

**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
JULY 13, 2015**

The July 13, 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 6:30 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:

- Sgt. David Bowles, Rocky Mount Police Department
- Ken Criner, Chief of Police
- C. James Ervin, Town Manager
- Matthew C. Hankins, Assistant Town Manager
- Stacey Sink, Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Steven C. Angle.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The presented agenda was approved by consensus.

WORK SESSION

Police Department Vehicle Maintenance

General Discussion:

- Chief Criner noted that he asked the finance director to run the maintenance budget numbers back to 2012. All of the numbers are in line with previous years, in the \$14,000-\$15,000 range. In 2013, the Department went over a little to \$16,000. The Police Department has a contract with Nelson regarding its fleet vehicles for any work that needs to be done. Nelson picks up the vehicles, fixes them, and brings them back. The Department has twelve vehicles that go to Nelson for repair and ten that are kept in town and sent to local repair shops. The Department spends half of its budget in town (\$7,500) and half at Nelson. Nelson gives the Department a loaner vehicle free of charge, and right now, the Department gets a new vehicle about every oil change. This arrangement has helped the Police Department greatly. When going to Guslers, the mechanics would not check the car out for any other issues, but would only fix what was stated. Nelson checks out the vehicle

from top to bottom and will let the Department know if there are any issues which may show up in the near future.

- Mayor Angle questioned why the Police Department started going to Nelson instead of staying with local vendors. Chief Criner advised that it used to be if there were any problems with the fleet vehicles they went to Duncan or Guslers. However, there were a lot of problems with Guslers. Bolts were left out of a brake system almost causing an accident. There was an antifreeze leak on an Explorer and Guslers replaced the radiator, but it turned out to be the water pump. Once, they left a drain plug out after an oil change.
- Sgt. Bowles confirmed that regarding Duncan, the Police Department was taking fleet vehicles to Duncan, but Duncan was then farming the work out to Nelson Ford in Martinsville. Nelson has runners that do the vehicle exchange without having to pull an officer off the job, and they always try to pre-approve work.
- Mayor Angle questioned if Guslers does any work for the Town, with Assistant Manager Hankins noting that Guslers still does work for some of the other departments. Chief Criner noted all of the local businesses which continue to do work for the Police Department, though not on the fleet vehicles.
- Sgt. Bowles noted that Nelson has also been doing oil changes and giving a rebate through Castrol. The oil changes were \$40-\$50 each at Guslers and right now are half of that at Nelson. With better, full synthetic oil and an oil change at the same time, vehicles are now going from 3000 miles to 5000 miles.
- The town manager noted that this started with the prior chief, who came to him on several occasions frustrated about quality and price. Chief Cundiff was able to negotiate this including a free vehicle. He thinks the cars are more mission ready.
- Sgt. Bowles noted that he has never had to return a vehicle for anything since starting with Nelson. He also confirmed that currently, only the marked units are sent to Nelson.
- Town Manager Ervin advised that unless there is different direction from Council, the plan is to finish out the year with Nelson, and then evaluate how well the system is working. Currently, the Police Department is taking the ten unmarked vehicles to Foleys Automotive, but Foleys needs to win the business on quality and price, not by lobbying.
- Sgt. Bowles noted that Gusler has always been dependable, as well, and he believes he is suffering from some personnel issues regarding the unsatisfactory work.
- Council Member Love noted that she thinks the current system is fine and the Police Department should keep doing what it is doing.
- Vice Mayor Walker noted that Nelson keeps good records and notes what all was checked and what will be needed such as new brakes in a few weeks, etc.
- Town Manager Ervin pointed out that police vehicles are subject to be driven at high speed, with high turning radii, and in awkward situations. There is a need to know that the vehicles are in good shape.
- Chief Criner pointed out that Duncan, Berglund, and Midpoint are not interested in donating a vehicle. Mr. Nelson lives near Rocky Mount and he feels like he is part of the community. He participates in the Come Home to a Franklin County Christmas event. Confirmed that the contract with Nelson started January 1.
- Council Member Moyer questioned the insurance for the loaner vehicle with Chief Criner confirming that the Town's policy covers the loaned vehicle, and also noting that Nelson's insurance covers the Town's car if wrecked during transit.
- The town manager noted that the Town's insurance is based on number of employees not number of vehicles.
- It was the consensus of Council to allow the arrangement to proceed as discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Motion to Adjourn By: Love
Second: Snead
Motion Discussion: None
Ayes: Cundiff, Love, Moyer, Snead, Stockton, Walker
Nays: None
Action: The meeting adjourned by a unanimous vote
Time of Adjournment: 6:35 p.m.

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ATTEST:

Stacey B. Sink, Town Clerk

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