

**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL  
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
OCTOBER 27, 2009**

A Rocky Mount Town Hall meeting was held on October 27, 2009 in the Council Chambers of the Rocky Mount Municipal Building located at 345 Donald Avenue, Rocky Mount, Virginia at 6:00 p.m.

Although the Rocky Mount Town Council did not preside over the meeting officially, the following members of Council were present:

Mayor Steven C. Angle, Vice Mayor Posey W. Dillon and  
Council Members Jerry W. Greer, Sr., John H. Lester, Roger  
M. Seale, Robert W. Strickler and Gregory B. Walker

The following Town of Rocky Mount staff were present:

- C. James Ervin, Town Manager
- Patricia H. Keatts, Town Clerk
- Erik Mollin, Chief of Police
- Posey W. Dillon, Fire Chief
- Linda Woody, Finance Director
- Robert Deitrich, Water Department Superintendent
- Jessie Jones, Wastewater Department Superintendent
- Timothy Burton, Incoming Wastewater Department Superintendent
- Matthew C. Hankins, Community Development Director and Assistant Town Manager
- Katie McElroy, Community Partnership for Revitalization Executive Director
- Cecil R. Mason, Public Works Department Director

**TOWN HALL STYLE MEETING**

Mayor Angle shared a general orientation of the Town Hall meeting, stating that this meeting would be very informal, with the department heads highlighting what their departments are doing and what is going on in the Town. He further stated that he was very pleased that Senator Robert Hurt of the Nineteenth District in the Senate of Virginia was present, and thus being said, introduced Senator Hurt.

**PRESENTATION BY SENATOR ROBERT HURT**

Senator Robert Hurt thanked the Town and Mayor Angle for the invitation to attend the

Town Hall meeting, and commended the Town for holding these type of meetings. He highlighted the following:

- During the past several years, there has been difficulty with the budget at the state level.
- Wished he had good news, but based on the first quarter budget revenues looked at the state level, things have not improved and as a consequent, it will be difficult next year.
- With this not so good news, it gives all the opportunity to re-evaluate what the core issues are and try to adjust the budgets to work within that framework, and in the long run, serve our future and grandchildren's future well.
- The budget is the biggest thing faced this year on the state level.
- Appreciates being able to have this dialogue with the people of the Town, and encourages anyone having questions to contact him.

The floor was opened for questions:

- Regarding a question from the Town Manager regarding if there was any forecasting at the state level in terms of transportation or school funding, Senator Hurt explained that there was one-time stimulus to the state, with him having concerns about this because of the health care and schools, with him being afraid that they would not pull out of this come January. He further stated that he does not think the state will have the same variable going into January. The last report on the quarter revenues were off, with the Governor introducing the final budget. Also mentioned that the Governor would not be in office in 2010 due to his term expiring; thus, not able to preside over the budget he will be introducing. He also stated that he expects there will have to be adjustments made in terms of state funding to localities. He pointed out that it was interesting concerning the transportation projects in that there was criticism that the Governor did not move fast enough on this, and he hopes that this process will speed up with a new governor coming into office, with this helping jump start some transportation projects.
- The Assistant Town Manager voiced that the Town had concerns over the closing of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) residency office, with this looking like closures were due to localities not having enough political pull, and he questioned if this would be changing with a new governor coming into office. Senator Hurt stated that he pressed the case for not closing VDOT residency offices not only in Franklin County, but also Pittsylvania County and Danville. He mentioned that the formula the state said they used did not make any sense to him at all, and he fully intends to pursue this with whoever the next governor will be due to the change in the administration.
- Janie Hopkins, Executive Director of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, stated that they are concerned about the small business, especially for those that have less than ten employees. She questioned if the state had any plans to help those type of businesses. First of all, Senator Hurt thanked her and the Chamber

for what they do for small businesses, as he as well is a champion for small businesses. He stated that there has been some discussion at the state level regarding enterprise zones and grant programs, and there has been historically support for this. He further mentioned that he is working with someone at the state level on these concerns, and because of real estate investment, part of it is because of the changing decline of real estate business, and it is his hope that one of the by-products will be more money from the state for job creation, which is in the enterprise zone, and he is further hoping that this will free up more dollars for small businesses, but not to get hopes up for any new money on this. Regarding a question from Mrs. Hopkins on health care, Senator Hurt mentioned that he is acutely aware of this, and this is an area that is part of his heritage and he is willing to assist on this.

