

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on June 26, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rural Retreat Town Hall Council Chambers.

PRESENT RURAL RETREAT TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Timothy Litz; Ed Schaack; Dale Yontz; J. Scott Mecimore; Jerrell Hall; Peggy Hash

ABSENT

Vice-Mayor A. Keith Crigger

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

ADMINISTRATION ABSENT

NONE

OTHERS PRESENT

Allan West; James L. "Jim" Hall; Jayne Hall; James A. and Sheila Hall

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 Hash, seconded by Councilmember Yontz to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2012 regular meeting/public hearing. There being no discussion, the motion passed by a vote of four (4) for: Hall, Hash, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) abstention: Mecimore – due to his absence at the previous meeting; one (1) absent: Crigger.

CITIZEN'S TIME

James L. "Jim" Hall addressed the Council and stated he is seeking approval from the Council for something that he thought should have been done years ago. He began to speak about what

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he referred to as the Westfield extension that connects Sherwood Avenue and Richmond Avenue. Mr. Hall explained there is approximately 266 ft. that has not been finished with a 50 ft. right-of-way. He continued by stating when Mr. Musser was building the road he asked the town council to build the remainder of the extension so he would not have to build a cul-de-sac at the end and at the time the council turned the request down. He stated he would like to seek to have the road opened to allow everyone to use it because it is a safety issue now that Miller Street is closed. Mr. Hall explained this will allow an alternate entrance to Richmond Avenue for emergency purposes. He continued by stating Jayne Hall owns a portion of the property and Richard Caudill owns the other. Mr. Hall stated this request was previously turned down because the people in Sherwood Estates wanted it closed because they did not want the traffic and wanted their children to be able to play in the street. Previously, Mr. Hall explained, the property had been blocked but he opened it because one day he was trying to get off of Richmond Avenue but the street was blocked at Church Street so he turned around and drove through the field. Once tracks were made through the field everyone assumes it is there to be used, he commented. Mr. Hall stated he had spoken to the fire chief and was told they can make the turn off of Church Street onto Richmond Avenue but it is very difficult. He reiterated the need for safety personnel to have access to Richmond Avenue. Years ago children living on Richmond Avenue had to walk to Church Street to catch the school bus then it was moved to Miller Street, he added. After opening this property, Mr. Hall stated he gave permission for the school bus to use it as a turn around and allows the town to use it also. Mr. Hall explained he has spoken to Town Manager James about this request and the potential water run off it may create. If the extension is not opened, Mr. Hall stated he wants a better excuse than I want my children to be able to play in the street. Mr. Hall thanked the Council for their time. Mayor Litz stated he was serving on the Council when that decision was made and stated he thought the road should be opened and he supports what Mr. Hall has said. Town Manager James explained he had spoken to VDOT personnel about Richfield Street but they are showing there is no right-of-way and that it is not in their system from Sherwood Avenue to the cul-de-sac. The plans called for a future extension but no right-of-way so the property is considered private property therefore, it would be the Hall's choice to use the property anyway they please. Mayor Litz asked if this could be done in stages. Town Manager James stated he thought the town should consider it and he is going to pursue with VDOT that the street be accepted into their system. He further stated a future extension of the street can be discussed and it can be included in the Capital Improvement Plan he is working on so the town can begin putting money aside for paving. Mayor Litz asked if it would be possible to put gravel on the property for use now prior to paving. Councilmember Yontz commented the entrance to Richmond Avenue is dangerous and asked if this section was opened could Richmond Avenue be made a one way street. The Hall family had no objections to Councilmember Yontz's suggestion. Discussion then ensued on the entrance to Richmond Avenue and the difficulties in turning on or off the street. Councilmember Yontz asked Town Manager James if he needed permission from the Council to proceed with VDOT to find out the requirements to pursue opening the road. Town Manager James concurred. Jayne Hall stated she wanted a clear understanding because the property being discussed is private property and the town had no reason to do what was done to begin with. Councilmember Mecimore asked if they would be willing to deed the property to the state for the road. Councilmember Yontz made a motion to authorize Town Manager James to proceed with

