

**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 4, 2015**

The May 4, 2015 special 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, at 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Steven C. Angle presiding.

The following members of Council were present:

- Mayor Steven C. Angle
- Vice Mayor Gregory B. Walker
- Bobby M. Cundiff
- P. Ann Love
- Robert L. Moyer
- Jon W. Snead
- Billie W. Stockton

The following staff members were present:

- Allan Arrington, Lieutenant, Rocky Mount Police Department
- Bob Deitrich, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent
- Kenneth Criner, Chief of Police
- C. James, Ervin, Town Manager
- Matthew C. Hankins, Assistant Town Manager
- Charles Robertson, Fire Chief
- Stacey B. Sink, Town Clerk
- Linda Woody, Finance Director

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Angle.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public Hearing on the Town of Rocky Mount Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016

Opening Comments by Town Manager Ervin: Through the year staff adds to a list of goals and objectives, projects that Council and staff wants to get done, such as blight abatement and major road improvements, for example. Then staff puts together a budget document that contains as many of those goals and objectives as possible. Scuffling Hill improvements and Veterans' Park have been on the agenda for many years, trash trucks, fire apparatus, etc. Council then takes the document through worksessions to make sure it is a good fiscal roadmap. This is the time to make course corrections and to become the locality that the governing body wants to become. Now the Town is moving into the code required process of having a public hearing. The hope is to roll comments and suggestions here tonight into the fiscal policy roadmap for the upcoming year.

After being duly advertised, Mayor Angle recessed the meeting to hold the annual budget public hearing. Although no one had signed up to address Council, the Mayor opened the floor to any

members of the audience wishing to comment.

Ben Pinkard, of 125 Riverview Street, Rocky Mount came forward. He appreciates all that Town Council does for the community. There are a couple of things in the budget that he does not agree with. One is the amount of money that the Town is proposing to spend at Veterans' Park. He respects the park and understands the need to secure the riverbanks at the site. But, this is budgeted at almost \$0.5 million. It seems like there would have been some concern when the park was built due to the water. He was raised there, is 71 years old, and the banks are still the same. He is fully supportive of securing the bank with rocks that were taken out of the cliff when the road was widened, which will cost several thousand, but half a million does not reflect a benefit to the citizens of Rocky Mount. The second thing is a receptionist for the town manager in the amount of \$48,000. He thinks this is excessive. He would like to see some of the staff wear a couple of hats, rearrange the staff a little bit. With the size of this building and the number of departments in it, signs pointing the way are all that is needed. Mr. Ervin has the town clerk as his secretary. Not convinced that Rocky Mount needs a receptionist. The third thing he would like to know more about is the Harvester Performance Center's financials for one year of performances, and he would like to know how the expenses and revenues fell for each of the months to see if it is gaining on the losses. If it has been the same loss averaging each month, then there is no gaining ground on the problem. He has been to one show - beach music - and it was a great show. If it cannot be turned around then there has to be an alternative plan for the outcome of the Harvester. Cannot deplete the surplus year after year. The Town gained \$100,000 in revenue, but by report lost \$600,000 in trying to gain \$100,000 in only 10 months. He would like to see if the losses are constant on the average, month after month, or if the losses are decreasing as time goes along.

Mayor Angle opened the floor, again, for comment.

Barry Smith, of 55 Brookshire Drive, Rocky Mount came forward. He is concerned about subsidizing \$600,000 to keep the Harvester Performance Center in operation. Now the Town is putting in the budget another almost \$400,000 to underwrite the Harvester Performance Center again. If the center cannot stand on its own, then there is a problem, possible bad management, or a bad person scheduling shows, or too low ticket prices. It should not be subsidized with tax payer money. He questioned the town manager if the Harvester Performance Center is set up as an LLC. Following a reminder that he should address his comments to the Council and not the town manager, Mr. Smith noted his lack of respect for Town Manager Ervin and belief that the Town administration is incompetent.

There being no other persons wishing to speak, Mayor Angle closed the floor for comment and called the meeting back into regular session.

WORKSESSION

Worksession Discussion Topic: Discussion of the Town of Rocky Mount Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Prior to Adoption

General Discussion:

- The town manager noted that it is time to put the budget on Council's agenda for adoption on May 11th. He asked for any changes or comments from Council at this time.
- Mayor Angle asked if Council was ready to advertise this document for adoption.

