

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

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**MINUTES - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
February 9, 2012**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 9, 2012

Vice Mayor Price convened the Mayor and Council Regular meeting on the above date at 7:25 p.m. All Councilmembers were present. The Town Manager, Town Attorney, and Chief Moore were also present. The Mayor is expected to be attending the meeting tonight, he had a previous engagement that he should be on his way from. The Mayor arrived at the meeting just as the meeting was getting to the Correspondence section of the agenda.

Reverend Allen from St. Paul's Parish was asked to give the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. A moment of silence was given.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilmember Francis made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the January 12, 2012 meeting. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKERS/INVITED GUESTS:

Mrs. Nancy Holland from Home Ports spoke on behalf of the organization. She gave a summary of what her organization was about and what they do for the County. She also had pamphlets to leave for anyone who may be interested in reading up on in regards to the organization.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

General Fund Investment Account: \$361,554.17

Utilities Fund Investment Account: \$167,282.93

Total Available Funds: \$528,837.10

Property Taxes Outstanding: \$140,595.42

Utilities Fund Outstanding: \$ 32,526.78

Services Rendered Outstanding: \$ 700.00

Total Outstanding: \$173,822.20

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Mayor read a thank you letter from Stephanie Loller (Town Clerk Treasurer) for the fruit basket that the Town sent during her recovery from surgery.

There was a letter received from Mr. Mark Einstein in regards to the Pirates and Wenches festivity weekend. His letter requested that the town consider having insurance coverage for the event of fireworks that the Pirate and Wenches Committee want to provide this year to recognize the 200th Anniversary of the War of 1812. The Mayor asked Ronnie to go ahead and have that taken care of.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Moore read the report into record. Mr. Jamie Miller was also present to help relay more information in regards to the camera system that the town has installed for security purposes.

STREETS/SANITATION:

Councilmember Jones stated things have been fairly quiet here lately in the Streets department. Things are going well. Councilmember Nesspor mentioned a problem with a storm drainage grate that is not stable and needs to be addressed. The Town manager is going to make sure that it is taken care of. Councilmember Francis inquired about having the lines repainted on Hawthorne Avenue. The Town Manager stated that the town is not capable of doing such a job, but I will check into what we need to do to have it done.

SEWER/WATER:

Councilmember Nesspor read the reports into record. We've had Larry McDaniel's come in and do some painting and treatment to the water plant piping.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Councilmember Francis reported that Parks & Rec. met on January 18, 2012. On February 10, 2012 they are having a Valentine's Day dance at the Rock Hall Elementary School. In March the Hunter Safety Course will be returning. This class is for kids from 8 years of age and older. Class will be held on March 13, 15, 20, and 22, 2012 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The test date will be held on March 24, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 7, 2012. The Board Members have decided to create and donate flyers for the youth fishing derby at the Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge on the second weekend of June.

PLANNING/ZONING:

Councilmember Price reported that the Planning & Zoning Committee has not had a meeting this month at all. He also made reference again to the Public hearing that was held earlier this evening prior to this meeting.

MUSEUM BOARD:

Councilmember Francis gave an update from the Museum Board that had met earlier today. Diane Harris has turned in her letter of resignation as the Museum Board's secretary. We do have a few empty positions to fill. As it stands Mrs. Mary Sue Willis will be filling in as the Treasurer and I will be filling in as the Secretary, for the time being. There will be a bible display honoring the 400th year of the King James Version bible. They will be displayed here at the Town Hall, starting March 1, 2012. Mrs. Sue Becker had contacted me in regards to the capacity of storage for the food pantry. They are running out of room. The Mayor and I discussed it and we've come up with switching the storage room at the Civic Center that the Museum currently uses with the food pantry here at the Town Hall. Mr. Lou Halin and Doug are going to be working on this. Paul Brinkley has two (2) Rock Hall High School letter jackets that he has donated to the museum. We've discussed the possibility of changing the meeting time of the Museum Board, maybe that would get a few more people interested in attending the meetings.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

The Mayor did a brief overview of Ordinance No. 2012-01 (Elections); to be voted on tonight. Councilmember Price made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2012-01 as presented. Councilmember Jones seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor did a brief overview of Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2011-01 (Elections); to be voted on tonight. Councilmember Price made a motion to adopt Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2011-01 as presented. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

