

**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MAY 9, 2011**

The May 9, 2011 regular 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 Gregory B. Walker and Council Members
Bobby M. Cundiff, Jerry W. Greer, Sr., P. Ann Love, Robert L.
Moyer, and Robert W. Strickler

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Angle.

For the record, the following were present: All members of Town Council as noted, Town Manager C. James Ervin, Town Attorney John T. Boitnott, Chief of Police David Cundiff, Finance Director Linda Woody, Public Works Director Cecil R. Mason, Superintendent of Water Department Robert Deitrich, Superintendent of Wastewater Department Timothy Burton, Fire Chief Charles Robertson, and Town Clerk Patricia H. Keatts.

The Mayor led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- Motion was made by Council Member Strickler to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Cundiff and carried unanimously by those present.

SPECIAL ITEMS

The Mayor recognized Blue Ridge Mountains Boy Scout Group #456, and also the Franklin County High School government class of Mr. Buckman.

PUBLIC HEARING

Let the record show there were no public hearings at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Prior to the meeting, Council had received for consideration of approval the following draft minutes:

- April 11, 2011 Regular Council Meeting
- April 18, 2011 Budget Work Session No. 1 Meeting

The Mayor asked if there were any corrections, and there being none, the Mayor entertained a motion.

- Motion was made by Council Member Love to approve the draft Council meeting minutes as presented with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Greer. There being no discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously by those present.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

The approval of the *Consent Agenda* consists of approving any miscellaneous resolutions/proclamations, miscellaneous action, departmental monthly reports, and bill list that were submitted prior to the meeting for Council's review and consideration.

- Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations
 - Review and consideration of approval of draft "Resolution by the Rocky Mount Town Council Proclaiming June 19th Through 26th, 2011 as 'Amateur Week'"
- Miscellaneous Action
- Departmental Monthly Report
- Bill List

There being no further comments, the Mayor entertained a motion.

- Motion was made by Vice Mayor Walker to approve the draft *Consent Agenda*, with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Greer. There being no discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously by those present.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Let the record show that no one had contacted the Town Clerk's Office requesting to come before Council.

The Mayor opened the floor to anyone wishing to come before Council at this time. Let the record show that no one came forward.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Revised Uptown Costs After Change Orders and Draft “Town of Rocky Mount Supplemental Appropriation Resolution for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011”

The Town Manager informed Council that at the Finance & Human Services Committee’s request, Council was presented the best up-to-date good faith estimates on the Uptown Project costs, with the largest change order being in the amount of \$209,532, and the second largest totaling \$124,000 for pavement patching as directed by Council in July 2010 to diminish dust along the construction corridor. Council was also informed that the contract is a unit-price, contracted as mandated by Virginia Department of Transportation, and the contractor had performed the work on a per-unit basis. Prior to the meeting, Council had received from the Assistant Town Manager both the original projected costs and the most up-to-date revisions for construction costs. The Town Manager confirmed to the Mayor that the change orders needed to be paid prior to close out of the project, with retainage being likely close to those amounts. He also informed Council that the contractor is ready to pave and is asking staff for a punch list, but staff wants the utility poles done first. The Town Manager explained the time line for the poles to be removed and lines being put underground, and that the paving will not take place until all the poles are removed.

Council Member Greer questioned about the debris being disposed, with the Town Manager explaining that this was discussed significantly in the April Council meeting.

There being no further comments, the Mayor entertained a motion.

- Motion was made by Vice Mayor Walker to appropriate the money for the change orders, with included the approval of draft “Town of Rocky Mount Supplemental Appropriation Resolution for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011”, with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Cundiff. There being no discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously by those present.

B. Shentel Update

The Town Manager informed Council that due to several complaints from citizens regarding Shentel, the company had been contacted and requested to come before Council to address these complaints.

At the request of Council, Mr. Kevin Faulk, Director of Customer Service for Shentel, Bill Gilliam, Director of Operations in southern Virginia areas, came before Council to give an update of their operations and upgrades to their cable services.

