

COUNCIL AND UTILITY COMMISSION MINUTES FOR THE TOWN OF ROCK HALL**TOWN OF ROCK HALL**

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**MINUTES - UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
February 4, 2013**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
UTILITIES BOARD MINUTES
February 04, 2013

The Mayor convened the Mayor and Council Utilities Board meeting on the above date at 7:00 P.M. All Councilmembers were present with the exception of Councilmember Jones. The Town Manager was also present.

The Mayor stated that over the months that there have been a lot of people who have had comments and wanted to speak. We appreciate that from the residents. It's hard sometime for us to hear some of the people from the back of the room. What I would like to start doing is to allow three (3) minutes at the end of each meeting for people to come up and speak at our newly added podium here. This will also be carried out with our regular Mayor and Council meetings as well.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council Utilities Board Meeting of January 3, 2013 as presented; Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

SEWER ALLOCATION REPORT:

The Town Manager read the sewer allocation report into the record.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

The Mayor asked if there was any news with pumping station #4. The Town Manager stated that he didn't have anything at the moment, I'm still waiting on feedback from one person, but everything is going along okay up there, we don't have any problems immediately.

The Town Manager gave a brief overview of Resolution 2013-01 (Bay Restoration Fee Hardship Exemption Program). The Mayor read Resolution 2013-01 into record. Councilmember Price made a motion to approve Resolution 2013-01 as presented. Councilmember Francis seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Resolution 2013-01 has been approved by the Mayor and Council of Rock Hall.

Mr. Gil Sperling spoke on his behalf to the Mayor and Council to ask for a sewer credit for a rather large water/sewer bill he had received for the 3rd quarter billing in 2012. The bill for this quarter went through a usage amount of 383,000 gallons at a cost of \$3,730.20. It was brought to the Mayor and Council's attention that Mr. Sperling pays his water bill in advance and in doing so the town does not send out water bills with a zero balance. So, without receiving a bill there is no way to tell how many gallons of usage a resident has gone through during that quarter. The water bills are the only thing that tells us how many gallons of water/sewer we've gone through throughout a quarter. Whether there is a balance due or not. There was a general consensus that all water bills need to be mailed out whether there is a balance due or not. It was agreed to follow up with Mr. Sperling with a final decision at a later point in time. The Mayor and Council wanted to check into a few more things in regards to the matter.

An audience member asked for a follow up in regards to whether there was a letter mailed out with the bills requesting contact information for out of town residents. So the office can contact them prior to shutting their water off, because they aren't in town to receive the notice that is put on the front doors.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Price made a motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.; Councilmember Francis seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Approved:

Robert E. Willis, Mayor

Olin B. Price, Councilmember

Brian Nesspor, Councilmember

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

WORKSHOP MINUTES

February 4, 2013

The Mayor convened the Mayor and Council Workshop meeting on the above date at 8:00 P.M. All Councilmembers were present with the exception of Councilmember Jones. The Town Manager was also present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

Councilmember Price made a motion to approve the minutes of the Mayor and Council Workshop Board Meeting of January 3, 2013 as presented; Councilmember Francis seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

The Mayor received a letter from Ms. Dickson in regards to the town recycling pick up coming to an end. Ms. Cora

Dickson was present to read her letter into record for the Mayor and Council. Ms. Cora had some questions in regards to the towns recycling program. The Mayor and Council, along with the Town Manager answered Ms. Cora's questions accordingly. The official end of curbside pick-up for recycling will be a month after our next meeting on February 14, 2013.

The Mayor mentioned that the town's appreciation dinner is going to have to start getting planned. The Mayor went over some of the details in regards to the event. The Rock Hall Town Appreciation Dinner is scheduled for March 9, 2013.

The Mayor mentioned that the Fire Departments Installation of Officers dinner is February 23, 2013.

The Greater Rock Hall Business Association's annual expo is scheduled for March 2, 2013. The town will have a table set up. Mary Etta Reedy will have a team from the Adult Learning Center with a table set up right next to us. The Chesapeake College will have a third table set up to reach out to the community to let them know what is available out there for them to continue their education with. They are trying to get a sense of what kind of classes people are looking to sign up for to continue their education with.

The Town has received a letter from Mr. Ed Kurowski resigning from his position with the Planning and Zoning Committee.

WCTR is looking to expand on their marketing opportunities. The Mayor stated that I'm not sure this is something that the town needs to explore but it's there for us to utilize if we should decide we need to.

The Town Manager stated that he's received the annual letter from the Lion's Club asking permission to use the Civic Center for the circus when it comes to town. They've scheduled to have the circus come in to town on May 3, 2013. It was a general consensus among the Mayor and Councilmembers to approve the usage of the Civic Center for the circus.

The Mayor opened the floor to any questions and comments from the audience. Someone spoke up and asked if the town was planning on looking into any of the questions Ms. Dickson had asked or if they were just going to stop the curbside recycling. The Mayor and Council stated that they are not going to stop the service at this point in time, but we will have a definitive decision on that at our Mayor and Council meeting on February 14, 2013. The audience member also asked what was going to happen to the mud hole that is left from where the Rock Hall Inn used to be located. The Mayor stated that the gentleman that currently owns the property is still proceeding with his plans to develop a hotel to be placed there.

Another audience member asked if there were numbers that have been put together to let us know how the Trams did last year overall. The Mayor stated that he just attended a Business Association meeting where he gave those exact details to those in attendance there. He also said that he would relay that very information at one of our upcoming meetings, because he currently doesn't have the report with him this evening to be able to relay that information with. The audience member also asked if the town was keeping track of where the Trams stopped or how many stops they make. The Mayor stated that we have not had a log of where and when the trams have stopped. The audience member stated that it may be beneficial to keep a log of that in the future, simply for the reason that there will be a time when someone who has ridden on the tram and wants to claim they got injured from riding on it. We currently don't have any way to prove where the tram was at during a certain time, day, or place to correspond with those kinds of

allegations.

Another audience member asked how the annual budget development process works. The Mayor explained the budget process to the audience member. The audience member asked if the budget meetings that are to be scheduled going to be added to the monthly calendars that the town has just started to produce. The Mayor stated that they may not necessarily be able to post them on those calendars because they are composed ahead of time whereas the budget meetings are scheduled a meeting at a time. The Mayor said that we could certainly find another ways and means to possibly have these meetings posted elsewhere when the time comes to be able to do that with.

Councilmember Price made a motion to move into an Executive Session - Under the Maryland Open Meeting's Law, Section 10-508, Subsection A; Paragraph 1, Subparagraphs 2 (ii) for the purposes of discussing any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals. Councilmember Francis seconded. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting was recessed at 9:30 p.m.

The Mayor and Council reconvened the Workshop meeting at 10:25 p.m. The Mayor and Council discussed personnel and legal issues and there were no actions taken at this time.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Price made a motion to adjourn at 10:25 p.m.; Councilmember Francis seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Approved:

Robert E. Willis, Mayor

Olin B. Price, Councilmember

Brian Nesspor, Councilmember