

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a public hearing during the regular meeting on October 11, 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, Scott Mecimore, Dale Yontz, Peggy Hash, Jerrell Hall

**ABSENT**

Ed Schaack

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT**

Raymond Matney, Town Manager; Michael James, Interim Town Manager; Brenda Maxey, Clerk/Secretary; Scott Mitchell, Police Chief

**ADMINISTRATION ABSENT**

Lori Guynn, Clerk/Treasurer

**OTHERS PRESENT**

David Rose – Davenport & Company, LLC; Sally Earles, Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services

**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.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

TEA-21 SIDEWALK / BIKEWAY FUNDING APPLICAITON - Notice is hereby given the Town Council of the Town of Rural Retreat, Virginia, will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rural Retreat Town Council Chambers, 307 South Main Street, Rural Retreat, Virginia, to solicit public input on local community development needs relative to a potential Transportation Enhancement Program (TEA-21) grant application. The project under consideration for a TEA-21 application is a Sidewalk/Bikeway Project on East

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 11, 2011 – PAGE 2**

Buck Avenue from North Greever Street to the Rural Retreat High / Middle School campus and Evergreen Avenue. Information on the amount of funding available, the requirements of the program and eligible activities are available by contacting the Town Hall. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend.

Mayor Litz opened the public hearings for comments. There being no comments from the citizens present, Mayor Litz closed the public hearing. The consensus of the Council was to submit an application for additional funding to complete Phase 7 of the Transportation Enhancement Program (TEA-21) Sidewalk/Bikeway Project.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilmember Yontz, seconded by Councilmember Hall to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2011 regular meeting. The motion passed by a vote of four (4) for: Crigger, Hall, Hash, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) abstention: Mecimore due to his absence.

### **CITIZEN'S TIME**

Sally Earles with the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services addressed the Council concerning the town Christmas tree she had previously discussed with Councilmember Hash. She stated she had spoken with Councilmember Yontz and he has agreed to donate the ornaments for the tree. Dean Eggers was contacted about a tree and has priced an 11' tree at \$75. Prior to next Christmas, Mrs. Earles explained the emergency services would like to plant a permanent tree. Mayor Litz told Mrs. Earles he had property that had been planted in trees and he would donate a tree and cut it down for them if they were interested. Mayor Litz asked for clarification on the location of the tree for this year. Mrs. Earles explained the tree would be located between the firehouse and rescue squad building and they plan to ask the area churches to participate in having a live nativity scene near the tree. Discussion was held on providing electrical service to the tree. The Rural Retreat Fire Department will be moving the annual Christmas parade to 3:00 in order for a tree lighting ceremony to be held, Mrs. Earles stated.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

NONE

### **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Mitchell explained his monthly activity report for September. He reported he had received two complaints stating cows were in the roadway near the Rural Retreat Elementary School. The Wythe County Sheriff's Office is receiving the same complaint when Chief Mitchell is off duty. Chief Mitchell pointed out upon responding he has not found cows in the roadway. Chief Mitchell explained Wythe County Animal Control is receiving complaints about a dog on East Buck Avenue. He stated he has spoken to a next door neighbor of the suspected owner and the neighbor is to assist in catching the dog out. The school resource officer is to also assist in

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 11, 2011 – PAGE 3**

resolving the complaints. Mr. Matney asked Chief Mitchell who owned the dog. Chief Mitchell responded it the same owner as before. Chief Mitchell added he had spoken to the Commonwealth's Attorney and was told the dog would need to be seen in order to make charges which would be a misdemeanor. Mr. Matney directed Chief Mitchell to encourage the neighbor to take pictures of the dog. Chief Mitchell added he asked the neighbor to call immediately if he sees the dog.

Chief Mitchell addressed the Indian Trail 5K Run to be held on Sunday. He has contacted Norfolk Southern and requested the trains be held thirty minutes to allow participants to cross the North Greever Street and Milk Plan Road crossings.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**RRVES FUNDING REQUEST** – Councilmember Hash stated the previous request by the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services had been a misunderstanding. She explained the request was for an additional \$15,000 donation to be applied toward another truck. Mr. Matney pointed out the request the representative made at a June meeting was for assistance toward the purchase of heart monitors. He suggested the Finance Committee meet with the emergency services to review their needs and prioritize them then bring a suggestion back to the Council. Mr. Matney stated this meeting should include the rescue squad representatives, Board of Directors and finance people with the rescue squad. Vice-Mayor Crigger noted when the request was made the budget process was complete and the Council was ready to adopt the budget. A meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. Mayor Litz asked that Lori Guynn or Mrs. Maxey attend to take minutes.