The following is a list of concerns voiced by Council directed to Mr. Faulk:

- Short billing cycle, with bill being due within five days after being mailed out.
 - Mr. Faulk explained that although there was a short billing cycle, the customer was given a ten day grace period to pay it, with no late fee being imposed.
- Significant rate increases.
 - Mr. Faulk contended that he did not believe there were significant rate increases, but instead that the former cable company, JetBroadband, were not charging its customers the appropriate franchise fees; therefore, Shentel had to pass the appropriate fees on to the customers.
- Some channels being off the air for several days.
 - Mr. Faulk explained that during the upgrading and construction in some areas, service may have been temporarily out; or service may have been interrupted when a user's box needed to be replaced. Shentel hopes to have construction completed by June.
- Some channels no longer available.
 - Mr. Faulk explained that some channels are now charging Shentel to carry those channels, with Shentel having to put them in a higher tier where the user has to pay more money to get those channels that may have been in a lower tier at one time at a lower cost.

The Mayor stated that he appreciates Shentel continuing to work with Cable 12, the area's community channel, and in Shentel opening up a local Shentel office in Rocky Mount. He also requested Mr. Faulk to get with Steve Oaks of Cable 12 to see if they can assist him in moving Cable 12 from Redwood area to the Town.

NEW BUSINESS

A) West Piedmont Planning District Commission Presentation Regarding Rural Long Range Transportation Plan

Representing West Piedmont Planning District Commission (WPPDC), Mr. Aaron Burdick came before Council, introducing himself, referencing his past experience with working for the Town as the Town Planner, and further stating that he still resides in the Town corporate limits. He mentioned that the current Executive Director of WPPDC (Mr. Robert Dowd) is retiring and that he has been recently hired as his replacement. In the interim of Mr. Dowd's retirement, he and Mr. Dowd are co-directors.

Mr. Burdick introduced to Council WPPDC's long range transportation plan and history, with WPPDC trying to keep the Town updated on any changes, along with providing general information about the region. He explained that once the plan is approved, it will be on their website and hard copies will be available for distribution. Prior to the meeting, Council had received copies of the proposed rural long range transportation plan. Mr. Burdick requested Council's approval of the draft "Resolution Endorsing the West Piedmont Planning District Commission 2035 Rural

Long Range Transportation Plan". Council Member Greer and Vice Mayor Walker are both a part of the WPPDC Board, with both of them stating that this was a good plan, and they are glad that the Town is a part of the WPPDC, with the Town being well represented.

There being no further comments, the Mayor entertained a motion.

- Motion was made by Vice Mayor Walker to approve the draft resolution of support to endorse the proposed plan, with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Greer. There being no discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously by those present.

B) Southwest Virginia Antique Farm Days Annual Kick-off Parade

On behalf of Southwest Virginia Antique Farm Days, Board member Mr. Ray Agee came before Council requesting their approval to hold their annual kick-off tractor parade on June 16, starting at 9:00 a.m. Mr. Agee confirmed to Council that he has worked out the parade route with the Rocky Mount Police Department.

There being no further comments, the Mayor entertained a motion.

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

C) Free Clinic of Franklin County, Inc.

Lois Macdonald, Executive Director of Free Clinic of Franklin County, Inc., came before Council thanking them for their continued support of the Free Clinic. Ms. Macdonald presented the different programs they provide the public. She informed Council that they are in their new space on South Main Street; was able to write a grant and hire a full time staff physician assistant, which has allowed them to open four days to serve the public and chronically ill; and now working with the Health Department in offering dental care (basically the abstraction of teeth).

D) Center at the Lake

Mr. Steve Dorr, President of Moneta Arts, Education & Community Center – Center at the Lake, presented to Council the proposed Center at the Lake project. Prior to the meeting, Council had received information regarding the project. Mr. Dorr confirmed to Council that a presentation has also been made to Bedford County and Pittsylvania County, and they plan ask Franklin County this month for funding. He also confirmed that Bedford County has helped keep the project alive by giving them grant money. A time frame was discussed, with their hope being to have a grand opening in 2013, if everything works as planned. Mr. Dorr confirmed to

Council that at this time, he was before Council to ask support of endorsement for the proposed project. The Mayor indicated that Mr. Dorr should look into contacting Mr. Aaron Burdick with West Piedmont Planning District Commission to see how they could help them with this project.

