

MINUTES - MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEETING

May 12, 2011

MAYOR AND COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES May 12, 2011

The Mayor convened the Mayor and Council Regular meeting on the above date at 7:35 p.m. All Council members were present. The Town Manager and Chief Moore were also present.

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

The Mayor asked to add a moment of silence for those men and women who are serving in the Armed Services for our country, as well as those veterans who have served. He would like to add this to the agenda for all future meetings.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 14, 2011 meeting. Council member Francis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKERS/INVITED GUESTS:

Our local delegate Mr. Jay Jacobs attended the meeting. He wanted to address the issue of bringing the planning & zoning committee back to Rock Hall to handle. There are more regulations today to have to report on, and abide by. There is the Storm water critical area paperwork, the flood plain area paperwork, it's the paperwork and reporting involved that has not gotten any lighter. Who would you have enforce the rules and regulations of the department that need to be enforced? You also have to take into consideration the cost of hiring someone to fill the position of heading the department if it is brought back to Rock Hall. I believe that it would be a mistake to miss something in a project due to unqualified personnel involved. For any mistakes that are made the MDE could assess a fine for anything that may be done improperly. In my opinion it's a very good deal to have the county continue to handle the planning & zoning for Rock Hall for the cost that they charge us to handle it. Council member Price stated that he thinks of it as an insurance policy. You may not always use it to its fullest capacity but it's always there to protect you when you need it. Mayor Willis thanked Delegate Jacobs for coming and speaking on the issue of the planning & zoning. He also stated that they will not make a decision on this hastily, and that they will take all things into consideration.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

General Fund Investment Account: \$318,890.23

Utilities Fund Investment Account: \$230,628.46

Total Available Funds: \$549,518.69

Property Taxes Outstanding: \$ 78,907.08

Utilities Fund Outstanding: \$ 33,718.01

Services Rendered Outstanding: \$ 1,576.00

Total Outstanding: \$114,101.09

CORRESPONDENCE:

We received an invitation from the Board of Education to their annual awards ceremony. The ceremony will be held on May 26, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. It will be held at the Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Department. Please RSVP to Lacey if you would like to attend.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Moore read the report into record. The police department has received a \$5,300.00 grant from Home Land Security to install & pay for a licensed database version of crimestar for all the police vehicles as well as pay for two (2) laptops to put in Chuck and Daniel's cars.

STREETS/SANITATION:

Councilmember Jones mentioned that he had road around town and wanted to know if there was anything being done to fix Catholic A venue. He was informed that the Town is currently working on trying to get the holes taken care of. Councilmember Jones also asked about the speeding that seems to be taking place on Lawton A venue. This was a problem that was mentioned during the Candidate's Election Forum. The Town Manager stated that Kevin Middleton was sent down the day after the forum to place additional speed limit signs on Lawton Avenue. There are two (2) 15 mph signs posted on Lawton Avenue, one at the entrance of the street and one at the other end of the street on your way back out. Councilmember Jones also asked about the dead end zone sign that had been asked about. The Town Manager stated that he thought that was something that Kevin had put up while putting up the speed limit signs. Councilmember Jones informed him that there was not a sign of that nature posted. The Town Manager said that it would be taken care of tomorrow.

SEWER/WATER:

Councilmember Nesspor didn't have a report to read into record. He also wanted to readdress the issue of rust on Catholic A venue. There was great emphasis put on the fact that it definitely needs to be taken care of. The Mayor and Council will have to sit down and decide if there is room in the budget to attack this problem with or if they are going to have to seek income from grants to try to fix this problem. Whatever decision is made it needs to be made with much thought and consideration. It was also mentioned about setting a date for the first budget meeting workshop. It was agreed that the first budget meeting would be scheduled for next Thursday; May 19,2011 at 6:00 p.m.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Council member Francis reported that the next meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2011. So I have not had a chance to attend a meeting as of yet to report on. Mayor Willis mentioned that since the last meeting they have had the Easter Egg Hunt that they had to move from the Civic Center to the Municipal Building due to weather conditions. Despite that having been done, the event went very well and had great participation from the town. The Mayor also mentioned that he has been working on proposals to have the old tennis courts at the civic center restored. The general cost to have this done would fall in the range of \$61,000.00. Not this is a top priority project at this point in time considering some of the other projects that need our attention, but something I would like to see taken care of when we have other things taken care of.

PLANNING/ZONING:

Councilmember Price reported that the Planning & Zoning meeting was scheduled for last night, because there wasn't anything on the agenda it was postponed until next month. The Brawner Project is starting to get under way. They are still looking at the end of June for completion of that project.

MUSEUM BOARD:

Mayor Willis mentioned that the liaison position for the Museum had been overlooked at the organizational meeting the other night. The Museum board meets on the second Thursday of every month at 1 :00 p.m. Councilmember Francis stated that her schedule was a little more flexible than the other Councilmember's and that she would be able to take on this position if no one else was interested. Everyone was in agreement to this, so Council member Francis is the new liaison for the Museum Board. The Town Manager mentioned that there was a meeting today, but there really wasn't anything major discussed at the time.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

The Mayor would like to ask the Election Board to attend the next Workshop meeting for any suggestions that they may have in regards to changing any of the policies or codes that pertain to how the election is handled and run. He also wanted to recognize Stephanie Loller for an outstanding job for putting the town first and making sure things ran smoothly. She did a great job. She goes above and beyond and is a great asset to the town.