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VDOT to obtain the requirements in order to open the street extension. Mr. Hall commented that Mayor Litz had mentioned putting down gravel and asked if that could be done. Mayor Litz verified with Mr. Hall that he wants a commitment from the Town Council to proceed with the steps of building the road. Councilmember Schaack seconded the motion made by Councilmember Yontz. There being no further discussion, the motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Crigger. The Hall's thanked the Council for their time and departed from the meeting. Mayor Litz thanked Town Manager James for handling the initial request as well as he did. Town Manager James explained he has informed Mr. Hall if there is public outcry then the town will have to re-evaluate the request.

CORRESPONDENCE

Councilmember Yontz explained he had received a complaint that he has addressed with Town Manager James. The complaint was about the smell coming from the house located next door to the carwash. Councilmember Yontz added Mr. James had previously received the same complaint. Town Manager James stated this is not a public health issue so it would be hard to control.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell stated he is continuing to work on animal complaints around Valley View Avenue including animals other than dogs. He is continuing to work on traffic issues in the high complaint areas which have calmed down with the summer months and school letting out. Chief Mitchell noted he is working with the Wythe County Sheriff's Office on investigations they are conducting in town.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ADOPTION OF 2012/2013 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET – Councilmember Yontz made a motion to adopt the 2012/2013 Fiscal Year Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hall. Mayor Litz asked Clerk/Treasurer Guynn if any complaints had been received concerning the increase in water rates. Clerk/Treasurer Guynn stated not that she was aware of but generally complaints are not heard until the August utility bills are issued. There being no additional discussion, the motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Crigger.

NEW BUSINESS

WASTEWATER PLANT ULTRAVIOLENT (UV) DISINFECTION – Town Manager James explained he had received an agreement from The Lane Group, Inc. to conduct the preliminary engineering and design for the UV treatment at the wastewater plant. Town Manager James asked the Council to authorize him to sign the agreement to complete this work. The cost for the design work and preliminary engineering will be \$12,500 prior to being put out to bid for

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construction. Councilmember Yontz made a motion to authorize Town Manager James to execute the agreement with The Lane Group for the ultraviolet disinfection equipment at the wastewater plant. Councilmember Hash seconded the motion. Mayor Litz commended Town Manager James for using The Lane Group, Inc. for this project. There being no additional discussion, the motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) absent.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAYS – Chairman Yontz reported there had been a change in the entertainment lineup due to one act not being able to perform. We have received notification that Dr. Pepper will not be sponsoring the festival this year. Chairman Yontz reported that Pepsi in conjunction with area Wal-Mart stores will be donating 50¢ for every case of Dr. Pepper and Diet Dr. Pepper sold June 27th through July 24th to the Indian Blessing Backpack Ministries. Councilmember Mecimore commented he serves on the Wythe County Tourism Committee and there has been backlash on Wythe County donating to Heritage Days because it is not tourism based but more toward locals.

PERSONNEL, ORDINANCES & LEGAL MATTERS – Chairman Schaack reported the committee will meet after the new Council is seated. He asked that suggestions to the town manager's evaluation form be given to him or Councilmember Hash. Chairman Schaack invited the Council to attend the Personnel meeting upon it being scheduled.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE – Chairman Hall reported the sound platforms at the Pepper Stage are almost finished.

Prior to proceeding with the agenda, Councilmember Mecimore reported the next meeting of the Rural Retreat Depot Foundation will be July 2nd at 6:00 p.m. He explained Stanley King, Jr. and Edwin Wagoner are planning an auction to benefit the Foundation.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The following items were discussed and/or acted upon:

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT DIVISION IV (WATER PLANT ELECTRICAL IMPROVEMENTS) – All design has been approved by the electrical engineer. The VFD's unfortunately will not be shipped until August 20th, once they are at the plant we anticipate it taking two weeks for installation. The contract with Sun Contracting & Developers has been extended due to the delay.

