

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RURAL RETREAT TOWN
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2016 7:00 P.M.**

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

Council Members Absent: None

Administration Present: James Childers, Town Manager; Brenda Maxey, Clerk/Secretary; Scott Mitchell, Police Chief

Administration Absent: None

Others Present: None

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 and seconded by Councilmember Jonas to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2016 regular meeting and January 21, 2016 called meeting. There being no discussion, the motion passed by a vote for four (4) for: Yontz, Hall, Jonas, Lloyd; zero (0) against; two (2) abstain: Hash, Viars.

CITIZEN’S TIME - NONE

CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell distributed his 2015 year-end police report. Before beginning his report he wanted to commend the maintenance crew on the good job they did on snow removal on the town streets.

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Chief Mitchell reviewed his year-end report and stated that miscellaneous complaints increased 10% from previous year; larceny/vandalism and health/welfare checks increased 5% from previous year. Reports turned into State Police shows an increase of 10% from last year based on information received to date and increase is due to responding to more calls instead of the County stated Chief Mitchell.

In reference to the snow removal, Councilmember Hash stated she had heard many compliments on the work done and citizens were glad to see Town Manager Childers assisting in the snow removal.

UNFINISH BUSINESS

DR. PEPPER LOT PROJECT – Councilmember Lloyd stated that after speaking with Troy Harris of Dr. Pepper Corporation after the last meeting, Mr. Harris felt it would help if we could find a property owner who would allow interstate billboards on their property for advertising. Councilmember Viars asked what will be on the billboards. Councilmember Lloyd stated it would state for example Home of Dr. Pepper but he had heard there were new laws on what is allowed on interstate billboards placed on property running adjacent to interstate 81. We do have permission to place one of the billboards on one side of the interstate from a property owner but we need another location so it is visible from north and south bound traffic on Interstate I-81 stated Councilmember Lloyd. Town Manager Childers stated he felt confident we could get permission from the second land owner. He spoke with VDOT about placing an interstate billboard and the town will have to submit a plan of the billboard to VDOT and receive a permit.

STREET LIGHTING –Town Manager Childers reported he had spoken with Mrs. Rich and explained the quote from AEP of \$700 to place a pole and light on Richfield Street where her home is located. Mrs. Rich feels that is too expensive and her main concern is Halloween time and the amount of children on the street with no lighting in that area.

Mayor Litz asked the Council to enter into a Closed Meeting under 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia to discuss personnel matters.

RE: CLOSED MEETING

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, sub-paragraph 1 of the Code of Virginia , discussion, consideration or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment; appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of any public body.

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

Mayor Litz called the regular meeting back into open session.

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Motion was made by Councilmember Lloyd, seconded by Councilmember Viars,

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.

Vote:	Ayes	Nays
Jerrell Hall	X	
Peggy Hash	X	
Geary Jonas	X	
James Lloyd	X	
James P. “Sean” Viars	X	
Dale Yontz	X	

Absent during meeting: None

Absent during vote: None

Councilmember Hash made a motion to make an employment offer to Monica H. Patton for the Clerk/Treasurer position. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jonas. Councilmember Jonas commented this was a hard decision to make and felt they had three qualified applicants. Councilmember Hash stated the Council consensus is to give Clerk Maxey a \$500 bonus for the extra time and work she had done during the open Treasurer position. Clerk Maxey thanked them for the bonus. Town Manager Childers reiterated that Clerk Maxey had stepped up and accepted added responsibilities while the Clerk/Treasurer position was being filled. Mayor Litz asked for a roll call vote and the motion was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Hall, Hash, Jonas, Lloyd, Viars, Yontz; Nays: none. Mayor Litz asked if the Clerk/Treasurer position could be considered an appointment by the council at this time. Town Manager Childers replied Mrs. Patton cannot be appointed as Treasurer at this time until salary/benefit package has been reviewed and she accepts the position.

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NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Viars asked if a new director had been appointed to the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Squad (RRES). Councilmember Hash responded two directors have been appointed at this time on a 90 day basis: Leigh Ann Mitchell and Sallie Earles.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAYS – Councilmember Yontz stated work has begun on plans for the 2016 Heritage Days. At this time the contracts have been signed for the main acts for Saturday performance and the gospel acts have been secured for the Friday night singing.

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS – Clerk Maxey reminded Council that Robinson, Farmer, Cox will be at the February 9, 2016 meeting to provide a report to Council about the audit.

Councilmember Yontz asked when Town Manager Childers wants the Financial Committee to start working on the FY 2016-2017 budget. Town Manager Childers replied he would like for Brian Reed with Mount Rogers Planning District Commission to assist in the budget for the FY 2016-2017. Councilmember Yontz stated he believed with this being Town Manager Childers first year of doing the Town budget and having a new Treasurer it would be best to have him as a consultant.

PERSONNEL, ORDINANCES & LEGAL MATTERS – No report.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – No report.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

SNOW REMOVAL - Town Manager Childers attended an emergency meeting with county officials and reviewed preparedness plan before the snow storm. The town had the dump trucks loaded with salt and ready to proceed in snow removal. Town Manager Childers stated the town employees did a great job keeping the streets cleared.

PHASE VIII SIDEWALK PROJECT– (Baumgardner) Town Manager Childers reported Wednesday, January 27 there will be a pre-bid conference with Anderson & Associates from Blacksburg in the Council Chambers at the Town Office. Sealed bids will be opened on February 10 at 2:00 p.m. for the phase VIII sidewalk project and a contractor will be chosen.

RURAL RETREAT WASTEWATER ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND COMPLIANCE PROJECT – Town Manager Childers stated Rural Water was not able to attend due to weather and it will be rescheduled. The Town was responsible for the liquid smoke for the smoke testing and it has been purchased. Mayor Litz asked if Town Manager Childers has discussed this with Brian Reed should there be need for grant money. Town Manager Childers stated that Rural Water does not charge for this test and to wait until the test is completed to

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see what projects may be involved then check with Brian Reed to see if grant money is available if there are repairs to be made.

Town Manager Childers complimented the Council on the work of selecting a Clerk/Treasurer.

Councilmember Lloyd asked about doing the concert series in the past but the only large turnout is when Wayne Henderson plays. Councilmember Hash replied that the turnout is not good for other concert performers and she felt the advertising wasn't very good for this event. Town Manager Childers asked who was involved and in charge of the advertisement. Response was past Town Manager, Michael James. Councilmember Lloyd replied due to lack of attendance Wayne Henderson was the only concert performance. Councilmember Hash suggested do the concert this year but just have Wayne Henderson. Mayor Litz stated he thought a banner put on the poles on Church Street would be a good advertisement plus posters. Councilmember Yontz replied he did not receive poster information until the week of the concert to print them. Councilmember Lloyd suggested going in with the Depot Foundation for the concert but if going to put up a banner to book more than one performer. There is a conflict of schedules stated Councilmember Yontz. Councilmember Yontz asked about doing a Thursday night concert instead of Friday. Mayor Litz doesn't feel there is enough information to make a decision tonight and will discuss at the next Council meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The invoices for January 26, 2016 were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

A Councilmember was not available to attend the *Talk of the Town* radio program at the WYVE/WXBX radio station on Wednesday morning.

ADJOURNMENT

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