

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

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**MINUTES - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
March 13, 2014**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 13, 2014

The Mayor convened the Mayor and Council Regular meeting on the above date at 7:30 p.m. Councilmember Jones made a motion to approve the agenda for the meeting as presented. Councilmember Price seconded. With a majority vote the agenda was approved as presented.

A moment of silence was given for those serving our Country. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2014 Utilities Meeting. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2014 Workshop Meeting. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 20, 2014 Regular Mayor and Council Meeting. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKERS/INVITED GUESTS:

Councilmember Nesspor opened the bids and recorded them as follows: JLW Associates & Co. with a bid of \$1,154,236.00; M2 Construction with a bid of \$1,155,025.00; Johnston Construction Co. with a bid of \$1,193,002.00; and Bearing Construction Co. with a bid of \$1,193,425.00. The bids will be mailed to McCrone so they can review the bids and make a recommendation accordingly.

Mr. Scott Boone was in attendance to give an update in regards to the fiber optic service in Rock Hall. Mr. Boone

stated that “I’m here to ask if the Town can provide a person of a technical stature that can bring to the table the needs of the town in regards to the possibility of fiber optic services.” There was a discussion in regards to the fiber optic service among the Mayor, Council, the Town Manager, Audience Members, and Scott Boone. It was in agreement with the Mayor and Council to have Councilmember Jones work with Mr. Boone as well as putting together a survey for consideration.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

General Fund Investment Account: \$131,768.05

Museum Board Funds: \$ 3,047.75

Utilities Fund Investment Account: \$102,824.59

Total Available Funds: \$237,640.39

Property Taxes Outstanding: \$104,474.69

Utilities Fund Outstanding: \$ 10,108.76

Services Rendered Outstanding: \$ 5,487.68

Total Outstanding: \$120,071.13

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was a letter received from the Chief (Paul Brinkley) of the Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company. The Mayor stated that he had a conversation earlier with Captain Dempsey and thinks it would be best to defer this until the next meeting and maybe go into a Closed Session for it.

Mr. Tom McHugh is asking for a letter of support from the Mayor and Council for The Mainstay Grant Application. The Town Manager read a letter into record provided by Mr. Tom stating the Town’s support for The Mainstay’s application. The Mayor and Council were in agreement and support of the letter and will have it signed by the nights end to return back to Mr. Tom.

The Mayor and Council received a letter from Mr. Harris Murphy. Mr. Murphy is a candidate for the States Attorney in the upcoming election. The Mayor read Mr. Murphy’s letter into record. The Mayor and Council agreed to invite Mr. Murphy to a future meeting.

The Mayor and Council received an invitation from Mrs. Siduh on behalf of the Character Counts Program. The Mayor read the invitation into record.

There was a correspondence received from the Community Development Block Group informing us that there are grants coming available to apply for.

POLICE REPORT:

Captain Dempsey read the report into record.

STREETS/SANITATION:

Councilmember Jones stated that he wanted to thank the boys for doing such a fantastic job with yet another snow removal. We have been able to fix some of the potholes already, but there are still plenty there that need to be taken care of. I would like the approval of the board to make available a new reporting form for the potholes throughout the town. I would like to place this form on the website for the Town Residents to have access to. This will allow the residents to electronically submit a pothole location that will automatically be sent to the Town Manager through his computer, where he will then be able to dispatch the guys to the reported pothole to have it fixed. Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the internet form for reporting potholes that Councilmember Jones has compiled. Councilmember Francis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

SEWER/WATER:

