

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on October 9, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rural Retreat Town Hall Council Chambers.

PRESENT RURAL RETREAT TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Timothy Litz
Ed Schaack
Keith Crigger

Scott Mecimore
Dale Yontz

ABSENT

Vice-Mayor Jim Lloyd
Jerrell Hall

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Rev. Brian Burch – Rural Retreat United Methodist Church
Madison Yontz

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. Brian Burch.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Scott Mecimore, seconded by Councilmember Ed Schaack to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2007 meeting and the motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN'S TIME

NONE

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CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney stated he had received several positive comments from area citizens concerning various items. The first being from Jim Johnson, a resident on Briarwood Lane, had expressed his appreciation for installing the fire hydrant. Bill Cobbs, a resident on North Main Street, thanked him for the work done on the sidewalk project and on his driveway. A compliment was also received from Joey DeBord in reference to the improvements made to the intersection at North Main Street and Gienow Road. Mr. DeBord is a truck driver and thanked Mr. Matney on behalf of his fellow drivers.

A note of appreciation was read by Mr. Matney from David Johnson for the resolution that was adopted by the Town Council on his behalf. Mr. Johnson served as the Town's representative on the Joint Industrial Development Authority Board until he recently relocated to another area of the state.

The Wall of Honor Committee of the Town of Wytheville sent a letter inviting the Council to attend their annual Veterans Day Ceremony on Sunday, November 11, 2007, at 1:00 p.m. in Withers Park. Mayor Litz stated he would not be able to attend due to the parade and ceremony the American Legion Post 229 is conducting the same day. Mayor Litz asked Mr. Matney to send a response to the Town of Wytheville.

Mr. Matney read a letter from Town Attorney Charles C. Lacy requesting the Town to submit payment for annual dues for membership in the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia, Inc. He further stated this has previously been paid by the Town and it is a resource to Mr. Lacy that in return saves money for various items. A motion was made by Councilmember Crigger to pay the annual dues for Mr. Lacy to the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia, Inc. and was seconded by Councilmember Yontz. Councilmember Schaack stated it was his understanding that Michael Sobey was the Town Attorney however he had no objections to Mr. Lacy. Mr. Matney responded the Council had voted to send non-litigation issues to Mr. Sobey. There being no additional discussion the motion was passed unanimously.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Lewis stated he had not included his monthly police report in the packets however he would have it in the next council packet.

Chief Lewis stated one item of concern involved the Homecoming Parade and a Norfolk Southern train. During the parade, traffic was allowed to cross the crossings during breaks in the parade. As a car was crossing the Main Street crossing, the cross bars began to go down due to an oncoming train. As the car attempted to back off of the crossing the back tires got stuck between the gates and the track. The train then had to go into an emergency shut down which required inspections by the railroad. The car then successfully drove off of the track without incident.

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Mr. Matney stated Chief Lewis and himself had talked about contacting Norfolk Southern in the future about parades so that they would be aware of the events that are happening in Town. Further discussion was held to also have a safety officer at each crossing. Chief Lewis stated the conductor had brought this to his attention.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

WEB GIS – Councilmember Mecimore stated he would still like to have the full Council present prior to making a decision. Councilmember Schaack echoed the same concern. Councilmember Crigger asked what the exact cost was for this project. Mr. Matney stated the initial set up cost was approximately \$5,800 and the monthly fee was approximately \$375 per month. Councilmember Crigger stated he felt this would be a very useful tool especially in the future because it assists in maintaining the Town infrastructure. Councilmember Schaack asked where the money would come from to pay for this project. Councilmember Mecimore stated this is a budget line item and that there is enough money to cover the cost and monthly maintenance fee.

Councilmember Mecimore made the motion to purchase the Web Geographic Information System through Anderson and Associates. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Crigger and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

WCC PRESIDENT INAUGURATION – Mayor Litz stated he attended the inauguration ceremony for Wytheville Community College President Charlie White. He stated he enjoyed attending the event and felt that Mr. White will do great job.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Personnel, Ordinance and Legal Matters Committee Chairman Ed Schaack stated the committee will meet prior to the next Town Council meeting at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the current holidays honored by the Town.

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:

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF RATE – The previously adopted 2007 PPTR rate of 58.75% was incorrect; the correct rate is 57.75%. Councilmember Crigger made the motion to set the 2007 Personal Property Tax Rate at 57.75%. The motion was seconded Councilmember Yontz and passed unanimously.

DRAINAGE ISSUE AT VIRGINIA HOSPICE – The owners of Virginia Hospice believe the sidewalk project on North Main Street has contributed to the flow of additional storm water onto their property due to the elevation increase of their property entrance. Upon discussion with the

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project engineer, it was recommended that a collection drainage structure be installed that would in return divert the storm water for an approximate cost of \$2,500 - \$3,000.

Mr. Matney stated the original gutter pan in the entrance way was not as deep as designed so it causes an earlier break in the water flow which then diverts the water into the parking lot and the drop inlet. The main issue is the gutter pan was not constructed correctly and the elevation of the building is below the road. The second issue is the sidewalk in front of the building tilts toward the building and the asphalt on the parking lot is above the sidewalk with a small slope away from the sidewalk. Upon talking to the engineers, Mr. Matney stated if a commitment could be obtained from the contractors then the labor could possibly be donated and the Town could fund the cost of materials which would resolve more than the issue that was created and hopefully satisfy the property owners.

Councilmember Crigger stated if the parking lot is sloped toward the building then the issue of water run off will still be an issue but not an issue that was created by the Town's sidewalk project. Councilmember Mecimore stated it was his opinion that the Town can not take all liability on this issue. Mr. Matney explained he thought the property owners should sign a release stating the Town is not liable or responsible for existing conditions of the property.

CHURCH STREET SIDEWALK – The sidewalk in front of the property owned by Scott and Linda Mecimore is in need of major repairs. The Mecimores are in the process of completing extensive renovations on their property and have repaired a portion of the sidewalk between their property and the street. The sidewalk between the Mecimores and the street is now in need of repair and is unsafe for pedestrians. Mr. Matney stated he has spoken to a contractor and was told the approximate cost to repair the portion of sidewalk would be \$2,500 - \$3,000. Rev. Burch asked the Council if the repairs could be extended to the property located below the Mecimores. Mr. Matney stated that the property owner had asked the same question, however the condition of the steps seem to be good. He further suggested addressing that property in a future proposal.

Councilmember Mecimore stated as the property owner he would be willing to pay for half of the cost to replace the sidewalk. Mr. Matney said the Town does have a policy stating the property owners are responsible for half of the cost on projects that are not federally funded but previously in most situations the Council has voted to override that policy. The consensus of the Council was to proceed with this needed repair.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT – Research on bar screens at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is on going. As more information is received, Mr. Matney stated he will bring it to the Council for review.

DR PEPPER COMMUNICATIONS – Mr. Matney met with Troy Harris with Cadbury Schwepps which owns Dr. Pepper. Mr. Harris asked Mr. Matney to develop a plan for Cadbury Schwepps' involvement and he would be glad to participate. Discussion was held on festivals, painting of the water tanks, and a museum.

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TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills for October 9, 2007, by the consensus of the Council, are to be paid by the Treasurer. These bills will be approved at the next council meeting.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Mr. Matney 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 upon a motion by Councilmember Schaack.

Mayor

Clerk