

**ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 12, 2019**

The March 12, 2019 Regular Council 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 7:00 p.m. with Mayor Steven C. Angle presiding.

The following members of Council were present:

- Mayor Steven C. Angle
- Vice Mayor Billie W. Stockton
- Bobby M. Cundiff
- Robert L. Moyer
- Mark H. Newbill
- Jon W. Snead
- Gregory B. Walker

The following staff members were also present:

- Tim Burton, Waste Water Treatment Superintendent
- Ken Criner, Chief of Police
- Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk/Executive Administrative Assistant
- C. James Ervin, Town Manager
- Edward "Jeff" Gauldin, Water Superintendent
- Matthew Hankins, Assistant Town Manager
- Jessica Heckman, Town Planner
- Mark Lovern, Lt. of Patrol
- Brian Schofield, Public Works Superintendent
- Linda P. Woody, Finance Director

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Angle led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Motion: To approve the agenda

Motion By: Council Member Snead

Second: Council Member Walker

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: Cundiff, Moyer, Newbill, Snead, Stockton, Walker

Nays: None

Action: Approved the agenda by a unanimous vote.

SPECIAL ITEMS

None at this time

PUBLIC HEARING

None at this time

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Received by Council in their packet for this scheduled meeting were draft minutes for review and consideration of approval:

- February 11, 2019 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Discussion: None

Motion: To approve the draft minutes

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

Second: Council Member Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: Cundiff, Moyer, Newbill, Snead, Stockton, Walker

Nays: None

Action: Approved the motion by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

This month's consent agenda consists of the following items:

- (1) **Miscellaneous Action**
- (2) **Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations**
- (3) **Department Monthly Reports**
 - Community Development Department
 - Finance Department

- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Public Works Department
- Wastewater Department
- Water Department

Discussion: None

Motion: To approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion By: Vice Mayor Stockton

Second: Council Member Walker

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: Cundiff, Moyer, Newbill, Snead, Stockton, Walker

Nays: None

Action: Approved the consent agenda as presented by a unanimous vote.

HEARING OF CITIZENS

Mayor Angle opened the floor to any citizens wishing to speak.

Mr. Roger Hodges, 75 Holly Knoll Drive, Rocky Mount, Va. contacted the Town Clerk prior to the Council meeting and asked to be put on the agenda to speak.

Mr. Hodges began by sharing that his correspondence with the Town regarding Inoperable Vehicles began in November 2018. Mr. Hodges read the Town Code section that pertained to Inoperable Vehicles. The code read as follows:

Sec. 62-112. - Open storage of inoperative vehicles.

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person to keep, except within a fully enclosed building or structure or otherwise shielded or screened from view, on any property zoned for residential or commercial purposes, any motor vehicle, trailer, or semitrailer, as such as defined in the Code of Virginia, § 46.2-100, which is inoperable.

(b) The number of inoperable motor vehicles which any person may keep outside of a fully enclosed building or structure, but which are shielded or screened from view by covers, is limited to two.

Mr. Hodges specifically pointed out the use of the words “covers” and “screened from view” as not being clear. Mr. Hodges stated that the Town Code was subject to interpretation. Mr. Hodges recommended that the Town Code be changed and updated to allow the Town of Rocky Mount to be a cleaner place.

Mr. Hodges went on to read what the Code of Virginia states which is as follows:

§ 15.2-904. Authority to restrict keeping of inoperable motor vehicles, etc., on residential or commercial property; removal of such vehicles; penalty.

A. Any locality may, by ordinance, provide that it shall be unlawful for any person to keep, except within a fully enclosed building or structure or otherwise shielded or screened from view, on any property zoned for residential or commercial or agricultural purposes any motor vehicle, trailer or semitrailer, as such are defined in § 46.2-100, which is inoperable. Any locality in addition may, by ordinance, limit the number of inoperable motor vehicles which any person may keep outside of a fully enclosed building or structure, but which are shielded or screened from view by covers. As used in this section, an "inoperable motor vehicle" may, at the election of the locality, mean any one or more of the following: (i) any motor vehicle which is not in operating condition; (ii) any motor vehicle which for a period of 60 days or longer has been partially or totally disassembled by the removal of tires and wheels, the engine, or other essential parts required for operation of the vehicle; or (iii) any motor vehicle on which there are displayed neither valid license plates nor a valid inspection decal. However, the provisions of this section shall not apply to a licensed business which on June 26, 1970, is regularly engaged in business as an automobile dealer, salvage dealer or scrap processor.

Mrs. Abby Pinckard, 125 Riverview Street, Rocky Mount, Va. signed in to speak.

Mrs. Pinckard stated that the condition of Inoperable Vehicles in the Town exists on several levels. Covers being blown off of the vehicles and vehicles sitting in the right-of-way were two examples that Mrs. Pinckard specifically referred to. Mrs. Pinckard would also like to see a way of tracking the progress being made to clean up the Town of such vehicles.

Mrs. Pinckard noted that on Riverview Street, there were several vehicles that she believes would fall into the Inoperable Vehicles category. Vehicles left on the side of the street until a neighbor complains, creates disharmony among neighbors. Mrs. Pinckard would like to see the code rewritten in regard of such vehicles and how the Town handles complaints on such vehicles while implementing an ongoing program of sorts that would result in violations being identified by the Town and enforced while not relying on neighbors to lodge a complaint as the infraction was occurring.

Mayor Angle opened the floor so anyone wishing to speak at that time could do so.

No one came forward.

Mayor Angle then explained that there was a process to addressing changes with the Town Code. In the past there was a complaint based cleanup but assured the audience that Council would address those possible changes in the Code.

Mayor Angle referred the information to the Public Safety Committee and encouraged anyone in the audience that wished to come could do so. The meeting would be open to the public.

