



MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2023

****Meeting minutes are prepared in a summarized format. For full discussion and further detail of the meeting you can view the streamline video at the following link: <http://townhallstreams.com/locations/rock-hall-md>. They are also available at Town Office****

Mayor Jacobs called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. In attendance were Vice Mayor Jones, Councilmember Edwards, Councilmember Cook, Councilmember Collyer, Town Manager Resele, Code Enforcer Whitman, and Police Chief Dempsey.

Agenda

Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes

Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes for February 9, 2023. Councilmember Collyer seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Vice Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the Closed Session Minutes for February 9, 2023. Councilmember Cook seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Invited Guest – Tom Herz, Chestertown Council Member

Council Member Herz talked about the Maryland Tax Differential which is where a Municipality pays for parallel services. The differential is a rebate on

property taxes town residents pay the county for services like police and planning & zoning, which the town provides and pays for out of its own budget. The differential exists in the vast majority of counties in the form of a lower county tax rate to town residents or a direct cash payout to the municipality, but not in all cases.

Kent is one of only three counties in Maryland that does not provide a differential to its municipalities.

Correspondence

Mayor Jacobs invited the Council to an Evening in Annapolis that the District 36 Delegates are hosting which will include a tour of the State House on Monday, March 13th.

Kent Conservation & Preservation Alliance will show the MPT airing of the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area at the Garfield Center on March 31st.

Mayor Jacobs presented Main Street Rock Hall's report.

Administrative Reports

The Financial Report was given by Town Manager Resele.

Police Chief Dempsey gave the Police Report. Chief Dempsey also stated that he sent a letter to Richard Baker at the State Highway requesting assistance with the increase pedestrian traffic on Route 20 and Zeeman Road.

Mayor Jacobs introduced Ordinance 2023-02 - Chapter 215 (Vehicles and Traffic) of the Code of the Town of Rock Hall, Maryland

FOR the purpose of amending Chapter 215 (Vehicles and Traffic) of the Code of the Town of Rock Hall to modify the degree of infraction associated with the receipt of a parking ticket, clarify language regarding multiple offenses, amend prohibited parking locations by street name for accuracy, and update certain language to reflect the current Annotated Code of Maryland referenced; providing that the title of this Ordinance shall be deemed a fair summary, and generally relating to municipal infractions in the Town of Rock Hall.

Councilmember Cook made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2023-02 concerning Chapter 215 (Vehicles and Traffic) of the Code of the Town of Rock Hall, Maryland. Councilmember Collyer seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Code Enforcement Report was read by Code Enforcer Dave Whitman.

Mayor Jacobs introduced Ordinance Chapter 153 (Municipal Infractions) of the Code of the Town of Rock Hall, Maryland.

FOR the purpose of amending Chapter 153 (Municipal Infractions) of the Code of the Town of Rock Hall to amend the schedule of fines for, and classes of, municipal infractions and to amend outdated language; providing that the title of this Ordinance shall be deemed a fair summary, and generally relating to municipal infractions in the Town of Rock Hall.

Councilmember Cook made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2023-01 concerning Chapter 153 (Municipal Infractions) of the Code of the Town of Rock Hall, Maryland. Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Streets and Sanitation

Still need more residents to sign up for the smaller trash cans.

Mayor Jacobs introduced Ordinance Chapter 125 (Garbage, Rubbish and Waste) of the Code of the Town of Rock Hall to amend outdated and inconsistent language; providing that the title of this Ordinance shall be deemed a fair summary, and generally relating to garbage, rubbish, and waste in the Town of Rock Hall.

A discussion followed and it was decided to table this until the next Workshop meeting.

Water Operations

Sent Letter to MDE for an extension of the meter installation grant to cover additional engineering cost of third-party contractors to complete the project.

Need the Councils approval for additional engineering cost of \$22,040.00.

Councilmember Cook made a motion to approve the Engineering Cost Contract documents that GMB put together for the Water Meter installation bid of

\$22,040.00 to be paid out of additional MDE grant funds for the project if approved. Councilmember Collyer seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Sewer Plant Operations

East Sharp Street paving complete with estimated cost total of \$180,000.00.

Road repair waiting on invoice (HUR)

LGIT insurance claim check of \$25,000 has been received.

99% completion on Headworks (4/12/2023)
Construction cost - \$172,874.00 (ARPA)

Parks & Recreation

Easter Egg Hunt at the Fire Company will be held on Sunday, April 2nd at 1:00 pm.

Community Yard Sale will be held on Saturday, April 22nd with a rain date of Saturday, April 29th.

