

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

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MINUTES - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
January 8, 2015

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2015

The Mayor convened the Regular Mayor and Council Meeting on the above date at 7:30 p.m. All Councilmembers were present. The Clerk Treasurer and Chief of Police were also present. The Town Attorney arrived at the meeting during the Guest Speaker/Invited Guests portion of the meeting.

There was a moment of silence given. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

Councilmember Nesspor asked to remove the Letter from the Auditor from the agenda and instead have Mr. Diss attend the next meeting to discuss his letter in person. The Council was in agreement with this suggestion. Councilmember Francis asked to have the Sailing Emporium Payment Arrangement deferred to the next Workshop meeting. The Council was not in agreement with this, the Sailing Emporium Payment Arrangement was kept on the agenda. Councilmember Nesspor made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Jones seconded. With a majority vote in favor of the motion made the motion carried. Councilmember Jones, Price and Nesspor voted in favor of the motion made. Councilmember Francis voted in opposition of the motion made, and the Mayor did not vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Meeting minutes of November 18, 2014 meeting. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Councilmember Francis abstained from voting on the motion made; she was not in attendance at that meeting.

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Open Session Meeting minutes of November 24, 2014 meeting. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Councilmember Francis abstained from voting on the motion made; she was not in attendance at that meeting.

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Closed Session Summary minutes of November 24, 2014 meeting. Councilmember Jones seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Councilmember Francis abstained from voting on the motion made; she was not in attendance at that meeting.

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of December 11, 2014 meeting. Councilmember Jones seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKERS/INVITED GUESTS:

Ms. Boyle and Mr. Saffouri from the Capital Projects Program (MDE) were in attendance to give an overview of the benefits the Town could receive from the Bay Restoration Funds to allow the Wastewater Treatment Plant to be updated. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council, the Audience Members, and Ms. Boyle and Mr. Saffouri in regards to the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade. Councilmember Nesspor made a motion to have the Town move forward with applying for the planning only option of the Capital Projects Program (MDE) study for the upgrade of the Wastewater Treatment Plant with the intention of including the County in the process of this project. Councilmember Francis seconded. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council and the Audience Members in regards to the possible upgrade for the Wastewater Treatment Plant. With a majority vote in favor of the motion made the motion carried. Councilmember Francis, Nesspor, and the Mayor voted in favor of the motion made. Councilmember Jones and Price voted in opposition of the motion made.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

General Fund Investment Account: \$150,514.82

Museum Board : \$ 2,646.28

Utilities Fund Investment Account: \$181,640.11

Total Available Funds: \$330,801.21

Property Taxes Outstanding: \$140,849.97

Utilities Fund Outstanding: \$207,825.88

Services Rendered Outstanding: \$ 4,500.00

Total Outstanding: \$353,175.85

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Mayor read a letter received from Business Association in regards to the Rock Hall Expo into record. It was agreed to set up a booth for the Town at the Expo.

There was a Thank You card received from Brandon Morris for all the work and help with the New Year's Eve Hat Parade that Parks & Recreation contributed to.

The Mayor read a letter from Mrs. Loretta Lodge from the Kent County Chamber of Commerce into record.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Moore read the police report into record. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council and Chief Moore in regards to the upkeep of the camera system the Police Department currently has in use.

STREETS/SANITATION:

Councilmember Jones gave an overview/update on the Streets and Sanitation departments. The Town is ready for any winter weather that may be coming. There was a pothole recorded on Main Street by the Main Stay that needs to be filled.

SEWER/WATER:

Councilmember Nesspor read the reports into record and gave updates for the Water and Sewer Departments. Councilmember Nesspor gave an update on the Clarifier Project. Councilmember Nesspor made a motion to move the Sailing Emporium Payment Arrangement agenda item to the next Utilities Board meeting. Councilmember Francis seconded. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council, the Audience Members, and the Town Attorney in regards to the Sailing Emporium's delinquent water/sewer bill. Councilmember Nesspor stated for the record, "I voted to pay the bill on the 31st and I didn't talk or deliberate with anybody, my vote was a no vote on any extension on that water bill, at that point in time I took a no vote." There was a continued discussion among the Mayor and Council, the Audience Members, and the Town Attorney in regards to the Sailing Emporium's delinquent water/sewer. The Mayor stated "I recuse myself throughout this." Councilmember Price made a motion to hold a special Utilities Board meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the delinquent Sailing Emporium water/sewer bill. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council, the Audience Members, and the Town Attorney in regards to the motion made. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion made by Councilmember Price. Councilmember Nesspor stated for the record, "I'm going to vote against it." With a majority vote in favor of the motion made the motion carried. Councilmember Francis, Jones, and Price voted in favor of the motion made. Councilmember Nesspor voted in opposition of the motion made. The Mayor did not vote. Councilmember Price amended his previous motion and made the motion to hold a special Utilities Board meeting on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss the delinquent Sailing Emporium water/sewer bill and to leave the water on in the meantime. Councilmember Francis seconded. With a majority vote in favor of the motion made the motion carried. Councilmember Francis, Jones, and Price voted in favor of the motion made. Councilmember Nesspor voted in opposition of the motion made. The Mayor did not vote.

