

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a public hearing during the regular meeting on June 14, 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, Dale Yontz, Peggy Hash

ABSENT

Scott Mecimore, Jerrell Hall

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION ABSENT

NONE

OTHERS PRESENT

Jay Hawkins, Administrator – Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services

Pat Lamoureux – Rural Retreat Senior Citizens

Wilma Justus, Sarah 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. Ed Schaack.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

PUBLIC HEARING

PROPOSED 2011-2012 FISCAL BUDGET - Mayor Litz read the following public notice as published in the *Wytheville Enterprise*: An ordinance, setting the tax rate of \$0.20 per \$100 valuation of Real Estate and \$0.50 per \$100 valuation of Personal Property and \$0.15 per \$100 valuation of Machine and Tools classified by Sections 58.1-3200 and 58.1-3503 of the Code of Virginia and a Bank Franchise Tax as authorized by Section 58.1-1209 of the Code of Virginia in the amount of eighty per centum (80%) of the State rate of taxation for each one hundred dollars (\$100.00) of net capital of all the bank located in the town, as provided for in Section

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58.1-1211 of the Code of Virginia. The meals tax rate will be set at five percent (5%), an increase of one percent (1%). The Real Estate, Personal Property and Machine and Tools tax rates reflect an increase. The water and sewer rates will be set at an approximate increase of four percent (4%). The total rates as shown are for municipal purposes.

The Town Council of the Town of Rural Retreat has set June 14, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rural Retreat Council Chambers as the time and place to hear any person desiring to be heard for or against the proposed budget as set forth. The proposed budget may be examined on week days at the Town Office between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. All citizens will have the opportunity to give written or oral comments. Citizens are encouraged to attend and comment. The time for the final adoption of the proposed budget has been set for June 28, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Litz opened the public hearing for comments. There being no comments from the citizens present, Mr. Matney commented the public hearing also includes the ordinance for the increase of one percent (1%) in the meals tax rate. This ordinance will be adopted at the next meeting. Mayor Litz closed the public hearing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Hash, seconded by Councilmember Yontz to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2011 regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of four (4) for: Crigger, Hash, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; two (2) absent: Hall, Mecimore.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Jay Hawkins, Administrator for the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services addressed the Council concerning the financial request made at a previous meeting. He stated he had given the financial information to Mr. Matney as requested. Mr. Hawkins asked if he could answer any questions. Mr. Matney asked Mr. Hawkins what specifically the emergency services are asking for from the town. Mr. Hawkins replied they would like to receive enough money to buy one heart monitor. He added RRVES had been awarded a grant for the purchase of a new ambulance. The grant is 80% funded and 20% match which will require spending significant funds on the match portion. Any money received will be beneficial and appreciated, Mr. Hawkins stated. Mr. Matney asked if other rescue squads have the heart monitors. Mr. Hawkins replied yes, Wythe County, Marion and Bland have the monitors. He then explained how the heart monitors operate and how the use of one would be beneficial to patients being transported. Councilmember Schaack asked if the pricing was better on two instead of one. Mr. Hawkins replied he wasn't sure because the cost changes every 2-3 months on average. Vice-Mayor Crigger asked what the approximate cost of a refurbished model is compared to a new one. Approximately \$10,000-\$12,000 less, Mr. Hawkins stated. He added the refurbished models are also available with a better warranty than the new models. After further discussion, Vice-Mayor Crigger stated the Council would take the request under advisement. Mayor Litz directed the Finance Committee to review the request and bring a recommendation back to the Council. Mayor Litz thanked Mr. Hawkins for his time.

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Pat Lamoureux addressed the Council on behalf of the Rural Retreat Senior Citizens Club about the Rural Retreat Heritage Days Festival and provided a handout on food preparation requirements. She gave a history on the Senior Citizens Club and on Rural Retreat. Mrs. Lamoureux stated the members of the senior citizens are making plans to serve beans, cornbread, various cabbage dishes and desserts from the kitchen in the Rural Retreat Community Center at the Heritage Days Festival as a fundraiser. Due to the requirements set forth by the Wythe County Health Department the members are not allowed to serve food if it is prepared at home. She added they are not in competition with other food vendors but only want to serve food related to Rural Retreat's heritage. Mrs. Lamoureux stated a person at the WCHD had provided her with information regarding exemptions to food preparation for festivals provided the town adopts an ordinance. She referred to the distributed handout that referenced the Code of Virginia 35.1-25. Mayor Litz thanked Mrs. Lamoureux for her presentation and assured her the Council will look into the information she has provided. He asked Mr. Matney if an ordinance could be drafted and adopted prior to Heritage Days. Mr. Matney responded he would contact the WCHD for more information and also speak with the town attorney. Mrs. Lamoureux further stated the senior citizens had received no notice of Heritage Day meetings or that a festival was being planned. She asked for the senior's to be included in the activity and for at least two members of the club to be appointed to the committee. Councilmember Yontz, Chair of the Heritage Day Committee apologized for leaving the senior citizens out of the planning. He added a representative had attended during last years planning but on one returned this year. Mrs. Guynn commented the only information received from the representative was the type of food being served and items to be sold. Previously meeting notices had been advertised in the local paper asking for organizations to participate but no response was received. Mrs. Lamoureux also stated the club had discussed the need for a senior village in Rural Retreat that would include housing, offer jobs and medical services in one location instead of having to relocate to Wytheville or Marion. Mayor Litz thanked Mrs. Lamoureux for her time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney read a thank you card from the Rural Retreat High School After-Prom Committee for the town's contribution to this years' event.

