

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

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**MINUTES - UTILITY COMMISSION MEETING
July 1, 2013**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
UTILITIES BOARD MINUTES
July 1, 2013

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

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

SEWER ALLOCATION REPORT:

The Town Manager read the sewer allocation report into record. We have had a new water and sewer account on the Haven/Hynson Road for a single family dwelling.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

The Mayor asked about the rates for two marinas' and the trailer court. The Town Manager stated that the code book states that the in town rates are set at a specific rate and the out of town rates are to pay double that rate. There was an exception made for a couple of marinas back in May of 2009 and the question is why that took place and we've decided to discuss that tonight. The Town Manager stated that they have received a letter as well. Councilmember Price stated that he wanted to listen to the tape again. It seems to me that the time we did that there was a good reason and we were to review it. Councilmember Jones asked if the Town Attorney has been made aware of this. He also stated that he thinks that this is something the Town Attorney should be made aware of. The Town Manager stated that he was pretty sure that the most recent letter that had come in today had been sent to them. Mrs. Anita Gotlieb asked if the letter could be read aloud. Mrs. Anita read the letter aloud into record, the letter was sent by a group of taxpayers of Rock Hall. The Mayor stated that there will probably be a decision made in regards to the letter at a later

point in time. Mr. Art Willis spoke in regards to the letter and situation on his own behalf. He stated that he wasn't sure what Mrs. Anita's agenda was in regards to the letter because she only referred to the Sailing Emporium as the only out of town business that you've done all this research on. There are other out of town hook ups to water and sewer as you know. I never hear anything about the other out of town rates, are you willing to go on record at this point to address every one of these hook ups or are you just going to focus on ours? Mrs. Anita stated that there were five people that signed that letter. She said that she asked Ronnie about the utility rates for the water and sewer bills because she was trying to get an understanding of who pays what and how those numbers are compiled. The Town Manger explained the utility rates and who paid for out of town services and who didn't. There was discussion among audience members in regards to this issue. The Mayor decided to table this until the next meeting until there could be some more research into the issue.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Francis made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m.; Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Approved:

Robert E. Willis, Mayor

Olin B. Price, Councilmember

Susan A. Francis, Councilmember

Brian Nesspor, Councilmember

Brian Jones, Councilmember

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

WORKSHOP MINUTES

July 1, 2013

The Mayor convened the Mayor and Council Workshop meeting on the above date at 7:40 P.M. All Councilmembers were present. The Town Manager was also present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

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

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE DISCUSSED:

Councilmember Francis gave an overview of where the Parks and Recreation Committee are in regards to the Civic Center Tennis Court project. Mr. Ed Hatcher was in attendance to discuss the renovation project of the Tennis Courts. Mr. Hatcher suggested that a committee be formed to oversee/advise the Mayor and Council on some of the things that could, should, and can be done to renovate the tennis courts. Councilmember Francis stated that she would like to wait to have the final approval of grant funding from the Board of Public Works first before proceeding with any improvements to the courts.

The Mayor stated that the Town had received a letter in regards to the Scanlon property. The Town Manager gave an

overview and brief history in regards to the Scanlon property. The Town Manager also stated that he had the Town Attorney write a letter in response to this and we are currently waiting to see what we get in return; he would like to see the Mayor table the topic until we receive further information from the letter that was sent from our Attorney.

The Mayor stated that he noticed in March that the Funk & Bolton's rates went up. I called or e-mailed members and asked if anyone had authorized or approved this increase of \$25.00 per hour. Councilmember Jones, Councilmember Price and Councilmember Nesspor stated that they were unaware of the increase. The Mayor asked the Town Manager to contact Funk & Bolton and find out the reasoning behind the increase. Councilmember Jones wanted to know why the check for this bill was still sitting in the vault. The Mayor stated that he didn't know why it was still in the vault because he had signed the check it was paid two or three weeks ago. The Mayor also stated that he had signed the check and didn't understand why it was still sitting in the vault. He said he would talk with Lacey and see why it hasn't been sent out. There is still a concern with why there is an increase of their fee. Councilmember Price stated that sometimes when there are contracts with business' it states in the contract that the fee will increase by a certain amount after so many months or years of service. We need to check and see if that happens to be the case. The Mayor stated that first we need to check and see if we have a contract and if so then we need to check to see if that is indeed the case. Councilmember Nesspor stated that he didn't know anything about it. There was some discussion from people in the audience in regards to this issue. Their questions were answered accordingly.

The Mayor and Council discussed the bids received from companies interested in performing the Town audit. Councilmember Nesspor made a motion to keep Lindsey & Associates for another year of service at the rate of \$14,800.00. Councilmember Jones seconded. Councilmember Francis stated that she thinks there needs to be a fresh set of eyes all the way around on the books inside and out, even if just for a year of service. She would like to see the Town choose Cohen & Resnick. There was some discussion among the Mayor and Council in regards to the motion made and the bids received by other companies. There were some questions raised by the audience and answered by the Mayor and Council in regards to the audit. Councilmember Jones, Councilmember Nesspor, and Councilmember Price voted in favor of the motion. Councilmember Francis voted against the motion. With the majority vote in favor of the motion, the motion is so carried. The Town will retain the services of Lindsey & Associates for one year at the cost of \$14,800.00.

There was some discussion of whether Resolution No. 2013-05 had been introduced already, and whether it had already been voted on. Councilmember Jones made a motion to adopt Resolution 2013-05. The Mayor stated that he had just gotten the Resolution earlier today and didn't feel like he had enough time to go over it thoroughly. Councilmember Francis stated that she had just gotten it as well. The Mayor stated he doesn't see any need for there to be a payroll account anymore, I think we should make our account view only, and I think that a minimum the people who sign the checks or have the role that the ladies do should all then have access. Then there is no activity that is being moved on the online banking. There was a discussion among the Mayor and Council in regards to this topic. Councilmember Price seconded the motion made by Councilmember Jones. The Mayor asked to wait on a vote on the Resolution until the next meeting so everyone could have a better understanding of it. Councilmember Jones, Councilmember Price, Councilmember Nesspor voted in favor of the motion to adopt Resolution 2013-05. Councilmember Francis voted against the motion to adopt Resolution 2013-05. With a majority vote in favor of the motion to adopt Resolution 2013-05 the motion was so carried.

Councilmember Jones made a motion to introduce Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2013-02. Councilmember Price seconded the motion. Councilmember Jones, Councilmember Price, Councilmember Nesspor voted in favor of introducing Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2013-02 at the current meeting. Councilmember Francis voted

against the motion to introduce the Charter Amendment Resolution 2013-02. With a majority vote in favor of the motion to introduce Charter Amendment Resolution 2013-02 the motion was so carried. The Mayor asked the Town Manager to read the Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2013-02 into record. The Town Manager read the Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2013-02 into record.

Councilmember Price made a motion to appoint Allen Riley to the Planning & Zoning Board. Councilmember Jones. Councilmember Francis opposed the motion to appoint Allen Riley to the Planning & Zoning Board. With a majority vote in favor of the motion to appoint Allen Riley to the Planning & Zoning Board the motion was so carried.

Councilmember Nesspor made a motion to appoint Walter Souder to be the alternate to the Board of Appeals Committee. Councilmember Price seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Jones made a motion for approval from the board to bring back the Pothole Pro's to fix some of the holes in the streets. He asked to spend \$2,500.00 to have Pothole Pro's to fix some more holes. Councilmember Nesspor seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Jones stated that he met with an engineer from KCI. Everyone should have a copy of what he proposes. These are just approximate figures. I think we should start with video of the existing pipe on Walnut Street and this will tell us if there is still intact, if there is any broken pipe anywhere or what's going on. They are suggesting a new storm drain and inlet for Haven Court. The question was raised on whether the Town had ever accepted the responsibility of maintaining that street and if so when we did. The Town Manager said he would take a look into that. Councilmember Jones made a motion to spend up to \$1,000.00 to inspect the drainage pipe at the end of Walnut Street. Councilmember Price seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

Councilmember Price stated that he would make sure the figures were provided to see how the Tram's did throughout the year.

Mr. Gren Whitman asked what the status was on the following items: The status of the proposal to have a recall in the Charter, the swearing in of the members of the appeals board, the minutes of the closed meeting, the excellent proposal to have a social media policy for town government, my request to amend the April 11th minutes. Councilmember Jones stated that the Town Attorney was looking into the recall proposal as well as looking into the social media policy. Councilmember Jones stated that the amending of the April 11th meeting would be on the agenda of the next Mayor and Council meeting under old business. The Mayor stated that he had the minutes for the closed meeting and he would have them at the next meeting. He also stated that he had found the meeting minutes where Mrs. Marty Maxwell had been sworn in; he would have them at the next meeting as well. They were listed under the Utility Board. The Mayor stated that he wanted to look into that a little more. Mr. Gren also asked what the next step was going to be in regards to out of town utility rates. Councilmember Jones stated that he wanted to make sure that the Town Attorney was involved.

Mrs. Anita Gotlieb wanted to make sure that the letter that was written from the five concerned citizens in regards to a water/sewer billing issue was understood. The Mayor stated that he thought they understood the letter.

With there being no further business, Councilmember Price made a motion to adjourn at 9:20 p.m.; Councilmember Francis seconded. All in favor; motion carried.

Approved:

Robert E. Willis, Mayor

Olin B. Price, Councilmember

Susan A. Francis, Councilmember

Brian Nesspor, Councilmember

Brian Jones, Councilmember