

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 12, 2012**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 12, 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, Town Attorney, and Chief Moore were also present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilmember Francis made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the March 8, 2012 meeting. Councilmember Price 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: \$227,554.54
Utilities Fund Investment Account: \$133,699.15
Total Available Funds: \$361,253.69

Property Taxes Outstanding: \$115,933.64
Utilities Fund Outstanding: \$136,203.25
Services Rendered Outstanding: \$ 900.00
Total Outstanding: \$253,036.89

CORRESPONDENCE:

None

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Moore read the report into record. The Mayor mentioned that he has been discussing an open house with Chief Moore with the police department. We're still working on the details of it all, and we may just make a day of it. The Mayor commended the police department on a job well done in regards to the bomb scare we recently had in the school systems.

STREETS/SANITATION:

Councilmember Jones said that everything is good in the town with the streets. We have contracted Mr. David Porter to fix a couple of catch basins that have become safety hazards.

SEWER/WATER:

Councilmember Nesspor read the reports into record. The water towers are being inspected inside and outside to make sure they adhere to the state guidelines. Well #4 is going to have the packing redone. The clarifier was drained again this morning.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Councilmember Francis reported that they had their Easter Egg Hunt this past Saturday at the Civic Center. We had a good turn out and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2012. We will be discussing the future plans for the Civic Center.

PLANNING/ZONING:

The Board of Appeals met last month. A house on Beach Road applied for a variance. They wanted to build a garage attached to the house. It was within character of the area and they agreed to tear down an existing shed and with those stipulations the variance was approved. We have Mr. Jack Heffner as a new member of the Board of Appeals. The Mayor swore in Mr. Jack Heffner as a new board member of the Board of Appeals Committee. The Mayor mentioned that now the Comprehensive Plan is done we need to start the process of the town ordinance. Councilmember Price said that the Planning and Zoning committee hasn't had a meeting yet to bring that to their attention. The Mayor asked Ronnie where they were at in working on the Sustainable Community Designation. The Town Manager stated that he has not heard where exactly they are with it, but he knows that they are working on it. The Board has to pass a resolution for the town to be able to become a Sustainable Community.

MUSEUM BOARD:

Councilmember Francis read the report into record for the Museum Board's previous meeting. The Museum Board has a new e-mail address that is currently working. As of April 1, 2012 the switch between the Food Pantry storage

and the Museum's storage rooms have been completed. Mr. Doug Francis stated that the Museum Board has approved a new mission/vision statement. He gave copies of the new statement to everyone. We have a new member we'd like to have sworn in tonight. Mrs. Gail Manley was sworn in as a new board member of the Museum.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

The ordinance being introduced is simply effectuating the zoning text amendment approved by the Mayor and Council at their March 8, 2012 meeting, which was the subject of a public hearing held on February 9, 2012. The Mayor introduced Ordinance No. 2012-02 (General Sign Regulations). We will vote on this ordinance at our Regular Mayor and Council meeting on May 10, 2012.

NEW BUSINESS:

We received a letter from the Planning and Zoning Housing Department in regards to the Principals of Fair Housing. They are requesting that the town recognize April 16 – 20, 2012 as Fair Housing week and the month of April as Fair Housing Month. The Mayor read a Town Proclamation into record and asked the Councilmembers for an approval. Everyone was in agreement and the proclamation was approved.

The Mayor gave a summary of projects that the Mayor's Committees have been working on and finishing up with.

Mr. Bob Gaudette sent a letter in regards to the status of the dredging project of the Rock Hall Harbor. The State and Fed's have issued permits for the project. This project will be completed no later than July 1, 2012.

Mrs. Lillian Zilinski had details to talk about and discuss in regards to the Town Calendar project. The Mayor and Council would like to see what kind of pledges/purchase of ads the committee could generate between now and the next Workshop meeting (scheduled April 30, 2012). The Mayor would like to regroup on this project at the next workshop meeting.

The Public Transportation project was discussed in further detail. The Mayor and Council have decided to hold a special meeting on April 17, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in regards to the public transportation issue, in hopes to be able to finalize this project on that date.

The Mayor mentioned to Mrs. Linda Kimble (president of the Business Association) about some publications for a marketing campaign. Maybe gather some articles and advertisements to publish in some of the local magazines. The Mayor mentioned that if the public transportation is approved by the board, we will then have to change the ordinance in regards to the business license fee. We will have a public hearing in May and vote on the ordinance in June. And the business association has agreed to the increase of the business license fee.

The Town of Rock Hall now qualifies for funding through Department of Housing and Community Development. The clarifier; and the Civic Center are areas that will be able to benefit from this eligibility.

The Mayor spoke about the services that the town is looking to obtain from Joey Unruh, of Sharp's, to continue the coverage of spraying for mosquito's when the State funding runs out.

Millington will be hosting the COG meeting this month at Two Trees restaurant.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

The Town Manager said that he really didn't have much more to report on that hasn't already been discussed.

GOOD OF THE TOWN:

Mrs. Edna Marie Sutton commented on the added lighting out in front of the Municipal Building, she is very grateful for the extra lights, it makes a tremendous difference. She also asked about changing the recycling pick-up days from every other Wednesday, to the first and third Wednesday of the month. She seems to think that it will be much easier to remember these days than every other Wednesday.

Councilmember Price made a motion to recess the regular meeting and move into an Executive Session – Under the Maryland Open Meeting's Law, Section 10-508, Subsection A, Paragraph 1, and Subparagraph 1 & 2 in order to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employees, or officials over whom it has jurisdiction; and any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. Councilmember Jones seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor reconvened the regular meeting at 10:45 p.m. It was a unanimous decision to advertise for a new police officer that has a strong background in criminal investigation. No other business was taken.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Price made a motion to adjourn; 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