



MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
July 13, 2023

****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 6:00 p.m. In attendance were Vice Mayor Jones, Councilmember Edwards, Councilmember Collyer, Councilmember Seewald, Town Manager Resele, Code Enforcer Whitman, Police Chief Dempsey, and Clerk Treasurer Loller.

Agenda

Vice Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilmember Seewald seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes

Vice Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the Regular Business Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2023. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Certificate of Recognition

Cyndi Fletcher – Cyndi made a Beach Toy Box for everyone to use while at the Ferry Park Beach.

Chief Dempsey – Chief Dempsey's quick response to house fire on Rock Hall Avenue which helped save lives.

Presentation – Rural Water Energy Audit Presentation – Dennis Bartholomew.

Re-scheduled for the next Business Meeting. Summary of what the Town can do to reduce energy cost and improve energy use.

Discussion – Library use of Civic Center Buildings – Peggy McKee

Talked about the possibility of using the block building at the Civic Center for the Library.

Vice Mayor Jones made a motion to move forward with the Library if feasible taking over occupation of the block building at the Civic Center. Councilmember Collyer seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Administrative Reports

The Financial Report was given by Clerk-Treasurer Loller.

Police Chief Dempsey gave the Police Report.

Wants to put together an educational report/post about pedestrian rules of the road.

The Code Enforcement Report was read by Code Enforcer Dave Whitman.

Department/Board Reports

Streets and Sanitation

Town Manager to have a meeting with State Highway to discuss options for Rt 20. Parking on the side of road, speed limit reduction and cross walks signs or flashing lights.

Lawn Care bid will be due Friday, July 14th at 2:00 pm.

Finished the Miss Utility Application.

Parks & Recreation

The 4th of July was a successful event for the Town.

Vice Mayor Jones suggested making a 4th of July Committee as Volunteers are needed.

Planning and Zoning

The Comp Plan is still being worked on. Draft will be posted on website will have 60 days for comments and changes to be made.

Two Planning & Zoning Commissioners terms will be expiring on July 31, 2023.

The Planning Administrator is taking a new job, so the Town needs to find a replacement. Need to send out and RFP for Planning & Zoning Administrator services.

Next Planning and Zoning meeting will be Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 7:00 pm.

Museum Board

Still working for forming a 501c3.

Next Museum Board meeting will be Monday, August 14, 2023, at 6:30 pm.

Communication Board

Accepting application for members.

Transportation

No updates.

Ethics Board

No Updates.

Events

Gun Bash at Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company – 7-29-2023

Scrapple Festival at the Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company – 9-2-2023

Lions Club Yard Sale – 9-14 through 9-17-2023

Christmas in July – Maggie's

Storm Drain Touch-up

Councilmember Collyer made a motion to approve all the events as read by Town Manager Resele. Councilmember Seewald seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Old Business

Auditor RFP

The RFP was sent out and only one proposal came in.

Town Hall Building Project

Sale of Property

The Sales Meeting with Realtors will be held on Thursday, July 20th at 6:00 pm.

Purchase of Property

Town Manager Resele looked at the New Yarmouth Property. A discussion followed.

Parking – Blue Heron Updates

Meeting on Friday, July 14th at 10:00 to review plans.

Kent County Municipality Tax Differential

The Town of Chestertown is requesting a letter of support be sent to MML for legislative action.

Councilmember Collyer made a motion to send a letter of support to MML. Councilmember Seewald seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

MDE Mosquito Control

The state still has no driver. Might want to contract with another company to spray the larger areas in Town. Mosquito Dunks will be available for residents to pick up.

New Business

Introduction of Ordinance No. 2023-06 – Water& Sewer Rates

FOR the purpose of amending Chapter 102 (Fees) of the Code of the Town of Rock Hall to increase the Town's water and sewer rates by 10 percent, effective July 1, 2023; providing that the title of this Ordinance shall be deemed a fair summary, and generally relating to water and sewer rates in the Town of Rock Hall.

The Public Hearing will be held on Thursday, August 14, 2023.

Kent County Sewer Agreement

The agreement is with the County Commissioners for review.

Introduce Ordinance 2023-05

AN ORDINANCE FOR the purpose of adopting the budget and setting the real property tax rate for the Town of Rock Hall's 2024 Fiscal Year; providing that the title of this Ordinance shall be deemed a fair summary and generally relating to the budget and real property tax rate of the Town.

Election Date Change

Discussion about changing the Election date from the 1st Saturday in May to the 1st Saturday in March.

Dog Park Fund Raising

Fund raising through events and donations. Open a new account at The Peoples Bank.

Traffic Control – Area of the Beach Road

There was a discussion about the need for speed reduction to 10 MPH on Beach Road and the possibility of a one-way traffic flow.

Workforce needed

Town Manger Resele stated that he needs to hire new employees for the following positions.

- 2 – Public Works
- 2 – Office Assistant
- 1 – Project Manager

Glamping

The Glamping project might have new interest in restarting the project. Need to discuss with Planning and Zoning.

Galena Challenge

The Town of Galena challenged the Town of Rock Hall to beat their donation of \$200.00 towards the Youth Awards Fund at the Kent County Agricultural Fair. Challenge Accepted!

Other Organizations

Greater Rock Hall Business Association

Next meeting will be Tuesday, July 25th at 9:00 am.

Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company

The Town replaced the dumpster with trash cans because people were using it for personal trash and contractor trash. Special Events will get more cans for that event and the Town will deliver and take them away.

Main Street Rock Hall

Laurie Walters spoke to the Council.

Council of Governments

Submitted a Legislative Action request to MML on the tax differential.

Maryland Municipal League

Nothing to report.

Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities (ESAM)

They want to increase engagement for all the Eastern Shore Counties by meeting more regionally.

For the Good of the Town

Nothing.

Next Meeting Dates

Mayor & Council Utility Board and Regular Workshop Meeting – Monday, July 31, 2023.

Mayor & Council Regular Business Meeting – Thursday, August 10, 2023.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the Regular Workshop Meeting at 8:31 pm. was made by Councilmember Edwards. Councilmember Collyer seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carried.

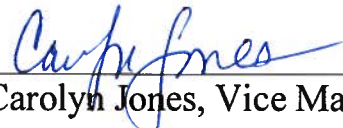
Respectfully Submitted:

Cheryl M. Butler

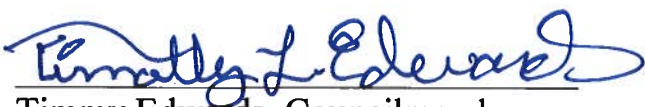
Approved by:



James Cook, Mayor



Carolyn Jones, Vice Mayor



Timmy Edwards, Councilmember



Eleanor Collyer, Councilmember



Richard Seewald, Councilmember