- Mayor Angle voiced his concern, stating that every time the state had a shortfall in their budget, it seems that it affects the education funding, questioning Senator Hurt if there will be more funding cuts in public education. Senator Hurt stated he would be surprised if there would be a radically different philosophy from either person running for governor at this time, with education being a high priority.
- Council Member Lester stated that the Town submits requests through the County for state funding, but when the funds are actually allocated, the Town does not receive the appropriate amount that it should. He further stated that a few years ago, he had Town staff submit to Senator Hurt and Delegate Poindexter regarding seeing if municipalities with populations of 10,000 or less have a separate funding classification, so the state funds could come directly back to those localities, instead of being lumped all together with the counties. The Town Manager mentioned that the Town had asked that legislation be drafted whereby what Council Member Lester had wanted could take place, but the problem that arose was when the economy took a dive, this request was put on the back seat. He further stated that the Town would like not to have such a high threshold to have their developmental projects have such a low tier to be funded when lumped in with funding through the County. Council Member Lester mentioned that North Carolina has such a mechanism in place to help their smaller localities, and that when the Town was competing to get a business to locate in the Town, North Carolina was able to compete with lower utilities rates, causing the Town to lose in getting that business to locate in-town due to being not able to compete with the lower utility rates North Carolina was able to offer, with North Carolina winning out. Senator Hurt stated that there is fierce competition for economic development in the state, and he would be more than happy to sit down and talk over with Council Member Lester regarding his concerns regarding opportunity funds or other mechanism that could be given towns so they could have more of an advantage. He further commended that he lives in Chatham and has seen first hand what Council Member Lester is talking about. He further mentioned that the Town is doing a great service to the community in trying to reinvest.

Senator Hurt again thanked everyone, and on behalf of the people he represents, thanked

everyone that works hard for the Town.

The Town Manager came forward and touched on several of the items Senator Hurt had spoken about, being:

- What core missions and core services are, with the revenues not being there for non-core items, with the Town being aware of this.
- Town has to balance its budget every 12 months and chart expenses accordingly throughout the year, with expenses being adjusted accordingly. The Town is business revenue dependant, with only 62% of the Town's revenues being taxes, and only 9% being real estate. Over 80% of the Town's tax revenue is based on activity and as the economy slows, the Town's revenue goes down.
- Historically, the Town has used taxes to subsidize services. The Town has generally boosted its utility operation by one-half a million a year, with the Town subsidizing the collection of trash by nearly \$100,000.
- As the Town goes through this process, it has tough choices to make. The citizens input and participation in the process makes it easier, and the budget process is open to citizens' creativity.
- Town has always been a low tax and high service community.
- As departments are looking at what they are doing, staff is always looking at ways to save.
- Next year's budget will be harder, with the Town having less to do with.

## **DEPARTMENT HEADS**

The Town Manager introduced each department head.

### A) Police Department

Chief of Police Erik Mollin introduced himself and stated that he has been with the Police Department for 12 years and thankful to be in the Chief of Police position for the past three years. He thanked Council, citizens, and Town departments for all their help and assistance. The following was pointed out:

- Over the past years, always tries to honor the Police Department personnel with awards for their hard work, giving an example of the MADD award.
- Went over structure of the department, which consists of 20 sworn police officers and two civilian positions.
- Has had a loss of three police officers over the year, with one passing away due to a vehicle accident, and two positions vacant due to the downturn in the economy and Town employee positions be frozen.

