

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on February 14, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rural Retreat Town Hall Council Chambers.

PRESENT RURAL RETREAT TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Timothy Litz; Vice-Mayor A. Keith Crigger; Ed Schaack; J. Scott Mecimore; Dale Yontz; Jerrell Hall; Peggy Hash

ABSENT

NONE

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION ABSENT

NONE

OTHERS PRESENT

Jim Lloyd

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

Councilmember Mecimore noted a correction to the January 24, 2012 minutes by stating he had been appointed to the Wythe County Tourism Committee by Supervisor Gary Houseman not Gary Cody. Following the correction, a motion was made by Councilmember Yontz, seconded by Councilmember Hall to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2012 regular meeting. The motion passed by a vote of six (6) for: Crigger, Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against.

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CITIZEN'S TIME

Jim Lloyd addressed the Council in reference to the concert series he had presented at the previous meeting. He explained he had checked on the cost to purchase sound equipment, including microphones, to conduct the concerts and the cost would be between \$2,800 and \$3,500. He also stated Larry Crigger agreed to provide sound equipment for \$50 per hour. Mr. Lloyd further explained the use of sound equipment would be approximately \$200 per concert and the cost of bands would \$500-\$700. He continued by explaining he had spoken to Jim Hall about using the Community Center and explained they would receive some of the proceeds but Mr. Hall told him the Board would not be interested in this that they would charge a flat \$100 fee to use the Community Center each time. Discussion was conducted about a Christmas concert and the desire for community involvement. Mr. Lloyd suggested a two year commitment to build the concert series. Councilmember Schaack asked Mr. Lloyd who would operate the sound equipment if the town chose to buy it. Mr. Lloyd responded he would probably be the person to do that. Mr. Matney asked Mr. Lloyd if he had an approximate cost for the two year commitment. Mr. Lloyd replied by stating it would depend on how many concerts were held. Vice-Mayor Crigger added each concert would cost approximately \$1,000. Mr. Lloyd addressed the concerts being held at the Draper Mercantile and stated we could get some bands cheaper if we paired up with them. Mr. James asked for clarification on the night concerts are held at the Draper Mercantile. Mr. Lloyd replied their concerts are held on Saturday nights. Councilmember Hash asked if our concerts were held on Friday nights would they conflict with the bands at Back In Time Diner. Mr. Lloyd explained he did not think it would be a conflict because they only have bluegrass bands. Councilmember Mecimore commented the high school auditorium is nice and could be used if needed. He added the Depot Foundation was only charged \$60 to use it for the Christmas concert. Mr. James commented this concert series may not bring in money but will draw people to Rural Retreat. Mr. Lloyd added a profit will be made after it is built up. Mr. James stated his point of view was in order to host five concerts in May, June, August, September and December approximately \$5,000 would need to be budgeted. He also stated July should be skipped due to Heritage Days. Councilmember Mecimore stated he thought the town should rent the sound equipment to make sure the concert series will work out prior to investing in the capital equipment. Mr. Lloyd explained he did not include the advertising costs in the figures he has presented. He continued by stating this event could include movies and not be only music events. Mr. James suggested asking vendors to set up. Vice-Mayor Crigger asked Mr. Lloyd what his ideas were for the contribution recipients. Mr. Lloyd replied the money could be put in the town budget and distributed to community organizations that solicit donations. Discussion continued about sponsorships for the concerts to assist with expenses. Councilmember Yontz expressed his concerns about drawing money away from the Heritage Days sponsorships. Vice-Mayor Crigger explained this may have the opposite effect because sponsors may see a band they would be interested in sponsoring for Heritage Days. Mr. James stated he felt the sponsorships are pursued more heavily for Heritage Days than would be for the concert series. Mayor Litz stated there are a lot of unanswered questions but a decision will need to be made. He asked the Council if they would like to act on this request or table it until the next meeting. Mr. Matney commented he felt a budget should be developed for the concert series because the outlook will have to be to go into it with the anticipation of getting

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nothing back. Vice-Mayor Crigger suggested this item be tabled until the next meeting. The consensus of Council was to table the item.

Mr. Lloyd also addressed the Road Rally that is being planned with the Heritage Center on October 13, 2012. He explained the Chamber of Commerce is interested in participating. The next planning meeting will be held March 6 at 6:00 p.m. in the Heritage Center. The rally will begin at the Rural Retreat Depot.

Mr. Lloyd thanked the Council for their time. Mayor Litz also thanked Mr. Lloyd for his presentation.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. James read a letter from the Rural Retreat High School After-Prom Committee requesting a donation toward the After-Prom party to be held April 27 at the high school. Mr. James explained the Council donated \$100 to this event last year and this request would require action by Council. Councilmember Mecimore made a motion to donate \$100 to the Rural Retreat High School After-Prom event. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and was approved by a vote of six (6) for: Crigger, Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against.

Heritage Days Committee Chairman Yontz presented the thank you card he received from the people in Washington, D.C. regarding the 2012 festival that he had mentioned at the previous meeting.

Councilmember Yontz then addressed an email he had received from Jack Weaver regarding the water line construction from Wytheville to Rural Retreat. He also explained he had a lady to approach him regarding the water line and asked why Rural Retreat was requiring Wythe County to build the water line and if Rural Retreat had a water shortage. She was also inquiring about the upcoming meeting about the water line. Councilmember Yontz stated he told her he had not heard anything about the meeting but if he did he would forward the information to her. He continued by stating he contacted Mr. James who in return sent him a copy of the email received from Wythe County about the meeting so he then forwarded the email to the lady that had been inquiring about the line however; she forwarded it to Mr. Weaver. Councilmember Yontz stated after receiving the email from Mr. Weaver he called him to discuss it. He added Mr. Weaver thought the town was patting themselves on the back for the water line extension but he felt after talking to Mr. Weaver he was able to resolve the concerns he had. Councilmember Yontz explained his concern is the people that have contacted him are telling him they are getting the impression from Wythe County that the reason the water line was built was to benefit Rural Retreat. He also stated he had explained this line will serve as an interconnection for emergency purposes only. Mr. James encouraged the Councilmember's to attend the meeting to find out what the citizens affected by this line are being told. Councilmember Hash inquired about the meeting Wythe County has scheduled. Mr. James stated the meeting will be held at the Rural Retreat Elementary School cafeteria on February 23 at 7:00 p.m.

