

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
May 14 2015**

The Mayor convened the Regular Mayor and Council Meeting on the above date at 7:35 p.m.

All Councilmembers were present. The Town Manager, Chief Moore, and Clerk Treasurer were also present.

Councilmember Price gave the invocation. There was a moment of silence given. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:

The Mayor asked to place agenda item #15a to follow after the approval of the meeting minutes. Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Public Hearing meeting minutes of April 9, 2015. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of April 9, 2015. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

The Mayor gave an overview of the Mayor's Cabinet. The Mayor's Cabinet members consist of the Town Manager (Ronnie Fithian), Clerk Treasurer (Stephanie Loller), Chief of Police (Steve Moore), Business Manager of the Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company (Mrs. Shirley Crater), Business Association President (Mrs. Linda Kimble), and Grant Writer (Mrs. Meg Parry). The Mayor thanked each member for accepting his invitation to be a Cabinet Member.

GUEST SPEAKERS/INVITED GUESTS:

Mr. John Woodfield was in attendance to give an overview of his company and the services they provide. Mr. Woodfield owns Delmarva Wi-Fi. Delmarva Wi-Fi is looking to expand wireless broadband internet services throughout the county. Mr. Woodfield inquired about leasing space on the Town's water tower to provide a low cost alternative high speed internet service to the residents as well as the surrounding areas. The Mayor asked if Mr. Woodfield could submit a proposal in writing to the Town. Mr. Woodfield agreed to submit a written proposal.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

The Mayor gave an overview of the public procedure he would like to see implemented during all the future meetings held by the Mayor and Council.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Clerk Treasurer read the Financial Report into the record as follows:

General Fund Investment Account:	\$145,692.02
Museum Board :	\$ 3,468.52
Utilities Fund Investment Account:	<u>\$196,446.68</u>
Total Available Funds:	\$345,607.22

Property Taxes Outstanding:	\$ 78,792.17
Utilities Fund Outstanding:	\$ 32,395.17
Services Rendered Outstanding:	<u>\$ 5,200.00</u>
Total Outstanding:	\$116,387.34

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Mayor read a letter into record from Ernie Crowfoot. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council and the Town Manager in regards to Mr. Crowfoot's letter.

The Mayor read a letter from the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area into record.

The Mayor read a letter into record from Mrs. Beth Dunn.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Moore read the police report into record. The Mayor gave a brief history of National Police Week. The Mayor honored and recognized the Rock Hall Police Department.

STREETS/SANITATION:

Councilmember Kuechler gave an update on the Streets and Sanitation departments. The Town Manager gave an update on the drainage issue at the Hamlet and the culvert issue on the corner of Bayside Avenue and Hawthorne Avenue.

SEWER/WATER:

Councilmember Nesspor read the reports into record and gave updates for the Water and Sewer Departments. There is contingency money that will not need to be used for the new clarifier; Councilmember Nesspor recommended purchasing a new utility vehicle for the water department with the contingency money from the clarifier project. The Town Manager also suggested replacing the current chain link fence around the water plant with a new wooden fence that will be more appealing to the eye. It was unanimously agreed by the Mayor and Council to utilize the remaining contingency funds for the suggested ideas proposed by Councilmember Nesspor and the Town Manager.

PARKS/RECREATION:

The Town Manager gave an update on the Civic Center Playground Equipment project. Councilmember Kuechler suggested doing some work to the pavilion after the playground equipment project is completed.

PLANNING/ZONING:

Councilmember Price gave an overview/update in regards to the Planning & Zoning Board. The Mayor and Council needs to schedule a public hearing for the Zoning Text Amendment requested by the MFCA (Maryland Food Center Authority). The Mayor scheduled the Text Amendment Public Hearing for June 1, 2015 at 6:30.

The Mayor swore in Mr. Joe Strollo to the Appeals Board.

MUSEUM BOARD:

The Mayor swore in Nicole Benner, Chrissy Stickland, and Mylita Jacob as new members of the Museum Board.

COMMUNICATIONS:

None

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Ordinance No. 2015-02 was not read into record as being introduced.

The Mayor read a summary of Ordinance No. 2015-03 into record as an introduction to the ordinance.

The Town Manager gave an overview of Resolution No. 2015-03 (Issuance of a General Obligation Bond). The Town Manager read a summary of Resolution No. 2015-03 into record as an introduction allowing the Mayor and Council to vote on thereafter. Councilmember Nesspor made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-03 (Issuance of a General Obligation Bond) as presented. Councilmember Price seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Mayor gave an overview of the HEAL grant. The Mayor and Council unanimously approved to look further into the HEAL grant and the possibilities it may provide to the Town.

The Mayor and Council were given copies of a budget prepared by the Town Manager and Clerk Treasurer for them to review. The Mayor gave a brief overview of some key points in the budget.

The Town Manager gave an overview of the new tram signs posted around the Town.

The Mayor proposed the idea of having the Town meetings going paperless.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

None

GOOD OF THE TOWN:

The Mayor congratulated Mr. Dorian Mitchell of the Kent County News for an editorial he had written and won first place for.

Mr. John Wilson mentioned the open house for the Marine Consignment grand opening on Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; located at the Clam House.

Mrs. Cora Dickson gave an overview of the open house for The Eastern Shore Rabbit Rescue and Educational Center scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2015 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. There will be locations, one at the gazebo at the Rock Hall Village and one at the primary location next to Mermaid on the Rock.

The Quilt Shop will be opening soon.

Mrs. Cora Dickson mentioned problems receiving notices from the website. Mrs. Cora also mentioned a few reminders in utilizing the new website's capabilities.

Mrs. Annette May asked to have a tram sign posted at her antique store. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council, the Town Manager, and Mrs. Annette in regards to where the trams stop and if there are specific locations where they stop to pick up pedestrians.

Mr. Gary Divilio from 5802 Waterman's Way asked if the vacant Councilmember seat would be decided and discussed in a public meeting or a closed session. The Mayor stated that the Council has not yet brought any recommendations to the table and whatever is decided will be addressed in a public meeting.

Mrs. Suzanne Einstein asked about inquiries made to the webmaster and not receiving any return responses. The Mayor is going to check into that and get report back about his findings.

Mr. David Jones asked if there would be bids placed for the removal and replacement of the fence at the water plant. The engineer is looking into the fencing project; the Town will be taking care of removing the old fence.

Mr. Gren Whitman asked when the proposed/drafted budget would be available for the public to review. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council, the Town Manager, and the Audience Members in regards to making the proposed budget available to the public.

Mr. John Wilson asked the Mayor and Council about the process and decision in regards to filling the empty Councilmember seat. The Mayor stated again that there have been no recommendations made and that the Councilmembers have forty-five days to make their decision.

Mrs. Beth Dunn spoke in regards to the letter she submitted to the Mayor and Council in regards to the empty Councilmember seat.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Price made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.; Councilmember Kuechler seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lacey J. Cox

Lacey J. Cox
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer

Brian L. Jones

Brian L. Jones, Mayor

Olin B. Price

Olin B. Price, Councilmember

Brian Nesspor

Brian Nesspor, Councilmember

Rosalie Kuechler

Rosalie Kuechler, Councilmember

VACANT, Councilmember