

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on February 28, 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; Dale Yontz; Jerrell Hall; Peggy Hash

ABSENT

J. Scott Mecimore

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Michael James, Town Manager; Lori Guynn, Clerk/Treasurer

ADMINISTRATION ABSENT

Scott Mitchell, Police Chief; Raymond Matney, Consultant

OTHERS PRESENT

Gary Houseman – Wythe County Board of Supervisors; Tim Reeves – Wythe County Board of Supervisors; Millie Rothrock – Wytheville Enterprise; Jason McNeese – Rural Retreat Baptist Church

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Rev. Jason McNeese.

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 February 14, 2012 regular meeting. The motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Crigger, Hall, Hash, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one absent: Mecimore.

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CITIZEN'S TIME

Mayor Litz welcomed Supervisor's Houseman and Reeves to the meeting and expressed his appreciation to them for attending.

CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

POLICE REPORT

Mr. James reported Chief Mitchell was absent due to an allergic reaction earlier in the day.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES – Vice-Mayor Crigger explained the Council has been discussing hosting a summer concert series and had tabled the item until this meeting. Mr. James asked the Councilmember's if they were satisfied with the lineup of months discussed to conduct the concerts. The consensus was the months chosen were satisfactory. Councilmember Hash commented she felt this would help give the citizens in the community something to do. Councilmember Hash then made a motion to proceed with funding the summer concert series. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Crigger. Mr. James added the anticipated cost is \$5,000 to host five concerts. Vice-Mayor Crigger added by hosting this we will now be investing in ourselves instead of others. Councilmember Yontz stated during the Heritage Days Committee meeting they discussed a gospel act that will be in the price range that is being discussed for the summer concert series. He asked if the concert series would be interested in hosting this gospel act on Sunday during Heritage Days as part of the series. Following discussion, the Council decided to take Councilmember Yontz's request into consideration at a later time. There being no additional discussion on the summer concert series, the motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Crigger, Hall, Hash, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one absent: Mecimore.

Councilmember Hash commented the Heritage Days Committee is trying to choose one of two groups to perform. She pointed out both are very good and it is unfortunate we can only choose one. Councilmember Hash addressed Supervisor Houseman and asked if the Board of Supervisors could help support Heritage Days financially which may allow for both groups to perform. Supervisor Houseman stated it is budget time and to submit a request. He also asked that the request contain a specific dollar amount. Councilmember Hash also inquired about painting the inside of the Pepper Stage to brighten it up. Discussion was conducted on Councilmember Hash's inquiry and to possibly add additional lighting.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAYS – Chairman Yontz reported the main act on Sunday is being finalized and will be announced at a later time. He noted he and Mrs. Guynn are working to finalize details on the vendors. Chairman Yontz also reported he and Mr. James will be visiting area churches to draw more interest in the Sunday afternoon activities. They will also be contacting Dr. Pepper Corporation and visiting area businesses seeking sponsorship donations.

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS – Chairman Crigger reported work has begun toward a 2012-2013 budget draft and the treasurer is almost up to date on budget work.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE – Chairman Hall reported he will look into brightening up the inside of the stage.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

The following items were discussed and/or acted upon:

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT DIVISION IV (WATER PLANT ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS) – Anderson & Associates is still reviewing the resubmitted shop drawings and informed Sun Contractors & Developers they would get back to them soon. Mr. James explained the submitted drawings for the valve actuators were unacceptable to Anderson & Associates and required a new proposal.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT DIVISION V (CHINQUAPIN AVENUE & WEST LEE HIGHWAY) – Wells Construction is making great progress. They have made two connections to the eight inch water line to date at the intersections of Orchard Hills Road and West Lee Highway and West Lee Highway & Chinquapin Avenue. The meter connections have also been setup.

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – CrossPointe Contractors is near final completion. We held a progress meeting this Monday with Rural Development, Anderson & Associates and CrossPointe. The progress was satisfactory to all parties and we should reach substantial completion soon. Mr. James added pressure testing was completed today and meters should be installed next week, weather pending.

BLEVINS DUPLEX DRAINAGE ISSUE – B. Williams Resources was on site Saturday, February 18th and most of the drainage pipe is now place. They are looking to return to finish the work as soon as the soil dries some. This is an 80/20 cost split with VDOT. Councilmember Schaack commented the work done looks much better than it previously did.

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TEA-21 PHASE VII SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT - Anderson & Associates is still working with VDOT on final plan approval. VDOT noted that numerous projects are ahead of us, so time permitting they will review the project plans soon.

WYTHE COUNTY/RURAL RETREAT WATER SYSTEM INTERCONNECTION – Both parties have disagreed with previously suggested interconnect purchase/sell rates. The County suggested a rate study be performed to project the actual “cost” of supplying water for each system. I am meeting with the County Administrator on Thursday to discuss a possible solution. Staff has prepared an alternative Emergency Interconnect Agreement which I will present to the administrator. Upon completion, an agreement will be presented to the Council for consideration as well as to the Board of Supervisors.

GREEVER STREET RAILROAD CROSSING – VDOT replaced the broken guardrail at the crossing this past week. Staff has spoken to VDOT about the proposed signage along East Railroad Avenue that would restrict truck traffic along this street. They take issue with not allowing trucks down the street because it is a public street. They mentioned temporary signage as a possible solution for a period of time. The USDOT Federal Railroad Administration is pushing VDOT to place permanent signage on East Railroad Avenue. Rodney Whaley with the USDOT is looking for appropriations in the next federal budget for this project in order to eliminate the problem. They hope to find a solution within a year. Mayor Litz asked how many times the guardrail has been replaced at this crossing. Mr. James replied it has been replaced twice in six months he has been in Rural Retreat.

DHCD PLANNING GRANT – Brian Martin with the Mount Rogers Planning District is planning to attend our first council meeting in March. We will move forward with our request for a planning grant to proceed with our downtown enhancement goals. Mr. James explained the previous plan will be revisited because some parameters may have changed in the community that will allow us to move forward.

SNOW REMOVAL FEBRUARY 18-20TH – Town staff did a wonderful job with the street clearing during our most recent snow event. They are to be commended for their efforts, as I have received numerous positive comments about the status of the roads before, during and after the event. Mayor Litz commented he had received a lot of positive comments from the town’s people concerning the snow removal.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN – The Comprehensive Plan was last adopted in 2004 and should be readopted every five years. The Planning Commission will be reviewing the Plan at their next meeting and will make revisions as needed.

SERCAP FUNDING – Mr. James reported Larry Wallace with Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project notified him via email the town had been awarded \$32,000 for the waterline project on Chinquapin Avenue. These funds will be used in conjunction with Rural Development funds to possibly expand this project and our GIS system for utilities.

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Prior to continuing with the agenda, Mayor Litz commended Supervisor Houseman for the water meeting held the previous week. He explained residents on West Lee Highway have asked him why there are no fire hydrants on Rural Retreat's end of the water line. Mayor Litz stated he did not know the answer so he asked the previous town manager and was told the Council at the time took the stand that water was being supplied to county residents and the town did not have the money to pay for fire protection. Supervisor Houseman asked Mayor Litz if he was suggesting Wythe County consider installing hydrants on the line from Rural Retreat to the interconnection. Mayor Litz replied he would like for this to be considered but it may require both parties working together.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills for February 28, 2012 were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

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

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor

Clerk