

**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
AND
FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 BUDGET & CAPITAL PROJECTS
PUBLIC HEARING
JUNE 1, 2009**

The June 1, 2009 Special 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 Posey W. Dillon and Council Members Jerry W. Greer, Sr., John H. Lester, Roger M. Seale, Robert W. Strickler and Gregory B. Walker

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Angle.

The Town Clerk read for the record the following being present: All members of Town Council as noted: Town Manager C. James Ervin, Assistant Town Manager/Community Development Director Matthew C. Hankins, Finance Director Linda Woody, Town Attorney John T. Boitnott, and Town Clerk Patricia H. Keatts.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- Motion was made by Council Member Lester to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Seale and carried unanimously.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF DRAFT “RESOLUTION HONORING THE 85TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE ROCKY MOUNT LIONS CLUB”

A draft “Resolution Honoring the 85th Anniversary of the Founding of the Rocky Mount Lions Club” was presented to Council for their review and consideration of approval. Council Member Seale (also a member of the Rocky Mount Lions Club) briefed Council on the history of the Rocky Mount Lions Club and what they basically do.

Let the record show that the Mayor entered the draft resolution into the record, and entertained a motion from Council.

- Motion was made by Vice Mayor Dillon to approve the draft resolution as presented, with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Walker. There being no discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF THE USE OF FEDERAL STIMULUS FUNDS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SUMMER EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM AS ADMINISTERED BY THE LOCAL VIRGINIA WORKFORCE CENTER

The Town Manager informed Council that the Federal stimulus includes over one million dollars in workforce investment funds allocated to Franklin County, stating that the Town and County were both approached to participate with this project, with no funds being used from the Town or County.

- These funds will be used for a summer employment program for residents age 16 to 24.
- The program will run from June 22nd through August 14th with the participants working 32 hours a week.
- The wages are paid by the program, as administered by the local Virginia Workforce Center.

The Town Manager informed Council further that he has agreed to have two participants report to the Town, with them being engaged in the following projects:

- One will be stationed in the Planning Department and will work to assist in the pending housing inventory for the Housing Rehabilitation Board, and will work to monitor the increasing number of homes that are owned by mortgage agents. These homes are increasingly being mowed by the Town and this individual will inspect these properties once a week and coordinate with our Public Works staff as needed to keep them at an acceptable maintenance level.
- The second participant will be assigned to the Public Works Department and will assist as needed in all aspects of the operation. The Public Works Director will put the person to work in each of the core areas of: water and sewer line repair; street maintenance (and flagging during the paving that is expected during that period); and grounds maintenance.

The Town Manager also informed Council that due to the time constraints of the program, he had pre-applied for the two participants as mentioned.

The Mayor indicated that this was a good way to use the stimulus money for this type of work.

The Town Manager informed Council that he was told they have good folks that would work

for the Town, and that he needed Council approval to bring on the part-time participants to be paid by the Federal stimulus funds.

The Mayor entertained a motion regarding the Town Manager's request.

- Motion was made by Council Member Seale to approve the request of the Town Manager, with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Lester. Discussion ensued. Council Member Greer question if the Town hired anyone to work at Mary Elizabeth Park. The Mayor indicated that it has been quite some time since anyone was hired to actually take care of Mary Elizabeth Park. The Town Manager relayed to Council that the Public Works Department currently takes care of the maintenance of the park. Council Member Lester indicated that this should also include the management of the Farmers' Market, as this position should have been advertised to begin with, and that the position should be done away with. He further referenced the bathroom and trashcans at the Farmers' Market not being taken care of. The Mayor informed Council to keep in mind that the program the Town Manager was referring to is a seven week period program, and not full-time. There being no further discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2009-2010 BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Mayor recessed the meeting to hold a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget and Capital Projects, which included:

- Setting a tax levy of \$0.12/\$100 of assessed value on real estate, public service corporation property, and mobile homes, pursuant to the authorization of 58.1-3200, 58.1.3201, 58.1-3202, 58.1-3203, 58.1-3204, 58.1-3205 of the Code of Virginia, as amended.
- Setting a tax levy of \$0.51/\$100 of the assessed value of personal property, pursuant to the authority of 58.1-3500, 58.1-3501, 58.13502, 58.1-3503, 58.1-3506 of the Code of Virginia, as amended.
- Setting a tax levy of \$0.17/\$100 of the assessed value on machinery and tools based on original cost and declining depreciation over a seven year period. By the seventh year of depreciation, the effective rate is \$0.07/\$100 assessed value. This rate is levied pursuant to the authority of 58.1-3507(B) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.
- Interest at an annual rate of ten percent (10%) per annum shall be charged on any unpaid taxes commencing the first day of the first month following the due

date of the unpaid taxes.

- Setting the Personal Property Tax Relief percentage at 75.85%.