TEA-21 PHASE VII SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – Kelly Dunn with Anderson & Associates has resigned his position. The new project engineer came to Rural Retreat this past week to become more familiar with our project and review Phase 7, we anticipate a smooth transition. We are awaiting approval from VDOT. Our Erosion and Sediment Control Plan was approved June 19th.

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2012 CDBG PLANNING GRANT: RURAL RETREAT DOWNTOWN BUSINESS DISTRICT – We will hold our initial public meeting on July 11, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. here at the Town Hall. This meeting will provide a general discussion on the planning grant awarded to Rural Retreat. Brian Martin and I will conduct the presentation to show how other communities have utilized the grant funding. We will advertise the meeting both Saturday's prior to the meeting to secure as much participation as possible. Please encourage all who are interested to join us. Town Manager James added this will be an informal information session.

STALEY SPRING PROJECT – This project is ongoing and we are continuing to work with The Lane Group, Inc.

RURAL RETREAT WWTP – Jeff Spickard with The Lane Group, Inc. has worked to provide some preliminary engineering for our WWTP disinfection project. We have received a quote for the UV disinfection system at \$42,000. We anticipate the cost being conservative and hopefully the equipment will come in under the quoted amount when the project comes to bid. As mentioned previously, we are working with The Lane Group to provide this information so we can apply for *Southwest Virginia Water and Wastewater Construction Grant Funds*. The deadline to apply for this money through the Mount Roger Planning District Commission is June 30th.

RURAL RETREAT RESCUE SQUAD – Jay Hawkins called this week to request to use the stage on October 6th. The rescue squad is planning to hold a fundraising event and wishes to have Council's approval to utilize the stage. Councilmember Mecimore made a motion to approve the rescue squad's request to use the stage on October 6th. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and was approved by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Crigger.

Also, we received a quote from Medley's Sugar Grove Asphalt Paving, Co. They have quoted the paving to come in around \$16,600 for the entire graveled area. Councilmember Hash informed Town Manager James that there is a person from Bluefield coming to give a quote on the paving. She added their quote will be lower than the one received.

JOINT IDA OF WYTHE COUNTY, WYTHEVILLE AND RURAL RETREAT – This afternoon, the County Administrator and both town managers met with representatives of the JIDA at the county office to discuss JIDA funding. Currently, the JIDA has over \$600,000 in unrestricted reserves. I felt, along with the other administrators that the excess funds need to be reduced to ease the burden on the other entities. With no clear and ready plan for the reserve money we felt it was best used as operating expenses. It was the consensus of the county and towns that FY 2012-2013 not include funding for the JIDA. This will result in \$11,892 being taken out of the JIDA line item and being placed in undesignated funds.

RURAL RETREAT WELLNESS CENTER – I was informed today that Wythe County was putting on hold most major capital projects that were not currently funded. This will delay the construction of a wellness center in Rural Retreat. The County and Rural Retreat will continue

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to work on preliminary aspects of the wellness center with the expectation that the project will be picked back up in the future. Councilmember Mecimore asked if Klöckner Pentaplast had agreed to donate the land for the facility. Town Manager James responded yes they had agreed with the stipulation that they have naming rights and their employees receive reduced rates.

RURAL RETREAT PLANNING COMMISSION - A draft Mobile Vending Ordinance has been prepared. The ordinance will be presented to the Commission at their next meeting to receive comments.

GRASS CUTTING ORDINANCE – I have received numerous questions about our grass maintenance ordinance. As a first step to alleviate the questions, I will have Brenda attach the ordinance information on the utility bill cards to provide detailed information on the new ordinance.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills for June 26, 2012 were read and approved.

Prior to proceeding with the agenda, Mayor Litz presented Councilmember Mecimore with a plaque recognizing him for his years of service on the Town Council. Mayor Litz stated he and Councilmember Mecimore began their tenure at the same time and he has appreciated his attitude. Everyone does not always agree but the Council has worked well together, Mayor Litz added. The councilmember’s and administration wished Councilmember Mecimore well and thanked him for his time served.

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 was duly seconded and approved unanimously.

Mayor

Clerk