Mayor Litz reported a letter of appreciation had been received from Jonathan Franklin thanking the Council for allowing him the opportunity to interview for the town manager's position. Mr. Franklin sent letters to all councilmember's.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell explained his activity report for May. At the last meeting he was asked why he wasn't contacted by the Wythe County Sheriff's Office concerning incidents in Rural Retreat. Chief Mitchell reported he has since spoken to Sheriff King and the dispatchers are now contacting him. The owners of inoperative motor vehicles that had been sent letters are now compliant, Chief Mitchell reported. He added he has spoken to Wythe County Animal Control and discussed the dog issues on Elm Avenue.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAYS – Chairman Yontz reported the schedule has been finalized and will be posted soon. The Wytheville Department of Museums is completing the final touches on the ornament and replica building.

FINANCE – Chairman Crigger reported the final draft of the budget had been distributed and is available for review. The 2011/2012 fiscal budget will be adopted at the next meeting. Mr. Matney added the final draft includes the proposed tax and water and sewer rate increases. Chairman Crigger stated the request from the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services will be discussed and if a contribution is made it will be taken from undesignated funds in the new fiscal year.

PERSONNEL – Chairman Schaack reported the Committee is recommending the Town Council hire Robert “Andy” Morris as the next town manager. He added Mayor Litz and he had contacted Mr. Morris’ references which all were good and they had received impressive comments about Mr. Morris. Chairman Schaack as a recommendation from the Personnel Committee made a motion to offer Robert “Andy” Morris the position as town manager. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz. Mayor Litz commented the Personnel Committee has invested a lot of time in this search and he appreciated the involvement of everyone. There being no additional discussion the motion passed by a vote of four (4) for: Crigger, Hash, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; two (2) absent.

Mr. Matney asked Chairman Schaack if he was planning to contact Mr. Morris. Chairman Schaack replied he felt Mayor Litz should make the offer. Mr. Matney suggested asking Mr. Morris if he would like to visit for a day so he would get an idea of what the town and the position is like prior to accepting the offer. Chairman Schaack concurred.

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:

LINE OF DUTY ACT INSURANCE COVERAGE – A Line of Duty insurance proposal has been received from the Virginia Municipal League to provide coverage to the town’s police chief and firefighters. A resolution needs to be adopted prior to July 1 stating the town has chosen to opt out of the coverage being offered by the Virginia Retirement System. Mr. Matney

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recommended the town opt out of the VRS coverage and purchase the policy with VML. Vice-Mayor Crigger made a motion to adopt the resolution to opt out of the Line of Duty coverage being offered by the Virginia Retirement System and to purchase the coverage policy with VML. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Schaack and passed by a vote of four (4) for: Crigger, Hash, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; two (2) absent: Hall, Mecimore.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK PROJECT, PHASE 4, 5 & 6 – East Railroad Avenue and Catron Street sidewalks has been completed including driveways and parking lots. W & L Construction will be paving the section between the street and gutter pan which will be paid for with local VDOT money due to an agreement made with a previous Resident Engineer. Due to other delays with W & L Construction, Mr. Matney reported a tentative paving date is unknown. Work has begun on East Buck Avenue from Catron Street to North Greever Street. A projected completion date for the project is late July.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK PROJECT, PHASE 7 – The survey work has been completed and the design is in progress. Upon receiving the preliminary design, work will begin on obtaining the necessary easements and right-of-ways. The need to apply for additional funding will be determined after the engineers estimate is received.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT, DIVISION I – The contractor is now completing restoration work correctly. A progress meeting will be held tomorrow on the project.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT, DIVISION III (RIDGE AVENUE) – The bid opening for this project was held this morning. The bids ranged from \$142,148.30 - \$220,220.00 with a total of nine bids submitted. The low bidder was Wells Construction from Roanoke.

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – The reconnections on Frye Avenue are being completed. Upon completing the connections, the old line and the leaks associated with it will be eliminated. The bore under the Cherry Street railroad crossing has been scheduled for June 27.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE ORDINANCE – The draft ordinance has been prepared and will be distributed for the Council's consideration. The height limit will be restricted to 12" on residential properties. Councilmember Schaack questioned Mr. Matney about the drainage ditch between North Greever Street and Rural Retreat High School because he has noticed water is standing in the ditch and it hasn't been mowed. Mr. Matney explained the property owner is responsible for mowing the ditch because the town only has an easement across the property. He continued by stating he thought the drainage issues would resolve when Norfolk Southern completes the work on the drainage pipe on the south side of East Railroad Avenue.

GAMMONS PROPERTY – Councilmember Hash asked Mr. Matney if he had heard from Dr. Michael Spraker about the Gammons lot. Mr. Matney reported he has spoken to Dr. Spraker and Town Attorney Sobey is preparing the deed now. Attorney Sobey researched the alley that crosses the property and discovered it is a private alley not a public one.

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TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills for June 14, 2011 were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Mr. Matney stated he would attend the *Talk of the Town* radio program at the WYVE/WXBX radio station on Wednesday morning or call and decline.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor

Clerk