The Town Manager presented to Council a PowerPoint presentation, outlining the following:

► Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget Guidance

- Continue to provide a high level of necessary services to citizens and business without higher taxes or fees, considering the local and national economic recession.
 - It was Council's chief input for a desire to have a balanced budget. Other localities are raising taxes and fees at this time in order to make up for the impact of the recession on local revenues, but the Town is not.
- Take a one-year hiatus from capital spending, while continuing the momentum of existing capital projects.
 - The break in capital spending cannot be repeated as it takes a constant investment to keep the Town's infrastructure in shape to meet the needs of the public
- Wage freezes for all staff.
- Keep our promise to provide employee health care insurance with level take-home pay.
- Ensure safety of fund balance in this year as insurance against continued recession in Fiscal Year 2010-2011.
 - The Town and County negotiated an excellent renewal with our health care provider and were able to deliver a "no fee increase" rate to the employees. Applauds the Town staff in helping to keep medical costs down.

► Impact of national recession on local General Fund expenditures:

- Graph presented showed:
 - 2007: \$5,250,000
 - 2010: \$4,976,060

► Total Combined Expenditures (without depreciation)

- From 2006 to 2010 (graph shown), represents a 14% reduction in expenses.

► Expenditures by Category

- Graph presented showed that Public Safety is the largest expenditure expense of the Town, followed by Public Works. The majority of the debt service is in the Utility Fund, with the Town owing \$11 million.

► Revenue From All Sources

- Graph presented showed that the small bond proceeds item represents prior to borrowing, and that interest is shrinking.

► Preserving Balance (Expected Cash Reserves FY 02-FY 10)

- Graph show that the Town had projected ending Fiscal Year 2009 with:
 - FY 02: \$13,121,914
 - FY 06: \$8,866,303

- FY 03: \$12,498,882
- FY 04: \$11,659,620
- FY 05: \$10,278,941
- FY 07: \$10,218,302
- FY 08: \$10,666,354
- FY 09: \$10,966,354

► Major Initiatives in FY 2010

- Infrastructure:
 - Complete Weaver Street Extension to serve Empire Foods and the Cox property.
 - Complete Old Fort Road Extension.
 - Complete by June 2010 all of the Uptown construction, facades, and utilities improvements.
 - Curb, gutter and sidewalks improvements.
 - Water recovery and new water source.

Town still moving forward on some projects, especially those previously funded.

- Major Initiatives in FY 2010
 - Work to stabilize traditional neighborhoods.
 - Pigg River Heritage Trail and Celeste Park.
 - Gilley's Park picnic shelter and restroom.
 - Work with foundations, non-profits, and others to develop a world-class performance center and venue.

Council Member Lester asked the Town Manager what the Town's policy was for taking donations, with the Town Manager stating that he does not think the Town has any written policy, but that the Town has received donations from the family of the late Keister Greer for Celeste Park, and also from the family involved with Gilley's Park. The Town Manager also stated that the Town also uses general accounting practices for tracking the donations received.

Council Member Lester then questioned the Town Manager as to how the donations to the Town's Fire Department has been done over the past years. The Town Manager replied by stating that those donations are not tracked through the Town as that department is not part of the Town in that respect, as it is a volunteer Fire Department that raises their own money. Council Member Lester then questioned the Town Manager as to why the Fire Department is in the Town's budget if they are not part of the Town.

At this time, the Mayor interjected by stating that no one had signed up from the public to speak, and as this was a public hearing on the budget, no action will be taken by Council as it has to sit seven days per the State Code. He further stated that action will be considered by Council on the budget during the June 8, 2009 regular Council monthly meeting.

At this time, the Mayor opened the floor to anyone wishing to come before Council to speak regarding the public hearing issue, regardless if they had signed up to speak or not.

- Mr. Stephen Agee, who lives at 660 South Main Street, Rocky Mount, Virginia, came before Council stating that the Town Manager and Finance Director did a great job with

the budget and all seems arranged, but he asks Council to consider, although the money is tight, that the positions that are vacant at this time not be left that way, and for Council to consider filling the positions when the right type of person comes along. He further referenced the vacancy left by Bill Engel with the Police Department, stating that Mr. Engel brought in more money in grant writing than what he was paid. He further requested for Council not to delete the positions, as the economy will get better with time, and for Council to fill them at that time when the right person comes along.

There was discussion between Council Member Lester and Council Member Greer regarding what Council Member Lester thought Vice Mayor Dillon and Council Member Greer's feelings were towards the Police Department. The Mayor interjected at this point, stating that this meeting was for the budget and not for this type of discussion at this time.

CLOSED MEETING

At 7:50 p.m., motion was made by Council Member Lester to go into *Closed Meeting*, and seconded by Vice Mayor Dillon and carried unanimously to discuss the following:

- Section 2.2-3711(A).1 – 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 (Town Manager's performance evaluation).

At 8:30 p.m., motion was made by Council Member Greer 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 Seale and carried unanimously.

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.

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

- Motion was made by Council Member Lester 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 Strickler. The Mayor swore to adopt the motion on the floor by Council Member Lester that this was all that was discussed as defined in Section 2.2-3412 Code of Virginia. Voting yes were Vice Mayor Posey W. Dillon and Council Members Jerry W. Greer, Sr., John H. Lester, Roger M. Seale, Robert W. Strickler, and Gregory B. Walker.

The Mayor reported that no action was taken.

In open session, discussion ensued by Council regarding a matter pertaining to removing one of the Police Department Lieutenant positions, with no action being taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 p.m., motion was made by Council Member Walker to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Seale and carried unanimously.

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ATTEST:

Patricia H. Keatts/Town Clerk

/phk

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