

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

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[Return to the 2014 Minutes Index page](#)

**MINUTES - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING
September 11, 2014**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 11, 2014

The Mayor convened the Regular Mayor and Council Meeting on the above date at 7:00 p.m. All Councilmembers were present. The Town Manager and Chief Moore were also present.

There was a Memorial given in remembrance of September 11, 2001. The memorial was started with the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by an invocation given by Pastor David Burkett (sp?).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The Mayor stated that he wanted to mention the donation given by the American Legion and he wanted an update to the Head Start heating system. Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Jones seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of Ordinance No. 2014-04 held on August 14, 2014. Councilmember Francis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of Ordinance No. 2014-06 held on August 14, 2014. Councilmember Jones seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of Ordinance No. 2014-07 held on August 14, 2014. Councilmember Jones seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of Ordinance No. 2014-08 held on

August 14, 2014. Councilmember Francis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes of Ordinance No. 2014-09 held on August 14, 2014. Councilmember Jones seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of August 14, 2014 meeting. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKERS/INVITED GUESTS:

Mr. Scott Boone is the Kent County's IT specialist and was in attendance to speak in regards to resource sharing. There were questions asked of Mr. Boone from the Mayor and Council and the Audience Members and he answered such questions accordingly. There was a discussion among Mr. Boone, the Mayor and Council, the Town Manager, and the Audience Members in regards to the option of resource sharing.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

General Fund Investment Account: \$ 16,216.23

Museum Board : \$ 3,058.23

Utilities Fund Investment Account: \$ 51,716.13

Total Available Funds: \$ 70,990.59

Property Taxes Outstanding: \$ 39,509.89

Utilities Fund Outstanding: \$ 6,987.75

Services Rendered Outstanding: \$ 2,869.69

Total Outstanding: \$ 49,367.33

Councilmember Francis had questions in regards to the line of credit that she wanted to ask of the Town Attorney and the Clerk Treasurer, who were not in attendance.

There was a discussion in regards to how the fees were going to be paid in regards to the lawsuit against the Town among the Audience Members, the Town Manager, and the Mayor and Council.

CORRESPONDENCE:

NONE

POLICE REPORT:

The Chief Moore read the police report into record. There were questions asked of Chief Moore and he answered such questions accordingly.

STREETS/SANITATION:

Councilmember Jones gave an overview/update on the Streets and Sanitation departments. Councilmember Jones asked if the recycling bins could be relocated. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council, the Town Manager, and the Audience Members in regards to relocating the recycling bins. There have been complaints in regards to discharge from the waste removal company trucks as they are picking up the Town's waste. There was a discussion in regards to the Hamlet among the Mayor and Council and the Town Manager. There was a discussion in regards to the maintenance of the town roads/drainage systems among the Mayor and Council, the Town Manager, and the Audience Members.

SEWER/WATER:

Councilmember Nesspor gave an overview of the oyster industry. Councilmember Nesspor gave an overview/update on the Sewer and Water departments. The Town Manager gave an update on the Clarifier project.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Councilmember Francis gave a brief overview of the Grand Opening of the Tennis/Basketball courts. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council and the Audience Members in regards to the Tennis/Basketball courts. Councilmember Francis gave an update/overview of the Parks & Recreation Committee. It was asked if the playground at the lagoon could be cleaned up. The American Legion donated \$1,500.00 to the Parks and Recreation Board. They also donated \$500.00 to the Hometown Hero's Banner project and the Rock Hall Museum Board received \$250.00.

PLANNING/ZONING:

Councilmember Price gave an update on the Planning & Zoning Committee. There was a letter received from Mr. Warren Zimmerman resigning from the Planning & Zoning Board. There was a letter received from Mr. Walter Souder expressing his interest in becoming a Planning & Zoning Board Committee Member. Mr. Souder currently is an alternative on the Board of Appeals Committee. Councilmember Price made a motion to move and appoint Mr. Souder to the Planning and Zoning Board. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

MUSEUM BOARD:

Councilmember Francis gave an update in regards to the Museum Board.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Mrs. Cora Dickson spoke in regards to the presentations given for the new website redesign for the Town. There was a discussion in regards to the website redesign among the Mayor and Council, the Town Manager, and the Audience Members. Councilmember Jones made a motion to award the bid to Virtual Towns and Schools to be Rock Hall's new website vendor and that we pay the design cost in full when it's due. Councilmember Price seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Jones gave an update and overview of the Hometown Hero Banners project.

Councilmember Jones gave a list of the following people to appoint to the website focus group: Kathy Donegan, Robin Wood Kurowski, Cora Dickson, William Fielder, Linda Buckle, Lynn Hilfiker, Kate Johnson, Sandy Scott, Joan Kane, Suzanne Einstein, and Lynn Granney (sp?). Councilmember Jones will be coordinating the meetings.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Mayor gave an update on the Garden Club's new welcome to Rock Hall sign.

The Town Manager gave an update on the RFP posted for the installation of the four heaters in the Head Start rental spaces.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

None

GOOD OF THE TOWN:

Mrs. Madeline Cornelius asked for an answer to her request to have the Closed Session tapes of April 28, 2013 available to the public for review. The Mayor read Mrs. Cornelius' letter into record. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council, the Town Manager, and the Audience Member's in regards to Mrs. Cornelius' request. It was decided to bring this discussion up at a following meeting when the Town Attorney is in attendance. There was a continued discussion in regards to the release of the Closed Session tapes of the April 28, 2013 meeting among the Mayor and Council, the Town Manager, and the Audience Members. Councilmember Francis made a motion to release the tapes. Councilmember Nesspor made a motion to destroy the tapes. Councilmember Jones seconded the motion made by Councilmember Nesspor. Councilmember Francis's motion dies with no second being made. There was more discussion in regards to this issue among the Mayor and Council, the Town Manager, and the Audience Members. Councilmember Nesspor made a motion to destroy the tapes with a summary provided by the Town Attorney. Councilmember Jones seconded. With a majority vote in favor of the motion made by Councilmember Nesspor to have the tapes of the Closed Session held on April 28, 2013 destroyed with a summary provided by the Town Attorney, the motion is so carried. Councilmember Jones, Nesspor, and Price voted in favor of the motion made. Councilmember Francis and the Mayor voted in opposition of the motion made.

There was a discussion in regards to the questions asked of the finances and the way the process is handled among the Mayor and Council.

There was a discussion in regards to the pictures posted in the newspaper associated with the headlines written about the Town of Rock Hall.

There was a statement made in regards to the appeal Mr. Jeff Carroll has against the Dollar General Stores from Mr.

Gren Whitman.

There was a discussion in regards to the lawsuit filed by the Mayor against the Town (namely Councilmember Jones, Price, and Nesspor).

There was a statement made in regards to the negative publicity the Town is receiving and the public social media posts being displayed from the Mayor and Council and from the residents of the Town as well.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Nesspor made a motion to adjourn at 11:35 p.m.; Councilmember Jones seconded. There was another discussion in regards to the Clerk Treasurer and the finances of the Town among the Mayor and Council, the Audience Members. All in favor; motion carried.

Approved:

Robert E. Willis, Mayor

Olin B. Price, Councilmember

Susan A. Francis, Councilmember

Brian Nesspor, Councilmember

Brian Jones, Councilmember