

**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 25, 2011**

A special Rocky Mount Town Council meeting was held on Friday, February 25, 2011 in the Council Chambers of the Rocky Mount Municipal Building, located at 345 Donald Avenue, Rocky Mount, Virginia at 4:00 p.m. with Mayor Steven C. Angle presiding. The following members of Council were present when the meeting was called to order:

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Angle.

For the record, the following staff members were present: Town Manager C. James Ervin, Assistant Town Manager/Community Development Director Matthew C. Hankins (and Planning & Zoning Administrator), Interim Chief of Police David Cundiff, and Deputy Clerk Stacey B. Sink.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

The Mayor asked if there were any additions or corrections to the presented agenda, and being none entertained a motion.

- Motion was made Council Member Strickler to approve the agenda as presented and seconded by Vice Mayor Walker. There being no discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously by those present.

(Let the record show that Council Member Jerry W. Greer, Sr. arrived at the meeting at 4:04 p.m.)

CONSIDERATION OF LEASING FOUR POLICE VEHICLES

The Town Manager recapped briefly for Council how the issue of leasing police vehicles came about. In looking at getting a police vehicle in this year's budget, the Police Chief was informed that Ford is phasing out the Crown Victoria. He did some quick calculations and discovered that it will cost approximately \$8,000 more per vehicle if the Town goes to a different format because the light bars and in-car equipment will need to

be replaced. Together, they looked at possible ways to get more Crown Victorias by the deadline so that the Town can continue to use the vehicles for a few years longer, pushing the additional expense off into the future. What they ultimately concluded as the best way to go forward is to lease vehicles with the annual lease payment being the same as what the Town generally pays for a police car each year. Instead of buying a car over the next four years, the Town will just make a single lease payment over the next four years. They met with the Public Safety Committee on February 22 to discuss the concept, and the committee discussed it at length. It was their recommendation to go ahead and allow the Police Chief to lease the four vehicles as outlined. However, the full Council must act on the recommendation. If this is approved, then the Town will sell at auction the four obsolete vehicles. The size of the fleet will not be changed. The only thing to keep in mind is that this will create a recurring four year replacement cycle, and four years from now the Town will have four vehicles that are aging out at the same time.

The Police Chief added that the only reason Council is having to meet this quick is that Ford Motor Company sent out a notice that the vehicles must be ordered by March 1.

The Mayor questioned what Ford is going to for the police package since they are doing away with the Crown Victoria, with the Police Chief confirming they are going to the Ford Taurus. They are eliminating the Crown Victoria because next year the federal government is requiring that cars have air bags in the ceiling, and Ford will have to redesign the Crown Victoria, which will be cost prohibitive. The Town could also go with the Dodge Charger or the Chevrolet Impala, but either way, new light bars and accessories would be needed.

The Town Manager advised that in leasing vehicles now, the Town will stay with the Crown Victoria for probably two years. The Town typically buys one to two cars per year, so in about 24 – 36 months the Town will be ready to look at the first oddball car. This will solve the issue for the time period. If Council chooses to do this, the lease payments will be approximately what the Town has been budgeting each year for a car. He and the Finance Director feel that this is a budget neutral action. What is needed tonight is Council's approval so that the Police Chief can proceed. If approved, he will have Ford Motor Credit draft a lease which will appear in the March or April agenda.

Council Member Moyer advised it is his understanding that at the end of the lease the Town can purchase the cars for one dollar each.

Vice Mayor Walker confirmed with the Police Chief that some of the cars a problematic with transmission problems and high mileage.

The Town Manager advised that if Council chooses to order the new vehicles, the extended warranty will be included as committee recommended at approximately \$800

per year for the four cars.

The Police Chief confirmed that if the Crown Victorias are not ordered now, then he will have to order another car at a greater expense, plus an additional \$8,000 to retrofit the equipment.

The Mayor asked for any additional questions from Council and being none, entertained a motion.

- Motion was made by Council Member Moyer to lease the vehicles as recommended by the Public Safety Committee, and seconded by Council Member Strickler. There being no discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:10 p.m., motion was made by Vice Mayor Walker to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Strickler, and carried unanimously.

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stacey B. Sink, Deputy Clerk

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