

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on May 10, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rural Retreat Town Hall Council Chambers.

PRESENT RURAL RETREAT TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Timothy Litz, Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger, Ed Schaack, Scott Mecimore, Dale Yontz, Jerrell Hall, Peggy Hash

ABSENT

NONE

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Raymond Matney, Town Manager; Lori Guynn, Clerk/Treasurer; Scott Mitchell, Police Chief

ADMINISTRATION ABSENT

NONE

OTHERS PRESENT

Rev. Roger Crigger – Rural Retreat Pentecostal Holiness Church
Andy Morris; Wilma Justus

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Rev. Roger Crigger.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Crigger, seconded by Councilmember Hash to approve the minutes of the April 26, 2011 regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Crigger, Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack; zero (0) against; one (1) abstention: Yontz due to his absence at the previous meeting.

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CITIZEN'S TIME

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney read a letter addressed to the council members from the town of Wytheville's Wall of Honor Committee inviting them to the Memorial Day Ceremony in Withers Parks. The ceremony will be held Sunday, May 29, 2011, at 1:00 p.m. at the War Memorial with SFC Ramona Gibson as the guest speaker.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell explained his monthly activity report for April. He noted the summonses issued were related to a DUI arrest. Chief Mitchell stated he had closed out the vandalism cases and restitution was awarded to the victims. An additional vandalism case is being investigated related to Jack Weaver's property. Work is continuing on dog complaints in the Chinquapin Avenue area.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

RECENT STORM EVENT – Mr. Matney addressed the recent storm that passed over Rural Retreat in the recent weeks. He explained the town's warning system was activated during this time. Mr. Matney commended Fire Chief Dave Evans and Police Chief Scott Mitchell for their handling of the situation. However, Mr. Matney noted complaints have been received but we now have the opportunity to improve ways to better address how to communicate with the public, Wythe County and other first responders. Operating procedures will now be in place to aid in better protecting our citizens. Mayor Litz commented on the article in the *Wytheville Enterprise* by stating a citizen asked him about the controversy on the warning system. Mayor Litz stated he responded to the citizen by explaining there is no controversy but the system isn't perfect. Mr. Matney added a shelter was eventually opened at Rural Retreat High School but people had arrived at the school and were told they weren't allowed in. School personnel hadn't been made aware of the school being used as a shelter at the time. Mayor Litz commented the shelter was lacking supplies for those utilizing it. Mr. Matney explained the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services was asked to drive to Wytheville to pick up supplies. This is another item that needs to be critiqued, Mr. Matney added. Mrs. Justus commented she and her family did not hear the warning. Mr. Matney explained it has been discussed to have emergency vehicles travel through the neighborhoods with a public address system and other ways to communicate with citizens through a message alert system.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAYS – Chairman Yontz reported the entertainment schedule is being finalized and additional letters are being sent to businesses in an effort to solicit more donations.

FINANCE – Chairman Crigger reported the committee received a rough draft of the budget. The committee will meet Tuesday, May 17 at 7:00 p.m.

PERSONNEL – Chairman Schaack reported the committee will meet following the Council meeting. Potential candidates have been contacted and asked to sign a release to conduct a background check.

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:

BENEFIT CONCERT – The Royal Flush Band has requested permission to use the Dr. Pepper Stage for a concert to benefit Michael Filkins, a young child that was involved in a lawn mower accident. Plans are to hold a concert on Saturday, May 28th from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Councilmember Hall made a motion to approve the request but the group must abide by the stipulations the town sets forth.

THE CROOKED ROAD – Last year we contributed \$1,000 to participate in The Crooked Road. This program has now combined with other groups and is asking the town to contribute \$2,500 to participate. This has been discussed with Jim Lloyd and he has expressed concern that there won’t be much return on the investment due to there being is a dispute on the number of stops in Rural Retreat. Discussion was conducted on using the \$2,500 on other activities that will produce a better return on the investment.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – The contractor is continuing to complete restorations including the paving of driveways on Division II. Permission has been received to advertise the Division III, Ridge Avenue extension. This project will be advertised May 15th, with pre-bid being held May 26th and bid opening June 14th. Construction should begin by mid July.

Vice-Mayor Crigger asked how many water connections are yet to be made. Mr. Matney stated all meters have been set on Myrtle Lane with three owners that need to install their water lines. He added the deadline has been extended because the delay was our fault and not the property owners. The meters on Rural Retreat Lake Road still need to be set but those owners have been told they will be given a time limit upon installation.

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – The contractor is completing work on Frye Avenue this week and will move to Cherry Street next. A section of line on West Lee Highway is being pressure tested and disinfected.

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STALEY SPRING PILOT STUDY – The equipment is scheduled to arrive next week. The pilot study will begin the week of May 23rd. We are partnering with Wythe and Smyth Counties in which the cost will be shared by all. The site has been secured and a transformer booster has been installed to run the portable membrane filtration equipment. Total cost will be approximately \$10,000.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK PROJECT, PHASES 4, 5, AND 6 – The sidewalk on East Railroad Avenue should be completed this week along with yard restoration work. Work will resume on East Buck Avenue about the time school dismisses for the summer. This will be based upon the completion of work on East Railroad Avenue and Catron Street. Work on this project should be completed before school reconvenes in the fall.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK PROJECT, PHASE 7 – The amended contract for design with Anderson & Associates, Inc. has been executed. We were awarded \$200,000 last year and \$180,000 for the current year which should be more than enough money to complete this phase plus the additional money left from phases 4, 5, and 6. Some money will be used to address Sam Blevins' concerns at his duplexes on North Greever Street.

MOWING EQUIPMENT – A Massey Ferguson Model 2615 tractor with a shuttle transmission and 4 wheel drive and a flail type mower will be purchased from Southwestern Equipment. The tractor has 240 hours on it and is under full warranty. The final purchase price is \$26,250. Vice-Mayor Crigger reported the tractor is in but the canopy has not been installed, however the mower has not come in.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT – The report is available for review.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills for May 10, 2011 were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Chief Mitchell 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 Hash and was duly seconded and approved.

Mayor

Clerk