

**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 8, 2010**

The November 8, 2010 regular Council meeting of the Rocky Mount Town 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:

Vice Mayor Gregory B. Walker and Council Members Bobby M. Cundiff, Jerry W. Greer, Sr., P. Ann Love, Robert L. Moyer, and Robert W. Strickler

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Angle.

For the record, the following were present: All members of Town Council as noted, Town Manager C. James Ervin, Town Attorney John T. Boitnott, Chief of Police David Cundiff, Finance Director Linda Woody, Public Works Director Cecil R. Mason, Superintendent of Water Department Robert Deitrich, Superintendent of Wastewater Timothy Burton, Department Fire Chief Charles Robertson, and Town Clerk Patricia H. Keatts.

The Mayor led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

- Motion was made by Council Member Greer to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Strickler and carried unanimously by those present.

### **RECOGNITION OF FRANKLIN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GOVERNMENT CLASSES**

The Mayor recognized Franklin County High School students from Mrs. Shepherd's and Mr. Hubbard's government classes.

### **SPECIAL ITEMS**

The Mayor read for the record "Proclamation Honoring Charles Santrock" and stated it was a pleasure knowing Mr. Santrock. Mr. Santrock is a veteran of the United States Air Force,

past member of the Rocky Mount Planning Commission, Rocky Mount Town Council, and member of the Town of Rocky Mount Housing Rehabilitation Board, dedicating his life to public service and improving the lives of others. The Mayor further stated that as commander of the American Legion Franklin Post 6, Mr. Santrock continues to bring a passion of recognizing the contributions of veterans to a safe, production and free society.

Mr. Santrock thanked Council, stating the he is only doing what he normally does, and does so as a habit. He further stated that he has enjoyed working with members of Council and the veterans, and within the past 30 years of working with veterans, he has performed 572 veterans' funerals, which is a difficult thing to do. He further pointed out that he has terminal cancer, but will continue to work with the wonderful people and dear friends of the Town of Rocky Mount.

Mr. Santrock received a standing ovation from those present.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

Let the record show there were no public hearings.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Prior to the meeting, Council had received for consideration of approval the following draft minutes:

- October 11, 2010 Regular Council Meeting
- October 25, 2010 Town Hall Meeting

Prior to motion to approve the draft minutes, Council Member Cundiff stated that after conferring with Mrs. Jewell Hunt, the October 25, 2010 Town Hall minutes on page 4665, paragraph 2, where it reflects statement made by Mrs. Jewell Hunt: "Also mentioned Mr. Cundiff is doing a good job." was not a comment directed at him, personally, but instead meant for Chief of Police David Cundiff.

The Town Clerk so noted that the November 8, 2010 minutes would reflect the intent of Mrs. Hunt as brought forth by Council Member Cundiff.

There being no further discussion, the Mayor entertained a motion.

- Motion was made by Council Member Cundiff to approve the draft Council meeting minutes with his statement to be included for the record in the November 8, 2010 regular Council meeting minutes, with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Greer. There being no discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously by those present.

## **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

The approval of the *Consent Agenda* consists of approving any miscellaneous resolutions/proclamations, miscellaneous action, departmental monthly reports, and bill list that were submitted prior to the meeting for Council's review and consideration.

- Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations
  - Review and consideration of approval of draft "Town of Rocky Mount Supplemental Resolution for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011" in order to purchase through Virginia Municipal League (VML) grants: (1) warning buoys and warning signs recommended by VML for the Pigg River Dam; and (2) safety equipment specifically designed to prevent injuries due to falling for the Water Treatment Plant, in the amount of \$1,984, which is 100% funded through VML grant (no cost to Town of Rocky Mount).
- Miscellaneous Action
- Departmental Monthly Report
- Bill List

The Town Manager pointed out that the VML draft resolution has been changed and what was presented to Council prior to the meeting was a substitute draft resolution for them to consider where the \$1,984 would be appropriated through supplemental expenditure from contingency for Fiscal Year 2011.

There being no further discussion, the Mayor entertained a motion.

- Motion was made by Council Member Strickler to approve the draft *Consent Agenda* with the substitute resolution, with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Cundiff. There being no discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously by those present.

## **HEARING OF CITIZENS**

Let the record show that no one had contacted the Town Clerk prior to the Council meeting wishing to come before Council.