- Council Member Moyer offered comments on what Mr. Pinkard said in relation to having a receptionist. He feels that it is a whole lot of money that the Town does not need to spend. Can ask for volunteers to answer the phone.
- Mayor Angle pointed out that the \$48,000 includes benefits, not just a salary, includes taxes, fringes, etc.
- The town manager noted that the principal use of this request is to provide service to the public, [not as a secretary to him]. Staff is at a point where it must decide if it is going to continue passport operations. Yes, there are signs up, but he does not think it is the best customer service. Ultimately, however, Council is the steward of the dollars.
- Responding to questions about rotating workers to the front desk, the town manager pointed out that there are only two admins, one in the planning department and one in the town manager's office. Both are very busy. He hired someone during Mrs. Keatts transition to retirement and there was better customer service during that time. He was astounded at how much better it was, and there were comments from the public about it. Currently there is only one active volunteer, though staff has advertised for more without success.
- Council Member Stockton questioned the possibility of part time with no benefits. Town Manager Ervin advised that a part-time position would be a good way to see how the addition of the staff member works.
- It was the consensus of Council to proceed with a part-time position and to also try to recruit volunteers.
- Council Member Cundiff referenced special events, specifically Court Days (Budget Page 51). He thinks that Court Days organizers should have to come before Council to request the FY 2016 funding. They are hoping to make this event an annual thing. This year it was paid out of economic development funds but he thinks the success of the event should be judged before more money is budgeted. The town manager advised the funds can be removed from the undesignated category and placed in the appropriated but undesignated contingency funds. Special event and outside agency contingency which would have to be approved by Council before it can be used. This was the consensus of Council.
- Council Member Cundiff - Page 63 paragraph 4 – asked to be left out. The town manager noted this can be taken out before going to final – there are no designated funds for this. This paragraph is an artifact from a previous requirement that was needed to qualify for the GFOA award.
- Council Member Moyer questioned the amount of the bonus. The mayor advised that there is no bonus unless Council decides to give one later in the year.
- Council Member Moyer commented that he thinks the 3.5% proposed employee raise is out of line with the economy and what the school system is doing. He recommends 2% total.
- It was the consensus of Council to remove the 1% COLA and give the 2.5% step increase.
- Mayor Angle commented that balancing the budget on the backs of the employees is never a good thing to do and he thinks they should be rewarded. It should not matter what the County or school is doing, the Town is a stand-alone entity.
- Council Member Cundiff questioned if Vice Mayor Walker's concern of the Harvester Performance Center's \$60,000 contingency was ever settled. It was not. Vice Mayor Walker advised he is not opposed to \$10,000 in contingency, which would be in line with other departments. He wanted \$20,000 to go to water meters for next year, but that \$20,000 was found somewhere else. The town manager advised it is a different pool of money – utility capital. The town manager recommends rolling the money into contingency, and it will require Council's action to be spent. Consensus of Council to proceed in this manner.
- Council Member Cundiff – under capital projects, the sidewalk from Floyd to Dent. He does not think it is needed. Council Members Love and Moyer agree. Council Member Love would prefer to see the 40 East project finished first.

- The town manager pointed out that he just got a first look at engineering for putting streetlights on Floyd. This can be brought back later. Most of that expense is public works labor. Mayor suggested not taking it off the table but looking at it again next year. The town manager thinks that streetlights are a bigger priority and there is nothing wrong with piece-mealing it. The Town can always ask for a VDOT grant.
- General discussion about adding streetlights to Penny Lane, which cannot happen until a house is actually built on the street.
- Council Member Moyer questioned why staff is considering getting rid of two vehicles and purchasing a used vehicle. The town manager noted this is similar to what the Police Department recently did and is just a good way to get newer vehicles and save money.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Angle entertained a motion to proceed with advertising the budget for adoption.

Motion: To proceed with advertising the budget so Council may vote on the budget at its regular meeting on Monday, May 11, 2015

Motion By: Council Member Love

Second: Vice Mayor Walker

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: Cundiff; Love; Moyer; Snead; Stockton; Walker

Nays: None

Action: The advertisement of the budget for a vote on May 11 was approved by a unanimous vote.

CLOSED MEETING

Entering Closed Meeting:

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

Time: 7:49 p.m.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Walker

Virginia Code Sections:

A. 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 public meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employer or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matter requiring the provision of legal service by such counsel (Board of Zoning Appeals decision).

Second: Council Member Snead

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: Cundiff; Love; Moyer; Snead; Stockton; Walker

Nays: None

Action: Meeting convened into closed session by a unanimous vote

Exiting Closed Meeting:

Motion: To reconvene back into regular session

Time: 8:25 p.m.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Walker
Second: Council Member Snead
Motion Discussion: None
Ayes: Cundiff; Love; Moyer; Snead; Stockton; Walker
Nays: None
Action: Meeting reconvened into regular session by a unanimous vote

Declaration of Closed Meeting Discussion:

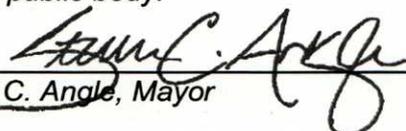
Motion: To certify that nothing was discussed in the closed meeting other than what was stated in the motion to enter the closed meeting
Motion By: Council Member Love
Second: Council Member Cundiff
Motion Discussion: None
Ayes: Cundiff; Love; Moyer; Snead; Stockton; Walker
Nays: None
Action: The Mayor swore to adopt the motion on the floor by Council Member Love and reported that no action was taken during the closed meeting.

Certificate of Closed Meeting:

Whereas, the Rocky Mount Town Council has convened a closed meeting on Monday, May 4, 2015 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;

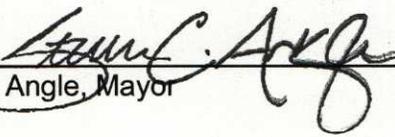
Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Rocky Mount Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each members' knowledge: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the public body.


 Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ADJOURNMENT

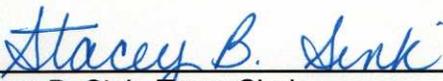
There being no further business to discuss, Mayor Angle entertained a motion to adjourn:

Motion to Adjourn By: Council Member Stockton
Second: Council Member Moyer
Motion Discussion: None
Ayes: Cundiff; Love; Moyer; Snead; Stockton; Walker
Nays: None
Action: Meeting adjourned
Time of Adjournment: 8:27 p.m.



Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ATTEST:



Stacey B. Sink, Town Clerk

SBS/