



MAYOR & COUNCIL
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 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, Town Manager Resele, Code Enforcer Whitman and Police Chief Dempsey. Councilmember Collyer and Councilmember Seewald were absent.

Agenda

Vice Mayor Jones 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 Regular Business Meeting Minutes for August 10, 2023. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Councilmember Edwards made a motion to approve the Closed Session Meeting minutes of August 10, 2023. Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Swearing In

Carol Britten and Gren Whitman were sworn in as Communication Board Members.

Administrative Reports

Councilmember Seewald joined the meeting.

The Financial Report was given by Town Manager Resele.

Town Manager Resele gave the Police Report.

Chief Dempsey has a meeting with Red Speed about the speed camera survey.

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

David O'Neill had a complaint about the neighbor's rooster on Mercer Avenue. A discussion followed.

Department/Board Reports

Streets and Sanitation

Still waiting on MDOT about the Handicapped Parking by the Methodist Church on Main Street its under review.

Water

Quarterly Water/Sewer readings will begin next week.

Sewer

Pump Station #1 is out for repairs and Pump Station #4 needs repairing.

Pump Station #2 needs repair of Orange Portable Transfer Pump. Waiting on quote.

Looking to purchase 2 used bypass pumps for the Pump Station.

Parks & Recreation

Next meeting will be Monday, September 18, 2023.

Still looking for Volunteers!

Planning and Zoning

Received “On Call” quote from AECOM Technical Services for Planning and Zoning Administrator.

Next Planning and Zoning meeting will be October 18, 2023 for the Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan.

Museum Board

Next Museum Board meeting will be Monday, October 9, at 6:30 pm.

Communication Board

Accepting application new members. Need one more.

Ethics Board

No Updates.

Old Business

Sanitary Facilities at the Beach

There were some public comments.

Mayor Cook wants to have some input with the Community Residents.

Will move the Porta Johns to the middle of the Beach parking lot.

Traffic Control in Beach Area

Discussion about the speed limit and signage.

Vice Mayor Jones made a motion to change the Speed Limit on Beach Road in between Bay Road and Mercer Avenue to 10mph. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Auditor RFP

Bid received – Perry Passion Beyond the Numbers Auditor.

Vice Mayor Jones made a motion to select Perry Passion Beyond the Numbers as the Town's Auditor. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Town Hall Building Project

Sale of Property

Selected SVN – Miller Commercial from Easton to sell the building.

Purchase of Property

Looking at 1 acre lots behind Walgreens and at the front corner of Route 20 and Zeeman Road.

American Rescue Plan

The final \$413,000.00 is available to spend next year.

Dog Park Fund Raising

Bank account is active

Clear the Shelter Event raised \$106.00

Rock Hall Library

Project is moving forward.

They are looking for input from the Mayor and Council about whether to use old buildings or build new ones.

New Business

Introduce Ordinance 2023-07 and Charter Amendment Resolution 2023-01

Ordinance No. 2023-07 - FOR the purpose of amending Chapter 184 (Sewers) of the Code of the Town of Rock Hall to enact provisions regarding the pretreatment of wastewater by commercial and industrial users; providing that the title of this Ordinance shall be deemed a fair summary, and generally relating to sewers in the Town of Rock Hall.

Charter Amendment Resolution No. 2023-01 - 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 purchases for the Town government may be made by the Town Manager up to a maximum of \$5,000, subject to certain conditions and providing that all expenditures for supplies, materials, equipment, construction of public improvements, or contractual service involving more than \$25,000 shall be on written contract, subject to certain conditions; providing that the title of this Charter Amendment Resolution shall be deemed a fair summary; and generally relating to ordinances of the Town of Rock Hall

Committees Scope Review

Economic Development/Workforce Development. Vice Mayor Jones thinks it is a good idea to have these committees. Need to have a different inputs and backgrounds.

Coastal Resiliency. Will discuss further at the next Workshop Meeting.

New Study – Housing and Workforce Development.

Upper Shore Regional Council Meeting for Funding. Goals: Workforce and affordable Housing Data and Recommendations. They had a meeting and seemed agreeable to set aside some fund for housing study the Municipalities in Kent County. Want recommendations from the Municipalities on what they see for the future.

Events

Carriage Rides – Home for the Holidays on Main Street – Saturday, November 25, 2023 from 11am to 3 pm.

Vice Mayor Jones made a motion to approve the Carriage Rides on November 25, 2023. Councilmember Edwards seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Other Organizations

Greater Rock Hall Business Association

Cindy Genther spoke to the Council. There will be a ribbon cutting at Hightide on Saturday, September 16th at 9:00 am.

Rock Hall Volunteer Fire Company

All houses need to have a 911 house number visible.

It was decided that the RHVFC will not be filling pools, but Chestertown VFC will.

Main Street Rock Hall

Laurie Walters spoke to the Council.

Council of Governments

Meeting on September 20, 2023 in Chestertown.

Maryland Municipal League

Board to visit Rock Hall on Friday the 15th.

Eastern Shore Association of Municipalities (ESAM)

Survey to be sent out to elected officials to determine meeting schedule and frequency.

For the Good of the Town

Nothing

Next Meeting Dates

Monday, October 2nd, 2023 – Utilities Board Meeting and Mayor & Council Regular Workshop Meeting

Thursday, October 12, 2023 – Mayor & Council Regular Business Meeting

Wednesday October 18, 2023 – P&Z Public Hearing on the Comprehensive Plan

Special Workshops – TBD

Recess to closed Session

Councilmember Edwards made a motion to recess into closed session at 8:20 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”. Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All present in favor. Motion carried.

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

Purpose

Personnel and Contracts

Closed Session Discussion:

Personnel issues and quote from AECOM

Actions taken in Closed Session:

No actions were taken.

Returned to Regular Workshop Meeting at 9:25 pm.

Vice Mayor Jones made a motion to accept AECOM the on call as the Planning & Zoning Administrator.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the Regular Workshop Meeting at 9:26 pm. was made by Councilmember Edwards. Vice Mayor Jones seconded the motion. All present in favor. The motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted:

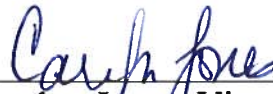


Cheryl M. Butler

Approved by:



James Cook, Mayor



Carolyn Jones, Vice Mayor



Timmy Edwards, Councilmember



Eleanor Collyer, Councilmember



Richard Seewald, Councilmember