

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 14, 2013**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
February 14, 2013

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 Captain Dempsey were also present.

The Mayor asked for a moment of silence. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Because this meeting falls on Valentine's Day the Mayor handed out flowers to the Councilmembers, the Town Manager and Captain Dempsey. He asked them to take the flowers home to their significant others so they could be appreciated for giving up their evening for this meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes from the January 10, 2013 meeting. Councilmember Jones 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: \$389,214.98

Utilities Fund Investment Account: \$115,448.70

Total Available Funds: \$504,663.68

Property Taxes Outstanding: \$135,437.09
Utilities Fund Outstanding: \$ 43,031.88
Services Rendered Outstanding: \$ 1,500.00
Total Outstanding: \$179,968.97

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Mayor received a letter from Bob and Linda Kramer stating their appreciation and support for the GED program. They have made a \$100.00 donation to help support the program.

The Rock Hall Elementary School ranked #1 in the Maryland State Assessment Testing (MSA). The Mayor congratulated Principal Rose and her staff, and also all the parents and supporters in the community that make up the fabric of that school.

POLICE REPORT:

Captain Dempsey read the report into record. We have had some updates to the computer systems and software, along with a new copier. It has been a big help.

STREETS/SANITATION:

Councilmember Jones reported that we've replaced the culvert pipe on Chesapeake Avenue. We have been putting up our new street signs. Councilmember Nesspor mentioned a pothole on Sharp Street in front of Hickory Stick that needs to be taken care of.

SEWER/WATER:

Councilmember Nesspor read the reports into record. Councilmember Nesspor reported that everything seems to be going well at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The Town Manager gave an update on the progress of the clarifier project. He also stated that he would have more information in regards to Pumping Station #4 at our next Utilities/Workshop meeting.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Councilmember Francis stated there were no scheduled events for this month. We are working on the Easter Egg Hunt which will be scheduled for March 30, 2013. We are currently looking for new boards members. We are waiting to see if we will be awarded some grant money to improve our Civic Center.

PLANNING/ZONING:

Councilmember Price stated that the Planning and Zoning board met last night. There were quite a few people in attendance. The meeting lasted over four hours. The Oxford Chase Development company came in for a final site plan review, it was granted by the board. Then Rock Hall Park Center, LLC (Family Dollar), they only had about an hour to go over everything they needed to, and so they decided to continue at the very next meeting scheduled for

March 13, 2013.

MUSEUM BOARD:

Councilmember Francis had the Museum Chairman give an update on the Museum Board.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Mayor gave a brief overview of the 2012/2013 initiatives that were accomplished. The Mayor went over some initiatives for the Councilmembers to think about entertaining for the upcoming year.

The Mayor mentioned that he attended the Mayor's Conference last week and gave a brief overview of what he learned while attending the event.

The Mayor stated that the Mayor and Council discussed the issue of eliminating the town's curbside recycling pickup at the last Utilities/Workshop meeting. We have taken into consideration the key points and opinions that were brought to our attention at that meeting and have come to the conclusion that it's just not in our best interest to continue to offer curbside recycling pick up for the town. We do have some literature here tonight in regards to a company that offers curbside recycling pick up. Mr. Paul Strauss stated that the best plan for recycling would be little to no cost to the residents. The Mayor and Council agreed to end curbside recycling and the last day for pickup will be March 15, 2013.

The Mayor mentioned the Greater Rock Hall Business Association Expo. The expo is scheduled for March 2, 2013 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company.

The Town of Rock Hall Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for March 9, 2013. The Mayor mentioned that Stephanie had come up with a new design for the Town's lapel pins. He showed a picture of the new design to everyone. I'd like to get an approval on the new design before we decide to have them made up and ordered. We can attach the pins to the appreciation dinner programs for everyone to have. There was a general consensus made to have the new pin design made and ordered for the appreciation dinner.

OLD BUSINESS:

The MFCA will be here tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. for Opening Pre-Bids for the Clam House.

The Mayor and Councilmember Price attended the ESAM dinner held in Kent Narrows.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

The Town Manager mentioned the meeting he is going to be attending tomorrow with the Solar Panel team to try to work out some billing issues we seem to be having.

There looks like there is going to be some ups and downs to have to finagle through during the budget this year.

The Mayor mentioned the new look in the hallways. It looks very nice. The Town Manager mentioned a gentleman who had some community service to do, we've had him repair and remount the down spouts around the building. We're also going to have him fix a few boards on the boardwalk down at the beach before he's done. The Mayor mentioned that the mural has been hung in the auditorium. It's a great spot for it down there.

The lights at the Hamlet have been fixed and taken care of.

The Mayor asked about putting some lighting at the Chesapeake Villa for their parking area. The Town Manager stated that he would get Nilo Electrical to meet with the Mayor to see if they could come up with a few ideas on what could be done for them there.

GOOD OF THE TOWN:

Mr. David Jones mentioned that there was a boat to be picked up from Mr. Larry Simns. The Town Manager said that the boat has been picked up and given to Mr. Doug Francis to have displayed in the Museum.

Councilmember Price mentioned that the town should send out their best wishes to Mr. Larry Simns with his health. Mrs. Patsy Reihl suggested that the town should pay some kind of tribute to Mr. Larry and the Mayor agreed. He suggested that maybe the town could pay homage to Mr. Larry at the Appreciation Dinner.

Mr. David Jones asked if the Board was accepting applications for a Planning and Zoning position. The Mayor stated that they are currently accepting applications for a position on the Planning and Zoning board.

Mr. Robert Lewis wanted to speak to Mr. Ron Fithian in regards to seeing the water plant. Mr. Lewis also had questions that he posed to the Mayor and Council in regards to the clarifier.

Mrs. Janice asked about the town ordinance in regards to business signs in town limits. The Mayor is going to follow up with the Planning and Zoning committee and get back to Mrs. Janice in regards to her questions. Mrs. Janice also asked if there was going to be anything built in the "pit" that used to be the Rock Hall Inn. The Mayor stated that the gentleman that has purchased the property does still intend to build there.

There was a gentleman that spoke in regards to the safety hazards of having the "pit" left wide open for someone to stumble along and get hurt. Something should be put up to show that it's a construction site of some kind. And there's no reason why there can't be something put up in one day. It is public safety and that is your responsibility.

Mrs. Edna Marie asked if the town has a commitment letter from developers of how long it's going to take before they can construct a new building where they claim they are going to. So, the lot they claim they are going to build on doesn't lay empty for months or years at a time. The Mayor asked the Town Manager if he would invite Amy Moredock to our next workshop meeting so we can ask her about these issues.

Councilmember Price made a motion to recess the Mayor and Council meeting to enter into an Executive Session under the Maryland Open Meeting's Law, Section 10-508, Subsection A; Paragraph 1, and Subparagraphs 2 for the

purposes of discussing any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. Councilmember Francis Seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor and Council reconvened the Mayor and Council meeting from an Executive Session at 11:20 p.m. There were no decisions made during the Executive Session.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Francis made a motion to adjourn at 11:21 p.m.; Councilmember Price seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Approved:

Robert E. Willis, Mayor

Olin B. Price, Councilmember

Brian Nesspor, Councilmember

Brian Jones, Councilmember