There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council in regards to the Wastewater Treatment Plant agreement between the County and the Town.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Councilmember Francis read a letter into record from the Parks & Recreation Board with their recommendation and findings for the Civic Center Playground Equipment project. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council in regards to the Parks & Recreations recommendation and the Playground Equipment project at the Civic Center. The Mayor and Council agreed to find out if Mid Atlantic would be willing to incorporate/include handicap swings into their design proposal for the Civic Center Playground Equipment project.

PLANNING/ZONING:

Councilmember Price gave an update on the Planning & Zoning Committee.

MUSEUM BOARD:

Councilmember Francie read a letter into record from the Museum Board's Chairperson. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council, the Audience Members, and the Town Attorney, in regards to the letter from the Chairperson of the Museum Board. The Council agreed to have the Town Attorney review the lease agreements between the MFCA and the Rock Hall Museum.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Councilmember Jones gave an update on the new website design. Councilmember Jones gave an update on the E-mail policy and the Computer Systems Resolution. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council, the Audience Members, and the Town Attorney in regards to the proposed e-mail policy and the Town's website(s).

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

The fireworks for this year will be held on July 3, 2015, with a rain date to be determined at a later date in time.

There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council, the Town Attorney in regards to an Easement Agreement between the Town and Waterman's Estates to allow the Town access to the Water Treatment Plant from Waterman's Estates. Councilmember Price made a motion to accept the easement agreement from TFC Land, LLC and the Town of Rock Hall. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried. The Mayor signed the easement agreement.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Mayor read the Statement of Compliance for the Open Meeting Compliance Board (OMCB) opinion dated December 10, 2014.

Councilmember Jones made a motion to send a letter to the Ethics Commission stating that there is no funding available for their business for this fiscal year. Councilmember Price seconded. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council, the Town Attorney, and the Audience Members in regards to the Ethics Commission and the motion made by Councilmember Jones. With a majority vote in favor of the motion made the motion carried. Councilmember Jones, Price and Nesspor voted in favor of the motion made. Councilmember Francis and the Mayor voted in opposition of the motion made.

There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council in regards to the Revenue Committee. Councilmember Jones read into record three citizens who were interested in being on and chairing the Revenue Committee, Mr. Mark Einstein; Mr. Gren Whitman, and Mrs. Cindy Genther. Mr. Art Willis is also interested in being on the Revenue Committee. There was a spot left on the Committee for Mrs. Madelyn Reni. Councilmember Jones made a recommendation to make Mrs. Cindy Genther the chairperson for the Revenue Committee. Councilmember Francis made a recommendation to make Mr.

Mark Einstein the chairperson for the Revenue Committee. Councilmember Jones made a motion to establish an ad-hoc Revenue Committee with the following members, Mr. Mark Einstein, Mr. Gren Whitman, Mrs. Cindy Genther, Mr. Art Willis, and Mrs. Madelyn Reni and to have the committee members appoint the chairperson on their own accord; and come up with a plan/recommendation to propose to the Mayor and Council by April 15, 2015. Councilmember Price seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Jones gave an overview of the New Year's Eve event.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

None

GOOD OF THE TOWN:

There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council and the Audience Members in regards to the Museum Board.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Francis made a motion to adjourn at 10:50 p.m.; Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Approved:

Robert E. Willis, Mayor

Olin B. Price, Councilmember

Brian Nesspor, Councilmember

Brian Jones, Councilmember

If you have additions, corrections or comments, please contact the Rock Hall Town Office. Telephone(410) 639-7611 or e-mail townclerk@rockhallmd.com