- Restructure to Narcotics Officer to work jointly with Franklin County Sheriff's Office, Virginia State Police, DEA, and other local jurisdictions (six months netted 95 charges).
- Regarding programs within the Police Department, have new ones, being:
  - NWTF Jakes event. He is very proud of the Jakes program as it reaches out to all the youth in Franklin County.
  - Business Alert program. The department has contacted all the businesses in Town regarding this program, with it being pretty successful. He encourages more businesses to participate.
  - Explorer Program. This program is for youths 14 to 21 years of age. The program gives these young people a little in-sight into law enforcement and how to be a leader in the community, with the youth taking ownership of the program and what it teaches. There are approximately 12 youth involved, with a couple of adults involved by helping with the program. The department has already seen some of the youths starting to step forward as leaders.
  - In-car computers. Have partnered with the County for the in-car computers, with these computers making the department more efficient and allowing the officers to get out in the community more as well.
- The continuing programs in the department are:
  - Relay for Life, Special Olympics Torch run, MDA Lock-up, National Night Out, and the Needy Families program.
- Additional duties the department is doing include:
  - Child Safety Seat checks, school programs, career fairs, and student training in criminal justice program.
- Mentioned that the department is trying to get out into the community with residence and business checks, and school patrols during the day when school is in session and also at night.
- Proud of the department's clearance rates, and in most cases, above the state's average, not falling below the state average.
- Working on the traffic lights, with a lot of the work being done by the Public Works Department.
- Really make headway in the minor repairs to the Emergency Services Building.

A question from a lady in the audience (no name given) that lived at the corner of Glenwood Drive and Brookshire Drive regarding needing stop signs installed on Glenwood Drive due to a high volume of traffic speeding in relation to coming and going from Christian Heritage School during school time and during after school programs in the evening and night time. The Chief of Police stated this matter had been brought to his attention this week and that it will be addressed. He also

mentioned that he will also put the department's speed monitor on Glenwood Drive to let people know how fast they are going. Council Member Lester stated that Christian Heritage needs to also play a part in getting the word out to those driving back and forth from the school about the safety issue of them speeding. The Town Manager also commented that before any stop signs can be put up, VDOT will want to have numbers and figures on the traffic, etc.

B) Fire Department

Fire Chief Posey Dillon commented on the following:

- The Fire Department has been real fortunate lately to have younger new members come along, and with the state changing the fire departments' training hours, this has worked out well.
- Have now through FEMA all the radio training that has to be done.
- Went over the history of the old fire department located on Floyd Avenue, and how now they have not only the old building, but the newer Emergency Services Building located on North Main Street.
- Just finished fire prevention week in a number of the schools, classes and daycares. The department likes to do these presentations for the children. Did about 13 groups this time, and the ones they could not get to, the County assisted with.
- Have one good fund raiser during the year, which is the spaghetti supper/music event. The department did well this year considering everything else going on regarding the economy.
- Over the past few years, have an auxiliary group that was formed (mostly wives of the firemen and also some volunteers). This comes in handy for the firemen, and it is nice to know that the auxiliary comes along and helps in things such as cleaning up after a fire.
- The FEMA funding helps buy the turnout gear and infrared camera. The Town usually only spends 10% of the total cost for the camera, and in the past two years, FEMA funding has required only 5% to be paid by the Town. The department's equipment has to be certified, which is one of the reason the cost seems high. Gave an example of the infrared camera, which costs \$12,500. A demonstration was given on the infrared camera. The camera is very valuable and one is now at each station, and when a truck goes go out on a call, it is on one of those trucks. The camera allows the firemen to see what is in the structure they are entering, but it also transmits the images back to a t.v. so

people on the outside of the structure can see what the individual inside the structure sees, creating a safer environment.