On January 26, 2012 we hosted a meeting in regards to the dredging of the Harbor. We have come up with a short term solution, as well as a long term solution. The good news is that we had a follow up meeting with Bob Gaudette, and he has managed to provide \$250,000.00 to dredge out our Harbor. It will be taken down to a level of 7.5ft. We know that this is only a temporary fix because it will, unfortunately, fill back in eventually. Councilmember Nesspor mentioned sending a thank you letter to Mr. Gaudette for all his help in this matter. We can certainly have that done and send an invitation to the Town's Appreciation Dinner.

We have also had a discussion in regards to expanding the town's website. This expansion will include the new committee's; when they will meet, the minutes they have approved, and the minutes will be posted along with any documentation the committees have been working on. We are also going to add a section for the Mayor's Message; that I can make comment on, and advertise any events going on. There will also be a comment section for anyone that may want to share their thoughts.

The committees are currently working on quite a few projects that cover such a wide variety of issues for the town. Things are starting to take shape with all the projects.

There will be a COG meeting on February 15, 2012 at the Imperial Hotel. After that meeting the Rock Hall Elementary School 4th Grade class is going to walk over to take a tour of the Municipal Building to let them see what happens during the day of the town.

The Mayor spoke about his meeting he had earlier today in Annapolis. There was so much information presented to us and I just want to go over what I can with you. It was a very nice trip and I thoroughly enjoyed myself.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilmember Price mentioned the missing events sign. We haven't quite decided where to put it yet. The Mayor stated that he has spoken with the Town Manager and we think the best place to put it would be on the town side of Rt. 20 and Main where Rock Hall Properties is located at. We're going to make some changes to the sign to try and make it a little more noticeable to the eye when you come through town. We're going to try to raise it up a little higher off the ground.

Councilmember Francis asked what was going on with the phone system. They were here today starting the process and everything looks good thus far.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

The Town Manager stated that you all should have notices that state the town is exempt from the new ethics law proposed. You may start to see the electric company doing work around town. There are two electric lines that come through the town, one comes through Rt. 20, and one half that size, comes through Tolchester. They are upgrading the service that leads up to Tolchester, they are making it a continuous loop instead of two separate lines. This isn't going to happen overnight, this may take up to six months to get done.

As you mentioned earlier the Water Plant has had a new face lift with rust removal and a new coat of sealer and paint.

The solar project is on track, you should start seeing supplies showing up. Construction should start approximately on March 15, 2012 for seven acres of solar panels. We have to move the mulch pile to another location and clear out the brush that has grown up on its own back there. We've decided to move the pile back closer to the Wastewater Treatment plant just on the other side of the fence on the left side.

I received some calls from the marina's concerning the ADA requirements for swimming pools. They are going to have to start putting in lifts for the handicap, which is going to be quite expensive. There was a meeting held at the Commissioner's office, and due to that meeting they have decided to change it so that all they will have to do is fill out a form and turn it into them to be exempt from this.

GOOD OF THE TOWN:

Mrs. Edna Marie Sutton-Hubbard from the audience mentioned that when you leave the Municipal Building after these meetings that it's awful dark outside this building. The Mayor stated that maybe we could get Nilo to get us a quote to put the old lights from Main Street at Chesapeake Villa and maybe put a couple of lights here at the Municipal building as well.

Another audience member mentioned the drainage ditch on the west side of Bayside Avenue is constantly full of water. The drainage ditch running out to the bay is clogged up, it's completely covered. It really is a low ditch there that may not be able to keep up with the flow of water there. We did take a backhoe out there not too long ago and opened that ditch further, but there's only so much you can do with a backhoe, stated the Town Manager. It's probably something that is going to have to be bid out.

Someone from the Citizens Committee spoke up and said that this was an area that we have already discussed and are taking a look into. And not just in that area of town that you've just mentioned but the drainage problems throughout the town.

Doug Francis mentioned that the Museum Board did a walk through today and there are fifteen light bulbs that are out, if we could get them replaced, it would be greatly appreciated it.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Price made a motion to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.; Councilmember Francis 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