

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on July 26, 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, Jerrell Hall

ABSENT

Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION ABSENT

NONE

OTHERS PRESENT

NONE

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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Yontz, seconded by Councilmember Hall to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2011 regular meeting. The motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Crigger.

CITIZEN'S TIME

NONE

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CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell stated he is currently investigating several larcenies that have occurred in town and recently issued a DUI summons. He added Wythe County Animal Control will be setting dog traps in the West Lee Highway area. Mr. Matney asked Chief Mitchell to monitor yard sale signs being placed on light poles and not removed. He also asked him to note how many yard sales people are having.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MEALS EXEMPTION ORDINANCE – Mr. Matney addressed the Meals Exemption Ordinance that was adopted at the previous meeting. He explained this ordinance was sent to the Wythe County Health Department and they then sent it to the Attorney General for review. The Attorney General refused to rule on the ordinance and suggested it be sent to the attorney for Wythe County for review. Upon speaking with the Wythe County Health Department they stated they were confident with the intent of the Rural Retreat Town Council and would allow Rural Retreat to move forward with the ordinance as adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAYS – Chairman Yontz reported Heritage Days is in the final stages before the festival. A phone conversation with Joe Diffie's people was conducted this afternoon to finalize details. Chairman Yontz distributed copies of the projected revenue and expense report and the report to date and noted some figures will change. Mayor Litz asked the council members to participate in the parade at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday.

PERSONNEL – Chairman Schaack asked Mr. Matney to give an update on Michael James. Mr. Matney reported he speaks with Michael a couple times each week. He added Michael will be spending the weekend in Rural Retreat and plans to attend Heritage Days on Saturday. Mr. Matney further stated he is looking forward to working with Michael and helping him build his career here. He added he feels confident Michael will take the community to the next level.

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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OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT DIVISION III (RIDGE AVENUE) – All documents have been submitted to Rural Development. The notice to proceed should be issued within the next two weeks. Construction will begin in mid-August. The contract is 60 days to substantial and 1200 days to completion.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT DIVISION IV (WATER PLANT ELECTRICAL UPGRADES) – Rural Development has approved this project and it will be advertised for bid this weekend. This project will install two variable speed drives on the final water pumps. The speed drives will reduce the abuse and maintenance on the pumps and will extend the life of them.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT (GENERAL) – Upon completion of the electrical upgrades at the water treatment plant, we will have approximately \$100,000 additional funds remaining. Consideration should be given to upgrading the water line on Jefferson Avenue between North Main Street and Beech Street. Additional consideration should be given to upgrading our meter reading system. The money now being spent is grant money therefore we want to make sure we spend all of it. The information for additional work has been given to the engineers for an estimate and will then be sent to Rural Development for approval.

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – Construction is complete on Cherry Street. The line is being pressure tested now and will be disinfected this week with services being transferred next week. Frye Avenue has been completely resurfaced.

WATER ACCOUNTABILITY – Water accountability has decreased to 22% for June. Previously we were in the upper 30% plus range. The lower accountability does not include additional lines that will be eliminated due to construction.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK PROJECT – The contractor continues to work on East Buck Avenue with some curb, gutter and sidewalk work being completed tomorrow. They will spend the rest of the week cleaning up the various construction sites for Heritage Days. VDOT is scheduled to sweep the curbs and guttering this week.

ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES MONTHLY STATUS REPORT – The monthly status report is distributed for your review and information. They continue to update the WebGIS program; however, not all information has been added. The parcel information is available from Wythe County for a one time fee of \$3,500 and includes lifetime updates. Councilmember Mecimore made a motion to pay Wythe County \$3,500 for the parcel information. The motion was second by Councilmember Yontz. Councilmember Mecimore commented this will move the town forward and will also assist the incoming town manager. He questioned the data currently available. Mr. Matney responded the data belongs to the town so we can get it anytime. The motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one absent: Crigger.

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WELLNESS / FITNESS STUDY – Mr. Matney commented on the article in the local paper stating Wythe County had hired a new Director of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and Director of Finance and had discussed the hiring's with the County Administrator. The conversation included discussion of the Wellness / Fitness Study that had been completed by the town. The town received a \$30,000 grant to complete the study and to date has received \$20,000. The study was turned over to the Wythe County Board of Supervisors to pursue a plan for the facility. The remaining \$10,000 will not be received by the town until a plan is in place for a wellness / fitness facility.

Prior to proceeding with the agenda, Councilmember Hash asked Mr. Matney if any work was scheduled for Richmond Avenue such as widening and repaving. Mr. Matney stated the road is as wide as it will be unless property owners agree the right-of-way is 15 feet from the center line which would require a lot of major construction to widen the street. He added it hasn't been paved for a while and usually we try to add six inches of asphalt on each side in an effort to widen the street. Discussion was held on obtaining grant money, if available, to enhance the street. Mayor Litz asked the Operations and Maintenance Committee to look into Councilmember Hash's request.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills for July 26, 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.

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