

COUNCIL AND UTILITY COMMISSION MINUTES FOR THE TOWN OF ROCK HALL**TOWN OF ROCK HALL**

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**MINUTES - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
April 11, 2013**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 11, 2013

Amended Minutes

changes made are noted by bold face type, italics, and underlining

The Mayor convened the Mayor and Council Regular meeting on the above date at 6:40 p.m. All Councilmembers were present. The Town Manager and Town Attorney were also present.

Councilmember Price made a motion to recess the regular Mayor and Council meeting to enter into an Executive Session - Under the Maryland Open Meeting's Law, Section 10-508, Subsection A; Paragraph 7, for the purposes to consult with legal counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter. Councilmember Francis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor reconvened the Mayor and Council Regular meeting at 7:35 p.m. All Councilmembers were present. The Town Manager and Chief Moore were also present.

Mr. Tom Willis member of Rock Hall United Methodist Church gave the invocation. The Mayor offered a moment of silence to recognize the men and women who server our country to protect our rights. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilmember Francis made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the March 14, 2013 meeting. Councilmember Jones seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKERS/INVITED GUESTS:

Mrs. Patsy Reihl spoke in regards to the property known as the Rock Hall Inn and the condition it is currently in. The Mayor stated that there isn't a single person here that wants to see this project sit in this state any longer. The Mayor continued to say that there are efforts being made to rectify the condition the property is in and also try to keep the owner moving in the right direction to get this project completed.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Town Manager read the Financial Report into the record as follows:

General Fund Investment Account: \$262,244.55

Utilities Fund Investment Account: \$ 58,798.49

Total Available Funds: \$321,043.04

Property Taxes Outstanding: \$109,924.74

Utilities Fund Outstanding: \$148,871.36

Services Rendered Outstanding: \$ 2,300.00

Total Outstanding: \$261,114.10

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Mayor stated that Stephanie has successfully completed the Retirement Plan certification requirements.

The Mayor also had two letters he read in regards to the GED program offered by the town.

There was a letter received from Mayor Pisapia of Galena read into record.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Moore read the report into record.

STREETS/SANITATION:

Councilmember Jones reported that the guys have started cutting grass. We've patched up a few areas in the streets. We are getting more Highway User Funds this year. Maybe we can take some of that to get some more new signs put up.

SEWER/WATER:

Councilmember Nesspor read the reports into record. We had impeller go up on pumping station #3 that was fixed in house. We've received two estimates to have pumping station #4 fixed. The first estimate is from White Marsh at a cost of \$214,955.00. The other estimate came from DSI at a cost of \$188,366.00. The Town Manager touched base on the importance of having this job done and fixed. We would have to take a loan out from the bank with a 4 ¼% interest rate over 15 years. Councilmember Price made a motion to accept the bid from DSI at the cost of

\$188,366.00 to repair pump station #4. Councilmember Nesspor and Councilmember Jones asked for more time to look over things to make sure they are making the right decision in regards to this project. It was agreed to have the two companies come in at the next workshop meeting to explain their proposals and go over exactly what they are planning to do in regards to the project.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Councilmember Francis mentioned that the grant has been approved to be given to the town to do a makeover to our tennis and basketball courts at the Civic Center. The Easter festivities were a big success, all the kids had a good time.

PLANNING/ZONING:

Councilmember Price stated that there was no meeting for the month of April. The next meeting is scheduled for May 8, 2013. A lot line adjustment will be up for review for Robert Lowman. And Rock Hall Park Center (Family Dollar) revised preliminary site plan review. Councilmember Price made a motion to reappoint Mrs. Marty Maxwell to the Board of Appeals Committee. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

MUSEUM BOARD:

Mr. Doug Francis, Museum Board Director, gave an update on the Museum.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Mayor read the Fair Housing Proclamation into record.

The Mayor mentioned that there has been great discussion about the invocations at the beginning of the Mayor and Council monthly meetings. We adopted a resolution just about a year ago in regards to this topic. It is a subject that this board feels very strongly about. We have made some changes to the resolution and would like to adopt an amended resolution with said changes. Mr. Gren Whitman asked if the Mayor was planning on having a public hearing on this. The Mayor said no Sir. I plan on voting on this tonight and putting this to bed. Mr. Whitman said you put it out this evening to the public and you're going to vote on, you're not going to entertain any comments or questions from the public in a public hearing. The Mayor stated that he's seen Mr. Whitman's comments in the Spy and the Kent News, Mr. Whitman said I'm not talking about just me. The Mayor stated that having this much attention on the matter that he had received a letter and offered to share the letter after the meeting. Mr. Whitman asked again if the Mayor was planning on having a public meeting. The Mayor said no, and Mr. Whitman said Thank you, you're not planning on having a public meeting. Councilmember Price made a motion to adopt amended Resolution No. 2013-02 as presented. Councilmember Francis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

The Town Manager reported that there has been some work done to the Trams to get them ready and prepared for the upcoming season. The lights on Rt. 20 have been fixed. The beach has been cleaned up and prepared for the upcoming season as well. I met with James Castle from CDBG to look into some opportunities for the town for some funding availability. There was a leak in one of the bathrooms at the Civic Center that has been fixed. Parks and Recreation bought some fence protectors for the ball fields we are working on getting put on the fences. We sent off a grant for a Smart Energy Community Grant we're waiting to hear back from. In a combined effort of the Humane Society and the Really Great Cat Rescue they've relocated 19 cats to work on our feral cat colonies.

GOOD OF THE TOWN:

Mrs. Patsy Reihl had a question in regards to how the money was collected while the Trams were in service. Can there be a more efficient/reliable way to get a count on how many people are using the Trams throughout the day? The Mayor and Councilmember Jones stated that they are still working on this process and coming up with solutions to this problem.

David Jones had a question in regards to the responsibility of the Planning and Zoning Committee Board.

Mrs. Edna Marie asked if there was a record of how many e-mails/letters received in regards to the Dollar Stores coming into to town.

There was a resident that commented on the eye sore of the Rock Hall Inn. She also asked about the sign ordinance. The Mayor stated that they would bring that up and discuss that at the next workshop meeting.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Price made a motion to adjourn at 10:10 p.m.; Councilmember Jones seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Approved:

Robert E. Willis, Mayor

Olin B. Price, Councilmember

Susan A. Francis, Councilmember

Brian Nesspor, Councilmember

Brian Jones, Councilmember