



ROCKY MOUNT TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2021
7:00 p.m.

The following members of Council were present:

Mayor Steven C. Angle
Council Member Billie W. Stockton
Council Member Robert L. Moyer
Council Member Mark H. Newbill
Vice Mayor Jon W. Snead
Council Member J. Tyler Lee
Council Member R. Ralph Casey
John T. Boitnott, Town Attorney

The following staff members were also present:

Cherie Compton, Acting Town Clerk
C. James Ervin, Town Manager
Mark Moore, Assistant Town Manager
Jessica Heckman, Town Planner
Ken Criner, Chief of Police
Kevin Adkins, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent
Tim Burton, Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent
Brian Schofield, Public Works Superintendent
Linda P. Woody, Finance Director
Rebecca H. Dillon, Executive Administrative Assistant

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, with Mayor Steven C. Angle presiding.

1. **Roll Call**

The Acting Town Clerk called each member of the Rocky Mount Town Council by name to account that each one was present.

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Angle led in saying the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

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

Motion: To approve the agenda with the additions

Motion By: Vice Mayor Snead

Seconded: Council Member Stockton

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill, Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Stockton, and Council Member Casey

Approved (6 to 0)

4. Special Items

Mayor Steven C. Angle presented a resolution honoring Anthony Swann congratulating him on the 2021 Virginia Region 6 Teacher of the Year and the 2021 Virginia Teacher of the Year and acknowledged his contributions to the citizens of Rocky Mount and Franklin County by playing an active role in the lives of his students both inside and outside the classroom.

Mayor Steven C. Angle announced Robert J. Wood as the new Town Manager and stated that he would take his role on May 1, 2021.

5. Public Hearing

Living Proof Beer Company is requesting a Special Use Permit for a light manufacturing use on property located on West Court Street, Rocky Mount, VA, 24151, Franklin County Tax Map and Parcel Number 2070058900. The applicant intends to operate a craft brewery at the subject property, which is zoned CBD (Central business District-Arts & Culture).

Town Planner Jessica Heckman presented the staff report with a slide show. Applicants from Living Proof Beer Company were present and described their intentions for the brewery, hours of operation, how the community could use for socializing and meetings etc., and how their byproduct would be given back to local farmers to feed their livestock. She also noted that at the Planning Commission public hearing, that there were concerns about parking, storm water, and buffering all of which will be addressed at site plan review. Also, at the Planning Commission public hearing there were 14 public comments that of

which 10 were in favor, 2 were opposed, and 2 there were with concerns about the property.

Mayor Steven Angle asked for citizens that signed up to comment to come forward as they were called upon and state their name and address for the record.

Danny Smith, 30 Riverview Street, Rocky Mount VA, spoke against the application with concerns about it adjoining a church parcel property, noise pollution, and trespassing on surrounding properties.

David Slayton, 90 West Church St, Rocky Mount VA, spoke against the application with concerns with the accessibility from downtown to uptown

Mark Redden, 290 South Main St, Rocky Mount VA, spoke in favor of the application and expressed how it would complement his business, The Grand at 290, to have a place close by for visitors to stop by and gather. He further noted how the Town struggles with keeping patrons in town as they go elsewhere to spend their tax dollars because the town doesn't offer things like a craft brewery.

Beth Simms, 30 Scott St, Rocky Mount VA, spoke in favor of the application. Ms. Simms mentioned how many of her friends leave the town to travel to surrounding communities to enjoy such things as a craft brewery. Ms. Simms also mentioned with her economic development background that there is data to support that town residents are going out of town to spend money because of the lack of attractions. Also, she noted that the Town's comprehensive plan mentions developing this property to make a connection to uptown and downtown.

Alice Smith, 1114 Pine Grove Road, Glade Hill VA, spoke in favor of the application with comments about networking opportunities at the proposed location, asked that people look at it as a brewery not a bar and explained the difference, the walkability from uptown, downtown locations, encourages shop local and visit local. She asked Council that when making their decision to please keep in mind that if this was a restaurant or a bar, it would not have needed a special use permit, and construction could begin now.

Brandon Scott, 3106 Rakes Road, Rocky Mount VA, spoke with concerns regarding the visual appearance to the surrounding residential homes, and the traffic that may occur by foot from nearby places like the Harvester. He asked Council to consider more buffering or screening between the properties.

Amy Worley, 185 Claiborne Ave, Rocky Mount VA, spoke in favor of the application. Ms. Worley stated she believes as a business owner that there needs to be more to offer in Rocky Mount for visitors and citizens that live here to keep their dollars local.

