

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RURAL RETREAT TOWN
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2014, 7:00 P.M.**

Council Members Present: Mayor Timothy Litz; Jerrell Hall; Peggy Hash; James P. “Sean” Viars; Geary Jonas; James Lloyd

Council Members Absent: Vice-Mayor Dale Yontz

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

Administration Absent: None

Others Present: Carolyn Ellison; Ken Noble; Jerry Hurt; Keith Crigger; Colin Crigger; Gary Houseman; Larry Crigger

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Gary Houseman.

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 Lloyd to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2014 regular meeting. There being no discussion, the motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Jonas, Lloyd, Viars; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Yontz.

CITIZEN’S TIME

Those present did not wish to address the Council. Mayor Litz proceeded with the agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

Town Manager James explained he had received an email from Kevin Williams, Director of the Wythe County Parks and Recreation department expressing his appreciation to the town for sponsoring the recent dive-in movie night at the Rural Retreat Pool. Mr. Williams had noted the event was well attended.

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Mayor Litz stated a request had been distributed to the Council from the Rural Retreat Depot Foundation requesting permission to use the former Rural Retreat Drug Store property to conduct their annual benefit auction on Saturday, July 26 at 10:00 a.m. Councilmember Hall made a motion to grant the Rural Retreat Depot Foundation's request. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Viars and the motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Jonas, Lloyd, Viars; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Yontz.

Town Manager James stated a request was received from the Rural Retreat/Wythe County Fair Association for sponsorships for the upcoming fair. He noted there are various sponsorship levels for consideration. Mayor Litz asked if the town had supported the fair in the past. Clerk/Treasurer Guynn stated this may be the first time a request has been received. Town Manager James further stated this is part of their effort to raise funds for the fair. Councilmember Hash stated they are in need of funding. Councilmember Viars asked what the sponsorship levels are. Clerk/Treasurer Guynn explained the levels are \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250 and \$500 with varying benefits for each level. Councilmember Viars stated he felt \$300 was given to the county for the movie night at the pool so we should help the fair also. Mayor Litz asked for an amount in the form of a motion. Councilmember Viars made a motion to donate \$250 to support the Rural Retreat/Wythe County Fair Association. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Lloyd. Councilmember Hash commented she felt the town should donate more than \$250. Councilmember Lloyd stated the association is trying to rebuild and needs the support. He added he agrees with Councilmember Hash. Councilmember Viars rescinded his motion. He then made a motion to donate \$500 to the Rural Retreat/Wythe County Fair Association. Councilmember Lloyd seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Jonas, Lloyd, Viars; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Yontz.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell reported he has contacted the Wythe County Sheriff's Office and they will have two uniform deputies and off duty deputies at Heritage Days. He also contacted the New River Valley Regional Jail and will have trustees clean up the festival area on Sunday morning. Chief Mitchell stated he will be contacting the Town of Wytheville about borrowing their speed trailer next week. The trailer will be placed in some new areas around town. Chief Mitchell explained he is continuing to monitor yard sales and noted that there haven't been any repeat yard sales at businesses as there was last year.

Mayor Litz inquired about dog complaints. Chief Mitchell explained he hasn't had any complaints in approximately the past 30 days.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

JOINT IDA UPDATE – Town Manager James reported he, Mayor Litz, Cellell Dalton, Tim Reeves, Trent Crewe and Wayne Sutherland met last Friday to discuss the resolution that Wythe County proposed at the Joint Governing Bodies meeting. He stated all are in agreement that all entities can work along the parameters for the Joint IDA. The managers will be attending the

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Joint IDA's meeting on Thursday to discuss the resolution with them and get feedback. Town Manager James noted he feels there will be reconciliation with the group and an agreement can be put together for long term. He stated the funding question is still unsettled but the Joint IDA is to develop a revised budget. He further stated that we should be able to move forward following Thursday's meeting.

