

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RURAL RETREAT TOWN
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 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: Jerry Hurt; Brian Vaught; Leah Ann Mitchell; Sally Earles; Brian Reed.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Councilmember 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 February 23, 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.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Sally Earles and Leah Ann Mitchell of the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Service were present and presented the 2016-2017 Budget. Mrs. Earles explained that the Rescue Squad provides 24 hour advanced and basic life support to the citizens of Rural Retreat and surrounding area. Mrs. Earles stated the cost for training each member is \$400.00. It costs between \$200,000 to \$275,000 each year to operate the Rescue Squad. Mrs. Earles indicated the Town of Rural Retreat budgeted \$10,000 in 2015 for the Rescue Squad. The Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Service used the money for training and education, vehicle maintenance for ambulance and crash truck, building maintenance, cleaning supplies, garage doors, heating, new software to comply with state and federal standards, and medical supplies. Mrs. Earles stated the

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goals for 2016-2017 are to provide CPR and First Aid classes to the community, create public awareness on safety, host free public blood pressure and blood screenings, provide First Aid kits to the community, additional training for new members, provide medical transports, disaster training to community, and continue to expand driver training and safe vehicle operation standards. Town Manager Childers stated that the Town paid the budgeted amount of \$12,000 for the 2014-2015 budget year. As of 3-8-16 for this budget year (2015-2016) the Town has not paid the \$10,000 that was budgeted. Town Manager Childers explained that the funds must be requested in writing. Councilmember Viars asked if the calls they receive have increased since Carrington Place opened. Mrs. Earles stated they have seen a significant increase in transport calls. Miss Mitchell indicated that they have a new billing company and they are receiving more payments from insurance companies. Councilmember Lloyd stated that we appreciate the hard work they do in the community. Town Manager Childers asked how much they would like to request for the 2016-1017 Budget. Mrs. Earles stated they would be requesting \$12,000. Mayor Litz stated they must submit the request in writing.

Brian Vaught addressed the Council and expressed his appreciation to the Town Manager. Mr. Vaught stated that he had a concern on Mt. View Avenue last week for which he requested the Town Manager's assistance. Mr. Vaught stated that this is the only interaction he has had with Town Manager Childers as Town Manager and he gives him an A+. He stated in his opinion as a citizen he believes the Council "knocked it out of the ballpark" hiring Town Manager Childers. Mayor Litz stated that the Council appreciates him taking the time to come in and voice his opinion.

CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk/Treasurer Patton read a letter from the Rural Retreat Depot Foundation thanking the Town for the recent financial support to the Depot Foundation.

Clerk/Treasurer Patton read an email she received from Amy McBride with the Farmer's Market. Mayor Litz requested Ms. McBride provide information in writing regarding street closures, and dates and times of Market activities after her presentation at the February 23, 2016 Council meeting. The 2016 Farmer's Market will be each Wednesday from June 8, 2016 through October 5, 2016, and will be open from 1:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Streets will be closed from 1:15 p.m. until 5:45 p.m. A Plant Day Sale is planned for May 6, 2016 from 2:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., and streets will be closed from approximately 1:45 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. for this event. A dinner is planned for October 1, 2016 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and no streets will be closed during this time. Ms. McBride stated in the email that the Rural Retreat Winery and Depot Designs have been contacted regarding street closures and both businesses are fine with the street closures.

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POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell reported very little activity on the report for February 2016. He stated that is due to his absence most of the month of February due to illness.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DR. PEPPER LOT PROJECT – Councilmember Lloyd reported that he did not go to Waco, Texas to meet with Dr. Pepper Corporation. He stated that since the Town does not have the legalities down regarding the billboards he did not see any reason to go forward at this time. Town Manager Childers stated that he has contacted Mr. Simms with VDOT and he has not had the opportunity to discuss the matter further with Mr. Simms. Councilmember Lloyd stated he will contact Mr. Harris of Dr. Pepper Corporation as soon as we get approval from VDOT.