After citizen comments, Mayor Angle asked for comments or questions from Council Members.

Council Member Moyer spoke against the application with concerns about the number of locations that already sell alcohol in town. He further noted he could not see the need to have another that close to the church. Council Member Stockton asked about the comment regarding another row of evergreens as additional buffers. Vice Mayor Snead

spoke in favor of the application and asked if they could condition the request with the extra buffer. Town Attorney John Boitnott and Town Planner Jessica Heckman addressed the requests and reminded Council that they cannot impose a condition on the special use permit and that all requirements per code will be addressed and met at site plan review.

Motion: To approve the request as submitted

Motion By: Vice Mayor Snead

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (5): Council Member Lee, Council Member Newbill, Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Stockton, and Council Member Casey

Nays: (1): Council Member Moyer

Approved (5 to 1)

6. Approval of Draft Minutes

- March 8, 2021 – Regular Meeting Minutes
- March 15, 2021- Special Called Meeting Minutes
- March 22, 2021- Special Called Meeting Minutes
- March 30, 2021- Special Called Meeting Minutes

Motion: To approve

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

Seconded: Council Member Lee

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill, Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Stockton, and Council Member Casey

Approved (6 to 0)

7. Approval of Consent Agenda

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

- 7.1 Miscellaneous Action (none at this time)
- 7.2 Miscellaneous Resolutions/Proclamations

- Assistant Town Manager Mark W. Moore as Freedom of Information Officer

7.3 Departmental Monthly Reports

- Community Development Department
- Finance Department
- Fire Department
- Police Department
- Public Works Department
- Wastewater Department
- Water Department

Motion: To approve

Motion By: Council Member Stockton

Seconded: Vice Mayor Snead

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill, Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Stockton, and Council Member Casey

Approved by unanimous vote

8. **Hearing of Citizens**

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

Let the record show no one came forward to speak and there were also no prior emails sent.

9. **Old Business**

Town Attorney gave a briefing on the changing of the Town election day per the General Assembly. The elections previously scheduled for May 2022 are now going to be in November 2022.

10. **New Business**

Presentation of Fiscal Year 2022 Budget

Mr. Ervin presented for Council's consideration fiscal year 2022 budget sheets from the Finance Director. The FY2022 Proposed Budget with the addition of the American Recovery Act Funds, placed some last-minute changes to the budget. James went over the process for reviewing and having meetings for the budget work sessions.

Virginia Outdoor Foundation Grant Awarded for Celeste Park

Mr. Moore updated Council on the grant for Celeste Park. In February 2021, the Town was awarded a \$100,000 grant for Celeste Park from the Virginia Outdoor Foundation (VOF). The grant requires that a deed of dedication to open space in accordance with the Open-Space Land Act (Va. Code §10.1-1700 and 1701 et seq) be added to the existing park deed. This additional wording is in line with the current use and the intent of the donor. Mr. Moore will begin working with Town Attorney John Boitnott on this.

Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission Resolution

Mr. Ervin gave a brief update on the Roanoke Valley-Alleghany Regional Commission ("RVARC") and reviewed the resolution that was presented. Currently the RVARC has 38 board members, the 2019 Strategic Plan for the RVARC called for restructuring the Commission to reduce the number of board members as the large number negatively impacts meeting flow and function and places a substantial burden on staff keeping members informed and engaged. A work group was formed to evaluate ways to amend the Charter of the Commission to reduce the number of board members equitably and they presented their first draft report in January. The Commission gave substantial input to the report and a revised recommendation was submitted in February. The recommended changes to the Charter were

- Every member government appoints 2 members, at least one of whom is an elected official of the governing body.
- Localities with populations between 25,000 and 50,000 appoint 1 additional member who must be an elected official of the governing body, for a total of 3.
- Localities with populations over 50,000 appoint 1 additional member who may be, but does not have to be, a non-elected official, for a total of 4, provided the membership of the Commission complies with the Code of Virginia requirement that a majority of the Commission members as a whole must be elected officials from the governing bodies of the member localities.

This would reduce the number of board members to 30 and would not alter the number of representatives the Town of Rocky Mount had on the Commission. Rocky Mount voted in favor of recommending these changes to the governing body of each member locality. The Town Manager serves as a board member of the RVARC along with Council Member Newbill. Mr. Ervin shared that likely the changes would not diminish the Town's representation on the RVARC and would make the RVARC board meetings more effective.