**DAVENPORT & COMPANY BOND REFINANCING PROPOSAL** – David Rose distributed a refinancing proposal to the Council member's for review. He noted this proposal will refinance the 2008 bond with a current interest rate of 4.1% that previously eliminated several Rural Development loans. Mr. Rose stated an RFP was sent to 33 banking institutions in which four bona fide responses were received with the most attractive offer received from Carter Bank and Trust. Mr. Rose referred to two proposed options: option 1 contained an interest rate of 2.35% with a rate reset 2023 and option 2 had a fixed interest rate of 2.95% with maturity in 2028. Both options will allow the town to refinance without penalty. Upon reviewing the proposal, Mr. Matney asked Mr. Rose to provide a breakdown if the town continues to make the current \$115,000 payment instead of the new proposed \$80,000 payment. Mr. Rose agreed to provide the requested information. Vice-Mayor Crigger stated the \$40,000 closing costs and fees were the same as in the past and pointed out it is noted in the proposal. Mr. Rose explained the fee for Davenport & Company was \$32,000 and the balance was for attorney fees. Councilmember Mecimore asked if the fee was payable up front. Mr. Rose responded yes. Councilmember Mecimore addressed the high closing costs and stated the fee was higher than the salary for most people plus a lot of people are out of work. Vice-Mayor Crigger made a motion to approve the proposed option #1 from Davenport & Company to provide savings on the principal balance of the note at the end of the term in 2023 and for Davenport & Company to consider reducing their fees. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hall. There being no additional discussion

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 11, 2011 – PAGE 4**

the motion passed by a vote of four (4) for: Crigger, Hall, Hash, Yontz; one (1) against: Mecimore; one (1) absent: Schaack.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

HERITAGE DAYS – Chairman Yontz reported the committee will be meeting on October 25 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Matney suggested the meetings be advertised in the *Wytheville Enterprise*.

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS – Chairman Crigger reported the Finance Committee will be meeting next Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. with the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services in the Council Chambers.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE – Chairman Hall reported the raw materials are to be delivered next week for the storage shed for the chemical spreaders.

### **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:

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT DIVISION III (RIDGE AVENUE) – This contractor has completed all construction of the main line and is pressure testing the line at this time and will begin disinfection of the line this week. New water taps will begin later this week or early next week. This project has been completed quickly and Mr. Matney noted he has been very pleased with the work done by Wells Construction.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT DIVISION IV (WATER PLANT ELECTRICAL UPGRADES) – All documentation has been submitted to Rural Development. We should be able to issue the notice to proceed within the next week. Upon completion of this project it will reduce the stress on the electrical motors and will reduce the water hammering in the main lines.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT DIVISION V (CHINQUAPIN AVENUE & WEST LEE HIGHWAY) – Anderson & Associates, Inc. is completing the field surveys and plans and specifications at this time. This will allow for the elimination of the lines currently behind the houses in this area.

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – Anderson & Associates, Inc. is completing the field surveys and plans and specifications for Jefferson Avenue at this time. This will eliminate a 2” galvanized line that serves the area.

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 11, 2011 – PAGE 5**

**ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES RESIDENT INSPECTION CONTRACT** – We have met with Anderson & Associates, Inc. to discuss a resolution to this issue and share our concerns in reference to the discrepancies with the inspector's time charged and time invoiced. We will meet with the engineers and contractor later this week to resolve this issue. Mr. Matney stated he had spoken with Chip Worley at Anderson & Associates and they discovered thirty-one hours that they were willing to give the town credit for. However, this is still less than what needs to be adjusted. Another possible meeting will be held Thursday evening to potentially resolve this discrepancy.

**BLEVINS DUPLEX DRAINAGE ISSUE** – We continue to work with VDOT to obtain approval for the installation of drainage pipes at the rear of the complex.

**TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE** – We hope everyone noticed that the rear doors and the handrail in front of the building and along the retaining wall has been painted; however, with this much needed improvement around the building, the "Town Hall" sign looks even worse than it did. Would Council be interested in re-visiting the replacement of the sign or would you prefer to just paint the old sign? The consensus of the Council was to revisit painting or replacing the sign. A proposal is to be brought back to the Council.

**DODGE TRUCK** – We did not receive any bids for this unit when it was advertised. We have re-advertised and will offer the truck for sale until October 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The bills for October 11, 2011 were read and approved.

Mayor Litz showed the Council a resolution from the Wythe County Board of Supervisors honoring the Town's Centennial Anniversary.

Mr. Matney reported Michael James has been working on some items that he feels will be beneficial to the Town. Mr. James stated he had been working with the Rural Retreat Depot Foundation trying to find funding opportunities for the depot. He has been looking at the Downtown Revitalization Plan that was completed in 2001 and asked the Council if they would be interested in revisiting this plan. Mr. James added he has a meeting scheduled with the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission to discuss the depot but he would also like to discuss the Downtown Revitalization Plan if the Council concurs. He pointed out he has also discussed applying for another planning grant to write a new Downtown Master Plan or revise the one we have. Mayor Litz stated it is time to move forward and leave the past in the past.

### **TALK OF THE TOWN**

No one was available to attend the *Talk of the Town* radio program at the WYVE/WXBX radio station on Wednesday morning.

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 11, 2011 – PAGE 6**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Mayor

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Clerk