

## MINUTES - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING

February 17, 2010

### MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES February 17, 2010

The Mayor convened the Mayor and Council Regular Meeting on the above date at 7:32 p.m. All Councilmembers were present along with Town Manager Fithian and Corporal Charles McCracklin.

All recited the Lord's Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the minutes of the Regular Mayor and Council Meeting of January 14, 2010; Councilmember Willis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

#### GUEST SPEAKER/INVITED GUESTS:

Briggs Cunningham and Carl Gallegos from the Center for Society and Environment at Washington College attended the meeting to present to Mayor and Council the proposed Tree Canopy project they would like to start on in March. The town's tree canopy currently is at 29%; it is recommended to be at 40% - 45% canopy coverage. Briggs and Carl have resources, in the form of a grant, for budgeting and planting trees throughout the town over a period of three to four years. One area of the town has been identified as the "First Priority Area" where they will begin planting trees. After the presentation, Mayor Jacobs and Council decided to have letters sent out to the residents in the First Priority Area telling them about the project. The letter will also allow the residents to choose which type of tree they would like planted.

Chris Heimberger (visiting from Canada) spoke to Mayor and Council regarding a program Google is venturing into to link up small communities to abandoned fiber optic lines throughout the United States. During his stay in Rock Hall, Chris was having difficulty finding access to the internet and had heard about "Google Fiber for Communities" through a friend. There is a Request for Information form that must be filled out for Google to consider the community. Mayor Jacobs requested the information for the Google site and will look into the project.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

General Fund Investment Account: \$508,355.44  
Utilities Fund Investment Account: \$234,293.12

Total Available Funds: \$742,648.56

Property Taxes Outstanding: \$116,311.54

Utilities Fund Outstanding: \$ 25,631.37

Services Rendered Outstanding: \$ 2,243.00

Total Outstanding: \$144,185.91

#### CORRESPONDENCE:

Mayor Jacobs read a "Thank You" letter from the United Way of Kent County, Maryland for restoring the United Way pledge thermometer. The sign was knocked down due to an accident.

#### POLICE REPORT:

Due to the absence of Chief Moore, Corporal Charles McCracklin read the report into record.

#### STREETS/SANITATION:

Councilmember Toulson reported during the February snowstorms, the Town snow plow broke down with 'significant' repairs needed.

#### SEWER/WATER:

Councilmember reported due to the February snow storms, a letter was mailed to customers with Past Due water/sewer bills stating that water shut-offs have been suspended for February; however, it is suggested the customers pay their bill by March 5, 2010 to avoid having the current balance owed added to their next quarterly bill which will be mailed March 31, 2010.

#### PARKS/RECREATION:

Councilmember Willis reported the Parks and Rec meeting scheduled for February 17th has been canceled; the Hunter's Safety Course scheduled for March 9th, 11th, 16th and 18th have filled up; the employee for after-school activities at Rock Hall Middle School has been canceled for this year due to circumstances with budget cuts affecting Kent County Parks and Recreation.

#### PLANNING/ZONING:

Councilmember Price had nothing to report. The February 10, 2010 meeting was canceled due to snow and will be added to the March 10, 2010 meeting agenda.

#### MUSEUM BOARD:

The next Museum Board meeting will be March 11, 2010.

#### ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

The American Legion has been reserved for the Town Appreciation Dinner on March 6, 2010.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Town Manager Fithian reported Pump Station #4 (at the lagoon) is up and running at full capacity after several repairs have been made.

GOOD OF THE TOWN:

Mayor Jacobs reported River Rock Outdoor Store will be moving their satellite store, currently located at New Yarmouth Square, to the Rock Hall Bulkhead. The store will hold more fishing equipment and clothing and will be easy access for visiting boaters.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Price a motion to adjourn at 9:27 p.m.; Councilmember Toulson seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina L. Edwards

Clerk-Treasurer

Approved:

Jay A. Jacobs, Mayor

Rosalie Kuechler, Councilmember

Olin B. Price, Councilmember

John F. Toulson, Councilmember

Robert E. Willis, Councilmember