- Also demonstrated a monitor that all the firemen carry that tells them exactly where the fire is, with the big difference being that Franklin County has gone to a high frequency, and when a call comes through to the department, it converts to low band and the only person that can be heard on the radio is the Franklin County dispatcher. The new monitors now have a recording feature on them so if the firemen cannot look at the call quickly enough, he can look at where the call is suppose to go. Another nice feature also is that the monitors can be put on vibrate.
- With the FEMA guidelines, the department keeps up with the number of calls that they respond to so the department can receive FEMA funding. Average calls a year is one call per day (although you may get as many as six per day). Every fireman is on call 24/7 and is expected to answer calls.
- The department provides first unit response for in-town calls, and also within a five mile radius outside of the Town corporate limits, and anything beyond that, the department provides backup.

The Town Manager mentioned that he believes the Fire Chief has put in more volunteer time in-town than anyone he knows of right now.

### C) Finance Department

Prior to the meeting, the Finance Director, Linda Woody, had provided handouts for the public to see regarding her report, highlighting the following:

- Went over time line for 2009 tax tickets:
  - November 6, 2009: 2009 real estate & personal property tax tickets mailed.
  - January 4, 2010: 2010 vehicle decals available for purchase (color is white)
  - March 1, 2010: due date for 2009 real estate & personal property taxes
  - Mach 31, 2010: due date to display 2010 vehicle decals
- Capital projects through September 30, 2009:
  - Uptown revitalization
  - The Oaks at Rakes Tavern
  - Cox industrial property
- Sewer plant debt funded through meals tax transfer:
  - Annual debt service of sewer plant: = 21% of total utility fund revenue (funded through meals tax)
  - 1 penny real estate tax = \$45,000: = 11.43 cents (real estate tax rate = 12 cents)
  - Sewer rate savings from meals tax transfer (per 1,000 gallons) (\$514,278 /

287,569 gallons) (fiscal year 2008): needed on sewer bill to fund sewer plant debt (minimum in-town bill = 11.25)

- Explained garbage fees vs. expenses and how you would need \$1 increase in garbage fees = \$21,600 per year, for this to balance, or \$2.30 more per month needed in fees.
- This fiscal year 2010 budget (for period July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010) is produced with information available in January 2009. Projections of the local economy and state aid to localities for the next 18 months is also utilized.
- Fiscal Year 2010 General Fund Revenues: Expecting and budgeted 9% decline in ACTUAL revenues this fiscal Year (Fiscal Year 2010) than received in previous fiscal year. Biggest decline items (projected actual) are: interest earnings 32%, business licenses 15%, and communication tax 14%. The bulk of the General Fund is local revenue that is collected in the spring; too early to determine accuracy of projections.
- Fiscal Year 2010 Utility Fund Revenues: Expecting 3% decline in ACTUAL revenues this fiscal year (Fiscal Year 2010) than received in previous fiscal year. Declining items are: water charges 5%, meals tax transfer 3%, and sewer collection charges 1%. Expected overall ACTUAL receipts is NOT meet current fiscal year (Fiscal Year 2010) budget by 5% (or \$115,000). \$115,000 is .40 cents per 100 gallons of produced water (that would need to be added to the utility bill)
- The meals tax is the number one revenue for the General Fund.

Question from the audience was how does Rocky Mount rate compared to other localities. The Finance Director answered that the Town rates pretty low, which is 2/3 down from the other ten localities she polled.

The Town Manager stated that he and the Finance Director have discussed trimming from the budget at one time about a quarter of a million dollars. He further mentioned that the Town is really trying to stay on track with its budget.

#### D) Water Department

Robert (Bob) Deitrich, the Water Department Superintendent, introduced himself as the new Superintendent, giving a background of where he has worked in the past. The following overview of the Water Department was given:

- Have a competent and dedicated staff who make drinking water for the Town 365 days a year and very glad to part of the staff.
- Like most cities and towns, the Town gets its drinking water from a surface water source, such as a reservoir, lake or river. The Town's source is the Blackwater

River. The treatment facility is designed to produce up to two million gallons of drinking water a day. To make clean safe drinking water, the Town applies chemicals to the water that causes small and microscopic particles to clump together and sink to the bottom of two settling basins where they are flushed to waste ponds. Particles that might carry through are filtered out by two mixed media sand filters. The turbidity of the Town's filtered water is less than the distilled water you can buy at the grocery store. Once filtered, the Town's water is chlorinated for disinfection, treated with fluoride for dental health, and treated with soda ash and phosphate to inhibit corrosion of pipes.