Mayor Litz stated one of the questions that came up was that the Joint IDA has ownership of property which some are worthless properties that are more of a liability and then there is the property in Progress Park. He added everyone needs to understand that the property belongs to the people of Wythe County not the Joint IDA. Mayor Litz explained one of the most important things discussed was the need for communication. If they are funded, he added, and he feels they will be, David Manley understands that we aren't playing games anymore. Keith Crigger inquired about their existing funds. Mayor Litz stated the Joint IDA has in excess of \$500,000 with \$300,000 being owed to contractors and \$200,000 still in their coffers. Town Manager James explained \$100,000 was requested to be in reserves. Mayor Litz pointed out the Joint IDA hasn't been funded the past two years in an effort for them to reduce their reserves. He noted the Council hasn't made any expenditures and further stated Town Manager James will bring additional information to the Council following the meeting on Thursday.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Litz explained the requests for the conditional use permit and rezoning will be considered individually. He asked Town Manager James and Councilmember Hash to report from the Planning Commission meeting. Councilmember Hash stated the Planning Commission had a really good meeting with several people in attendance. She explained there was good participation and a lot of comments were received and questions were asked to the people making the requests.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT REQUEST BY KENNY PEEPLES, JR. – Town Manager James explained Mr. Peeples wants to have automotive body repair at his business which requires a conditional use permit in a Commercial General zone. He stated it will be similar to the permit previously issued to Candu Auto Sales & Services. Mr. Peeples was required to obtain the same permit in his name because it was nontransferable. The Planning Commission voted to recommend the Council approve the permit request. Councilmember Viars made a motion and Councilmember Hall seconded it to grant Kenny Peeples, Jr. a conditional use permit for automotive body repair at Hilltop Auto Sales located at 705 Church Street. Mayor Litz asked for discussion and commented this has been granted before. Councilmember Hall stated he didn't see any reason to not accept the Planning Commission's recommendation favorably. There being no further discussion, the motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Jonas, Lloyd, Viars; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Yontz.

REZONING REQUEST BY LARRY F. CRIGGER – Mayor Litz explained a request was received from Larry Crigger requesting two lots on Chinquapin Avenue be rezoned from R-2 to Commercial General (CG). Town Manager James stated the Planning Commission voted to

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recommend the Town Council grant the rezoning request. Councilmember Hash made a motion to grant Larry Crigger's request to rezone his property on the south side of Chinquapin Avenue between Beech and Church Streets to Commercial General. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jonas. Mayor Litz stated he wanted to say that the neighbors got to come and give comments. He further stated he didn't feel the Council should stand in the way of progress and the conditions in our ordinances are to be followed. There being no additional comments, the motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Jonas, Lloyd, Viars; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Yontz.

REZONING REQUEST BY A. KEITH CRIGGER – Mayor Litz explained a request was also received from A. Keith Crigger to rezone his property at 121 and 123 Chinquapin Avenue from R-2 to Commercial General. Town Manager James stated the Planning Commission voted to recommend this rezoning request as well. A motion was made by Councilmember Viars to grant A. Keith Crigger's request to rezone his property at 121 and 123 Chinquapin Avenue from R-2 to Commercial General and was seconded by Councilmember Hash. There being no discussion, the motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Jonas, Lloyd, Viars; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Yontz.

Councilmember Viars thanked the Planning Commission for their work on the requests.

MOUNT ROGERS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION BOARD APPOINTMENT – Town Manager James explained he had received a notice from the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (MRPDC) regarding an appointment to their board of elected officials. The Commission meets once per year and Vice-Mayor Yontz is our current member. Upon speaking with him he is interested in continuing to serve in this capacity, Town Manager James explained. Councilmember Hall made a motion to reappoint Vice-Mayor Yontz to the MRPDC Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jonas and passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Jonas, Lloyd, Viars; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Yontz.

All guests except Mr. Hurt and Mr. Houseman left the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAYS – Mayor Litz stated copies of the schedule of events have been distributed. He explained the Friday night events will be held at the Rural Retreat High School Auditorium. Clerk/Treasurer Guynn added the Hall of Honor inductions will also be held. Councilmember Lloyd asked who was to be inducted. Mrs. Guynn stated Gale Lawson, Katherine Etter and Dr. Harloe Bailey, Sr. will be inducted and two others which will be a surprise to the inductees. She stated she has been working with the families of the inductees to get information to put into a biography format to be read. Mrs. Guynn added the families have been great to work with and she has enjoyed getting to know more about the inductees.

