

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RURAL RETREAT TOWN
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2014, 7:00 P.M.**

Council Members Present: Vice-Mayor Dale Yontz; Jerrell Hall; Peggy Hash; James P. “Sean” Viars; Geary Jonas; James Lloyd

Council Members Absent: Mayor Timothy Litz

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

Administration Absent: None

Others Present: Jerry Hurt

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Vice-Mayor Yontz called the meeting to order and determined a quorum was present.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Geary Jonas.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Mayor Yontz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Viars to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2014 regular meeting. There being no discussion, the motion passed by a vote of six (6) for: Hall, Hash, Jonas, Lloyd, Viars, Yontz; zero (0) against.

CITIZEN’S TIME

None

CORRESPONDENCE

Councilmember Viars explained he had received a request from a citizen about sweeping the bike lane and he had already communicated the request with Town Manager James.

Vice-Mayor Yontz stated he had received a request that he had forwarded to Town Manager James. He explained the Rural Retreat High School Boosters are interested in having a pow-wow in the town flat following the first home football game. Town Manager James explained he

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will contact the boosters and ask that they submit a request. Vice-Mayor Yontz asked if the Council will have time to approve the event prior to the first home game and also asked if the Council should pre-approve the event. Town Manager James stated the game will be held prior to the next meeting. Councilmember Hash made a motion to sanction the Rural Retreat High School Boosters request to hold a pow-wow in the town flat following the home football game on Friday, September 5 pending a request being submitted to Town Manager James. Councilmember Jonas seconded the motion, there being no discussion, the motion passed by a vote of six (6) for: Hall, Hash, Jonas, Lloyd, Viars, Yontz; zero (0) against.

Councilmember Hash reported the noon whistle hasn't been working. Town Manager James stated he had also noticed it wasn't working and that he would contact Dave Evans. Chief Mitchell explained when there is a power outage it has to be reset.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell stated to date he has had an increase in dog complaints which he has been trying to identify the animals and speak to the owners. Since school has resumed, Chief Mitchell has been conducting a walk through at the elementary and high/middle schools. Chief Mitchell explained a new school resource officer has been assigned to Rural Retreat and he is working with him. He is continuing to monitor traffic and issuing summons. Chief Mitchell explained he had attended the quarterly meeting of the Local Emergency Planning Committee. He stated the incidents discussed included the recent train derailment and train fire. Town Manager James added this was a regional group. Chief Mitchell stated representatives from Wythe County Community Hospital, Wythe County, Town of Wytheville, VDOT, DEQ and Virginia Emergency Management were also in attendance.

Councilmember Hall inquired if the new school resource officer was Deputy Vaught. Chief Mitchell stated he was the officer he met with at the school. Vice-Mayor Yontz stated the Sheriff's Office decided to rotate the resource officers and will probably do so on a yearly basis.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS – Town Manager James stated we are behind on making the reappointments to the Planning Commission and each will need to be done retroactively. He explained a worksheet has been compiled with each members name and the dates for their terms. Four of the six members to be reappointed are interested in being replaced so we will need to begin looking for new members. Charles McMillan has agreed to continue to serve until the end of the year and James Hall, Brenda Atwell and Larry Lindsey have agreed to serve until the end of their term. Town Manager James encouraged the Council to look for citizens that may be interested in serving on the Planning Commission. Currently, one citizen is

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interested and three more citizens are needed. A motion was made by Councilmember Hall and seconded by Councilmember Lloyd to retroactively reappoint the following to the Planning Commission: Charles McMillan for the term 06/01/12 to 05/31/16; James A. Hall for the term 06/01/11 to 05/31/15; Larry Lindsey for the term 06/01/11 to 05/31/15; George Reasor for the term 06/01/14 to 05/31/18; Brenda Atwell for the term 06/01/11 to 05/31/15; and Allen West for the term 06/01/12 to 05/31/16. Councilmember Jonas asked Town Manager James who was interested in serving on the Planning Commission. Town Manager James responded Roger Hedrick. There being no further discussion, the motion passed by a vote of six (6) for: Hall, Hash, Jonas, Lloyd, Viars, Yontz; zero (0) against.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAYS – Chairman Yontz stated each year he sends out feelers to various acts to get an idea of what they cost. He explained a request was sent to the Alabama group and communication began back and forth so he thought they may be a possibility. He had contacted Mayor Litz and he had said if they were priced reasonable then proceed with booking them. Chairman Yontz stated after further discussion their contact told him they had cut their price and the best they could do was \$350,000. He stated he thanked them for their offer but informed them they were way beyond our price range.

Chairman Yontz stated he would like to have a committee meeting to discuss other potential acts. He stated Mayor Litz has suggested Dailey & Vincent. Chairman Yontz further stated Dailey & Vincent are available packaged with Lee Greenwood.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE – Chairman Hall reported the committee hasn't met due to waiting on a response from Smyth County. Town Manager James stated he had not received a response. He further stated if no response is received or Smyth County isn't interested there will not be a need to proceed with developing Staley Spring at this time.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The following items were discussed and/or acted upon:

NORFOLK & SOUTHERN – Staff has forwarded a letter to Norfolk & Southern addressing the current maintenance easement of the 75' behind the Randy's building. (Attached – mapping and letter) We are requesting N&S to consider reducing the maintenance easement to a uniform 25' throughout our downtown business district to assist in the marketing of the building to potential developers. This project is a priority within our downtown revitalization plan. Town Manager James explained the drawing reflects proposed plans for the farmer's market and office spaces within the Randy's building.

PHASE 8 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – The VDOT drainage division is currently reviewing our design plans. We hope to have feedback very soon so we can move forward with the creation of the project contract.

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SCADA SYSTEM RFP'S – Staff is continuing to coordinate with interested firms on the preparation of the SCADA proposals due to the town at the end of September. We will be extending the deadline for accepting technical questions until September 5. A minimum of three responses are anticipated.

WYTHE HEALTH & REHABILITATION CENTER – We have been assisting Integrated Construction on discussions with AEP on the lighting schematics for the facility. It seems to be moving forward at this time.

MID-ATLANTIC BUILDING – Staff contacted Swanson, Inc. representatives in Pittsburgh who will be handling the sale of the Mid-Atlantic facility. They have agreed to work with the Town and the Joint Industrial Development Authority on securing a buyer. We hope to use the marketing capabilities of the JIDA and state economic development agencies to locate a new employer.

RURAL RETREAT RECREATIONAL FACILITY PROJECT – Staff has identified a potential site in town. The property owner has asked for time to consider our request and financial discussion will begin with the Finance Committee and the item will be discussed with the citizen committee at that point.

MOVIES IN THE PARK – Staff has finalized a licensing agreement with Swank, Inc. and we will only be charged for every movie chosen for showing. We have selected CARS, a kid friendly movie for our first movie in the park. We will finalize a date this week for September, secure all the needed equipment and begin the advertisement effort.

Councilmember Lloyd asked where the movie will be shown at. Town Manager James responded at the Pepper Stage.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk/Treasurer Guynn informed the Council that the firm Hicok, Fern, Brown and Garcia has completed their work to prepare the books for the audit which will be completed by Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates on September 8 & 9.

The bills for August 26, 2014 were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

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

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ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor

Clerk