- The Water Treatment Plant is what is known as a conventional plant. The Town operates six water storage tanks and two pump stations to maintain a two day emergency supply and adequate water pressure.
- The Plant, which is 28 years old, has routinely made drinking water that meets or exceeds state and federal regulations. The Town has squeezed a great deal of value from this facility because over those 28 years, drinking water standards have become more and more difficult to meet, and the Town has met those standards without any significant upgrades to the plant. The Town is currently working to upgrade some of the plant's testing and treatment equipment, and the Town is evaluating new chemicals to keep pace with the more stringent water standards so that it does not fall behind. The Town has also begun some local area flushing of fire hydrants in an effort to assure that folks at the far ends of the water system have as good a quality of water as the folks near the plant.
- Currently, the Town is working with an engineering firm in an effort to find leaks, closed valves, and sources of unaccounted water so that the Town can continue to provide good service at the lowest price possible. The same study is looking to identify areas of the Town's system where routine hydrant flushing will do the most good for the Town customers.
- Just a few months ago, the Town worked cooperatively with Franklin County and local contractors to make the Blackwater River Dam safer for recreational use. A dozen or so dump truck loads of large riprap were installed behind the dam to eliminate dangerous river currents. Water Plant staff added rescue equipment and erected signs. The Water Plant staff helped install additional lighting and an emergency phone at the dam (when the receiver is picked up, it immediately dials "911"). Franklin County Parks & Recreation built two ramps for carrying canoes around the dam, and added large floating buoys to further warn paddlers of the need to go around the dam.
- The Blackwater River has been flowing at, or above, the historical average all summer long. While treating water during the heavy rains of the spring and early summer was challenging, the supply of water provided by the Blackwater River

has been very reliable this year.

There were no questions from the audience.

The Town Manager stated that the Water Department Superintendent did not mention the emotional side of having two fatalities at the Blackwater River Dam, and that all the staff at the Water Department handled this great.

E) Wastewater Treatment Plant

Jessie Jones, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent, introduced himself, highlighting the following:

- The present Wastewater Treatment Plant became operational in May 1994. It has the capacity of two million gallons per day (MGD).
- The Wastewater Treatment Plant has a staff of four certified operators.
- Presently, the plant is operating at approximately 35% to 40% of capacity (down from 5% to 7% from last year). This is due to the loss of industrial flows contributed to the recent closing of Erath Veneer, and the reduction of production and work force at other industries, creating a significant reduction in flow).
- The plant has six pump stations, with the seventh one coming on-line in a few months to accommodate the Oaks at Rakes Tavern Subdivision.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent stated that since he is retiring at the end of October this year, staff has been going through a management transition also. Also mentioned that Timothy Burton has been named Plant Superintendent and has 21 years of service at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Also hired Jason Jones as an Operator Trainee, who is a graduate from Ferrum College. Believes he will be an outstanding employee for the Town. He further stated that after his retirement, the plant should continue to operate professionally and efficiently. With this being said, the Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent introduced Timothy Burton as the Incoming Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent.

Mr. Burton stated that he will be taking on the position on Monday, November 2. Commented that he has been with working at the Town's Wastewater Treatment Plant for 21 years, working under Mr. Jones during that time. He further stated that he appreciates the opportunity to fill Mr. Jones' shoes and it is his desire to provide the same good service that Mr. Jones has provided.