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POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell reported the activity on his January report had decreased due to personal health issues which have now been resolved following surgery. He added he has received dog complaints on Church Street and Sherwood Avenue that he is working on.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Schaack inquired about the town's Comprehensive Plan and asked if it needs to be updated. Mr. James responded he would follow up on the inquiry and report back to the Council. He also reported he is in the process of rewriting the Subdivision Ordinance over the next few months. The revisions will include addressing sidewalks and street lighting. Mayor Litz deferred the updating of the Comprehensive Plan to the Planning Commission.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAYS – Chairman Yontz reported the children's inflatable rides have been secured for the festival. The new owner had misquoted the cost for the inflatables however he is honoring the original price quoted. Chairman Yontz also reported the committee is still searching for a main act for Sunday afternoon. He noted the next meeting is scheduled for February 28th at 6:00 p.m.

Councilmember Mecimore reported the Wythe County Tourism Committee meeting will be held February 15th from 1-5 p.m. in the Wythe County Board Room to develop a plan to promote tourism for the county. Wythe County residents have been paying a tax that was to be used for tourism which has not been. Next week a budget will be developed to pursue tourism. Councilmember Mecimore then updated the Council on the status of the Rural Retreat Depot Foundation. He explained an application has been submitted to make the Foundation a corporation. Due to missing information the application was returned but will be corrected and resubmitted. He added the *Richmond Times Dispatch* had written a great article about the depot and it has resulted in a number of responses.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The following items were discussed and/or acted upon:

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT DIVISION IV (WATER PLANT ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS) – We anticipate beginning this project soon with the contract documents showing February 28th as the scheduled date to begin. Anderson & Associates is reviewing the shop drawings to assure they are in compliance with contract documents. The actuators and variable frequency drives are being reviewed to make sure they will work with our plant.

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OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT DIVISION V (CHINQUAPIN AVENUE & WEST LEE HIGHWAY) – Wells Construction began their work the week of February 6th. Work has been completed on West Lee Highway.

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – CrossPointe Contractors, Inc. began construction the week of February 6th as well. The project has gone faster than expected and we anticipate reaching substantial completion by next week.

BLEVINS DUPLEX DRAINAGE ISSUE – We had previously inquired with VDOT on the status of this change order and had received no response. A response has now been received and VDOT approved the change order which will be coordinated with B. Williams Resources.

TEA-21 PHASE VII SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - Anderson & Associates is still working with VDOT to receive their final approval on this project.

WYTHE COUNTY/RURAL RETREAT WATER SYSTEM INTERCONNECTION – We received a draft interconnect agreement between Wythe County and Rural Retreat. We are finalizing the details of the agreement and hope to be able to present council with a satisfactory agreement that can be voted on soon. Mr. James reported he had spoken with Cellell Dalton and they are trying to work out water rate issues and stipulations on water quality agreements. Wythe County will also be responsible for any noncompliance issues that either we or Wythe County may have. Mr. James also reported he had received a phone call from one of our funding agencies to make us aware that when the interconnection with Wythe County is complete it could affect future funding opportunities for water projects such as expanding our water plant or services.

HYDRANT / VALVE EXERCISE PROGRAM – The maintenance staff has created a year round program to exercise our system; this program will begin this spring. Our hopes are that this will alleviate some issues with our utility system. We will monitor the effectiveness of this program. Vice-Mayor Crigger asked if the fire department had been actively exercising the hydrants. Mr. James stated he had been told they do this one time per year but he had spoken to Chief Evans about doing this twice per year.

WYTHE COUNTY HISTORICAL ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY – We have been in contact with the staff at the College of William & Mary to inquire about establishing informational sessions in Rural Retreat. This survey will be vital to displaying the historical significance of numerous buildings in Rural Retreat.

TOWN OF RURAL REREAT FACEBOOK & TWITTER PAGES – The official Town Facebook and Twitter pages have come online recently. We hope this will be a useful tool for our citizens to communicate with their local government. We will update the page as frequently as possible. The Facebook page is www.facebook.com/townofruralretreat and the Twitter account is @TwnRuralRetreat. These will serve as another opportunity to communicate with citizens and to get information out to the public.

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WYTHE COUNTY WATER MEETING – The Wythe County Board of Supervisors is holding a community meeting for the Wytheville to Rural Retreat water line extension project on Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the cafeteria of the Rural Retreat Elementary School, 100 Martha Debord Way, Rural Retreat. Local residents are urged to attend this informational meeting. Mr. James reported the staff will be attending this meeting and he encouraged all who can to also attend.

WATER LEAK AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH – Mayor Litz inquired about the water leak in the parking lot of Grace Lutheran Church. Mr. James explained the leak was on the line servicing Mountain View Avenue and fortunately was not the main line from the water plant. He added the leak was repaired quickly by the maintenance staff.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills for February 14, 2012 were read and approved.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Councilmember Mecimore stated he had received a compliment from a resident that lives outside of the town limits on the activities going on around town and the town’s appearance. Vice-Mayor Crigger commented he had noticed the maintenance crew cleaning the concrete gutters out recently which now looked better.

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

Mayor

Clerk