Councilmember Hash asked Gary Houseman if any of the supervisors were planning to participate in the parade. Mr. Houseman stated he was unsure but he would contact the Board.

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Councilmember Hash stated if they were going to participate to be at the high school by 11:00 a.m.

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS – None

PERSONNEL, ORDINANCES AND LEGAL MATTERS – None

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE - Mr. Houseman stated he had read the minutes from the last meeting and noticed that a Public Utilities Committee was appointed with Mr. Hall as chairman and Mr. Viars, Mr. Yontz and Mr. Lloyd as members to handle water issues. He stated the County had a Water Committee meeting last week and they discussed meeting with the Public Utilities Committee. Mr. Houseman asked that the town provide a few days and times that would be convenient to meet in Rural Retreat. He stated the County's Water Committee consists of himself, Coy McRoberts and Gene Horney. Mayor Litz suggested he and Town Manager James attend the first meeting. Town Manager James stated he had sent a memo to the committee members last week and they will be meeting as a group to discuss the projects. Mayor Litz added the town is thinking about partnering with Wythe County to provide water west of Rural Retreat where there is a need. Mr. Houseman stated the elected officials need to meet and come up with ideas to take back to the town manager and county administrator. Mayor Litz stated this will take out the middle people. Town Manager James stated he will try to meet with the committee next week then he will provide some dates to Mr. Houseman. Mr. Houseman noted that they will have some time restrictions due to committee member Gene Horney being a school bus driver and once school starts his schedule will be limited.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The following items were discussed and/or acted upon:

CROSSWALK REQUEST IN TOWN FLAT – Town Manager James reported attached to the manager's report is a letter from Jeff Russell, Administrator of the Wytheville VDOT Residency. He explained we put in a request to critique the idea and entertain a crosswalk in the town flat. VDOT had engineers to review the area and at this time they did not approve our request. He stated he told Mr. Russell that as the Downtown Revitalization Project moves forward we may put in crosswalks as part of the project in and of ourselves. Mr. Russell had stated VDOT will review the request again in the future if there is a need.

PHASE 8 & 9 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS – Plans have been submitted to VDOT and we are awaiting review comments. Phase 9 plans will be developed by Anderson & Associates in the coming weeks for Town review and approval.

SOUTH FORK REED CREEK PROJECT – We received work that the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission denied our funding application due to a lack of accompanying funds. We have moved forward with our application to DEQ and will apply again for MRPDC funding next year for the \$100,000 grant. The Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. granted

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the town \$15,000 to assist with environmental studies and project planning. We will monitor the funding package to be submitted to council next year for final approval.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PROJECT – The economic restructuring recommendations have been received by the town and will be reviewed by staff and the management team. Anderson & Associates were in town today to review storm water management plans and infrastructure improvement plans. Another meeting with the management team will be held soon.

TOWN HALL ROOF REPAIR – As approved as part of our Capital Improvement Plan the roof repair project will begin at the end of August. Seal-All Coatings Company, LLC of Rural Retreat has been chosen as the contractor.

SCADA RFP – The requests for proposals on a new SCADA technology for the utility system has been advertised in the Roanoke Times and on our website and we will move forward with the selection process.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE – Committee members have been emailed a synopsis of the Staley Spring Project. We will schedule a meeting in the coming weeks.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Clerk/Treasurer Guynn explained following tonight’s report she will present the invoices for Heritage Days.

The bills for July 22, 2014 and those pertaining to Heritage Days were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Mayor Litz stated one thing that needed to be commented on and hadn’t been tonight was the presence of a fence at the depot. Mayor Litz and Councilmember Hash added that it looked very nice.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Litz commented on the recent edition of the Rural Retreat Times and the Heritage Days flyer on the back cover. He further commented there have been complaints about the signs because Shentel can be read better than anything else. Councilmember Viars stated they are a major sponsor. Town Manager James stated the signs need to be worked on.

Mayor Litz addressed the water accountability report and commented it is a work in progress.

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There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Councilmember Jonas. The motion was duly seconded and approved.

Mayor

Clerk