

TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNT
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 5, 2016
6:00 p.m.

The Planning Commission of the Town of Rocky Mount, Virginia met in the Council Chambers of the Rocky Mount Municipal Building, located at 345 Donald Avenue, Rocky Mount, Virginia, at 6:00 p.m. on July 5, 2016, for its regular monthly meeting with Madame Chair Janet Stockton presiding.

Commission Members Present:

- Janet Stockton, Chair
- John Speidel, Vice Chairman
- Member Ina Clements
- Member Derwin Hall
- Member John Tiggle
- Member Jerry Greer
- Member Bud Blanchard

Staff Members Present:

- Assistant Town Manager Matt Hankins
- Town Planner Josh Gibson
- Planning Commission Clerk Jessica H. Heckman

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions or Corrections: None

Motion: To approve as presented

Motion By: Member John Tiggle

Second: Vice Chair John Speidel

Action: Approved by a unanimous vote of members present

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Let the record show that prior to the meeting, Planning Commission received the following draft minutes for review and consideration of approval: **May 4, 2016 - regular meeting minutes.**

Additions or Corrections: None

Motion: To approve the minutes as presented

Motion By: Member Jerry Greer

Second: Vice Chair John Speidel

Action: Approved by unanimous vote of members present

NEW BUSINESS

Public Art

Josh Gibson proposed a contest for murals on a small number of storm drains in order to encourage interest in town through public art. He recommended starting in the Arts and Culture district and expanding if successful. He noted this idea was appealing to staff because it is simple, interesting and an expensive way to incorporate some public art elements around town. An open discussion ensued relative to public art.

Motion: To recommend to Streets and Sidewalks Committee of Town Council to support the idea of Storm Drain Murals

Motion By: Member Ina Clements

Second: Vice Chair John Speidel

Action: Approved by a unanimous vote of members present

Transportation Planning

Josh Gibson explained to Commission that in light of the new Smart Scale (HB2), the 6 year plan funding mechanism through VDOT, the Town needs to start making more deliberate transportation planning decisions moving forward. He explained the Smart Scale funding will be difficult for Rocky Mount to obtain. He presented to Commission potential projects and asked Commission to help determine how they should be prioritized. An open discussion ensued relative to potential projects.

Staff Updates:

Matt Hankins updated the board on the following:

- The Whole Bean Coffee Shop opening this fall
- Wood Grains Furniture moved to Cox Fashions location
- Potential gluten free bakery in former Joyful Light space next to Haywoods
- Working on Cox property, deadline extended to end of December
- ModUKraf closure, company interested in purchase; bankruptcy may hinder
- Murphy Oil nearing completion, will be new traffic pattern which will improve traffic flow significantly
- Cecil Mason retirement, there will be 2 new position created in his absence: Public Works Director, Public Works Superintendent. Matt Hankins will be acting as Interim Public Works Director
- Industrial Work-session in early fall

Commission Concerns

Jerry Greer expressed concerns regarding the Cox Property and suggested seeking out small business owners to potentially use the Cox Property.

With no further business, Madame Chair Janet Stockton entertained a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn By: Member Jerry Greer

Second: Ina Clements

Action: Approved by a unanimous vote of members present

Time of Adjournment: 7:06 p.m.

Janet Stockton, Chairman

ATTEST:

Jessica H. Heckman, Clerk

JHH/