

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

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

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
July 11, 2013**

The Mayor convened the Mayor and Council Regular meeting on the above date at 7:30 p.m. All Councilmembers were present, with the exception of Councilmember Nesspor. The Town Manager and Chief Moore were also present.

Mr. Tom Willis gave the invocation for the evening. A moment of silence was given in respect to those who serve our country on our behalf. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Closed Session Summary from the April 30, 2013 meeting. Councilmember Jones seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Francis made a motion to approve the Budget Workshop Meeting minutes from the May 22, 2013 meeting. Councilmember Price seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Budget Hearing minutes from the June 20, 2013 meeting. Councilmember Jones seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the June 20, 2013 meeting. Councilmember Jones seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKERS/INVITED GUESTS:

None

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

General Fund Investment Account: \$105,726.36

Museum Board Funds: 2,722.27

Utilities Fund Investment Account: \$ 63,194.84

Total Available Funds: \$171,643.47

Property Taxes Outstanding: \$ 55,957.92

Utilities Fund Outstanding: \$160,445.54

Services Rendered Outstanding: \$ 3,102.97

Total Outstanding: \$219,506.43

The Mayor gave a summary in regards to the rate increase of the Town Attorney's fees. There was a discussion in regards to the rate increase and the fact that there didn't seem to be a contract between the Town and Funk & Bolton for their services. The Mayor stated that there were a couple of freedom of information requests from Mr. Craig O'Donnell and Mr. Gren Whitman.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Mayor mentioned an invitation received from the Board of Ed. he read into record at the last meeting.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Moore read the report into record.

STREETS/SANITATION:

Councilmember Jones reported that we've got a lot going on. We had a tree on Locust Avenue that was rotten. The Town guys removed it. There were numerous requests to look into the lighting to the Chesapeake Villa area. There was a proposal given to the Mayor and Council from Nilo Electrical in regards to this issue. The cost of the proposal is for \$3,758.00. Councilmember Jones asked how the Council would like to proceed with this. The Mayor stated that Norm Davidson oversees the Upper Shore Aging. We should probably invite him to a meeting and discuss the concerns that we've heard over some time. That way we can see how far they are willing to get involved and how much responsibility they are willing to take on. The Town Manager was asked to contact Mr. Davidson to see if he would be willing to attend the next meeting. Councilmember Jones stated that there was a meeting with Pothole Pro's yesterday. They are scheduled to come back to fix some potholes in town. The Town Manager contacted Timmy Edwards to have him contact Rural Water to come in to scope the pipe at Walnut Street. The Town Manager stated that they did come in to try to attempt that job, but there was so much water lying in the pipe that the scope couldn't work properly because of the water. We're going to try again, but there may never be a time when there isn't water lying in that pipe. We may just have to dig the pipe up to see what's going on; the scope just may not work. Councilmember Jones stated that there have been more street signs ordered to be in compliance with the new federal regulations. We had a stop sign knocked down over the weekend, it has been fixed. We are still looking into the Haven Court responsibility. Councilmember Jones stated that he would like to start a Hometown Hero Banner to be

placed from the lights on Main Street. He gave a brief overview of the project and asked the Mayor and Council for their approval to move forward with the project. The American Legion has stated that there is a possibility that they may contribute some funding to the project. Councilmember Price made a motion to purchase 12 banners at a cost of \$780.00 for the Hometown Here Project. Councilmember Francis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

SEWER/WATER:

The Town Manager read some notes left by Councilmember Nesspor into record. The Town Manager stated that they should be starting the work on pump station #4 in two weeks. We replaced a pump on the corner of Hawthorne and Rt. 20, it has been brought back and was put back in this morning.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Councilmember Francis stated that a letter has been received with the approval of the funding for the repairs and improvements to the Civic Centers tennis courts. Mr. Ed Hatcher attended our last meeting and has sent out e-mails to several people and now has a Rock Hall Tennis Citizens Advisory Committee. The first meeting is scheduled for 9 am on August 4, 2013 at Java Rock. Anyone interested is more than welcome to come and join the committee. Ronnie is the contact person for the project. I met with Terry Patty from Useco (couldn't clearly hear name of company) Lighting. They are going to write up a proposal for new lighting. Councilmember Francis asked if the letter of approval had been posted on the website. The Town Manager said he thought that it had been taken care of.

PLANNING/ZONING:

The Mayor swore in Mr. Allen Riley to the Planning & Zoning Board. The Mayor swore in Mr. Walter Souder as an alternate to the Board of Appeals. Councilmember Price stated that they met last night for an application for review for Haven Harbor. They came in for a preliminary and a final site plan review. The board approved the application contingent on some changes that the board recommended they make.

