



**MAYOR & COUNCIL**  
**REGULAR WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**  
March 4, 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 the Town Office\*\*\**

Mayor Cook called the Regular Workshop meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. In attendance were Vice Mayor Jones, Councilmember Edwards, Councilmember Seewald, Councilmember Collyer, Town Manager Resele.

### **Agenda**

Councilmember Seewald made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Minutes**

Councilmember Seewald made a motion to approve the Regular Workshop Meeting minutes of January 2, 2024. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Town Manager Report**

### **Old Business**

### *Job Postings*

### **Moved to Closed Session**

## **New Business**

### Utility Protection Insurance Review

Council needs to review

### Special Events

Councilmember Collyer made a motion to approve all the Special Events discussed tonight. Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Spring and Fall Triathlon  
Pirates & Wenches Weekend  
4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade  
Fall Fest  
Witches Dance Weekend  
American Legion Veterans Day Parade  
Rock Fish Tournament  
Biek Fest

### Installation of Office Door

The bid came in at \$2,500.00 for a new office door to be built.

## **Mayor and Council Items**

## **Old Business**

### Dog Park – Project Update – Fundraising Ideas

Hometown Grant Status – Will be submitting application on March 13<sup>th</sup>.

The PayPal account is straight.

### Purchase of Property

### Discuss Town Hall Options

Need to work up a design for the corner of Zeeman Road and Route 20  
(1 acre lot).

### Sale of Property

Offers are still coming in.

### Vacant Lot on Main Street – Hotel Project

The owner might need to rezone the property. Will need to send something to Planning and Zoning.

### Trade School/Workforce Training Update

Trade School – In discussion with the Owners of the Clam House.

Workforce Development Study – Mayor Cook wants to have this project coordinated and run by the Economic Development Committee.

### Committees

Economic Development – Submitted a letter to the Greater Rock Hall Business Association about Transportation. A discussion followed.

Coastal Resiliency – Need Members.

### Update Business License Application

Mayor Cook will have drafts to look over at the next meeting.

### Advertising Methods and Costs

Public Notices – Found out that notices can be published in the Tidewater Trader for in-town business.

## **New Business**

### Project Restore Discussion

The Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) activates vacant buildings, supports small businesses, creates jobs, improves commercial corridors, and increases local economic activity by

providing financial support to place-based economic development organizations working to improve the vitality of Maryland's commercial corridors.

The Town should apply for this.

### Human Resources Outsourcing

Town Manager Resele is talking with a few Companies.

### Library MOU

Councilmember Collyer made a motion to approve the MOU with the Kent County Library Rock Hall Branch. Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

### ESAM

Tax set off study invoice was \$1,824.38.

### Passenger Ferry Feasibility Study

**BACKGROUND & PURPOSE** The Chesapeake Bay is steeped in maritime history, including a time when water ferry transportation drove the development and success of our coastal communities. In recent years, many of these communities on both the western and eastern shores have lost the water transportation connectivity, and, in many cases, lost quality access to the Bay other than by private boat or limited charters. For many communities, the Bay has the potential to serve as a key economic driver for water activities and as a transportation gateway for both residents and visitors to bayside destinations throughout the region. The purpose of the Chesapeake Bay Passenger Ferry Feasibility Study is to evaluate the potential for a new passenger ferry service that could stimulate economic growth within each host community, provide improved access to the Bay, provide new water transportation connectivity options, and promote enhanced tourism opportunities throughout the region.

### MOU – Short Term Rental Process

Rose Osborn attended the meeting and answered any questions about renewing the MOU with the Town and present it to the County Commissioners on the 26<sup>th</sup>.

Councilmember Collyer made a motion to approve the MOU drafted on Short Term Rentals. Councilmember Seewald seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

### Meeting on Housing Needs

Trying to have the meeting sometime in April at RHVFC.

### Housing

Housing Summary – 2023 - Rock Hall had a 5% decrease with units sold and 74% increase in price and a low inventory.

Auxiliary Dwelling Units – For Planning Commission – Needs to be more clearly defined and sent to the Planning Commission.

### Comprehensive Plan

Gave to the Council to review.

### **For the Good of the Town**

Nothing.

### **Next Meeting Dates**

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

Next Regular Workshop Meeting – Monday, April 1, 2024.

### **Recess to closed Session**

Councilmember Edwards made a motion to recess into closed session at 8:22 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”. Councilmember Seewald seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

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

### Purpose

Personnel – staffing and resignations

### Closed Session Discussion:

Staffing and recent resignations.

### Actions taken in Closed Session:

No actions were taken.

Returned to Regular Workshop Meeting at 9:31 pm.

### **Adjournment**

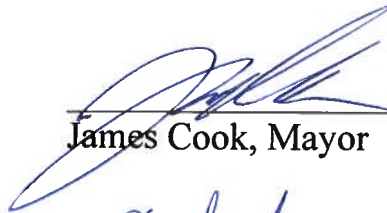
A motion to adjourn the Regular Workshop Meeting at 9:31 pm. was made by Councilmember Edwards. Councilmember Seewald seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried

Respectfully Submitted:



Cheryl M. Butler

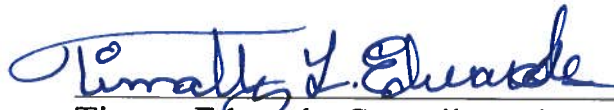
Approved by:



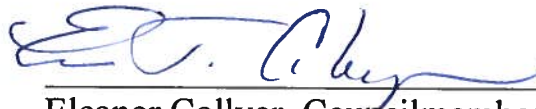
James Cook, Mayor



Carolyn Jones, Vice Mayor



Timmy Edwards, Councilmember



Eleanor Collyer, Councilmember



Richard Seewald, Councilmember