

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RURAL RETREAT TOWN  
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2014, 7:00 P.M.**

Council Members Present: Mayor Timothy Litz; Vice-Mayor Dale Yontz; Peggy Hash; James P. "Sean" Viars; Geary Jonas; James Lloyd

Council Members Absent: Jerrell Hall

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

Administration Absent: None

Others Present: Jerry Hurt; Billy Anderson

**DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

Mayor Litz 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 Mayor Litz.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Yontz, seconded by Councilmember Viars to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2014 regular meeting. There being no discussion, the motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hash, Jonas, Lloyd, Viars, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Hall.

**CITIZEN'S TIME**

Those present did not wish to address the Council.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

RURAL RETREAT – WYTHE COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION HAUNTED DEPOT REQUEST – Town Manager James reported he had been corresponding with Tanya Fontaine with the Rural Retreat – Wythe County Fair Association about the haunted depot event being held at the Rural Retreat Depot and closing the street in front of the depot. He asked Mrs. Fontaine to submit a written request for the street closure and the dates and times for the haunted

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 14, 2014 – PAGE 2**

depot. Mrs. Fontaine submitted the request. Town Manager James recommended this request be approved. A motion was made by Councilmember Lloyd and seconded by Councilmember Hash to grant the request made by the Rural Retreat – Wythe County Fair Association to close the portion of West Railroad Avenue at the depot for the haunted depot event to be held October 24<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup>, 6-10 p.m., October 30<sup>th</sup> 6-9 p.m., October 31<sup>st</sup> and November 1<sup>st</sup> 6-10 p.m. There being no discussion, the motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hash, Jonas, Lloyd, Viars, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Hall.

**CITIZEN APPRECIATION** – Vice-Mayor Yontz reported he wanted to bring the next item to everyone's attention and he had forward the message to Town Manager James who has already addressed it with the town employees especially Brenda Maxey and Lori Guynn. He explained he had received an email from Deputy Vaught thanking the town staff for notifying him of a water leak that he was unaware of at a property he owns. Mr. Vaught explained he had forgotten to update his information at the town hall and he was very impressed that the issue was handled by contacting him via snail mail because they knew the letter would get to him to resolve the problem. Vice-Mayor Yontz stated when an employee goes above and beyond and the citizens are recognizing it then he feels the employee needs a pat on the back. Mayor Litz commented it is easier to complain that it is to take time to give praise.

**BEACHFEST** – Town Manager James explained Vice-Mayor Yontz had received a letter from Vicki Sprouse who wants to attempt to host a Beachfest in Rural Retreat next year. He stated over the next few months they will be working out the details but he wanted to bring it to the Council's attention. Vice-Mayor Yontz explained he had spoken to Town Manager James and Mayor Litz about possibly incorporating the Beachfest into Heritage Days to change things up for one year then go back to what we have been doing depending on how it works out. He further stated this will need to be discussed more then decide what we want to do. Vice-Mayor Yontz explained some details would change if it is included in Heritage Days versus being a standalone event.

### **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Mitchell reviewed his monthly activity report for September. He reported he is working with the Wythe County Sheriff's Office on the larceny investigations. One of the larcenies has been solved by he and an investigator and it was determined it was not part of the other larcenies that have occurred. Chief Mitchell reported he and the Wythe County Sheriff's Office are patrolling the areas where the larcenies are occurring more. They are talking with each other often to stay updated on any new occurrences, if any. Chief Mitchell explained the high school homecoming parade and game which he attended for a time were held the previous evening. He stated both went well and there was a good crowd for a Monday night game. Chief Mitchell noted the pending weather for the next two days is a concern and he has spoken to Central Dispatch and they are to contact him, Dave Evans or Jay Hawkins if there is a significant change. He advised that citizens keep their cell phones turned on and the volume up to ensure they hear the weather alerts sent out by Wythe County's alert system.

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 14, 2014 – PAGE 3**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Councilmember Hash inquired about the trailer located on Chinquapin Avenue. Town Manager James stated he is working with Mr. Shupe and he had informed him that he had not seen the owner of the trailer for a while. Mr. Shupe is aware the trailer must be removed.

MAIN STREET TRAFFIC STUDY – Town Manager James reported the traffic study on Main Street has been completed by VDOT. The Residency Administrator has told him the information hasn't been compiled yet but a response should be available next week. Mayor Litz commented he didn't want this to be forgotten.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

MAP-21 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT PHASE 10 RESOLUTION – Town Manager James requested a motion to approve the MAP-21 Sidewalk Improvement Resolution for phase 10 of the project to construct sidewalks in the downtown area. He explained the resolution outlines the town's obligation to pay 20% of the cost share for the project. A motion was made by Councilmember Jonas, seconded by Vice-Mayor Yontz to approve the MAP-21 Sidewalk Improvement Resolution for phase 10 and passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hash, Jonas, Lloyd, Viars, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Hall.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

HERITAGE DAYS – Vice-Mayor Yontz reported a meeting will be held following the conclusion of the Council meeting.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE – Town Manager James reported he had met with Chairman Hall and discussed possible dates to meet with the Wythe County Water Committee.

### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

The following items were discussed and/or acted upon:

PHASE 8 & 9 SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS – We are still awaiting final approval from VDOT on Phase 8 design. We will again contact them this week to secure an update so we can move forward.

Finalization for Phase 9 funding has not yet been received in the office. VDOT will be contacted this week.

SOUTH FORK REED CREEK SEWER PROJECT – Our application to the Department of Environmental Quality for Virginia Clear Water Revolving Loan Funding has been listed in the top ten for applications across the state. On September 29<sup>th</sup> the CWRLF Board approved statewide projects funded at \$83,965,578. A public hearing will be held in Richmond, Virginia on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Following this meeting final notification of funding will be forwarded. We

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 14, 2014 – PAGE 4**

will then review the budget and decide how to fit this into our debt service. The Mount Rogers grant will also be used to offset.

**RURAL RETREAT TIMES** – Staff is finalizing our latest edition of the Times. We hope to have the newsletter out by next week. A draft was sent to Vice-Mayor Yontz this afternoon.

**EQUIPMENT SURPLUS** – The auction being hosted on the GovDeals website for disposal of the old trash truck has exceeded expectations. The auction will close on October 24<sup>th</sup>. To date the bids are close to \$4,000 with 36 bids received.

**COUNCIL APPOINTEES** – On November 25<sup>th</sup> Council will be asked to meet in Closed Session to discuss the potential appointments to the Planning Commission and Joint Industrial Development Board. Final vote will be held the following council meeting. The terms for the appointees will begin January 1, 2015.

**PUBLIC HEARING – ZONING ORDINANCE REVISION** – A public hearing will be held by the Planning Commission on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Council action will be requested on the 25<sup>th</sup>. More details on the exact changes will be available before the meeting.

**GARMENT FACTORY** – Staff is assisting BB&T property marketers in securing the purchase of the facility and parcel. Council will be updated on the project as we move forward.

Mayor Litz explained there is a buzz around town about the garment factory. He stated he has been asked why hasn't the town bought it but he felt the town didn't need any unwanted real estate.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Clerk/Treasurer Guynn reported the 2014 tax bills have been mailed and should be received by the citizens no later than Thursday or Friday of this week. The 2014 real estate bills totaled \$216,237.36 and the personal property bills totaled \$101,273.68 with neither amount including delinquent balances. Clerk/Treasurer Guynn explained with the changes this year in the taxation of personal property the town gained almost 400 new accounts to our tax books. Due to the change several exonerations have been received and more are expected.

Clerk/Treasurer Guynn also explained if citizens had any discrepancies on their personal property tax bills for the town or Wythe County they need to contact the office of the Wythe County Commissioner of Revenue and they will issue the appropriate paperwork to clear the discrepancies from both taxing entities. She noted it will possibly take several days to receive the paperwork but issues will be resolved.

The invoices for October 14, 2014 were read and approved.

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 14, 2014 – PAGE 5**

**TALK OF THE TOWN**

No one was available to attend the *Talk of the Town* radio program at the WYVE/WXBX radio station on Wednesday morning.

**CLOSED MEETING – DISCUSSION OF REAL PROPERTY**

A motion was made by Councilmember Viars, seconded by Vice-Mayor Yontz to convene to a closed meeting in accordance with §2.2-3711,A-3 of the Code of Virginia - discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

The motion was approved with the following voting in favor: Hash, Jonas, Lloyd, Viars, Yontz.

Mayor Litz called the regular meeting back into open session.

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Yontz, seconded by Councilmember Viars, to adopt the following Resolution:

**WHEREAS**, the Rural Retreat Town Council has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and,

**WHEREAS**, Section 2.2-3712, paragraph D, of the Code of Virginia requires a certificate by this Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rural Retreat Town Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member’s knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certificate resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Council.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>	<b>Ayes</b>	<b>Nays</b>
Peggy Hash	<b>X</b>	
Geary W. Jonas	<b>X</b>	
James N. Lloyd	<b>X</b>	
James P. “Sean” Viars	<b>X</b>	
Dale Yontz	<b>X</b>	

Absent during meeting: Jerrell Hall

Absent during vote: Jerrell Hall

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 14, 2014 – PAGE 6**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Vice-Mayor Yontz. The motion was duly seconded and approved.

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Mayor

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Clerk