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time

NEW BUSINESS

1. Inoperable Vehicles Discussion and Consideration of Current Town Code and Possible Improvements

Inoperable Vehicles was discussed during Hearing of the Citizens.

2. Arts and Culture District Rules and Boundary Changes

Council was asked by Staff to consider an amendment to the existing Arts & Culture District to add a second, non-contiguous district to cover the business parcels or potential business parcels along North Main Street.

Mr. Hankins presented to Council options to consider such as amending the existing Arts and Culture District to adding a second noncontiguous district. Mr. Hankins asked if Council agreed with the proposed boundaries that were in their packet for this meeting and if so would Council want to possibly review the incentives that would be offered spreading the incentives out over five years instead of three or altering the incentives in some other way.

Mr. Hankins stated that there would be a rebate offered to the people and businesses in the area and the options presented to Council would be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan. The additional new opportunities that were presented with a second Arts and Culture District were that the Town could see new businesses arrive in town and the district could bring in new jobs.

Mr. Tommy Thomas, 1760 North Main Street, Rocky Mount, Va. from Ippy's Restaurant spoke regarding the potential impact of expanding the Arts and Culture District.

Ms. Jodi Jeans, 1760 North Main Street, Rocky Mount, Va. also from Ippy's Restaurant spoke briefly at the podium regarding how nice it would be to have other options of places to eat when coming to Rocky Mount. Ms. Jeans expressed an interest in wanting to see the Town grow.

After some discussion among Council members, Mayor Angle referred the information to the Community and Economic Development Committee. Mayor Angle noted that Committee Meetings are open to the public for anyone who would like to attend.

3. Review and Consideration of Street Music

The Rocky Mount Economic Development Authority had taken notice of nearby areas as had Assistant Town Manager, Matt Hankins, where small towns such as Wytheville, Virginia, had put new ideas to work in their downtown environments.

One of the most noticeable features were ground-mounted speakers in flower beds and planters throughout the downtown area, placed approximately every 100 to 150 feet, that could be used for many types of music, for communications, for alerts and to promote other items going on

inside the Town. The area proposed would be from Floyd Avenue to the Depot and the system itself, provided by AirNetix StreetSounds, would total approximately \$38,000.

At the request of the EDA, Mr. Hankins stated that the Town staff had sought quotes from providers of the type of service that could be paid for by Tourism & Branding funds within the Community & Economic Development budget.

Mr. Hankins asked Council if they saw value in a system such as the system proposed and if so, should Staff proceed to bid based on Council authorizing Staff to spend up to the \$38,000 using funds from the Tourism & Branding line item in the Community & Economic Development budget.

After discussion between Council Members, Mayor Angle expressed an interest in being able to view a short video from Wytheville or a demo from the company that provides the system. Mayor Angle also asked for an approximate dollar figure of what it would cost the Town from American Electric Power, if the system were mounted to their poles.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None at this time

REFERRALS TO PLANNING

None at this time

OTHER MATTERS AND CONCERNS

Mr. Ervin was on Rise n' Shine on Monday, March 11, 2019.

Council Member Newbill asked regarding the stop lights near to Carilion Franklin Memorial Hospital and why those lights were staying green for so long and traffic was getting backed up at that intersection. Mr. Hankins replied that recently the Town had experienced a power outage and some of the stop lights were still having some issues.

Also, Council Member Newbill briefly inquired about High Street Cemetery and who was responsible to mark where graves should go. Council Member Newbill addressed the topic as there was question of who would mark off plots and mentioned the Town Public Works crew mowing the cemetery. Council Member Newbill stated that he would speak with Mr. Ervin regarding the subject.

Council Member Snead asked regarding Gilley's Pond and the event coming up at the pond. Mr. Hankins answered that the pond would be stocked before the event but dates were not to be revealed publicly at this time. The Cops and Bobbers event will be held on March 30, 2019 and will be from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Council Member Snead also asked regarding the Town's LOVE sign. Mrs. Heckman stated that the sign had been picked up and the sign being assembled, was underway.

Mayor Angle inquired about the Veteran's Memorial. Mr. Hankins stated that there would be a press conference regarding the First Responders Memorial on Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the First Responders Memorial on North Main Street in Rocky Mount. Mr. Hankins also stated that the First Responders Memorial Commission would be taking brick orders for the memorial for the next three months and for the first three years after the memorial opens veterans that reside here in Franklin County could purchase a brick and after that time frame, anyone could purchase a brick for the memorial.

CLOSED MEETING AND ACTION

Enter Closed Meeting

Motion: To go into closed session under the Virginia Code Section cited below

Time: 7:53 p.m.

Virginia Code Section:

Section 2.2-3711(A)(5) Discussion concerning a prospective business or industry, or the expansion of an existing business or industry where no previous announcement has been made of the business' or industry's interest in locating or expanding its facilities in the community. (Prospect 1, 2, 3)

Section 2.2-3711(A)(3) Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. (Outside Town Limits)

Motion By: Council Member Moyer

Second: Council Member Snead

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: Cundiff, Moyer, Newbill, Snead, Stockton, Walker

Nays: None

Action: To go into a closed meeting

Certificate of Closed Meeting Discussion:

Council certified unanimously that nothing was discussed in the closed meeting other than what was stated in the motion to enter the closed meeting. No action was taken during the closed meeting.

Whereas, the Rocky Mount Town Council has convened a closed meeting on Monday, March 14, 2016 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 (1950), as amended, 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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn meeting

Time: 8:40 p.m.

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

Second: Council Member Moyer

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: Cundiff, Moyer, Newbill, Snead, Stockton, Walker

Nays: None

Action: Adjourned by a unanimous vote

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ATTEST:

Rebecca H. Dillon, Town Clerk