

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on November 22, 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, Jerrell Hall, Peggy Hash

ABSENT

Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION ABSENT

NONE

OTHERS PRESENT

Jack Trivitt

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 Hall, seconded by Councilmember Yontz to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2011 regular meeting. The motion passed by a vote of three (3) for: Hall, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Crigger; two (2) abstained: Hash, Mecimore due to their absences at the previous meeting.

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CITIZEN'S TIME

Jack Trivitt addressed the Council and expressed his concerns about the fire hydrant located near his house. He questioned if the hydrant was in working order. Mr. Trivitt stated if his house burned he will hold the town responsible for the loss. He continued by stating the town should be responsible for non-working hydrants. Mr. Matney responded to Mr. Trivitt by stating there is no liability to the town if the fire hydrants do or do not work. Mr. Trivitt referred to the recent house fire in town that resulted in total loss of the home. Mr. James explained the hydrant located near the home that burned was operable but would not open the day of the fire. The town's maintenance crew has loosened and lubricated the hydrant but it is older and will be placed on a replacement schedule, Mr. James further reported. Mr. James explained the Town is implementing a fire hydrant inspection program that will test the hydrants twice per year.

CORRESPONDENCE

Councilmember Schaack asked the Councilmember's if they have been receiving the email correspondence from Governor McDonnell's office. All members stated they were.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell explained his activity for November had slowed. He reported two incidents involving Star Transportation trucks that occurred the previous week. Wythe County Sheriff's Office responded to both incidents with one resulting in the truck being stopped prior to the Greever Street crossing and being redirected and the other in a summons being issued to the driver which was driving on a suspended license. Mr. Matney explained he had asked one of the drivers to see the directions he was following. The driver agreed and the directions on the driver's laptop were correct and did not send the driver on the route he was following. Councilmember Mecimore commented on the signage along the route the Star trucks are taking that shows the crossing is not for large trucks. Chief Mitchell stated he has discovered that a different sign is available that states not a route to follow on GPS. He added the sign he is referring to is posted in the Christiansburg area. Mr. Matney asked Chief Mitchell to follow up on this sign. Chief Mitchell reminded the Council of the Rural Retreat Christmas Parade at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday. Mr. Matney encouraged Chief Mitchell to increase communication with Mr. James. Mr. James reported he will be riding with Chief Mitchell next Tuesday while he is on duty. Mayor Litz asked Chief Mitchell if the dog complaints had been resolved. Chief Mitchell replied he is not seeing the number of dogs out as before. He attributed this to the colder weather and owners now keeping their dogs indoors.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TOWN CHRISTMAS DINNER – Mr. Matney reminded the Councilmember's of the Town Christmas Dinner. Mrs. Guynn explained the dinner will be held Wednesday, December 21 at the Rural Retreat Community Center. She noted this is a change in the date due to the American Red Cross Blood Mobile having the Community Center reserved on December 7. Mrs. Guynn

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further explained the meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. however everyone may begin gathering at 6:00 p.m. She asked the Councilmember's to contact her or Brenda Maxey no later than December 14 if they plan to attend or not so an accurate count can be provided to Joey's Country Kitchen.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Mecimore reported WDBJ 7 television in Roanoke had been in Rural Retreat to film a segment on the depot in which they interviewed him and Jim Lloyd. He noted *The Roanoke Times* had also published an article recently which had been the best article to date. Councilmember Mecimore further stated the depot is almost completely cleaned out. Jim and Diana Lloyd are planning to put Christmas lights on the depot over the upcoming weekend and he noted Mayor Litz had donated a Christmas tree for the depot. Councilmember Yontz addressed an email he had received from the O. Winston Link Museum which informed him that a new website was being formed and they will be linking the Rural Retreat Depot Foundation's website to theirs. The person he has been in contact with also informed him that they will be forwarding information to the various railroad societies and fanatics. Councilmember Mecimore explained the National Railroad Historical Society had seen the article in *The Roanoke Times* and committed to providing funding after the Foundation finalizes their non-profit status.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAYS – Chairman Yontz reported the signed contract for the main act has been received.

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS – Mrs. Guynn reported the adjusting entries and the Management Discussion and Analysis for the 2010-2011 Fiscal Year have been received. The final audit report should be issued in December.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The following items were discussed and/or acted upon:

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT DIVISION III (RIDGE AVENUE) – The substantial completion has been performed on Ridge Avenue. Wells Construction and Anderson and Associates are fixing a minor driveway and corner marker issue.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT DIVISION IV (WATER PLANT ELECTRICAL UPGRADES) – We are still working with Rural Development on contract document issues. Sun Contracting is correcting previously submitted documents. Upon receiving the corrections, this project phase can move forward.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT DIVISION V (CHINQUAPIN AVENUE & WEST LEE HIGHWAY) – The remaining funds have been finalized. Project plans should be completed by this week.

