

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 12, 2015**

The Mayor convened the Regular Mayor and Council Meeting on the above date at 7:30 p.m. All Councilmembers were present. The Town Manager and Chief Moore were also in attendance.

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 have the Swearing in of the new Communications Board moved for discussion under line item #5 (Public Participation). Councilmember Kendall made a motion to approve the Mayor's request and approve the agenda as noted. Councilmember Kuechler seconded. All in favor motion carried.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of October 8, 2015. Councilmember Kuechler seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

GUEST SPEAKERS/INVITED GUESTS:

Mr. Bob Diss was in attendance from Lindsey & Associates to go over the Town's annual audit. There was a discussion in regards to the audit among the Mayor and Council, Mr. Diss, the Audience Members, and the Town Manager.

Mrs. Gail Owings from the Eastern Shore Heritage Inc. was in attendance to discuss and go over heritage areas and the benefits that may available to Rock Hall.

ROCK HALL COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD:

The Mayor recognized Mrs. Shirley Crater for her work and contributions with the Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company. The Mayor presented Mrs. Shirley Crater with a Community Spirit Award. The Mayor also recognized in remembrance of Mr. Gary Jones, a past Chief of the Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company, for his service and contributions to the Town of Rock Hall and the Volunteer Fire Company. The Mayor presented the Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company with a Community Spirit Award on behalf of Mr. Gary Jones.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mrs. Judith Miller was in attendance to discuss the options of how to display the availability for the lodging/vacation rentals on the Town's website. Councilmember Price asked to have the agenda item "Website – Lodging Reservations" under the Communications Board line item moved to the line item of Public Participation to allow a continuation of the discussion Mrs. Judith Miller was speaking of. The Mayor and Council, Audience Members, and Town Manager discussed in further detail the issue of how to display the availability for the lodging/vacation

rentals on the Town's website. Councilmember Kendall made a motion to kickback the decision of how to display the availability for the lodging/vacation rentals on the Town's website to the Communications Board. There was no second to the motion made by Councilmember Kendall, there was no motion carried. Councilmember Price made a motion to remove the availability button from the website. Councilmember Kendall seconded. Councilmember Price and Kendall voted in favor of the motion made to remove the availability button from the website. Councilmember Nesspor and Kuechler abstained and the Mayor voted in opposition of the motion made. With a majority of the vote in favor of removing the availability button from the website the motion was so carried. There was a consensus among the Mayor and Council to continue this discussion in further detail at the next scheduled workshop meeting.

Mrs. Cora Dickson was in attendance to discuss the Communications Board. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council, the Audience Members, and the Town Manager in regards to the Communications Board. The Mayor swore in the new Communications Board members. *Linda Buckel was sworn in as a Communications Board member on November 18, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. by the Mayor in the Clerk Treasurers office. The Clerk Treasurer and Assistant Clerk Treasurer were witnesses to the swearing in of Linda Buckel to the Communications Board.*

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

General Fund Investment Account:	\$378,015.77
Museum Board :	\$ 2,647.16
Utilities Fund Investment Account:	\$ 87,966.46
Total Available Funds:	\$468,629.39
Property Taxes Outstanding:	\$ 234,738.09
Utilities Fund Outstanding:	\$ 26,542.36
Services Rendered Outstanding:	\$ -
Total Outstanding:	\$261,280.45

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Mayor read a letter into record from the Sergeant Preston Ashley Post 228 in regards to the Post Everlasting ceremony they hold every year in recognition of Veterans who have passed away throughout the year.

POLICE REPORT:

Chief Moore read the police report into record. Chief Moore gave an overview of the meeting that was held at Baywood Village apartments in regards to the drug problems in the area. The Mayor gave a brief overview on how the meeting transpired. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council and Chief Moore in regards to the meeting and the drug issue in that area. Councilmember Kendall brought it to the Mayor and Council's attention that the candy bags that had been prepared for the kids to be given out to during the Halloween event had been stolen out of the building. It was agreed to have the locks changed to the building that the Parks & Recreation board uses. There were questions asked of Chief Moore in regards to the police report given, Chief Moore answered all questions accordingly.

STREETS/SANITATION:

Councilmember Kuechler gave an update on the Streets and Sanitation departments. The Town Manager gave an update on the progress of the Hawthorne Avenue and Bayside Avenue project. The Town Manager gave an update on the Hamlet street project.

SEWER/WATER:

Councilmember Nesspor gave an update on the water and sewer departments. Councilmember Nesspor and the Town Manager gave an update on the Water Clarifier project. Councilmember Nesspor recognized all the people who helped make the water clarifier project happen and successful. The Town Manager gave an overview of the ribbon cutting ceremony scheduled for the water clarifier project. The Town Manager gave an update on pump station 4 and the maintenance and upkeep of the other pump stations.

PARKS/RECREATION:

Councilmember Kendall gave an update on the Parks and Recreation Committee. There was a nice turn out for the Halloween parade. Santa is coming to Town on December 5, 2015. It was agreed to allow the Parks & Recreation board create their own Facebook page.

PLANNING/ZONING:

Councilmember Price gave an overview/update in regards to the Planning & Zoning Board.

MUSEUM BOARD:

Councilmember Kuechler had no updates for the Museum Board.

COMMUNICATIONS:

All communication items were previously discussed.

ORDINANCES/RESOLUTIONS:

Councilmember Kendall gave an update on the Permit/Licensing proposal. This topic will be placed on the agenda for the upcoming workshop meeting. There was a discussion in regards to the permit/licensing proposal among the Mayor and Council, the Audience Members, and the Town Manager.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Mayor asked the Councilmembers for approval to have a Christmas party for the Town employees this year. The Councilmembers approved to have a Christmas party for the Town employees. The Christmas party will be held at the Rock Hall American Legion on December 4, 2015.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:

The Town Manager had nothing else that needed to be discussed.

GOOD OF THE TOWN:

Councilmember Price thanked all the Veterans for their service.


Mrs. Patsy Reihl asked about the proper procedure of placing advertisement signs along Rt. 20. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council and the Town Manager in regards to this issue.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

NONE

With there being no further business, Councilmember Price made a motion to adjourn at 9:57 p.m.; Councilmember Kuechler seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Lacey T. Cox
Assistant Clerk-Treasurer



Brian L. Jones, Mayor



Olin B. Price, Councilmember



Brian Nesspor, Councilmember



Rosalie Kuechler, Councilmember



Arthur Kendall, Councilmember