



**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**October 21, 2024
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 participated by conference phone

The following staff
members were also
present:

John T. Boitnott, Town Attorney
Robert J. Wood, Town Manager
Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk/Executive Admin. Assistant
Mark W. Moore, Assistant Town Manager
Vincent Copenhaver, Finance Director
Michael "Kevin" Adkins, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent
Daniel Pinard, Economic & Cultural Development Director
Dennis "Moe" Potter, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent
Mark Lovern, 1st Sergeant, RMPD
Phillip Young, Chief of Police, RMPD
Amy D. Gordon, Assistant Finance Director/Human Resource Director
Brian Schofield, Public Works Superintendent
Blake Flinchum, Grant Coordinator

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 Council Member Newbill to participate in this meeting by conference phone due to him being absent in person which was due to personal reasons of him being out due to illness. The location of Council Member Newbill was his residence in Rocky Mount, VA. 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 Council Member Newbill to participate remotely in this Town Council Regular Meeting as presented by Mayor C. Holland Perdue III.

Motion By: Council Member Lee

Second: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

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

Approved (5 to 0)

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

Changing Use of Budgeted Capital Improvement Funds

2025 Town Meetings Calendar

4.2 Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations

Supplemental Appropriations Resolution for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

4.3 Approval of Draft Minutes

Regular Town Council Meeting Draft Minutes – September 9, 2024

Special Called Town Council Meeting Draft Minutes – September 17, 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. Special Items

5.1 Accolades for Miss Hadley Scott

Miss Hadley Scott was recognized by Mayor Perdue and Council for her Lemonade Stand that raises money for the HOPE Fund, school fund drives, the Roanoke NICU, and the local warming shelter. Miss Scott has worked to provide funds for the last three years to help those in need. Miss Scott was selected for The Roanoker magazine's 18 Under 18.

5.2 Introduce new grant coordinator Mr. Blake Flinchum

Assistant Town Manager Moore introduced recently hired Grant Coordinator Flinchum as staff and Council welcomed him.

5.3 Recognition of Staff & Volunteers from Community Development, Police, Fire, and Public Works for their work with Rocky Mount Fest

Cultural & Economic Development Pinard was praised for all of his work in bringing the festival to fruition. The Rocky Mount Police and Fire Departments as well as Public Works were recognized as well.

6. Hearing of Citizens

Mr. Benny Holland of 135 Vantage Road, Rocky Mount, VA spoke regarding neighborhood cats being run in boxwoods by large dogs. The dogs were believed to be aggressive as they would chase other neighborhood animals and make residents afraid to go outside.

Mr. Todd Overstreet of 315 Hilltop Drive, Rocky Mount, VA shared with Council regarding a small dog and a poodle that run loose throughout the neighborhood.

Mrs. Glenna Hawkins Moore of 45 Scenic River Drive, Rocky Mount, VA shared a story about Mildred Lewis Rutherford who was a historian for the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Ms. Rutherford was a guest speaker in October of 1919, at a Confederate Veterans Reunion where she spoke about the importance of having children taught the lost cause version of southern history. This was the beginning of a book banning movement combined with confederate statues to ensure that the lost cause propaganda would be passed on for many generations. A committee was formed representing three confederate organizations. From the committee, a pamphlet was produced entitled A Measuring Rod To Test History Books. In 1957, the state of Virginia commissioned a history book that the high school and junior high used. The book is criticized today because it justified Virginia's system of slavery but there was no mention of two hundred thousand

USCT soldiers. Mrs. Moore gave Town Clerk Dillon pages of petitions in support of placing a U.S. Colored Troop Monument at the Clock Tower on Franklin Street in Rocky Mount.

7. New Business

7.1 Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program (VHSIP) Funds Resolution

Assistant Town Manager Moore shared that staff was working with VDOT for some safety improvements in town that is through a Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program. The grant application requires a resolution of support by Council. The improvements included would be a variety of pedestrian improvements and high visibility back-plates at stoplights.

