

**TOWN OF ROCKY MOUNT
PLANNING COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 7, 2020
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 7, 2020, for its regular monthly meeting with Madame Chair Janet Stockton presiding.

Commission Members Present:

- Janet Stockton, Chair
- Member Ina Clements
- Member Bud Blanchard
- Member John Tiggle

Commission Members Absent:

- John Speidel, Vice Chairman
- Member Jerry Greer

Member Derwin Hall joined the meeting via conference phone.

Staff Members Present:

- Town Planner, Jessica H. Heckman
- Town Clerk, Rebecca H. Dillon
- Cultural & Economic Development Director, Beth Simms

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Additions or Corrections: None at this time

Motion: To approve the agenda as presented

Motion By: Commission Member Ina Clements

Second: Commission Member Bud Blanchard

Action: Approved by a unanimous vote of members present

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Let the record show that prior to the meeting, the Planning Commission received the following draft minutes for review and consideration of approval:

April 7, 2020-Regular Meeting Minutes

Additions or Corrections: None

Motion: To approve minutes as presented

Motion By: Member John Tiggie

Second: Commission Member Ina Clements

Action: Approved by unanimous vote of members present

NEW BUSINESS

None at this time.

OLD BUSINESS

None at this time.

COMMISSIONER CONCERNS

Chair Stockton shared with the Commission that a vehicle at Burger King had been parked there for several days.

STAFF UPDATES

1. Mrs. Heckman shared with the members that 30 Mary Coger Lane and property within Parker's Mobile Home Court, were being pursued by the Town as nuisance properties and would likely be on the August Town Council Regular Meeting agenda.

2. Rocky Mount Burger Company submitted plans to expand the seating for the restaurant. The burger company may also add a roof-top element to the restaurant's dining experience.
3. The Ultimate Shine Car Wash will begin construction soon, the preconstruction meeting is scheduled for next week. The car wash will be located next to the Kroger fuel station.
4. The Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Corrections sent a letter into the Town stating that the Department of Corrections was considering a lease of office space at 155 Grassy Hill Road, Rocky Mount, Va. The lease consideration was to go before the Town Council at their next regular meeting on July 13, 2020.
5. Angle Bridge Reconstruction is scheduled to begin on Monday, July 20th. The construction would be Monday – Friday during normal work hours.
6. Phase 2 of wayfinding and the parks master plan RFP are both on hold due to budget restraints.
7. The Economic Development Authority has established a committee to review the three selected branding proposals.

Ms. Simms shared with the Commission that Phillip Bane, who owns the old Morris Furniture Store, is talking to engineers to get plans moving on the building. The Town was given information that the Walgreens building is currently empty and that there was a prospect for the Hardee's building on Tanyard Road. Ms. Simms further discussed the branding proposals and the outcome desired. Ms. Simms said there would be community input sessions for creating a town brand.

Mrs. Heckman shared with the Commission that the Planning Grant she and Mr. Hankins had previously been working on would likely be put on hold with Mr. Hankins departure.

Mrs. Stockton inquired about the plans for the furniture building. Ms. Heckman informed members that to her knowledge Mr. Bane plans to renovate the large building in phases to allow income to be coming in while renovations to the building continue. Ms. Heckman said Mr. Bane is trying to address structural issues at this time. The plans for development are the same as previously proposed.

Mrs. Stockton asked if there were prospects for the J&J building. Ms. Simms indicated that it had been shown several times, but no interest. Ms. Heckman informed members of a prospect in the industrial park, she further noted Mr. Ervin

would be leading that development. An open discussion pertaining to vacant buildings/spaces throughout town ensued.

Business for Upcoming Months

Commission members discussed potential business for upcoming months, staff discussed vacant buildings and asked if the Commission would like staff to look into vacant buildings and ways the town can address them. The consensus of the Commission was to look into what other towns do in their area.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn By: Commission Member Ina Clements

Second: Commission Member Bud Blanchard

Action: Approved by a unanimous vote of members present

Time of Adjournment: 6:26 p.m.

Janet Stockton, Chairman

ATTEST:

Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk