

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on September 27, 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, Dale Yontz, Peggy Hash, Jerrell Hall

ABSENT

Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger, Scott Mecimore

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION ABSENT

NONE

OTHERS PRESENT

Mary Ann Williams; Tim Reeves; Sean Viars; Ellen Schaack

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Raymond Matney.

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 Hash to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2011 regular meeting. The motion passed by a vote of three (3) for: Hall, Hash, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) abstention: Schaack due to his absence; two (2) absent: Crigger, Mecimore.

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CITIZEN'S TIME

Tim Reeves introduced himself and stated he is running for the Wythe County Board of Supervisors At-Large seat and wanted to meet the Council members.

CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell stated the activity for the end of September has slowed. He noted he was on vacation last week. Chief Mitchell addressed the dog issues in town and stated the Wythe County Animal Control Officers have trapped three dogs in the past week and a half and will continue to set traps. He pointed out there had been a vandalism incident at the Pepper Stage in which a bag of QuickCrete® had been thrown on the stage. The Rural Retreat High School Homecoming Parade was on Friday and went well. Chief Mitchell added he also worked an incident following the parade.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

JOINT RESOLUTION FOR I-81 CORRIDOR – Mayor Litz asked Mr. Matney to explain this request. Mr. Matney stated the realignment of the interstate between Fort Chiswell and Wytheville has been a topic of discussion for over ten years. VDOT is proposing separating I-77 and I-81 in this area and by doing so the new I-81 corridor will provide direct access to Progress Park. Mr. Matney noted the interchange does not directly affect Rural Retreat however he recommended the Joint Resolution be adopted in support of this proposed alternate route. The resolution has also been adopted by the Wythe County Board of Supervisors, Wytheville Town Council, Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce and the Joint Industrial Development Authority. Councilmember Hash made a motion to adopt the Joint Resolution in support of separating the I-81 and I-77 corridor. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and passed by a vote of four (4) for: Hall, Hash, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; two (2) absent: Crigger, Mecimore.

PPTRA REIMBURSEMENT RATE – Mr. Matney explained a number of years ago former Governor Jim Gilmore proposed eliminating the tax on vehicles by enacting the Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA). Each year the percentage of relief increased but was eventually frozen at 70%. Localities now receive a lump sum to be distributed in their locality for tax relief. Mrs. Guynn explained the 2011 reimbursement percentage has been established at 50.36% which is a decrease from the 2010 rate of 57.45%. Mayor Litz asked how much money

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the town receives from the state. Mrs. Guynn replied the town receives \$17,068 that must be distributed across the number of vehicles that are taxed in town and to those that qualify for the reimbursement based on value. Councilmember Schaack made a motion to adopt the 2011 Personal Property Tax Rate at 50.36%. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hall and passed by a vote of four (4) for: Hall, Hash, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; two (2) absent: Crigger, Mecimore.

Mrs. Guynn also noted the 2011 Real Estate and Personal Property taxes will be mailed approximately in late October or early November.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAYS – Chairman Yontz reported the committee is continuing to work on the 2012 festival. He noted he had received the rider for an entertainment act and is waiting to receive a proposal contract. The preliminary plans are to move the events to later in the day and reduce the number of performers. Chairman Yontz explained a local church had contacted him and expressed interest in assisting with the second day entertainment.

PERSONNEL – Chairman Schaack stated he would like to send a picture of Michael James and a brief description of him to the VML magazine for publication after the first of the year. Mr. Matney added he is receiving great feedback from the community on Michael. Mr. Matney continued by stating this will make his transition to retirement much easier.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE – Councilmember Hall stated he has now received enough pricing on materials to submit a cost for the town's spreader shed. Additional information will be reported during the town manager's report

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:

