

The Rural Retreat Town Council held regular meeting on February 22, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rural Retreat Town Hall Council Chambers.

PRESENT RURAL RETREAT TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Timothy Litz, Ed Schaack, Scott Mecimore, Dale Yontz, Peggy Hash

ABSENT

Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger, Jerrell Hall

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Raymond Matney, Town Manager; Lori Guynn, Clerk/Treasurer

ADMINISTRATION ABSENT

Scott Mitchell, Police Chief

OTHERS PRESENT

Amanda Evans – Wytheville Enterprise; Chuck Sullins; Rev. Geary Jonas

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Mayor Litz called the meeting to order and determined a quorum was present.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Rev. Geary Jonas.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Yontz, seconded by Councilmember Schaack to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2011 joint public hearing / regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of four (4) for: Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; two (2) absent: Crigger, Hall.

CITIZEN'S TIME

NONE

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CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

POLICE REPORT

Mr. Matney noted Chief Mitchell has not been working due to illness.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TOWN MISSION STATEMENT – Personnel Committee Chairman Schaack offered revisions to the draft town mission statement. The revised draft statement was read by Chairman Schaack which stated “We are committed to work with the community to preserve our rich history and provide ethical and responsible local government so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of living and working in our town both now and as we move into the future.” Chairman Schaack then made a motion to adopt the revised town mission statement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and passed by a vote of four (4) for: Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; two (2) absent: Crigger, Hall.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAY – Chairman Yontz explained he and Co-chairman Chuck Sullins are pursuing funding for the festival. He added the details are being finalized for the Christmas ornaments and the building replica for the Wytheville Department of Museums. Chairman Yontz noted a lot of people are participating in the planning of the festival and he appreciates everyone.

PERSONNEL – Chairman Schaack reported more applications have been received and totals 9 to date. He added the deadline is April 1. Councilmember Mecimore asked how soon he was planning to begin reviewing the applications. Chairman Schaack responded he anticipates to begin the reviewing the applications in mid March.

TECHNOLOGY – Chairman Mecimore asked the other committee members if they have new information to present. There being none, Chairman Mecimore cancelled the committee meeting scheduled to follow the council meeting.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

The Town Manager’s report is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. The following items were discussed and/or acted upon:

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2010 AUDIT – The 2010 audit reports were received today. Mr. Matney asked the council members to take a copy to review but to return it to the office when finished because extra copies are always needed. If council wishes the audit firm will be asked to attend a meeting to discuss the audit, Mr. Matney noted.

REQUEST FOR YARD SET BACK VARIANCE – A request was received for a rear yard set back variance for a lot located at the corner of Chinquapin Avenue and Hickory Avenue which will be presented to the Board of Zoning Appeals for consideration. Mr. Matney explained the rear yard set back is 25 feet minimum in the Residential, Medium Density (R-2) zoned area. This lot is triangular shaped but the variance will only impact the adjoining lot which is also being developed by the property owner.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK PROJECT – A progress meeting was held earlier today with the anticipated completion date being the end of June. The contractor was asked to continue working on East Railroad Avenue and Catron Street and to include concrete work so the project would not interfere with Heritage Days.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT UPDATES – A progress meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 25th in which we should be able to perform a substantial project completion at this time. A punch list of items and general cleanup will take several weeks to complete. Mr. Matney encouraged the council members to contact him with any citizen concerns with the project so that all problems are resolved to everyone's satisfaction prior to the final payment being made to the contractor. Mayor Litz addressed concerns on behalf of Dale Steffey by asking if Mr. Steffey's issues had been resolved. Mr. Matney replied no, because personally he wasn't happy with the work done in an attempt to resolve Mr. Steffey's complaint either.

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – A progress meeting will also be held Friday, February 25th. The contractor is working on valves and fire hydrants on Church Street and Richmond Avenue. This work does require disruptions in the water service for the residents in these areas.

WELLNESS / FITNESS FEASIBILITY STUDY – The Outcome Evaluation Plan needs to include funding for the facility. This is the last objective that needs to be met. Ideally, Wythe County needs to be the lead agency to pursue funding possibilities. Mr. Matney explained the committee needs to know if the Council has reviewed the plan, supports it and if as a whole would like to see the plan move forward. He addressed the funding possibilities which may include the Tobacco Commission, Rural Development and the Wythe-Bland Community Foundation. Councilmember Mecimore stated the only comment he has heard is Rural Retreat only needs a gymnasium but we are trying to get the Cadillac. Mr. Matney responded it is easier to ask for more than what is necessary rather than making the facility fit the budget. Councilmember Hash addressed citizens concerns by commenting most think their taxes will increase to pay for the facility. Mr. Matney added he would like for Wythe County Community Hospital and Smyth County Community Hospital to become partners but someone needs to begin the leg work in putting that together however Wythe County has a better opportunity to do that. Mr. Matney recommended a motion be made asking the Wythe County Board of

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Supervisors for their support of a facility in the western end of Wythe County. Councilmember Hash made a motion to endorse the feasibility study for a Wellness / Fitness facility in the western end of Wythe County and encourage the Wythe County Board of Supervisors to support the study and request the Board of Supervisors to pursue possible funding agencies. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Schaack. Councilmember Mecimore stated the Council should clarify the town is not voting to fund the facility but they are only asking the Board of Supervisors for their support of the facility. There being no additional discussion the motion passed by a vote of four (4) for: Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against and two (2) absent: Crigger, Hall.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT – The monthly status report of Anderson & Associates, Inc. was distributed and is available for review.

LEPC MEETING – The Council’s request for a helipad in Rural Retreat was presented. The committee supported this by a motion and suggested the request be forwarded to the Wythe County Fire and Rescue Association. The personnel at Wythe County Community Hospital told Mr. Matney they have a significant amount of information pertaining to helipads in which an FAA approved location is required. Mr. Matney stated he will speak with the WCCH personnel to obtain more information.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills for February 22, 2011 were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Councilmember Yontz is to attend the *Talk of the Town* radio program at the WYVE/WXBX radio station on Wednesday morning.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Councilmember Mecimore and was duly seconded and approved.

Mayor

Clerk