

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RURAL RETREAT TOWN  
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 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; Monica H. Patton, Clerk/Treasurer; Scott Mitchell, Police Chief

Administration Absent: None

Others Present: Amy McBride; Jerry Hurt; Billy Anderson; Brian Vaught; Gary Houseman

**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 Vice-Mayor Yontz and seconded by Councilmember Viars to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2016 regular meeting. There being no discussion, the motion passed by a vote of six (6) for: Yontz, Viars, Jonas, Hash; Lloyd; Hall; zero (0) against.

Mayor Litz requested a motion to authorize Monica Patton, Clerk/Treasurer to sign checks on bank accounts. Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Yontz and seconded by Councilmember Lloyd. There being no discussion, the motion passed by a vote of six (6) for: Yontz, Lloyd, Jonas, Hash, Hall, Viars; zero (0) against.

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### **CITIZEN'S TIME**

Jerry Hurt gave an update on behalf of the Depot Foundation. Mr. Hurt stated the goal for 2016-17 is to add a second restroom, HVAC, insulation, wiring, lights, and all floors, walls, and ceilings. Mr. Hurt added that the Foundation is working with the O. Winston Link Museum for a 60<sup>th</sup> celebration on December 24, 2016. Mr. Hurt reported the vision of the Depot Foundation is to bring additional activity to the downtown area at the Depot. Some of the activities that have taken place and will be taking place in the future are: Christmas bazaar, family reunions, auctions, musical jams, photo shoots, home tours, farmers market, boy scouts, meeting rooms, museum (with Smithsonian Institute), health & immunization diagnostic clinics, “streaming of programs” to/from Virginia Tech and others, host local organizations, educational center for local schools, government agencies, and industries. Mr. Hurt requested support from the Town of Rural Retreat in the amount of \$2,500. He also requested an additional \$7,500 be added to the 2016-17 budget. Mr. & Mrs. Hurt agree to match the \$2500 and the \$7500 allowance, if approved by the Council. Mayor Litz requested a motion to approve the contribution of \$2,500. Motion was made by Councilmember Jonas and seconded by Councilmember Hall. There being no further discussion the motion was approved by a vote of five (5) for: Jonas, Yontz, Hash, Hall, Viars; zero (0) against; one (1) abstain: Lloyd. Mayor Litz thanked Jerry Hurt for the presentation. Mr. Hurt stated the Smithsonian Institute would like to speak to some of the older folks in town sometime in the Spring regarding the history of Rural Retreat.

Amy McBride, Team Leader of the 2016 Farmer's Market at the Depot was present and gave a report on the plans for the 2016 Market. Ms. McBride stated that the Market will be extended by two weeks this year. It will run from June 8, 2016 to October 5, 2016 in order to align the Market more closely to the sister markets in Wytheville and Marion. Ms. McBride added the extension would increase our vendor and customer base as well as offer more variety of produce, fruit, berries and plants. The Market will run from 1:30 pm until 5:30 pm every Wednesday. Ms. McBride reported the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce and the Wythe-Bland Foundation will be hosting a Community Expo on May 3, 2016. She indicated this will help advertise the Plant Day planned for May 6, 2016 from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Ms. McBride shared plans of a Fundraiser Dinner sometime in September or October 2016. She stated plans are to have, “Dinner at the Depot” consisting of dinner, and a dessert auction. Mayor Litz requested Ms. McBride draft a letter on behalf of the Farmer's Market indicating beginning and ending dates and times. The letter should be clear that local businesses have been considered when closing streets. Town Manager Childers added the school system needs to be considered as well due to school bus schedules. Mayor Litz stated the Town can assist with parking issues and provide traffic cones as needed. Mayor Litz indicated the Town wants to make sure all citizens are considered regarding parking and street closures. The Council will vote on the street closure when the letter from the Farmer's Market is received.

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### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Town Manager Childers read a letter from Stephanie Parker regarding a 5K run to benefit St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Stephanie's daughter, Abigail Parker has been a patient at St. Jude's Children's Hospital since July 20, 2015. The projected course will begin at Rural Retreat Fire Station on Railroad Avenue and continue across Main Street onto Church Street. Participants will continue up Sherwood Ave, turn around and go back down Sherwood Avenue before turning left back onto Church Street then back onto Main Street. The course will continue on Gienow Road to Buck Avenue. The final part of the course will turn by the library then back onto Railroad Avenue to the Fire Department. Mrs. Parker requests access to the Dr. Pepper Stage for entertainment after the event. She also requests approval for VDOT to place the electronic signs on Main Street to advise motorists of the road closures. Chief Mitchell stated he can request assistance from Wythe County Sheriff's Department to direct traffic at intersections. Wythe County Deputy, Brian Vaught added that the participants need to cross Main Street in front of The Bank of Marion where the crosswalk is instead of at the intersection at Food Country for safety reasons. Mayor Litz requested a motion to approve the event. The motion was made by Councilmember Viars and seconded by Vice-Mayor Yontz. Councilmember Viars remarked that the "Mr Strong" 5K event raised \$90,000 over the 5 years it was held. He stated the event is a great opportunity to help St. Jude's Children's Hospital. There being no further discussion the motion passed by a vote of six (6) for: Lloyd, Jonas, Yontz, Hash, Hall, Viars; zero (0) against.

