protect newly freed slaves. Mrs. Moore made noble mention of the 31-year-old Lieutenant DeKnight, who was a White military officer from New York stationed in Rocky Mount between 1865 and 1868 to supervise Franklin County's reconstruction, a requirement for Virginia to reenter the union. He represented the United States Bureau of Refugees Freed and Abandoned Lands, more commonly referred to as the Freedman's Bureau. Referencing an article by Charles Wall, Mrs. Moore shared that 1st Lieutenant DeKnight's job was to protect and advance Franklin County's ex-slaves during the immediate aftermath of the Civil War by providing relief in the form of food, clothes, and secure work. The Freedman's Bureau was also informed of their voting rights in the civil rights act of 1866 as well as the 14th Amendment. The Bureau made sure that Franklin County Black males were registered and voted without harassment.

Two schools for Black children and adults were established. One in Gogginsville and one in Rocky Mount. Mrs. Moore shared that it was also during this time that Hanyus behaviors were reported of the white people in the community towards the black people and it was thought a contributing factor to that was the harsh conditions left by the loss of the war and the horrific economic conditions caused by the war.

5. Approval of Consent Agenda

5.1 Miscellaneous Action

Letter to Veterans Commission regarding Veterans Park

Supplement #3 to Rocky Mount Town Code

Revised Budgetary Appropriations to the FY2023-2024 Budget

5.2 Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations

Resolutions for VDOT Funding Applications

5.3 Approval of Draft Minutes

Regular Town Council Meeting Draft Minutes – May 13, 2024

Rocky Mount Town Council & Planning Commission Joint Worksession
Draft Minutes – May 21, 2024

5.4 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)

6. **Special Items**

6.1 Recognition to RMPD for receiving award from FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association

The Rocky Mount Police Department was recognized by the FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association (FBI LEEDA). The award was called the FBI Agency Trilogy Award. Command Staff at the Rocky Mount Police Department has gone through a series of training courses offered through the FBI Academy that is an innovative leadership training program designed to strengthen the public leadership role worldwide.

The distinction of this award is that only 134 law enforcement organizations over the entire United States have earned this award.

7. **Public Hearing**

7.1 Debt Issuance

Davenport Public Finance is the Town's financial advisor on debt, investments, and any kind of financial matters. The Town advertised they were interested in issuing up to \$11 million including \$5 million to refinance some current debt depending on the financing terms the Town would be given. The terms were not favorable so \$6 million is the final amount the Town will finance.

Mr. Kyle Laux, from Davenport Public Finance, made a presentation to Council. He explained that the debt would be for capital projects that had been approved in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) last spring. The process was to competitively bid on the process to finance capital projects which include two fire trucks, water line work, sidewalk improvements, as well as a variety of other things within the town's adopted CIP.

Mr. Laux shared a slide show with Council. Three proposals were presented from Truist, Webster Bank, and Zions Bank with the best proposal being with Webster Bank. Webster Bank has the lowest interest rate, fixed rate, and gives prepayment flexibility.

Mayor Perdue stated that no one signed up to speak prior to the meeting and there was no one signed up to speak at this time.

Motion: To adopt the resolution as presented

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Second: 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)

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: To adopt the resolution with a vote of 7 to 0 including Mayor Perdue voting.

7.2 North Main Street Planning Project

An application was submitted approximately two years ago to the State of Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VHCD) for a planning grant. Public information meetings were held during the precontract period after which a planning grant was awarded allowing the Town to hire professional services and put the information out to bid as well as the Town was able to hire Hill Studio from Roanoke. Hill Studio has been working on the North Main Street Planning Project since January 2024 during which time Mr. David Hill from Hill Studio began speaking with business owners in the North Main Street area to get a better understanding of what they would like to see from the project. Cultural and Economic Development Director Pinard shared that the Town applied for the State's lengthy grant process so the town would be eligible for the larger of the grants available called the Community Improvement Grant (CIG). Cultural and Economic Development Director Pinard pointed out the importance of applying for state grant funding rather than local tax payers bearing the burden of local funding. However, Council and staff must remember that the process takes time (4-6 months to apply and 4-6 months to hear back from the application) and with state and federal grants, the Town will have to fall within the state and federal grant guidelines can be used for.

Mr. David Hill of Hill Studio then made a presentation to Council of the North Main Street corridor and what the VHCD would be looking for regarding the planning project there.

If the Town went forward with the grant application for the project, although there was no match required, Mr. Hill recommended that the Town include a deposit to be more competitive.

Mayor Perdue stated that no one signed up to speak prior to the meeting and there was no one signed up to speak at this time.

The Community and Economic Development Committee met prior to the regular Council meeting this evening and have a recommendation to share with Council from that meeting. Chairman Mullins shared their recommendation to adopt the resolution and move forward with the application.

Motion: To adopt the resolution and move forward with the application.

Motion By: Council Member Mullins

Second: Council Member Newbill

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. New Business

8.1 Sludge Collection System Replacement at Water Treatment Plant

The Capital Improvement Plan included approximately \$600,000 in the budget for this budget year that Council approved. Premier Group Limited was the lowest bidder at \$919,000. The additional funds needed will be appropriated from the general fund fund balance in the amount of \$319,000.

The current system in use is just over 40 years old, is part of the original system installed when the plant was built and has since failed on part of it so when cleaned, the basin has to be drained down, and washed out manually with the water hose.

Motion: To move forward and approve project funding request

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 – 0)

9. Closed Meeting and Action

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

Time: 6:50 p.m.

Virginia Code Section:

9.1 Section 2.2-3711(A).1 Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body.

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 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: 7:03 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, June 10, 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)

POST CLOSED SESSION ACTION:

Motion: To proceed with the process needed to finish acquiring the land for the dog park off of Technology Drive in Rocky Mount.

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 – 0)

POST CLOSED SESSION ACTION CONTINUED:

Motion: To proceed with filling one of the two vacant seats on the Veterans Memorial Commission by making the motion to appoint Mr. Lucas Tuning to the Commission commencing immediately and with a term of no expiration (customary with the Veterans Memorial Commission). The motion was also made to proceed with filling the second vacant seat on the Veterans Memorial Commission by making the motion to appoint Mr. Derek Spencer to the Commission commencing immediately and with a term of no expiration (also customary with the Veterans Memorial Commission).

Motion By: Council Member Lee

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 – 0)

10. **Adjournment**

Motion: To adjourn

Time: 6:56 p.m.

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Seconded By: 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)

Action: Meeting was adjourned

C. Holland Perdue III, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk