

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

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[Return to the 2012 Minutes Index page](#)

**MINUTES - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
March 8, 2012**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2012

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

Doug Francis was asked to give the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was given for the men and women who serve on behalf of our country.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes from the February 9, 2012 meeting. Councilmember Jones seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the February 9, 2012 meeting. Councilmember Francis 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: \$332,462.94

Utilities Fund Investment Account: \$145,625.71

Total Available Funds: \$478,088.65

Property Taxes Outstanding: \$127,637.41

Utilities Fund Outstanding: \$ 10,432.26

Services Rendered Outstanding: \$ 700.00

Total Outstanding: \$138,769.67

CORRESPONDENCE:

A letter was received from the Rock Hall Lions Club requesting to use the Rock Hall Civic Center to host the Zirbini Family Circus. The Circus is scheduled to come into town on Thursday, May 3, 2012; with shows on Friday, May 4, 2012; and will be leaving town on Saturday, May 5, 2012. There was a general consensus from the Mayor and Council to approve the usage of the Civic Center for the Rock Hall Lions Club to sponsor the Zirbini Circus.

The Mayor and Council received a letter from one of our officers, Mr. Cliff Wilson. He thanked everyone for their kindness during the troublesome time of the passing of his younger sister.

A letter was received from the Really Great Cat Rescue organization sending their gratitude for the donation of \$200.00 from the Town of Rock Hall.

A letter was received from Timothy Sullivan inquiring of the possibility of meeting with the Mayor and Town Manager to speak on behalf of the Kent County Food Bank. I asked Stephanie to contact Timothy to see if he would correspond with Mrs. Sue Becker of the Rock Hall Food Panty. Maybe they could coordinate something together, or even just to make sure that they aren't infringing on the Rock Hall Food Pantry.

We received forty letters from the Rock Hall Elementary School Fourth Graders in response to their visit to the Municipal Building. Of course I'm not going to sit here and read all of these, but I have pulled out a few here to read.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Moore read the report into record.

STREETS/SANITATION:

Councilmember Jones mentioned that one of the newly purchased dump trucks has arrived. We've had it sitting here at the Municipal Building for a few days for people to see. We have also had some patch work done to Chesapeake Villa Road. We also patched some areas on Walnut Street. I contacted the Maryland State Highway Administration and inquired about having the lines repainted on Hawthorne Avenue as Councilmember Francis had inquired about. They in turn informed me that they contract that job out to have the lines painted. They use a company by the name of Denville Line Painting. I have called Denville Line Painting and spoken to Mr. Bob Romono and that they will be in the area around late March, early April. If the town is interested in having the lines repainted on Hawthorne we just have to call and let them (State Highway) know. He did not give me a price. The Town Manager and Mayor asked Councilmember Jones to call and see if he could get a cost of how much it would take to have the lines repainted and come back and let us know what that is going to be and we'll go from there.

SEWER/WATER:

Councilmember Nesspor read the report into record. The water plant has a fresh coat of paint that has made it look much nicer. Work on the generator is all but complete. Town has approved to have Taylor Walker obtain a temporary license for the water plant. They have also sent in an application for Denny Dalrymple to take classes to receive his license for the waste water treatment plant.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Councilmember Francis reported that the Hunter Safety Course is coming up on March 13, 15, 20, 22, 2012, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. And the written test is scheduled for March 24, 2012; at 9:00 a.m. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for April 7, 2012; to be held at the Municipal Building. The baseball fields are getting prepared for the upcoming season. There are some minor repairs that need to be done at the basketball courts. There are kids that go to the civic center to use them. Councilmember Francis asked if there was a way to have the lights turned on for the kids to allow them to play at night. The Mayor stated that Tom has a key and has been shown how to turn them on. Councilmember Francis also stated that they have quite a few ideas that they are looking into putting together for the Civic Center.

PLANNING/ZONING:

Councilmember Price stated that Planning & Zoning doesn't have a meeting scheduled until next week.

Councilmember Price also mentioned that they have received a letter from Mr. Jack Heffner conveying his interest in being considered for the open Board of Appeals position. Councilmember Price said that he thought Jack Heffner would be an excellent candidate for this position. Councilmember Price made a motion to appoint Jack Heffner to the Appeals Board. Councilmember Jones seconded. All in favor, motion carried. The Mayor asked Councilmember Price to contact Jack and let him know that he has been approved and that he should make plans to attend the next Mayor and Council meeting on April 12, 2012 to be sworn in. The Town Manager also stated that an official letter should be sent to Jack from the town office.

MUSEUM BOARD:

Councilmember Francis stated that the Museum Board had a good meeting today. The minutes were approved, and the treasure's report was given. Doug Francis mentioned that they discussed the 501c3 is still being worked on; the town attorney has been given a list of questions that we have in regards to that. Robin Kurowski has two boat donations standing by waiting to see if we could accept them on behalf of the museum. The bible display seems to continue to be a big hit with people. It turned out really well. We are in the process of moving things from the Municipal Building to the Civic Center and vice versa switching out the spaces between the Food Pantry and the Museum. We want to change the vision and mission statements of the museum. All the members were given drafts today to look over and try to decide what that might be. Hopefully by the next meeting we'll be able to report what the new vision and mission statement of the museum is going to be. We're currently working with Michael Wooten on a new web page and new logo. We are trying to make one cohesive logo for all three museums. We currently have a display in Durdling's Store window. Everyone was in agreement of the combining (taking over the care of) the Tolchester Museum from Mr. Betts. So, when the Town Attorney can get all the paperwork together for that, we can get that taken care of. We have a lot of good ideas in the works for new displays and fundraisers. The Museum Board voted in a new board member, who has also accepted a new role of Treasurer; that would be Mrs. Gail Manley. Unfortunately she could not make tonight's meeting to be sworn in for, hopefully we'll be able to have that done at our next Mayor

and Council meeting. We also voted on and decided to change the time that we meet. We currently meet on the second Thursday of every month at 1:00 p.m. We have changed that meeting to the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. We may be getting a member back, Mrs. Diane Harris, due to the new change in the meeting time.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

The Mayor read a summary of Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2012-01 (General Sign Regulations) into record. Councilmember Price made a motion to adopt Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2012-01 (General Sign Regulations) as presented. Councilmember Francis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Mayor asked to set up three dates with the Council for the following: a date for a special workshop meeting to discuss transportation for the town, a date for a public hearing to have before the community in regards to the transportation matter, and a date for a vote to be carried out by the Mayor and Council for the possibility of public transportation in town. I have tentatively set a date for a workshop with the Council to discuss our vision, our views and just talk about transportation for next Tuesday; March 13, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. if that is in agreement with everyone. Everyone was in agreement to this time and date. If we could set up the public hearing for our workshop meeting on April 2, 2012 at 6:00 p.m.; I think that would work. Everyone was in agreement to this time and date. I would like to shoot for April 12, 2012 at our regular Mayor and Council meeting to take a vote by the Council in regards to this. This too was in agreement with everyone. The Town Manager said that he would take care of getting all of this advertised properly.

The Mayor received a phone call today from the American Legion asking if the Mayor and Council would be interested in being judges for the Pretty Women contest on June 30, 2012 at 6:00 p.m. They raised \$12,000.00 the last time they held one of these and of course they donated all of that to a good cause. They will have a head table for the judges. The Mayor and Council agreed that they would be more than happy to be judges for the event, providing that it didn't conflict with any of the upcoming 4th of July events.

This Saturday; March 10, 2012 the LMB (Local Management Board) will be hosting a forum to discuss a need for youth families with children and people that work with children. It will be held here in the auditorium from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

There will be a COG meeting on the 21st of this month in Betterton at the Community Center.

The Rock Hall Volunteer Company will be hosting their annual appreciation dinner on Saturday: March 10, 2012.

March 17, 2012 the Town of Rock Hall will be hosting our annual appreciation dinner.

The Town Manager brought it to the attention that when the Rock Hall Village project was proposed and the Brawner Company agreed to put in public restrooms; the town agreed to maintain the bathrooms once they were constructed. They are currently ready to be opened to the public. My question to you is when you would like to see them open and at what times you would like to see them open and close. Councilmember Price suggested that they be open no later than April 15, 2012; and have the restrooms opened from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Mrs. Mary Sue said she would even leave them open until 9:00 p.m. It was mentioned that you may want to consider opening the restrooms up prior to or

on the same weekend as Easter. We do tend to get quite a few people coming into town during that weekend. It was decided to open the public restrooms at the Rock Hall Village on April 1, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Councilmember Price mentioned that we may want to put a sign on the corner pointing out in what direction the restrooms are in. For those who may not know they are there.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

The Town Manager reported that the solar panel sight is looking good. We might be putting a sign up letting people know where the new location of the brush pile is located at.

GOOD OF THE TOWN:

Mrs. Patsy Reihl wanted to know if the purchase of the Rock Hall Inn had any connection with the town and the museum. The Mayor and Council assured Mrs. Patsy that the Rock Hall Inn was privately purchased by a gentleman and have no idea what his plans are for that building.

Councilmember Price wanted to highly commend Miss. Pam Ward for her quick thinking and moving all the children safely off the bus that had caught on fire.

Councilmember Price made a motion to move into an Executive Session - Under the Maryland Open Meeting's Law, Section 10-508, Subsection A; Paragraph 1, and Subparagraphs 1 & 2 for the purposes of discussing personnel issues with topics to be discussed of a bathroom attendant and police issues. Councilmember Francis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor and Council reconvened the Regular Mayor and Council meeting at 9:35 p.m. Personnel matters were discussed in regards to the employment of someone to oversee the operation of the public restrooms at the Rock Hall Village. The Mayor and Council have decided to retain Raymond Price to oversee the maintenance of the public restrooms at a set fee that the Mayor and Council set. There were no actions taken in regards to the police issues.

The Mayor and Council discussed the issue of traffic congestion during the 4th of July fireworks. The Mayor said he would have the Chief come up with a new idea or plan to present that might help eliminate the congestion. Or at least keep it to a minimum.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Price made a motion to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.; Councilmember Nesspor 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