Motion: To accept the resolution of support for the Virginia Highway Safety Improvement Program Funds.

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)

7.2 Request for partial waiver for sidewalk requirement to Grassy Hill

Town ordinance requires a sidewalk along any commercial property located within town limits. The hotel developer, OM SHREELUCKY2, INC., requested a partial waiver of the required installation of curb and gutter and a 5-ft sidewalk for a 500-ft portion of Grassy Hill Road from the hotel entrance back up the hill along Grassy Hill Road.

Motion: To approve a partial waiver of curb and gutter and sidewalk from the entrance of the proposed hotel back up Grassy Hill Road .

Motion By: Council Member Mullins

Second: 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)

7.3 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CPR regarding Virginia's Main Street Program

Council approved the creation of a new full-time Executive Director for the Town's further involvement in the Virginia Main Street Program (VMS) in the Fiscal Year 2025 Town Budget. This program requires that the new position be affiliated with a non-profit organization. The Community Partnership for Revitalization is a non-profit and was included in discussions on partnering with the Town in the new position.

Motion: To approve the Memorandum of Understanding between CPR and the Town of Rocky Mount and to authorize Town Manager Wood to sign the agreement.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton

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)

8. Public Hearing

8.1 Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance Update/Adoption

The Planning Commission held a public hearing on the final draft of the proposed zoning and subdivision ordinance on October 1st. The commission recommended Council adopt the new ordinance with a vote of 7-0. There were no public comments at the commission meeting. This public hearing was advertised in the Franklin News Post as required by law.

Mayor Perdue asked for the citizens that had signed up to speak to come forward.

Ms. India Ellis of 250 Compton Street, Rocky Mount, VA spoke on the topic of the Boundary Line Adjustment and her comments can be found under that public hearing.

Motion: To adopt the Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance Update.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton

Second: Council Member Mullins

Mayor Perdue called for a roll call vote.

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

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Action: The Zoning & Subdivision Ordinance Update, including Mayor Perdue voting, was adopted on a vote of 7 to 0 in favor of the adoption.

8.2 Boundary Line Agreement Ordinance/Adoption

The Town of Rocky Mount and Franklin County agreed on a boundary-line adjustment that will increase the physical footprint of the Town and bring several areas currently in the County into the Town limits. A public hearing on this boundary line adjustment was required by both the Town and the County per state code before Franklin County or Town Council could put the adoption to a vote by the Franklin County Board of Supervisors and the Rocky Mount Town Council. Franklin County held their public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 15th, where the agreement was adopted by a unanimous vote.

Mayor Perdue asked for the citizens that had signed up to speak to come forward.

Ms. Ellis' comments from the previous public hearing are incorporated here.

Ms. India Ellis of 250 Compton Street, Rocky Mount, VA spoke and shared she owns 5.5 acres of land with livestock on the property. Ms. Ellis does not want to lose the ability to make extra income by having livestock or the ability to gun hunt on her property. The property is located on a private deeded right of way that will restrict benefits for her of Town services such as trash pickup and snow removal. She did not want the property to be zoned residential but to be zoned residential agricultural or her property be grandfathered in that she might be able to continue to keep livestock on her property.

Mr. Thomas Michael Young of 60 Belmont Drive, Rocky Mount, VA shared concerns that he had regarding the adoption of the boundary-line adjustment. Mr. Young spoke on living outside of Town limits and receiving the benefit of town services without paying town taxes. Mr. Young also expressed concern for existing town businesses and residents subsidizing town services by paying a higher water bill rate and why the particular parcels were selected to be brought into the town limits instead of other parcels.

Motion: To adopt the Boundary Line Agreement Ordinance

Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton

Second: Council Member Casey

Mayor Perdue called for a roll call vote.

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

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Action: The Boundary Line Agreement Ordinance, including Mayor Perdue voting, was adopted on a vote of 7 to 0 in favor of the adoption.

10. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Time: 6:37 p.m.

Motion By: Council Member Lee

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