



MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
February 8, 2024

****Meeting minutes are prepared in a summarized format. For full discussion and further details of the meeting you can view the streamlined video at the following link:*

<http://townhallstreams.com/locations/rock-hall-md>

*They are also available at Town Office****

Mayor Cook called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. In attendance were Vice Mayor Jones, Councilmember Seewald, Town Manager Resele, Clerk-Treasurer Loller, Police Chief Dempsey, and Code Enforcer Vaughan. Councilmember Collyer attended virtually, and Councilmember Edwards was absent.

Agenda

Vice Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Seewald seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes

Vice Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes for January 17, 2024. Councilmember Seewald seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Seewald made a motion to approve the Closed Session Meeting minutes of January 17, 2024. Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Administrative Reports

Clerk-Treasurer Loller gave the Financial Report.

Police Chief Dempsey gave the Police Report.

Code Enforcer Brandee Vaughan gave the Code Enforcement Report.

Councilmember Edwards arrived to meeting at 6:28pm.

Department/Board Reports

Streets and Sanitation

Town Manager Resele stated that all the Miss Utility markings are causing extra tasks on the employees even though he was the one that signed the Town up.

Tilghman's Landing will have a modified dumpster that will fit in their containment.

Water

Semi-Annual Water Withdrawal report was sent in.

Town Manger Resele wants the Mayor to send a letter to the Fire Company about illegal use of the fire hydrant at the fire house and to only the hydrant on Liberty Street.

Councilmember Seewald made a motion to approve the sewer Relief request for Haven Court in the amount of \$2,759.88. Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sewer/Pump Stations

Annual Sewage Sludge Report for CY 2024 was submitted to the State.

Still working on lower the levels at the Lagoon.

PS# 2 is still waiting to be repaired.

PS#3 is back online.

PS#5 has #1 pump sent out for repair with DSi and DSi is repairing the feed valve to pump to PS#1 and 3.

Getting quote to do annual maintenance on all of the generators.

Parks & Recreation

Next meeting will be Monday, February 26, 2024 at 6:00pm.

Working with Kate Mayberry to get items for Beach and Civic Center.

Discussed the Ballfields.

Still looking for Volunteers!

Planning and Zoning

Next Planning Commission will be Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Museum Board

The 501c3 registration is ready to be filed.

Communication Board

The board needs one (1) more member to become active.

Ethics Board

Nothing to report but still need three (3) more members.

Economic Development Committee

Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 27, 2024 at 6:15pm.

During the last meeting they made three (3) sub-committees – Housing, Business Development and Workforce Development. They also voted David Miesel as Chair.

Old Business

Letter of Support

Mayor Cook asked the Council for approval to write a letter of support for the Main Street Project.

Vice Mayor Jones made a motion to approve Mayor Cook to write a letter of support for the Main Street Project – Lambert Wicks corner at Main and Sharp Street. Councilmember Seewald seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Auditor

Project update later in February.

Town Hall Building Project

Sale of Property

There is a new buyer discussing the purchase, but they want to purchase the Board of Education lot.

New interest from Frank Hodgetts.

Purchase of Property

Still working on finding property. Will discuss at the next workshop meeting.

Possible Election Date Change

Introduce Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2024-01

Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2024-01, if adopted, would amend the Municipal Charter of the Town of Rock Hall (as published in Chapter 125, Volume 7, Compilation of Municipal Charters) for the purposes of providing that Town elections for the Mayor and Councilpersons shall be held on the first Saturday in March beginning in 2025 and continuing thereafter and adjusting other dates related to Town elections for consistency therewith, and providing that, beginning with those Councilpersons elected in 2025 and continuing thereafter that the Mayor and Councilpersons shall not receive a salary or other compensation but may be entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred while traveling on Town business, subject to certain conditions.

Dog Park Fund Raising

Nothing new to report.

Rock Hall Library

Put together an application for a Design and technical grant.

HR Support

Mayor Cook wants Town Manager Resele to set up a meeting with outside consultants for handbook and policies support.

Business Application Form

Continued discussion on requirements for applicants.

New Business

Vote on Ordinance 2024-01

FOR the purpose of amending Chapter 102 (Fees) of the Code of the Town of Rock Hall to provide that an application for five or more water connections and/or five or more sewer connections shall be entitled to a discount of ten percent on the total amount of the connection charges, subject to certain conditions; providing that the title of this Ordinance shall be deemed a fair summary, and generally relating to municipal fees, rates, and charges of the Town of Rock Hall.

Councilmember Collyer made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2024-01. Councilmember Seewald seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Vote of Resolution No. 2024-01 and Adopt

Councilmember Seewald made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2024-01. Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting on Housing Needs

Possible meeting at the RHVFC on Sunday, March 10, 2024 for planning and ideas.

Public Notices Advertising Costs

Legal will look over.

Social Media

Tabled until next workshop.

Tax Set-off Study

Tabled.

Events

Nothing to report.

Other Organizations

Greater Rock Hall Business Association

Nothing to report

Main Street Rock Hall

Laurie Walters spoke to the Council.

Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company

Nothing to report.

Council of Governments

Next meeting was held on February 21 in Galena.

Maryland Municipal League

Nothing to report.

Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities (ESAM)

Next meeting will be held virtually on March 12, 2024 .

For the Good of the Town

Nobody spoke.

Next Meeting Dates

Monday, March 4 2024 – Utilities Board Meeting and Mayor & Council Regular Workshop Meeting.

Thursday, March 14, 2024 – Mayor & Council Regular Business Meeting.

Special Workshops – TBD.

Recess to closed Session

Councilmember Edwards made a motion to recess into closed session at 8:02 p.m. under General Provisions Art. 3-305(b)(1) “to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employee, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals” and 3-305(b)(2) “to protect the privacy or reputation of individuals concerning a matter not related to public business”. Councilmember Seewald seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

In attendance were Mayor Cook, Vice Mayor Jones, Councilmember Edwards, Councilmember Seewald, and Town Manager Resele. Councilmember Collyer was virtual.

Purpose

Personnel Discussion and Board Appointments

Closed Session Discussion:

Board appointments for Communications Board and personnel discussion of a personal matter.

Actions taken in Closed Session:

No actions were taken.

Reconvene to Regular Business Meeting

Returned to Regular Business Meeting at 8:23 pm.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the Regular Workshop Meeting at 8:24 pm. was made by Councilmember Edwards. Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

Reconvene back to Regular Business Meeting

Councilmember Seewald made a motion to reconvene back to the Regular Business Meeting. Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Seewald made a motion to appoint Lee Vaughan to the Communications Board. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the Regular Workshop Meeting at 8:25 pm. was made by Councilmember Edwards. Councilmember Seewald seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cheryl M. Butler

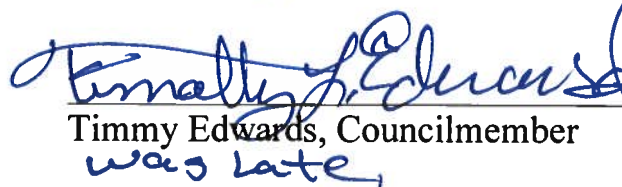
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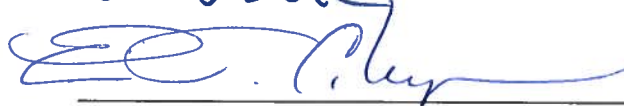
James Cook, Mayor



Carolyn Jones, Vice Mayor


was late

Timmy Edwards, Councilmember



Eleanor Collyer, Councilmember



Richard Seewald, Councilmember