Motion: To approve the resolution as presented

Motion By: Council Member Newbill

Second: Council Member Lee

Motion Discussion: None

Approved by a unanimous vote

Grand Award for Celeste Park

Review and Consideration for Supplemental Appropriations Resolution for Celeste Park.

Assistant Town Manager Mark Moore informed Council that The Virginia Outdoors Foundation has awarded the Town \$100,000 for the continued development of Celeste Park. The six-acre plot of land known as Celeste Park was donated by the Greer family in 2006 and the Town has slowly been funding the development of the site. The park is named for the Greer's late daughter, Celeste, who died at an early age due to complications from diabetes. The grant was awarded from VOF's Preservation Trust Fund that focuses on protecting and enhancing public access to open space. The Town was one of fifteen grants awarded in Virginia and one of only two towns to receive funding.

Motion: To approve the resolution as presented

Motion By: Vice Mayor Snead

Seconded: Council Member Lee

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill, Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Stockton, and Council Member Casey

Approved by a unanimous vote

Johnny Casa 5 Miler-5k Run walk Event

Johnny Nolen came forward and presented information on the The Johnny CASA 5Miler-5K Run/Walk Event is scheduled for December 18, 2021 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The course this year is the same as in the previous three years. Mr. Nolen met with the police department and the police department approved the plans for the race.

Motion: To approve the Johnny CASA Run Walk Event

Motion By: Vice Mayor Snead

Seconded: Council Member Lee

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill, Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Stockton, and Council Member Casey

Approved by a unanimous vote

Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development FY2021 Financial Feasibility Grant

Mr. Ervin went over the Community Development staff applying for the grant. Town of Rocky Mount has been given a grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development (“DHCD”) to do a feasibility study for the creating of a business development center in downtown Rocky Mount. The proposed site is 40 West Church street, owned by Franklin County. A narrative of the project is attached. DHCD has awarded the Town the funds and asks the Town to enter the attached MOU to initiate the grant.

Motion: To have staff move forward with the feasibility study

Motion By: Vice Mayor Snead

Seconded: Council Member Lee

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill, Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Stockton, and Council Member Casey

Approved by a unanimous vote

11. Committee Reports

The Public Utilities committee met on April 1, 2021 to consider three items:

-Taliaferro Water Line: The water line on Taliaferro has lower than required water volume (not pressure) due to calcification and sediment accumulation. Two options were presented. The first was to replace the line, similar to what was recently done on Diamond Avenue. While replacing the line an interconnect to South Main would be added to improve fire flow for the hospital. This is estimated to be a \$650,000 project. The second option was to clean out the line and reline it with a polymer coating. Staff recommended the direct replacement versus the relining as the age of the line makes it a poor candidate for relining (as any damage found after cleaning would require repair prior to lining). Staff also recommended that funds to pay for the repair, be tentatively presented in a proposed budget for American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) funds. The Committee recommended a full replacement of the water line and the inclusion of the project in our budgeted items using ARPA funds.

-Pigg River Bridge: The most recent bridge inspection for the new bridge across the Pigg River revealed some repair items that would require the services of a bridge maintenance

contractor. Given that the Town has an existing project with a bridge maintenance contractor for the resurfacing of the Angle Bridge, the Committee and the other Council members present at the meeting were advised that the Pigg River bridge maintenance items would be added to the Angle Bridge Project, increasing its cost by an estimated \$25,000. These extra funds would be ARPA funds.

-Water Tap Fee Waiver: The committee was asked for its concurrence to waive the water connection fee for a large industrial user in conjunction with an economic expansion. The Committee recommended this given the capital investment made by the industry.

Motion: To approve all three of the recommendation from the committee

Motion By: Council Member Stockton

Seconded: Council Member Casey

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: (6): Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill, Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Stockton, and Council Member Casey

Approved by a unanimous vote

12. Other Matters, Concerns and Rise 'N Shine Appearances

Mr. Ervin commended how far the Rise 'N Shine appearances have come with Cable 12 over the years and shared it was always a pleasure working with them.

13. Closed Meeting and Action (None at this time)

14. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn

Time: 8:06 p.m.

Motion By: Council Member Casey

Seconded By: Council Member Lee

Motion Discussion: None

Ayes: Council Member Lee, Council Member Moyer, Council Member Newbill, Vice Mayor Snead, Council Member Stockton, and Council Member Casey

Approved by a unanimous vote

Action: Meeting was adjourned

Steven C. Angle, Mayor

ATTEST:

Cherie Compton, Acting Town Clerk

DRAFT