MUSEUM BOARD:

Councilmember Francis stated that the Museum Board had an organizational meeting on July 9, 2013. There are currently eight (8) board members with five (5) available seats open. Several candidates for board positions and officers were discussed. Mr. Ronnie Fithian was in attendance and accepted the position of exhibits chairman. The Museum Board asked that he be sworn in at tonight's meeting. Councilmember Francis gave a brief overview of the items discussed at the Museum Board's meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. The Mayor said going back to planning and zoning that the gentleman who owns the property on Main Street sent an e-mail requesting to discuss possible opportunities as he moves forward. I suggested that he attend a meeting and sit down with the board and entertain whatever thoughts he may have in regards to it. The Town Manager was asked to invite Mr. Maloney to the next meeting. There was some discussion among the audience in regards to this issue. There were questions raised about giving the Planning & Zoning a time frame to follow up with information some of the residents have asked for from the Mayor and Council. The Town Manager was asked to have Mrs. Amy Moredock from Planning & Zoning attend the next workshop meeting. Councilmember Francis also asked to have Terry Patty added to the next workshop agenda for the Civic Center grant. The Town Manager asked Councilmember Francis to send him a reminder that she needed to be put on the agenda. The Mayor swore in Mr. Ronnie Fithian to the Museum Board. There was a question raised in regards to whether Ronnie should be allowed to serve as a board member due to

the fact that he's already been appointed to the position as Town Manager. The Town Manager stated that he would ask the Town Attorney to look into the matter. He stated that if it's found out that he is not allowed to serve as a member on the Museum Board then he would step down. He didn't have a problem doing that.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

The Mayor read a summary of Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2013-01 into record. The Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2013-01 was tabled due to language that the Mayor would like to have changed in it.

The Mayor stated that because it was introduced at a workshop meeting that was an inappropriate way to put forth a Charter Amendment Resolution. There was a discussion in regards to a memo sent by the Town Attorney in regards to the Charter Amendment Resolution being previously introduced at the workshop meeting. Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2013-02 was tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Mark Einstein gave an update on the Clam House. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday; July 25, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. We are planning on holding it here at the museum or here in the council chambers. The Mayor asked the Town Manager to have the next meeting advertised in the paper.

The Mayor gave a brief update on the Adult Education Program. The Rock Hall American Legion has agreed to donate some funds to help with this program.

Councilmember Price asked if it would be possible to get a new air conditioning unit be installed in the Council chambers. The window unit is just too loud during our meetings that are held in here. The Town Manager stated that he would check into it.

Councilmember Jones gave an update on the Website Committee.

Councilmember Jones suggested that we invest in a portable pa system. The Mayor suggested that we have someone come out and take a look at the current system and see what kind of cost this may incur. It was agreed to have someone/company come in and give an estimate on a new pa system for the town.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilmember Price made a motion to amend the meeting minutes from April 11, 2013 to show that there were several citizens that were opposed to that resolution. Councilmember Jones seconded. Mr. Gren Whitman stated that the citizens were opposed to the process of that resolution not necessarily opposed to the resolution itself. The resolution was introduced and adopted at the same meeting. Councilmember Price amended his motion to state that the citizens were opposed to the process of the resolution. Councilmember Jones seconded the amended motion. All in favor, motion carried.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

The Town Manager gave a brief overview of what's been going on in the town and where we currently are with

things.

GOOD OF THE TOWN:

Councilmember Price stated that he would like to wish Mrs. Edna Marie Sutton Hubbard a Happy 95th Birthday.

Mrs. Patsy Reihl gave praise to the fabulous fireworks we had this past weekend. She also gave praise to the Willis' for all their time and effort that they put into it.

Mr. David Jones stated that there was supposed to be an update on the out of town sewer bills.

Mr. Gren Whitman stated that there were three (3) items that were referred to the Town Attorney at the last meeting. One is the complaint made about the special treatment for the Sailing Emporium sewer, and one is the recall charter amendment, and one is the social media policy. When are we going to hear back on these three (3) important issues. The Mayor stated that when they become on the agenda. Mr. Whitman said that wasn't a good answer. The Mayor stated that is the answer. Mr. Whitman asked when it would be on the agenda. The Mayor stated when the time is appropriate it will be placed on the agenda. Mr. Whitman stated that he hoped that the Mayor would at least recuse himself from the Sailing Emporium issue and have absolutely nothing to do with that since you are financially involved with that business. The Mayor said let's not prejudge. Mr. Whitman said he wasn't prejudging he was just asking if the Mayor was going to recuse himself. The Mayor said he did back in 2009 and he wasn't planning on doing it any differently. Mr. Whitman stated that someone else should be deciding when that should be brought back up.

There was a discussion in regards to the tapes from the April 29, 2013 meeting.

There was an audience member that asked if there could be a monthly report given at the Mayor and Council meeting in regards to the tram activity. Can the report include the number of riders, fares collected, advertising revenues, special events revenues, total hours operating, and expenses of salaries both monthly and cumulative and if there were any incidents or complaints received in the past month. The Town Manager stated that he would have it broken down in the financial report.

Mr. Whitman asked about the Haven Court roads it was mentioned at the last meeting. The Mayor stated that Councilmember Jones had mentioned earlier that it was being looked into and that we currently don't have an answer to the situation. Councilmember Jones stated that he would report back at the next meeting.

Mrs. Edna Marie Sutton Hubbard asked again about the deterioration of the building behind the antique store on Main Street. The Town Manager stated that maybe the best thing to do would be to ask Amy Moredock at the next meeting she can bring the enforcement officer with her, they would be the appropriate people to talk to about that.

Mrs. Kate Johnson asked to include in the tram report if it could include the number of riders on a daily basis, and where the tram most frequently stops, advertising revenues and how many hours the tram operates each day. It would be nice to come up with a method to come up with this information. I think it would be valuable information.

Councilmember Jones just wanted to state that we did receive a Resolution on the social media policy today and a memorandum on the recall and we're reviewing it.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Price made a motion to adjourn at 9:35 p.m.; Councilmember Francis seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Approved:

Robert E. Willis, Mayor

Olin B. Price, Councilmember

Susan A. Francis, Councilmember

Brian Jones, Councilmember