The Mayor opened the floor at this time for anyone wishing to come forward to speak.

- Ann Cook of 265 Maple Avenue, Rocky Mount, Virginia came before Council, stating the following:
  - Recent editorials in the *Franklin News-Post* should be reason of concern for each Council member because people in the community expect the best possible decisions to be made for the betterment of the community.

- Many citizens believe the Police Chief should live in-town and be part of the community, know the people and their concerns, and be able to respond quickly in times of emergency. Reiterated that she believes the Police Chief should live in-town. No one knew this discussion was on the agenda, and no one had a chance to voice the citizens' views.
- Finances in a municipality are complicated and take time to study and understand. Mr. Ervin (Town Manager) and Ms. Woody (Finance Director) are excellent sources and Council should not make a quick decision to reduce the fund balance at this time. Money is needed for economic development that will bring more business to help the Town's citizens and the established businesses in-town.
- The election date should be moved to November. The Town elections are poorly attended. Citizen turnout will be better in November, and surely the Council knows that citizens will not be confused by national, state, or local issues. Does Council want to keep the citizens from voting?
- The Town employees are great and should receive the full Christmas bonuses. The Town is understaffed and yet things run smoothly because all are working together for the betterment of the Town. The money is budgeted, so please use it.
- All of Council has the potential to lead the Town in a very positive way.

The Mayor thanked Mrs. Cook for her comments.

Let the record show there were no further comments from citizens.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### A) Town of Rocky Mount Holiday Policy for Town Personnel

The Town Manager reported that the Finance & Human Services Committee met on July 22, 2010, with him pointing out the following that was discussed:

- Committee recommended to Council that the Town of Rocky Mount Holiday Policy be revised to move from an accrual based system to a holiday pay system.
- Currently, half of the Town employees use an accrual method of taking holiday time off and the other half operate on a paid holiday system.
- After significant research on what other localities do, the Finance Department and Town Manager recommend creating a single system so that all Town employees receive the same holiday pay/time off benefits regardless of the department they work for.
- Further, this policy defines a holiday as eight (8) hours of pay regardless of the length of shift an employee works, which is the standard practice for municipal entities in Virginia.
- The Town's current policy gives 96 hours of holiday time off to some employees and 144 hours of holiday time off to others. This amounts to an extra week of time off for some departments due to the way the current policy is drafted.
- The new policy will standardize the system so that all staff receive 96 hours of time off or holiday pay.

There being no discussion from Council, the Mayor entertained a motion.

- Motion was made by Council Member Strickler to approve the recommended changes to the Town of Rocky Mount Holiday Policy, with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Greer. There being no discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously by those present.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### A) Rocky Mount Town Council Christmas Parade Transportation

The Town Manager reported that the annual Christmas Parade will be taking place on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 p.m., with a new parade route. He stated that staff has received notification from Mrs. Dorothy Cundiff that if Council wishes to ride in the parade, they need to find their own transportation, and if not, Mrs. Cundiff would do her best to provide vehicles. It was discussed that last year, Council had ridden on a trailer provided by the Public Works Director. It was the consensus of Council that they do this again this year. The Town Manager also briefed Council on the new route that would be taken this year due to the on-going construction on the uptown project.

### B) Request of Y.A.N.A. Equestrian Ministries

Ms. Deblyn Clark, Director of Y.A.N.A. Equestrian Ministries, came before Council regarding permission for them to be able to Christmas carol in the neighborhood of Franklin Heights on December 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. She explained that there would be at least eight (8) horses and as many as 20 walkers, one ATV and truck following with lights and apparatus to take care of whatever waste the horses may make on the proposed route. Ms. Clark explained to Council the route that they would be taking. The Chief of Police indicated that he has no problem with this request as outlined by Ms. Clark.

There being no discussion from Council, the Mayor entertained a motion.

- Motion was made by Council Member Moyer to approve the request, with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Love. There being no discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously by those present.

### C) Acquisition of Fire Truck for Rocky Mount Volunteer Fire Department

The Town Manager informed Council that prior to the meeting, Council had received information from the Assistant Town Manager regarding "Fire Department FEMA Grants & Purchase Contract Authorization" for their review and consideration of

approval of the purchase of a fire truck for the Rocky Mount Volunteer Fire Department. The Town Manager pointed out that the late Fire Chief Posey Dillon (prior to his tragic death) had already started on obtaining this FEMA grant to purchase the fire truck through FEMA's Assistance to Firefighters Grants Program. The department had committed to seek funds for a 4x4 fire pumper mounted on an International chassis, with this pumper giving the Fire Department the ability to reach fires located in homes on steep streets or rough terrain without having to pull long hose runs for their initial fire attack.