There being no further comments, the Mayor entertained a motion.

- Motion was made by Council Member Greer for the Town to give support of endorsement for the Center at the Lake as presented, with motion on the floor being seconded by Vice Mayor Walker. There being no discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously by those present.

E) Rocky Mount Water Department Grant Award from Virginia Department of Health and Supporting Draft "Town of Rocky Mount Supplemental Appropriation Resolution for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011"

The Superintendent of the Water Plant informed Council that the Rocky Mount Water Department has been awarded a Virginia Department of Health (VDH) grant for improvements to the fluoridation treatment and testing equipment. He pointed out the following:

- Grant completely funds the purchase of a spare chemical feed pump, a fluoride analysis test probe and accessories.
- No match is required by the Town.
- Total grant award is \$1,686.94.
- Funds are provided as a reimbursement once equipment is purchased with Town funds and receipts are provided to VDH.

Also presented to Council for their review and consideration of approval was the draft "Town of Rocky Mount Supplemental Appropriation Resolution for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2011" that outlines the award grant monies in the amount of \$1,687.

There being no further comments, the Mayor entertained a motion.

- Motion was made by Council Member Greer to approve the draft resolution as presented, with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Love. There being no discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously by those present.

F) Update on Utility Grant Application

The Town Manager informed Council that they had previously instructed staff to look into ways to extend Town utilities along East Court Street due to Town residents asking to access Town water. He stated that the Assistant Town Manager has investigated various options, pointing out the following:

- Does Council want staff to proceed with a planning grant application to the

Virginia Department of Health to study how to extend water along East Court Street and Power Dam Road to “close the loop” in the water line?

- If Council does want staff to proceed, the planning grant application would be submitted in August, with staff having some technical expertise available to help with the application. This is the first step in getting further funding.
- The application would not provide cash for construction, but would be the building block to qualify for construction funding in future years. It is likely that a substantial match would be required for future construction. Staff cautions that the Town’s low water rates tend to hurt the Town’s scoring in grant applications, so the Town may not get construction funding, regardless of how good the cause may be.
- If the planning grant results in funding, the application could be beneficial in a number of ways:
 - o Both Council Members Greer and Strickler have asked staff to find a way to provide water service to a Town resident with a failing well on East Court Street. To get the service to that residence, Public Works Department would need to ditch through both exposed and barely-covered Bald Knob rock. The staff estimates for providing water service to that single resident range from \$30,000 to \$60,000, depending on the amount of rock. The planning grant would identify the overall costs of providing service throughout this corridor to match such utility development cost-effective.
 - o Connecting the two ends of the service lines on East Court Street and on Power Dam Road at the Wastewater Treatment Plant would provide the following:
 - More reliable pressure.
 - Fresher water with fewer places for disinfection byproducts to accumulate.
 - Redundancy to the system: If a main breaks now near Power Dam Road, all customers downstream from the break would be out of water service. If a main breaks in a closed loop system, only those customers between the cutoff valves would have service interrupted.

The Town Manager stated that the Assistant Town Manager is requesting Council to authorize the Community Development Office and Water Department staff to proceed with the planning grant application to study the proposed connection.

There being no further comments, the Mayor entertained a motion.

- o Motion was made by Council Member Cundiff to authorize the Community Development Office and Water Department staff to proceed with the planning grant application to study the proposed agreement, with motion on the floor being seconded by Council Member Strickler. There being no discussion, let the record show that the motion on the floor passed unanimously by those present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Let the record show there were no committee reports.

OTHER MATTERS, CONCERNS AND RISE 'N SHINE APPEARANCES

A) Referrals to Planning Commission from Town Council

Let the record show there were no referrals to the Planning Commission from Town Council.

B) Rise 'N Shine Appearances

Let the record show that the Assistant Town Manager appeared on the Rise 'N Shine show.

COUNCIL CONCERNS

Let the record show there were no Council concerns at this time.

CLOSED MEETING

Let the record show there were no *Closed Meeting* items to discuss at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:55 p.m., motion was made by Council Member Strickler to adjourn, seconded by Vice Mayor Walker and carried unanimously by those present.

ATTEST:

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

Patricia H. Keatts/Town Clerk

/phk