

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

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**MINUTES - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING  
September 12, 2013**

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
September 12, 2013**

The Vice Mayor convened the Mayor and Council Regular meeting on the above date at 7:35 p.m. Councilmembers Price and Nesspor were present. The Town Manager, Town Attorney, Clerk Treasurer, Assistant Clerk Treasurer, and Chief Moore were in attendance. The Mayor and Councilmember Francis were not in attendance.

Councilmember Price gave the invocation. A moment of silence was given for those serving our Country. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

Councilmember Nesspor made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 12, 2013 meeting. Councilmember Price seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**GUEST SPEAKERS/INVITED GUESTS:**

The new Superintendent Dr. Karen Couch is here with us tonight. We also have Board Member Brian Williams here with us as well. Dr. Couch spoke in regards to the MOU introduced at the previous meeting. The Town Attorney gave an update in regards to the Adult Learning Center and the MOU. There were some questions from the audience and their questions were answered accordingly.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

The Clerk Treasurer read the Financial Report into the record as follows:

General Fund Investment Account: \$128,678.56  
Museum Board Funds 2,846.40

Utilities Fund Investment Account: \$131,264.67

Total Available Funds: \$262,789.63

Property Taxes Outstanding: \$789,681.12

Utilities Fund Outstanding: \$ 7,744.80

Services Rendered Outstanding: \$ 2,100.00

Total Outstanding: \$799,525.92

There was a question from someone in the audience in regards to the attorney fees. The Clerk Treasurer answered these questions accordingly. The Town Manager also spoke in regards to this issue.

The Clerk Treasurer read a statement she prepared into record. The Town Manager spoke in reference to the Clerk Treasurer's statement and in regards to checks that Councilmember Francis had posted on the internet. There were questions raised and a discussion among the audience, the Councilmembers, the Town Manager, Clerk Treasurer, and Town Attorney in regards to the Clerk Treasurer's statement and the checks posted on the internet.

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

The Vice Mayor read a letter from the former Clerk Treasurer, Christina Edwards, into record.

The Vice Mayor read a letter from the Greater Rock Hall Business Association into record.

#### POLICE REPORT:

Chief Moore read the report into record.

#### STREETS/SANITATION:

The Town Manager gave an update on the streets and sanitation departments.

#### SEWER/WATER:

Councilmember Nesspor read the reports into record. The Town Manager gave an update on Pump Station #4. Councilmember Nesspor gave an update on the Waterman/Waterfront Committee and its progress with the Clam House.

#### PARKS/RECREATION:

The Town is keeping the Civic Center cleaned up; there have been some soccer games down there.

#### PLANNING/ZONING:

Councilmember Price reported that the Planning & Zoning Committee did not meet this month. They will be having a workshop meeting scheduled soon in regards to the sign ordinances.

**MUSEUM BOARD:**

The Town Manager gave an update on the Museum Board.

**ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:**

The Town Manager read a summary of Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2013-03 (Recall of Elected Officials) into record for introduction. There was a discussion among the Council, audience members, the Town Attorney, the Town Manager and the Clerk Treasurer in regards to Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2013-03. Councilmember Price made a motion to introduce Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2013-03. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Resolution No. 2013-08 was the next item on the agenda. The Vice Mayor stated that he had an issue in regards to item #2d under the General Policy. The Resolution states that the social media site should be linked to the Town website of [www.rockhallmd.com](http://www.rockhallmd.com). The Vice Mayor stated that if the website address should ever change then the resolution, if passed as currently written, wouldn't be correct. The resolution should be changed to state that the social media site should be linked back to the official Town website, with no specific website address given. Councilmember Nesspor made a motion to adopt Social Media Policy Resolution No. 2013-08 with the possibility of the change to #2d General Policy removing "the social media site should be linked to the Town website of [www.rockhallmd.com](http://www.rockhallmd.com)" and be replaced with "the social media site should be linked backed to the official Town website. Councilmember Price seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Councilmember Price asked whether the part time janitor's position had been advertised for. The Town Manager stated that it has not been advertised for yet. There was some discussion in regards to the hours to be worked, and how many days to be worked, and how much to pay for the position. It was agreed that the part time janitor should work five days a week for 20 hrs. a week at \$10.00 an hour.

The Vice Mayor mentioned a Critical Communications Guide Citizens Crisis Response webinar he attended in early September. He gave an overview of a proposal for an emergency alert system the Town could implement called Code Red. The Vice Mayor stated that he was going to approach the Fire Company's Board to ask if they would be willing to pay \$500.00 towards the cost of the service fee for this project. If they approve the cost then the Town would only have to put up the remaining balance of \$1,000.00, \$500.00 from the Police Department and \$500.00 from the miscellaneous line item from the Town's budget. There was a general consensus to move forward with this project.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:**

The Town Manager stated that the Town would be helping the Lions Club out tomorrow morning with their yard sale. He also stated that he would be meeting with Mr. James Castle sometime next week in regards to the CDBG for the water clarifier. Pumping Station #4 should be finishing up in a week or so.

## GOOD OF THE TOWN:

Mr. David Jones pointed out that Councilmember Francis has missed quite a few meetings, and she should be held accountable.

Mr. Whitman asked if our attorney could be contacted in regards to whether a decision was made during the closed session that is to take place immediately following this meeting. It was agreed that their attorney would be contacted.

Mrs. Reihl asked for an update in regards to the trams. The Town Manager gave an update in regards to the trams.

Mrs. Sutton-Hubbard asked what the status was on the building that sits directly behind the antique store on Rt. 20. The Town Manager suggested that the Councilmembers take time between now and the next meeting to stop by and take a look at the building so they can discuss it in a little further detail and decide what the Town's next step should be in regards to the building.

Councilmember Price made a motion to recess the meeting to move into a Closed Session - Under the Maryland Open Meeting's Law, Section 10-508, Subsection A; Paragraph 7, to consult with counsel to obtain legal advice on a legal matter in regards to out of town water and sewer rates. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried. The meeting was recessed at 9:28 p.m.

The Vice Mayor reconvened the Mayor and Council Regular Meeting at 10:00 p.m. The Mayor and Council consulted with legal counsel regarding advice related to out of town sewer rates for certain customers. There was no action taken during the closed session. Councilmember Price made a motion to direct the Town Attorney to prepare an ordinance that would allow the utility board to allow payment plans for customers under certain circumstances. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Price made a motion to allow the 2% lodging tax to go to the GRHBA (Greater Rock Hall Business Association). Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried. The Town Manager stated that those funds would come out of the miscellaneous fund.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Nesspor made a motion to adjourn at 10:12 p.m.; Councilmember Price seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Approved:

Olin B. Price, Councilmember

Brian Nesspor, Councilmember

Brian Jones, Vice Mayor