Fire Chief Charlie Robertson stated that he did not have anything more to add to what the Town Manager had presented, but did comment that this is the same FEMA grant that former Fire Chief Dillon was looking into trying to get.

The Town Manager pointed out that three companies had submitted proposals, being: RedStorm; KME/Slagle; and Pierce/Atlantic Emergency Solutions.

Also presented to Council for their review and consideration of approval was the draft "Town of Rocky Mount Supplemental Appropriation Resolution for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011" whereas the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) has awarded the Town Volunteer Fire Department a grant for \$223,250, with a local cash match of \$11,750 for a total award of \$235,000, with the FEMA grant being used to offset the purchase of a fire truck for the Town of Rocky Mount.

There being no discussion from Council, the Mayor entertained a motion.

- Motion was made by Council Member Greer to approve the authorization for the FEMA grant, including approval of the draft resolution as presented, with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Strickler. There being no discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor was approved unanimously by those present.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A) Public Utilities Committee**

The Public Utilities Committee Chair Bobby M. Cundiff reported that the Committee had met on November 3, 2010 to review ways to have a more consistent match between the monthly totals of water produced and water used, with the Committee recommending to Council that the Town's meter reading period be shifted from six days a week to three by using two meter reading crews, with the meter reading period starting on a Monday, and to try this for a while to see if this is going in the right direction. It was also pointed out that this could be accomplished by leasing or borrowing equipment for the short term to determine if the approach helps produce consistent water usage data.

Chair Cundiff confirmed to the Mayor that it is the Committee's hope to have within two to three months some information on the water usage data, and that he certainly hopes to have it before going into the budget process.

There being no discussion from Council, the Mayor entertained a motion.

- Motion was made by Council Member Cundiff to approve the recommendation of the Committee, with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Love. Discussion ensued. The Finance Director confirmed to Council that Franklin County will allow the Town to use one of their hand-held meter reading devices during the new meter reading system approach. There being no further discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously by those present.

### **OTHER MATTERS, CONCERNS AND RISE 'N SHINE APPEARANCES**

#### A) Referrals to Planning Commission from Town Council

Let the record show there were no referrals to the Planning Commission from Council, nor were there any recommendations from the Planning Commission to Council.

#### B) Rise 'N Shine Appearances

The Town Manager reported that he was on the Rise 'N Shine show this morning with Mr. Dick Shoemaker. Council Member Love stated she would be appearing with the Town Manager on the Rise 'N Shine show scheduled for December 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **COUNCIL CONCERNS**

Let the record show there were none at this time.

### **CLOSED MEETING**

At 7:26 p.m., motion was made by Council Member Strickler to go into *Closed Meeting*, and seconded by Council Member Greer and carried unanimously to discuss the following:

- Section 2.2-3711(A).2 – 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 ([1] Interview perspective candidate for Rocky Mount Planning Commission; and [2] Town Manager performance).

At 8:30 p.m., motion was made by Council Member Strickler to come out of *Closed Meeting* and to reconvene the meeting back into open session, with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Moyer and carried unanimously by those present.

### **CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED MEETING**

Whereas, the Town of Rocky Mount Council has convened a *Closed Meeting* on this date 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 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.

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Steven C. Angle, Mayor

- Motion was made by Council Member Moyer certifying that: (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under this chapter was discussed; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or consider in the meeting by the public body was discussed. Motion was seconded by Council Member Love. The Mayor swore to adopt the motion on the floor by Council Member Moyer that this was all that was discussed as defined in Section 2.2-3412 Code of Virginia. Voting yes were Vice Mayor Gregory B. Walker and Council Members Bobby M. Cundiff, Jerry W. Greer, Sr., P. Ann Love, Robert L. Moyer, and Robert W. Strickler.

The Mayor reported that no action was taken.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:33 p.m., motion was made by Council Member Greer to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Love and carried unanimously by those present.

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Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Patricia H. Keatts/Town Clerk

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