F) Community Development Department

Matthew C. Hankins introduced himself, first as Director of the Community Development Department; secondly, as the Assistant Town Manager; and thirdly,

due to the vacancy in the Planning Department, he is also now the Planning Administrator. He further mentioned that he has a great staff, being Stacey Sink (Administrator Assistant and Deputy Clerk), and Nathan Wright (Code Inspector/GIS Technician). He highlighted the following:

- Overall direction and challenge is to work responsibly to develop the Town in appropriate locations without burdening transportation, parks, or public infrastructure.
- A new project that he and his staff are working on is evaluating neighborhoods and determining where the blight conditions are, with them cataloging this information over the next couple of months.
- Doing the Uptown Revitalization project management:
  - This is a most important project
  - Do have a contract
  - Financing in place
  - Preliminary work to start within six weeks, pending:
    - Easement difficulties nearly resolved
    - Expect to finalize contract this week with VDOT approval
  - Nine months to complete
  - Microenterprise Loan Program
- Needmore Neighborhood Revitalization Program
  - All projects completed
  - Awaiting administrative closeout of the project
  - Completed significant homeowner participation, but fell short in investor-owner participation
- Economic Development
  - Empire Foods underway
  - Weaver Street Extension complete to open up Cox property (came in way under budget)
  - Working to develop Cox property as next great community economic engine
- The Next Big Things
  - Amphitheatre (trying to take advantage of the Town being the eastern gateway to The Crooked Road)
  - Retail recruitment and attraction
    - Trying to attract new businesses in the Central Business District, North Main Street, and State Route 40 East
  - Neighborhood Blight
- Enterprise Zone

- Zoning & Planning
  - Updating Comprehensive Plan to reflect changes since last adoption
  - Going without a Planner for the time being as a cost-saving tool
- Parks Management
  - Celeste Park
    - Credit to Public Works Director
  - Gilley's Park shelter
    - Credit to Public Works Director
  - Veterans-Lynch connector walk

There were no questions from the audience.

The Town Manager stated that if the public listens to all that the Community Development Department does, it is almost impossible to understand that only three people are doing this. He further stated that he and the Community Development Director have learned a lot about planning due to the vacancy of the Planner.

G) Community Partnership for Revitalization Department

Katie McElroy introduced herself as the Executive Director of the Community Partnership for Revitalization (CPR) Department, highlighting the following:

- CPR oversees the Main Street Program for the Town and allows the Town access to other available programs. Also, the Main Street Program is a great resource for the Town, especially due to the economic downturn, pointing out how beneficial it is to be able to reach out to resources and see what would work best for the Town.
- Her purpose is to help the Community Development Director with the many different hats that he wears, and having people wanting to come and visit the Town.
- Currently working with property owners regarding their vacant buildings and making a list of such vacancies, and when the economy turns around, will have a list of buildings ready for a tenant.
- Went over new projects being worked on, noting that on a lot of these projects, she is working with Janie Hopkins, Executive Director for the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce:
  - '5 on Us' coupon campaign (goal is to help Mom/Pop local stores)
  - Emphasized how important it was for money being returned back to the Town and the Town having that return on the money to its businesses.
  - Uptown Façade Program (working close with architect)
  - Town music grants

- Website redevelopment – vacant property listings
  - Arts and cultural district (working with Town Planning Committee)
  - 'Round the Mountain Artisan Trail
  - Franklin County music project (Franklin County Tourism trying to do a music c.d.)
  - Way finding signage/Town branding
- Continued CPR efforts:
- Administrative work for Footlights of the Blue Ridge
  - Putting up decorations in the Town (CPR committee working hard on this)
  - Business recruitment (working with the Town's Community Development Director so people will know what incentives are available in the Town)
  - Virginia Main Street trainings
- Annual and new CPR community events:
- 'Come Home to a Franklin County Christmas' & 'County Tree Lighting'
  - Frank and Stein Poker Run
  - Rocky Mount Mixer
  - Pigg River Ramble
  - Rocky Mount Home Tour
  - Chug for the Jug

The CPR Director stated that CPR is always open to new ideas, mentioning Council Member Seale's suggestion of displaying scarecrows throughout the Town during the Fall season, which he had see done in another locality. She further stated that she hopes to do this next year.