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IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – Jefferson Avenue plans are currently being drawn up. These plans should be completed this week as well.

BLEVINS DUPLEX DRAINAGE ISSUE – We met with VDOT engineers last Wednesday to inspect the Phase VII sidewalk project and we also took them by the Blevins property. We discussed best practices that would adequately address the issue for Mr. Blevins. They seemed supportive of our agreement with him to hold the town and the state harmless. Mr. Sobey should have this agreement ready within the week.

TEA-21 PHASE VII SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - While the VDOT engineers and Kelly Dunn from Anderson & Associates were in Rural Retreat, we discussed some drainage concerns which pertained to the sidewalk extensions down Buck Avenue towards the agricultural building and the sidewalks being constructed along Evergreen Avenue. After discussing alternatives, we feel that Kelly will be able to present an acceptable design to VDOT and the project will meet their approval.

FIRE HYDRANT INSPECTION PROGRAM - Fire Chief Dave Evans has submitted a report highlighting the fire hydrants that have operational issues. The list was given to the maintenance department to verify. Maintenance was asked to exercise and lubricate the hydrants and to report any mechanical issues that will require additional attention. Some hydrants were repaired or had not been turned on when installed during the water projects. A representative from Virginia Rural Water Association will be coming soon to conduct inspections and flow testing on the hydrants. Councilmember Schaack asked Mr. James how often the hydrants are tested. Mr. James replied Chief Evans told him the fire department tests the hydrants once per year but he has requested they be tested twice per year. He added he has asked Chief Evans to provide him or Rodney Hurt with a report after inspections are completed so maintenance can schedule the necessary work. Mr. James noted he has directed the maintenance department to set up a yearly schedule for the town to inspect the hydrants in addition to the inspection the fire department completes. Councilmember Mecimore asked Mr. James for more information about the hydrant issue Jack Trivitt was referring too. Mr. James responded by explaining the hydrant would not open with a wrench however Rhea Preston was able to open the hydrant with the aid of additional tools. Councilmember Mecimore questioned if enough water was available to contain the fire. Mr. James responded his understanding was the fire got hot very quickly and the fire department had two pumper trucks on site operating at maximum capacity but they were trying to open the hydrant for additional water. Mr. Matney stated the efforts by the fire department were sufficient and the hydrant in question did not effect controlling the fire. Councilmember Yontz stated the complaint he originally received was the hydrant failed. Mayor Litz commented on exercising the hydrants to ensure they are operating. Councilmember Schaack asked how many hydrants are on our system. Mr. Matney responded there were 78 and now with the new installations from the water projects there are probably over 100.

HEALTH FAIR - Councilmember Yontz addressed the health fair that was held at the rescue squad building last Saturday. He added he had attended and thought the rescue squad and fire

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department did a great job hosting the event for the community. Mr. Matney commented the Virginia State Police was on hand with their chopper.

THOMAS MUSSER 5K - Mr. Matney reminded the Councilmember's of the Thomas Musser "Mr. Strong" 5K event on Saturday, December 3 at the Rural Retreat Fire House. Registration begins at 10:00 and the race at 11:00 a.m.

RESOLUTION FOR THE AMERICAN WAR OF 1812 – The Virginia Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 Commission has submitted a request to the Town to adopt a resolution to commemorate and support the Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 in Virginia. Councilmember Yontz made a motion to approve the draft resolution to commemorate and support the Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 in Virginia. The motion was second by Councilmember Hash and was approved by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Crigger.

WYTHEVILLE TO RURAL RETREAT WATER LINE EXTENSION – Mayor Litz addressed the water line extension from Wytheville to Rural Retreat. He pointed out as of last week the Virginia Department of Health had not received an engineering change order which will result in a water meter and a valve being installed at the end of the water line.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Guynn also explained to the Councilmember's that the town staff will again be participating in a Christmas cheer program. She stated the employees will be sponsoring three children this year so all donations received will assist in the purchasing of gifts. She asked the Councilmember's to participate in this program again this year. Mrs. Guynn further added she and Brenda Maxey use the money to purchase clothes and one to two low cost toys for each child that we sponsor.

The bills for November 22, 2011 were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

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

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Councilmember Yontz asked Mr. James about the article published in the local paper on the Wellness/Fitness Center. He explained the article stated the cost to operate the facility was projected to be larger than the town's budget. Councilmember Mecimore commented he had spoken to Gary Cody with Wythe County Park and Recreation and had been told Wythe County would be staffing the facility. Mr. James stated the town may have to participate in a cost study with the county.

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

Mayor

Clerk