Town Manager Childers read a letter from the Rural Retreat High School 2016 After Prom Committee. The Committee wants to provide a place for the students to go to be safe from drinking, drugs and dangerous activities. The Committee is requesting any donations from community and local businesses to help achieve their goals. Councilmember Viars stated he thought the Town usually contributed \$100 to the committee. Councilmember Lloyd made a motion to contribute \$100 to the RRHS After Prom Committee; seconded by Councilmember Jonas. There being no further discussion the motion passed with a vote of five (5) for: Lloyd, Jonas, Yontz, Hall, Viars; zero (0) against; abstain: Hash.

Mayor Litz reported that he received an email from Joseph Hand, a former citizen of Rural Retreat. Mr. Hand stated that he purchased the old town clock that was bought by Black Dog Salvage earlier this year. He wants to restore the clock that hung outside the old Town Hall and return it as a gift to the Town of Rural Retreat. He wants the town to consider accepting the clock and hanging it up. Mayor Litz stated a decision does not need to be made at this time.

Councilmember Viars reported he was contacted by a citizen regarding the crosswalks. The crosswalks are in need of attention. The crosswalk at The Bank of Rural Retreat is no longer visible due to the heavy traffic during construction of Carrington Place. Councilmember Viars requests the crosswalk at Dr. Spraker's office updated as well. Town Manager Childers explained that kids walking home from school go through the crosswalk. He stated he would contact VDOT and see if they can update the crosswalks.

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### **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Mitchell reported all the equipment has been installed in the new vehicle.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

DR. PEPPER LOT PROJECT – Councilmember Lloyd reported we have permission from property owners regarding the billboards. He intends to visit the Dr. Pepper museum in Waco, TX next week and meet Troy Harris regarding the corporation.

INDIAN CIRCLE TRAFFIC CONCERN – Town Manager Childers stated he met with Pam Heath with VDOT. Pam Heath will do a sight distance analysis and report back to Town Manager Childers. He will update concerned citizens as soon as he receives results of the analysis.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Approval of Phase 8 Construction Bid – Town Manager Childers reported King General Contractors submitted the lowest bid which was \$20,000 under the budgeted amount. Town Manager Childers stated they have done work for The Town of Rural Retreat in the past. Anderson and Associates are in agreement to hire King General Contractors for this project. Councilmember Lloyd made a motion to accept the bid from King General Contractors and the motion was seconded by Councilmember Hall. There being no further discussion. The motion was approved by a vote of six (6) for: Lloyd, Jonas, Yontz, Hash, Hall, Viars; zero (0) against.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

HERITAGE DAYS – Vice-Mayor Yontz stated he would have an update at the next meeting. Vice-Mayor Yontz announced that he was contacted by Jack Weaver regarding the National Day of Prayer. Mr. Weaver requests use of the Dr. Pepper stage on Thursday, May 5, 2016. Mayor Litz indicated this issue would be addressed at the next meeting.

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS – Mayor Litz stated the budget process has begun.

PERSONNEL, ORDINANCES & LEGAL MATTERS – No report.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – No report.

### **TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT**

Town Manager Childers reported he met with Brian Reed, Mount Rogers regarding the block grant for Downtown Revitalization. He contacted businesses, organizations and citizens that have spent

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money in the Downtown area. These funds will be included in the application showing private investments. There will be a second Public Hearing in March then the application will be submitted. The Town should hear about the funding in July or August.

WASTE WATER ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT COMPLIANCE PROGRAM – Town Manager Childers stated he met with Allen Leonard with HD Supply and they inspected some of the problematic manholes. Town Manager Childers reported that he spoke with Brian Reed from Mount Rogers. Mr. Reed stated he could possibly get a grant in the amount of \$90,000 with a \$10,000 match from the town.

### **TREASURER’S REPORT**

The invoices for February 23, 2016 were read and approved.

### **TALK OF THE TOWN**

Mayor Litz and Vice-Mayor Yontz are to attend the *Talk of the Town* radio program at the WYVE/WXBX radio station on Thursday morning.

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 Hall, seconded by Councilmember Lloyd 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.

Motion was made by Councilmember Hash, seconded by Vice-Mayor Yontz,  
**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;

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

Absent during meeting: None

Absent during vote: None

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk