



MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
March 14, 2024

****Meeting minutes are prepared in a summarized format. For full discussion and further details of the meeting you can view the streamlined video at the following link: <http://townhallstreams.com/locations/rock-hall-md>. They are also available at Town Office****

Mayor Cook called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. In attendance were Vice Mayor Jones, Councilmember Edwards, Councilmember Collyer, Town Manager Resele, Police Chief Dempsey, and Code Enforcer Vaughan. Councilmember Seewald was absent.

Agenda

Councilmember Collyer made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes

Vice Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the Public Hearing Minutes for February 8, 2024 as corrected. Councilmember Collyer seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Vice Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes for February 8, 2024. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Collyer made a motion to approve the Closed Session Meeting minutes of February 8, 2024. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Swearing In

Mayor Cook swore in Lee Vaughan to the Communications Committee.

Administrative Reports

Town Manager Resele gave the Financial Report.

Quick comment from Mayor Cook: Question asked about the Solar Field by the Lagoon. The solar field generates power to the grid and the Town gets credits to certain Town properties.

Police Chief Dempsey gave the Police Report.

Discussion about parking throughout the Town.

Dave Jones spoke about the parking issues on Coleman Road and Wilkins Avenue caused by the Blue Heron Restaurant.

Councilmember Seewald joined the Meeting at 6:33.

Kevin Hodge owner of the Blue Heron Restaurant spoke to the Council about the parking issue and what could be done.

Laura Polack spoke to the Council about the lights, bar, and parking at the Blue Heron Restaurant.

Town Manager Resele stated that the parking at the beach would change once Verizon finished digging underground there. He also stated that Desrosiers lot is not a parking lot.

Code Enforcer Brandee Vaughan gave the Code Enforcement Report.

Department/Board Reports

Streets and Sanitation

Sinks holes on W Sharp St and Lawton Ave (investigating reason for issue).

Repair of Town Water Blaster (from Kent Co) - \$4,721.13 (will be used to clean out culverts).

Water

Catholic and Boundary Avenue shut off valve to hydrant because of water coming out of the ground which might actually be a spring underground.

Sewer/Pump Stations

Still working on lower the levels at the Lagoon.

PS# 2 repairs are complete, and pump is up and running,

Parks & Recreation

Next meeting will be Monday, March 18, 2024 at 6:00pm.

Working with Kate Mayberry on Grants to get items for Beach and Civic Center.

Easter Egg Hunt will be at the Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company on Saturday, March 23 at 10:00 am.

Civic Center Bathrooms were broken into and destroyed.

Planning and Zoning

Next Planning Commission will be Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

Discussed the text amendment with regards to the definition of accessory dwellings.

Museum Board

The 501c3 registration is complete and the Board is working on moving the artifacts.

Communication Board

The first meeting will be on March 27, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Ethics Board

Nothing to report.

Economic Development Committee

Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 26, 2024 at 6:15pm.

Talking to the new owners of Rock Hall Landing about what their vision is for the Marina.

Old Business

Meeting on Housing Needs

Is on hold for now.

Skilled Trades Update

Mayor Cook met with the Maryland Food Authority who owns the Clam house and they agreed to show a vacant section of the building to see if that will work for the Trade School.

Auditor

Trying to close up the 2022 Audit.

New Accounting Firm starting to work on the 2023 Audit.

Town Hall Building Project

Sale of Property

Nothing new.

Purchase of Property

Meeting with Rock Hall Properties about purchasing the 1-acre lot on the corner of Zeeman Road and Route 20. Owner is open to selling to the Town.

Dog Park Fund Raising

PayPal is up and running on the Webpage.

Mayor Cook will be submitting a new application for possible grant funding.

Rock Hall Library

Working on putting together an application for a Design and technical grant.

HR Support

Town Manager Resele set up a meeting with four different consultants for handbook and policies support. Will discuss in the Closed Session.

Business Application Form

Working with iWorQ.

New Business

Vote on Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2024-01

A CHARTER AMENDMENT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ROCK HALL, MARYLAND, adopted pursuant to the authority of Article XI-E of the Constitution of Maryland and §§ 4-302(1) and 4-304 of the Local Government Article of the Maryland Annotated Code to amend the Municipal Charter of the Town of Rock Hall (as published in Chapter 125, Volume 7, Compilation of Municipal Charters) for the purposes of providing that Town elections for the Mayor and Councilpersons shall be held on the first Saturday in March beginning in 2025 and continuing thereafter and adjusting other dates related to Town elections for consistency therewith, and providing that, beginning with those Councilpersons elected in 2025 and continuing thereafter that the Mayor and Councilpersons shall not receive a salary or other compensation but may be entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred while traveling on Town business, subject to certain conditions; providing that the title of this Charter Amendment Resolution shall be deemed a fair summary; and generally relating to elections and the compensation of elected officials in the Town of Rock Hall.

Councilmember Collyer made a motion to approve Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2024-01. Councilmember Seewald seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Budget Build Meetings

There will be a Budget Build Meeting on Monday, March 25, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

Property Tax Rate

Will be due to the County by June 16, 2024 if the Council agrees to raise the rate this year.

Public Notices Advertising Costs

Nothing changed except for the Board of Appeals notices can go in the Tidewater Trader.

Tax Set-off Study

Not ready to be reviewed.

Comprehensive Plan

Will discuss at the next Workshop Meeting.

Events

Nothing to report.

Other Organizations

Greater Rock Hall Business Association

Nothing to report

Main Street Rock Hall

Laurie Walters spoke to the Council.

Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company

Nothing to report.

Council of Governments

Next meeting was held on March 20th in Betterton.

Maryland Municipal League

Nothing to report.

Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities (ESAM)

Next meeting will be held virtually on March 19 2024 .

For the Good of the Town

Nobody spoke.

Next Meeting Dates

Monday, March 25, 2024 - Special Budget Workshop.

Monday, April 1 2024 – Utilities Board Meeting and Mayor & Council Regular Workshop Meeting.

Thursday, April 11, 2024 – Mayor & Council Regular Business Meeting.

Recess to closed Session

Councilmember Seewald made a motion to recess into closed session at 8:05 p.m. under General Provisions Art. 3-305(b)(1) “to discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of appointees, employee, or officials over whom this public body has jurisdiction; any other personnel matter that affects one or more specific individuals” And §3-305(b)(14) "Before a contract is awarded or bids are opened, to discuss a matter directly related to a negotiating strategy or the contents of a bid or proposal, if public discussion or disclosure would adversely impact the ability of the public body to participate in the competitive bidding or proposal process”. Councilmember Collyer seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

In attendance were Mayor Cook, Vice Mayor Jones, Councilmember Edwards, Councilmember Seewald, Councilmember Collyer, and Town Manager Resele.

Purpose

Personnel and Contracts

Closed Session Discussion:

Hiring advertisements, disciplinary action, and performance evaluation.

Land purchase options and pricing for HR companies.

Actions taken in Closed Session:

No actions were taken.

Reconvene to Regular Business Meeting

Returned to Regular Business Meeting at 9:40 pm.

Councilmember Collyer made a motion to proceed with an inquiry on a property within the Town of Rock Hall. Seconded Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the Regular Business Meeting at 9:40 pm. was made by Councilmember Edwards. Councilmember Seewald seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:



Cheryl M. Butler

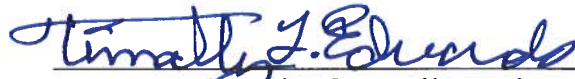
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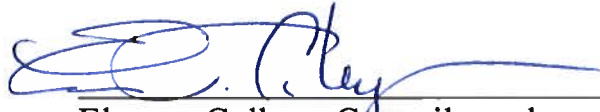
James Cook, Mayor



Carolyn Jones, Vice Mayor



Timmy Edwards, Councilmember



Eleanor Collyer, Councilmember



Richard Seewald, Councilmember