Councilmember Nesspor read the reports into record. Councilmember Nesspor stated that the blower that we had sent out to be fixed has been returned and installed and operating perfectly. Councilmember Nesspor gave a brief update in regards to the Clarifier project. The fire hydrant at the fire house is not in operation. We are currently waiting on parts to allow it to be fixed. The pump for pump station #2(two) has been put back together and is now operational. Councilmember Nesspor stated that the Kent County Watermen's Association had received a donated freezer and since have donated that freezer to Barron Scott's family. The Kent County Waterman's Association has also donated \$500.00 to The Mainstay for the project Mr. Tom McHugh is currently working on. The Kent County Waterman's Association approved the purchase of the events tent and has given the Town a check for \$500.00 to contribute to the purchase of the events tent. Councilmember Nesspor made a motion to approve the purchase of the events tent and to have the Town pay for the remaining balance due after receiving the \$500.00 from the Kent County Waterman's Association, with the stipulation that the Kent County Waterman's Association has secured the tent to be used for Waterman's Day in July every year. Councilmember Price seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Councilmember Francis gave an update on the Parks and Recreation Committee projects and events. Councilmember Francis gave a brief update on the Tennis/Basketball Court Project.

PLANNING/ZONING:

Councilmember Price gave an overview of the March 12, 2014 Planning and Zoning Committee meeting held. There was a public hearing prior to the meeting in regards to a Text Amendment for Illuminated Signs. There were some questions from the audience members in regards to the Planning & Zoning Committee's meeting. The Mayor and Council, and the Town Attorney answered these questions accordingly. Councilmember Price made a motion to have the Planning & Zoning Board to look in to changing/eliminating the parking laws on Main Street and the Main Street area and provide a report to the Mayor and Council with their opinion. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council, the Audience members, and the Town Manager in regards to the subdivision application applied for by the Family Dollar Store.

MUSEUM BOARD:

Councilmember Francis stated that the Museum cancelled their meeting and rescheduled it for tomorrow. The Town

Manager stated that Mr. Tom McHugh has asked if the Museum Board would consider writing a letter of support for the Mainstay, just as the town did. There is a draft letter in your box, Susan for the Museum to follow if they decide to write a letter of support for the Mainstay of their own.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

The Mayor introduced Ordinance No. 2014-01 (Ethics). The Mayor read Ordinance No. 2014-01 (Ethics) summary into record.

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Jones made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the Barron Scott Family. Barron Scott is a young boy who is battling cancer. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Jones gave an overview of a 5K Run to benefit Barron Scott.

The Mayor gave an update on the Adult Learning Center.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Mayor read a letter into record from Mrs. Linda Kimble, President of the Greater Rock Hall Business Association. There was a discussion in regards to the request from the Business Association among the Mayor and Council, the Audience Members, the Town Manager, and The Town Attorney. This discussion lead into another discussion in regards to the Town Website. Councilmember Jones made a motion to move forward with the Website Committee's recommendation and take the next step of developing an RFP and put our website out to bid and have the Committee or group of volunteers to assist with creating of the RFP. Councilmember Price seconded. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council, the Town Attorney, and the Audience Members in regards to this issue. All in favor, motion carried. It was agreed to have the Town move forward with the ".GOV" domain application.

There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council in regards to the Town Appreciation Event. It was agreed to have the Appreciation Picnic held at the Civic Center on May 10, 2014.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

The Town Manager had nothing further to add.

GOOD OF THE TOWN:

There was a question in regards to the letter sent to Dollar General. The Mayor and Council, Town Manager, and Town Attorney answered this question accordingly.

The Town Attorney asked, for the record, about the response that was received from the Attorney Grievance Commission in regards to the Mayors complaint against the Town Attorney. On February 26, 2014 you were notified by the Attorney Grievance Commission that they found no evidence that I violated any rules of professional conduct. The Town Attorney stated that he just wanted to make the Council aware of that. Councilmember Price thanked the

Town Attorney for doing so.

Councilmember Francis mentioned that you should be careful while pumping gas and leaving your vehicle unlocked. There are people that they call “sliders” who pull up next to a vehicle, while pumping gas, and slide in the vehicle unnoticed to steal your purse, or whatever valuables they can get to at the time, and then are gone before you ever turn back around once you have finished pumping your gas. Councilmember Francis stated that she just wanted to make people aware that this is happening.

An Audience Member brought a discussion up in regards to the Planning & Zoning Board and the people who are part of the Planning & Zoning Board; as well as the final site plan approval of the Dollar General Store. This issue was discussed among the Audience, the Mayor and Council, the Town Manager, and the Town Attorney.

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