OLD BUSINESS:

Councilmember Francis asked if anything had been done with the dredging of the harbor, or if any of the buoy's had been moved as of yet? The Town Manager stated that he has not heard anything from anyone at this time, but he had just placed another e-mail to them inquiring on what we could expect to have done. Councilmember Price mentioned that the MML convention was coming up and the town usually takes something to give out to people while there. There was a discussion of handing out the town poster's that we have left over, but I don't think that people from other areas are going to be interested in signs of Rock Hall. So, we need to try to come up with something we can take with us to hand out to people while we are there. Mr. Jay Jacobs mentioned that in the past couple of years the business association has provided different things to take to the convention to give out to people. Mrs. Suzanne Einstein from the business association stated that they did have canvas bags that were being made with six or seven of the town's events printed on the front and names of some of the local business printed on the back to give away at the MML convention. It was a concern of some of the audience members that the posters should still be placed around town to be sold and not just given away. They should still be able to make money for the town if they are properly advertised. It would be a shame to have the possibility of all that profit being lost. It was also mentioned that maybe they could be placed on the website to sell online. Mrs. Edna Marie Sutton mentioned that the Museum Board would have liked to have had the front doors to the Municipal building open during the day of voting for the election. They seemed to think that there would have been a significant amount of people stop in to take a look at the museum while they were already in the building. The Mayor said that this would also be brought up at the next workshop meeting and mentioned to the election board for their input on the matter.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

The Town Manager mentioned the circus had come into town and done some damage to the civic center's grass because of the wetness from the rain. The boys have been down there to fix

that and take of it already. We continue to clean up the beach on a regular basis. There are people

using the beach already. Recycling was done today. We're cutting grass now that things are starting to warm up. Starting on Monday there will be work done to the library. We have a contractor coming in to get started on replacing a piece of one of the walls and a section of the floor in one of the corners. The library will be closed during this time of reconstruction from the 16th to the 19th. We're hoping to be able to finish everything that needs to be done during this time frame. The Mayor asked about the lights on Main Street. They were reported about three weeks ago that

they were out. I called Conectiv and they came down and checked out and found out at the entrance of Judefined Avenue from that pole there to the next one going out of town there was a cable that was somehow broke. They are going to push a new cable from one pole to the next and hope that it fixes the problem. They were out today, but I'm not sure if they got it all taken care of today or whether they will have to come back and finish up. Speaking of lights, it has been reported that the street lights down at the Hamlett are all out. Nilo electrical has been called and will be coming out to get them fixed. Councilmember Nesspor asked about the spraying of mosquitos, I know the town spends \$1,300.00 on having the county spray for them. He wanted to know when they will start spraying

or have they started spraying and we haven't seen it? The Town Manager stated that the state has cut everything they can cut to take care of their problems. Even the mosquito spraying was cut back by some twenty percent. Dave Scoffield who is in charge of the mosquito spraying came to

a commissioner's meeting and wanted to know if the county wanted to make up the difference of what the state had cut out. The Commissioner's decided that they wanted them to start spraying just like they normally would do, and when it gets close to the time when we start running low on funds to continue to have them spray we'll see what kind of funding we can come up with then to have them continue to spray for the remaining time of the season. They have started the process now which consist of them going around to the streams and standing water and put tablets in there that kill the larva, and they will continue the process from there. Mayor Willis asked if there was anything that the town could do to help this process. The Town Manager stated that the best thing to do for that would be to place a call to Dave Scoffield and see if he has any suggestions that we may be able to handle on our own without having to have a special license or resources needed to be able contribute to the process.

Councilmember Jones asked the Town Manager about the ISO (Insurance Services Office). It's a continuing program to keep insurance classifications up to date. This insurance classification number is one of the several elements used in developing property insurance premium calculations for many of our individual properties in Rock Hall. The Town Manager stated that the last survey that was done for the fire department was done in 2006. The fire department has met with them to go over the new equipment they have along with new, young talented members that have helped this report look positive for the town. Councilmember Price asked about getting a

report from Aro and Associates in regards to our water analysis. We have never heard back from them and we've paid for their services and have never received any information from them. The Town Manager stated that we've written letters and spoken to people in the company about this and haven't gotten anywhere with any of that. The only other thing I can suggest is bringing in the Town Attorney to have them write a letter to try and get something done about it. It was agreed to have the Attorney write a letter to see what kind of head way we can make with this.

GOOD OF THE TOWN:

This Saturday the garden club will be having their plant sale from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Main Street. Jeff Duston is opening up a second location on Main Street. He is going to be selling items that are strictly Rock Hall oriented. With there being no further business, Council member Price made a motion to adjourn at 9:07 p.m.; Mayor Willis so moved. All in favor; motion carried.

Approved:

Robert E. Willis, Mayor

Olin B. Price, Councilmember

Susan A. Francis, Councilmember

Brian Nesspor, Councilmember