There were no questions from the audience.

The Town Manager stated that Mrs. McElroy took a huge leap of faith coming to work for the Town and since that time, she has been a spark plug, bringing tools and ideas to the Town. Also mentioned how important it was to keeping dollars in the Town.

#### H. Public Works Department

Cecil Mason introduced himself as the Public Works Director, highlighting the following:

- Leaf pickup will begin the first of November, and continue more than likely through December 31. Encouraged everyone to have their leaves raked up and be done by that time as the same truck that picks up leaves is the one used to spread salt during inclement weather.
- The large item cleanup is every first Monday of the month, and if that day happens to fall on a holiday, the cleanup will begin the following Tuesday.

Sometimes due to large volume of items to cleanup, it may take a day or so to do. If the items are not picked up by that Thursday, just call his office and let him know (gave his office number out for people to call). Also reminded the citizens that when they put the items out for pickup, the items need to be put out by the curb by 7:00 a.m.

- This summer and fall, Town crews have worked on Celeste Park and Gilley's Park. They have paved the parking lot for ten vehicles (parking diagonally), and will probably have striped by spring. Donations have paid for this work, and hopefully by spring, will have more money to work on this project some more. Town crews have built a picnic shelter at Gilley's Park with donated money. Council Member Greer requested that the Assistant Town Manager elaborate on the picnic tables at Gilley's Park, with the Assistant Town Manager stating that it was done by Eagle Scout Tim Furrow, who donated two tables at the parks as an Eagle Scout project.
- Would like to silence any rumors about the Town having a private firm to mow High Street Cemetery. The Town still does this work.
- Working close with contractors on Weaver Street extension, stating that the Town is very fortunate to have two good contractors doing this work as they are very conscientious about their work.

Questions from audience consisted of:

- Council Member Seale questioned if the Town chipper could be used to get rid of a lot of tall brush on private property located on Spring Street if the property owner cut it down and put it at the curb to be chipped. Confirmed to Council Member Seale that he could check on this for him.
- Confirmed to Vice Mayor Dillon that citizens wanting the opportunity to use the Town's dump truck for the "Adopt-A-Truck" program could do so by contacting the Finance Department.
- Confirmed to Vice Mayor Dillon that the Town cuts the Town's right-of-ways twice a year, with them being able to find the manholes.

The Town Manager stated that the Public Works Director had a very good reputation and his department is amazing.

#### I. Town Manager

- Town has had several successes this year, being:
  - Empire Foods
  - Celeste Park

- Gilley's Park
  - Cox property
  - Town employee drug policy
  - Town employee evaluations
- As the Town looks forward to the future, staff is doing more planning than spending, with only one notable exception, with that being the uptown revitalization project.
- In the planning area, the Town is looking at ways to create a community music venue in Rocky Mount to capitalize on the Town's great musical heritage. What the Town has in mind is a place for the community to gather and hold events. Currently, most vision for this facility involves substantial grant funding.
- Town adopted a swine (H1N1) flu policy.

The Town Manager stated that in summation, what was presented to the public was what the Town departments do and almost everything else that is going on in the Town.

In closing out the meeting, the Mayor stated that as everyone could see, there us a great amount of work that goes on with the limited number of people that work for the Town, and the great amount of service they do for the Town. He further stated that his hat is off to all the people that addressed the public during this meeting, as they keep the Town going and make it the great place that it is.

The Mayor further stated that the Town would host another Town Hall meeting either spring or early summer of next year to give an update on the Town's budget.

The Mayor closed by saying that on speaking on behalf of Council, each department does good work, and he welcomed the public to feel free to contact any member of Town staff or Council if they had any questions.

The meeting concluded at 7:58 p.m.

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Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Patricia H. Keatts/Town Clerk

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