

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on August 28, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rural Retreat Town Hall Council Chambers.

PRESENT RURAL RETREAT TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Timothy Litz
Vice-Mayor Jim Lloyd
Ed Schaack

Keith Crigger
Scott Mecimore
Dale Yontz

ABSENT

Jerrell Hall

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Raymond Matney, Town Manager
Robert Lewis, Police Chief
Lori Guynn, Clerk/Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT

None

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Mayor Litz called the meeting to order and determined the presence of a quorum.

INVOCATION

The invocation was delivered 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 Keith Crigger, seconded by Councilmember Dale Yontz to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN'S TIME

None

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CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney read a letter from Michael Sobey, a member of the American Legion Post #229, requesting Mayor Litz and Councilmember's to attend the seventh annual Veteran's Day Parade on Sunday, November 11, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Sobey also requested Mayor Litz to speak at the ceremony following the parade.

Mr. Matney read a letter from Culpepper County requesting the Counties and Towns of Virginia to form a coalition to identify local problems caused by illegal immigration.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Lewis stated he had been reviewing information concerning a new emergency warning system which would cost approximately \$8,500 - \$20,000 for a turn key system. These systems operate from 112 volt power and contain its own battery system. Additional features available include a built in public announcement system. At this time the main concern is the location. Chief Lewis stated he was in favor of a free standing system so that there would be no hardware attached to any of the Town owned buildings or the water towers. Councilmember Crigger stated that he thought we should be considerate of surrounding neighbors regardless of the location. Councilmember Mecimore asked if grant money was available to fund the cost of this system. Chief Lewis stated the Homeland Security Funds are no longer available for small communities. Chief Lewis is to continue to review information on these systems.

Chief Lewis explained to the Council that he had sent seven invitations to bid on a 2008 Ford Crown Victoria police vehicle. Six of the invitations to bid were sent to local dealers and the seventh was sent to the state contract holder. Chief Lewis asked the Council for permission to negotiate a lower price than those received. Councilmember Crigger made a motion to allow Chief Lewis to negotiate a lower price for a 2008 Ford Crown Victoria not to exceed \$20,820. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mecimore and passed unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WEB GIS – Councilmember Mecimore informed the Council that he will bring his laptop to the next meeting so that the Web GIS website may be viewed together as a group.

NEW BUSINESS

FIRE HYDRANTS – Councilmember Schaack stated he had noticed that some fire hydrants are possibly inoperable and he asked if those hydrants are in service and if not, will they be repaired or replaced. Mr. Matney stated the Fire Department had flow tested the hydrants and made a list of those needing to be repaired or replaced. Currently the town maintenance crew is in the process of repairing or replacing those as needed. This issue will be readdressed at the next meeting.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

NONE

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Town Manager's report is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes. The following items were discussed and/or acted upon:

BULK WATER SALES – The office is receiving calls requesting the sale of bulk water. Currently the Fire Department hauls bulk water for \$50.00 per 2,000 gallons. Mr. Matney asked if the Council was interested in selling bulk water or let the Fire Department handle all inquiries. Currently, the charge per 1,000 gallons is \$8.31 which is the highest rate charged to users on the utility system. Councilmember Crigger stated he thought a flat fee of \$50.00 should be set for a minimum amount of water. Vice-Mayor Lloyd suggested charging a service charge to cover an employees labor costs. Councilmember Mecimore stated he thought those requesting bulk water should also have to pay a flat fee because currently as a water customer he is charged a flat fee for 2,000 gallons.

Following additional discussion, Vice-Mayor Lloyd made a motion to charge \$8.31 per 1,000 gallons of water plus a \$15.00 service fee per visit with all water sales to be at the discretion of the Town Manager. Councilmember Crigger seconded the motion and it passed by a 4-1 vote with the following voting in favor: Four (4) Jim Lloyd, Keith Crigger, Scott Mecimore and Dale Yontz. One (1) opposed: Ed Schaack. One (1) absent during the vote: Jerrell Hall.

TRAFFIC ISSUES – Mr. Matney stated he has received several complaints concerning speeding on Chinquapin Avenue. There have been requests for various signs to deter speeding on Chinquapin Avenue. Mayor Litz stated he had received another complaint about speeding on Parsonage Avenue. Councilmember Crigger stated he has noticed the heaviest and fastest traffic going by his residence between 6:45 a.m./p.m. and 7:15 a.m./p.m. in which he attributed to the employees of Klöckner but he further stated he also notices this at other times especially on weekends. Chief Lewis stated the Wythe County Sheriff's Office is working the school zones now that school is back in session but he would remind them to also work Parsonage and Chinquapin Avenues. Councilmember Schaack stated he watches the school buses leave the high school each afternoon and there has been a police vehicle visible each day.

RURAL RETREAT COMMONS – An email was received from the Virginia Department of Transportation with a revised round-a-bout to access the proposed development.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills were read and approved for August 28, 2007.

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TALK OF THE TOWN

Councilmember Yontz is to attend the Talk of the Town radio program at WYVE/WXBX radio station on Wednesday morning.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Litz.

Mayor

Clerk