INDIAN CIRCLE TRAFFIC CONCERN – Town Manager Childers stated he met with Pam Heath of Virginia Department of Transportation. Ms. Heath will have the line of sight assessment to Town Manager Childers by the end of this week along with a diagram of the no parking area for the parking lot at the Hilltop. Town Manager Childers expressed that safety of the citizens is his main concern. He indicated that Ms. Heath with VDOT agrees with the safety concern. Councilmember Hall stated that any action taken must be by authority of VDOT because the parking concern is on the right-of-way. Town Manager Childers stated that the line of sight test is three and one half foot off of the ground line of sight which is the average view of a driver. There must be 390 feet of unobstructed line of sight.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER – Vice-Mayor Yontz stated that he is meeting with Jack Weaver next week to finalize plans for the National Day of Prayer. He has submitted a request to Town Manager Childers for use of the Dr. Pepper Stage on Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 12:00 noon. Vice-Mayor Yontz requested everyone that can to attend and encourage others as well.

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAYS – Vice-Mayor Yontz stated that he has received the executed contract from Moe Bandy and he is still waiting on the contract from Janie Frickie. Vice-Mayor Yontz stated the Rescue Squad is going forward and they are expecting more Vendors this year than we have ever had in the past. They hope to have at least 60 Vendors set up at the festival this year. Town-Manager Childers commented that the deposits for the performers have been sent and he spoke with the Managers of the group. He told the Managers the Town of Rural Retreat would

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not provide alcoholic beverages to the performers. The event is a community and family oriented event and the Town is not comfortable providing alcohol.

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS - None

PERSONNEL, ORDINANCES & LEGAL MATTERS – Town Manager Childers reported that David “Enos” Jones gave his two week notice today. Mr. Jones will be taking a position with VDOT. His last day will be March 24, 2016. Town-Manager Childers stated that he had no problems with Mr. Jones and he wishes him and his family the very best going forward in his new career and in the future. The vacant position will be posted in the newspaper and on the Town’s Website. Town-Manager Childers stated that he feels confident that we will get a lot of applications and he will do his best to hire to most qualified person for the job.

PUBLIC UTILITIES - None

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

Town-Manager Childers stated that he and Clerk/Treasurer Patton agree that the billing system for utility billing is in need of attention. Town-Manager Childers indicated that he wants to go back and look at the ordinance for utility billing. The Town has several accounts that are behind on payment. The system in place at this time regarding reconnection and fees is unfair. Many times the maintenance workers are going out at six and seven o’clock in the evenings to reconnect water for citizens that call in late to make payments. He believes everyone should be treated equally and the Town needs to go by the book for disconnecting water service due to non-payment. Town-Manager Childers and Clerk/Treasurer Patton will be proposing a new and more efficient procedure for water disconnection and payments within the next couple of months. He stated that he wants to implement the new procedure July 1, 2016 and give citizens time to get their accounts up to date and become accustomed to the new policy and procedures.

Town-Manager Childers reported that he has made contact with Roger Musser regarding the upgrade of Cross Walks and he will follow up and report back to Council when he speaks with Mr. Musser.

Town-Manager Childers stated that our Meter Reading Software is obsolete. The Town will need to budget for a new system to read the water meters. He spoke with Allan with H.D. Supply and the cost is between \$13,000 to \$100,000. Town Manager Childers stated H.D. Supply has agreed to bring a demo machine the next time meters are read for the Town to try out. Councilmember Lloyd stated that the last time the Town purchased a meter reading machine all of the metal meter lids had to be replaced with plastic. Town-Manager Childers stated that the readers we have now read seventy-five percent which leaves approximately twenty-five percent of the meters to be read manually. The Town has over 1,000 meters that are read each month. Councilmember Viars inquired about how many delinquent water accounts the Town has on a monthly basis. Town-Manager stated that he will have an answer at the next meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The invoices for March 8, 2016 were read and approved.

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

Mayor Litz asked the Council to enter into a Closed Meeting under **§2.2-3711 (A) (3)** Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose.

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) (3)** 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: Lloyd, Jonas, Yontz, Hash, Hall, Viars.

Mayor Litz called the regular meeting back into open session.

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	

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Geary Jonas	X
James Lloyd	X
James P. “Sean” Viars	X
Dale Yontz	X

Absent during meeting: None

Absent during vote: None

Councilmember Lloyd made a motion to add \$22,938 to the original budgeted amount of \$150,000 for the Downtown Revitalization Project and to give Town-Manager Childers the authority to offer Jack Weaver up to \$95,000 for the old Farm Bureau property owned by Mr. Weaver. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Viars. Mayor Litz asked for a roll call vote and the motion was approved by the following vote: Ayes: Lloyd, Jonas, Yontz, Hash, Hall, Viars; Nays: none.

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.

Mayor

Clerk