Baseball Fields:

“No dogs” signs put up at Lagoon Ball Fields

Bases ordered – Estimate deliver March 22nd

Field Mix ordered – March 17th

Bramble contacted about contract.

Shed at Civic Center replaced. Shed at Lagoon is being repaired.

Next Parks & Rec. meeting will be Monday, March 20, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Planning and Zoning

Meeting on March 8th was about the Comp Plan and discussions about Land Use.

Next Planning and Zoning meeting will be Wednesday, April 12, 2023 at 7:00 pm.

Museum Board

Nothing new to report

Next Museum Board meeting will be March 13, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Communication Board

Modifications to the Code will be discussed at the next Workshop meeting.

Transportation

Rick Carter will provide transportation services for the County and he is asking the County Commissioners for \$20,000.00 for the services he provided to Rock Hall.

Support letter from the Mayor will be sent.

Ethics Board

Nothing to report.

Other Organization

Choptank Community Health will be holding a special free screening for the Watermen on at the Rock Hall American Legion Post 228, 21423 East Sharp Street, Rock Hall, Maryland Thursday, March 16th from 12pm to 4pm.

Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company will be putting on the 4th of July Fireworks.

Rock Hall Business Association will be working on the Crosswalks. Also, if anyone wants to put up a flag pole, American Rock Hall Service Center can help with that.

Haven Harbour will use a 3rd party food service at both locations this year.

HomePorts is dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of Kent County residents, regardless of age. This commitment to community wellness can be seen at their annual Health & Wellness Expo which will be held on October 21, 2023, organized by HomePorts in partnership with local health and wellness

organizations. The event highlights community resources offering the latest health, wellness, and safety information. Their goal is that everyone has access to practical information, and becomes better prepared to manage their own health and their family's health.

Mayor Jacobs said the Fire House Appreciation Dinner was a good night and the members appreciated the Towns donation of \$12,000.00. She gave praise to all the members/volunteers for all they do.

Events

Triathlon: June 3rd and 4th.

Triathlon: September 30th through October 1st.

Rock Fish Tournament: June 9th, 10th and 11th.

Garden Club Annual Plant Sale: May 13th.

Councilmember Cook made a motion a approve all the above listed Events. Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business

Auditor RFP

Nothing to report.

Town Hall Building Project

Sale of Property

Mayor Jacobs Introduction and Vote of Resolution 2023-01 (Declaration of Surplus Real Property).

A Resolution of the Council of the Town of Rock Hall declaring all that certain real property owned by the Town of Rock Hall, shown on Tax Map 501, Parcel 868, Tax Identification Number 05-020182, consisting of 1.351± acres of land, located at 5585 S. Main Street, Rock Hall, Maryland, as surplus and no longer needed for any present or anticipated future public purpose or use.

Councilmember Collyer made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-01 (Declaration of Surplus Real Property). Councilmember Cook seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Purchase of Property

Tidewater Properties Appraisers will be on site at the old municipal building on March 13th to do the appraisal.

American Rescue Plan

Town Manager Resele presented his revised spending plan update.

Project Financing Forecasting

Mayor Jacobs presented her updated information.

New Business

Safety

AED for Shops and Office - \$1,466.99 x 3 – Look for a grant?

First Aid Kits - \$ 88.19 x 3

CPR Training - \$40 March 22nd from 10am – Noon

Water Tower Issues (Southern Corrosion)

Lease Agreements / Franchise Agreements with the following companies:

Verizon

Delmarva Wi-Fi

Cambio

BridgeMAXX High Speed Wireless

For the Good of the Town

Nothing

Next Meeting Dates

Monday, April 3, 2023 – Utilities Board Meeting and Mayor & Council Regular Workshop Meeting.

Wednesday, April 12, 2023 – Planning & Zoning Town Meeting – Rock Hall Comprehensive Plan.

Thursday, April 13, 2023 – Mayor & Council Regular Business Meeting.

Special Workshops – TBD

Town Hall Building Discussions/Plans

Planning & Zoning Board – Comprehensive Plan Workshops

Closed Session

Councilmember Edwards made a motion to recess into closed session at 9:14 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”. Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

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

Purpose

Personnel policies.

Closed Session Discussion:

Update on grievance and policy issue.

Actions taken in Closed Session:

No actions were taken.

Returned to Regular Workshop Meeting at 9:27 pm.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the Regular Workshop Meeting at 9:30 pm. was made by Councilmember Edwards. Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

Cheryl M. Butler

Approved by:



Dawn Jacobs, Mayor



Carolyn Jones, Vice Mayor



Timmy Edwards, Councilmember



Eleanor Collyer, Councilmember



James Cook, Councilmember