Mr. Matney thanked Mr. Reeves for attending the meeting and for being interested in the municipalities. Mr. Reeves commented he felt it was very important for the Board and two Councils to work together and know what each other is doing.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT DIVISION III (RIDGE AVENUE) – This contractor continues to be ahead of schedule. Notices to new customers being impacted by the new line are being mailed this week.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT DIVISION IV (WATER PLANT ELECTRICAL UPGRADES) – As previously reported, Sun Contracting and Developers, LLC was the low bidder. Council needs to adopt a resolution to recommend awarding this project to the low bidder. A motion was made by Councilmember Hall to award the contract for the out-of-town water project, division IV to Sun Contracting and Developers, LLC, pending approval by USDA

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Rural Development. Councilmember Hash seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of four (4) for: Hall, Hash, Schaack, Yontz and zero (0) against; two (2) absent: Crigger, Mecimore.

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – Both substantial and partial completion inspection was completed on September 21st. Rural Development is very pleased with this project.

WATER PROJECTS – GENERAL INFORMATION – We met with Rural Development representatives Eddie Smith, State Engineer, Kent Ware, State Director and Robert Hilt, Area Director on September 22nd to review all projects in general and to discuss additional projects that the remaining funds could be used for. The In-Town Project has a balance of approximately \$116,000. We would recommend replacing the two inch water line on Jefferson Avenue to Beech Street and extend from Beech Street to connect to the two inch line on Indian Circle which would serve the last two homes on Jefferson Avenue. The balance of funds could be used to upgrade the meter reading system from a handheld device to a laptop. The Out-of-Town Project has a balance of approximately \$152,000 and we would recommend extending the six inch water line on Chinquapin Avenue from Orchard Hills Road to West Lee Highway and extend an eight inch water line from Chinquapin Avenue along West Lee Highway to Orchard Hills Road. A short section of two-inch line could be installed on Sunset View Road and would eliminate the water connections behind the homes by moving the meters to the public right-of-way. If funds are still available after these upgrades it could be used to update GPS locations. Councilmember Hall made a motion to accept the recommendations for water line upgrades and meter reading equipment purchases. Councilmember Yontz seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of four (4) for: Hall, Hash, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; two (2) absent: Crigger, Mecimore.

ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES RESIDENT INSPECTION CONTRACT – WATER PROJECTS – The original contract for the Out-of-Town Water Project inspection fees was \$44,800 was amended to \$77,630 and will be over budget. To date Rural Development has concurred with the contract amendments to increase the inspection fees. The In-Town Project had original contract inspection fees at \$19,200; however to date we have been billed \$51,910 and no amendments have been made. Michael has been conducting an internal audit to determine how the fees are being billed. Mr. Matney stated a meeting will be scheduled with the CEO of Anderson and Associates in which these issues will be resolved or the town will terminate the contract.

STORAGE SHED FOR CHEMICAL SPREADERS – TopClad, Inc. has submitted two proposals for a storage shed. One is for a shed built on site at the town shop and one for a shed at the wastewater treatment plant that would utilize two of the drying beds. Mr. Matney pointed out the second option was suggested by Chief Water/Wastewater Operator Tony Wright since the beds are no longer used. The site at the treatment plant would be less convenient but would be much cheaper. The proposed cost for this site is approximately \$6,700. A motion was made by Councilmember Schaack to allocate \$6,700 for the construction of a storage shed to store the chemical spreaders at the wastewater treatment plant. The motion was seconded by

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Councilmember Hash and passed by a vote of four (4) for: Hall, Hash, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; two (2) absent: Crigger, Mecimore.

ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES STATUS REPORT – The monthly status report has been distributed for your review and information.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills for September 27, 2011 were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Mr. Matney and Mr. James may attend the *Talk of the Town* radio program at the WYVE/WXBX radio station on Wednesday morning.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning, Mary Ann Williams addressed a problem she is having with water runoff onto her property on Richmond Avenue. She stated the water is coming from the apartment complex across the road and flooding her basement. Mr. Matney informed Mrs. Williams he had spoken to the owner of the apartments and was assured the drainage issues would be taken care of. Mrs. Williams further stated her yard is full of gravel due to the recent rains.

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