

MINUTES - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING

March 11, 2010

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
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The Mayor convened the Mayor and Council Regular Meeting on the above date at 7:30 p.m. All Councilmembers were present along with Town Manager Fithian, Assistant Attorney Patrick Thomas and Chief Moore.

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 February 17, 2010; Councilmember Willis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKER/INVITED GUESTS:

Ms. Patsy Reihl, life-long resident of Rock Hall, asked to speak on behalf of Rock Hall's history. Several months ago, Ms. Reihl took notice that the "historic" Martin Wagner blacksmith shop sign was taken down. Ms. Reihl was able to trace the location of the sign which had been taken by the State Highway roads division. After several phone calls, Ms. Reihl has been assured the sign will be returned to its rightful place, just outside of Martin Wagner's Blacksmith Shop located at Rt. 20 and Martin Wagner Road in Edesville.

Another piece of history Ms. Reihl spoke about was centered around the recent story on the Kent County News front page regarding her aunt Ms. Hilda Hill. Miss Hill was the principal of the Rock Hall Elementary School and because of her stern and strict ruling, several townspeople believe her "spirit" haunts the Rock Hall Municipal Building, which is the former Elementary School. Ms. Reihl was displeased to see the story on the front page and also found out the story made the front page of The Star Democrat in Easton. She feels Ms. Hill's legacy does not fit as a story for a front page of a newspaper, but should be recognized in a chapter or two in a book.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

General Fund Investment Account: \$ 467,517.60

Utilities Fund Investment Account: \$ 169,451.29

Total Available Funds: \$ 636,968.89

Property Taxes Outstanding: \$ 109,416.47

Utilities Fund Outstanding: \$ 11,498.31

Services Rendered Outstanding: \$ 2,343.00

Total Outstanding: \$ 123,257.78

CORRESPONDENCE:

Mayor Jacobs read a "Thank You" letter from the Soroptomists' International of Kent County, Maryland chapter for inviting them to the Town's Appreciation Dinner.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Moore read the report into record.

There was an extensive discussion regarding the Alternative School currently located in the Rock Hall Middle School. Chief Moore reported in one year there have been 22 calls for service recorded by the Rock Hall Police Department. Mayor and Council are concerned that the safety of the townspeople are put aside due to only having one patrol officer on duty during the day, and having calls to respond to the Alternative School take that officer off the streets. Mayor and Council unanimously agreed that the Alternative School needs to be removed from Rock Hall and relocated to an area in the County where Public Safety is more prominent.

STREETS/SANITATION:

Councilmember Toulson had nothing to report.

SEWER/WATER:

Councilmember Kuechler reported for the month of February, the Sewer Plant treated 10,914,000 gallons, received 10.2" of precipitation and Pumping Station #4 is running at full capacity; the Water Plant flowed 4,049,000 gallons and received 36" of snow and 1" of rain.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Councilmember Willis reported Parks and Rec will be holding bingo on Friday, March 12th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the auditorium; the Hunter's Safety Course is progressing very well with the second class at full capacity.

PLANNING/ZONING:

Councilmember Price reported on the March 10, 2010 meeting. The P & Z board gave final approval for a minor subdivision requested by Thomas Connolly; the Board gave a preliminary approval to Teal Properties for a minor subdivision; the board approved a lot line adjustment for the Watson/Tucker properties and Albert Parsons's property. The board held an Election of Officers – Ed Kurowski will remain Chairman and Vic Costa will remain Vice Chairman.

The Board of Appeals has received resignation letters from Jan White and Linda Kimble who

wish no longer to serve as members. Don Bergen submitted a letter of intent to serve on the board.

MUSEUM BOARD:

Councilmember Kuechler reported on the March 11, 2010 meeting. The Rock Hall Museum has pictures on loan to the St. Michael's Maritime Museum. The pictures are Steamboats of the Chesapeake Bay. Recently added to the Museum was Mr. Cliff Simms barbershop chair and pictures of Mr. Simms at work in his barbershop. The Museum will be holding a Fundraiser Open House on May 22, 2010 in the auditorium.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A request was received from the Rock Hall Lions Club asking for use of the Civic Center for the annual Circus, to be held May 7, 2010.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

Town Manager Fithian reported Pump Station located at Rt. 20 and Hawthorne Ave. has a broken valve and is currently running on one pump.

GOOD OF THE TOWN:

The Council of Governments meeting will be March 17th at Bay Wolf Restaurant, hosted by Rock Hall; there was a meeting March 16th with the Rock Hall Trolley Company regarding the future of the trolley service.

Mayor Jacobs called for a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss legal matters under section 10-508(a) of the Annotated Code of the State of Maryland. Councilmember Price made a motion to move into Executive Session at 8:55 p.m., was seconded by Councilmember Toulson and carried unanimously.

The Mayor reconvened the Mayor and Council Workshop meeting at 9:28 p.m. with no further discussion.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Price a motion to adjourn at 9:28 p.m.; Councilmember Kuechler 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