

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RURAL RETREAT TOWN  
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON  
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2016 7:00 P.M.**

Council Members Present: Mayor Timothy Litz; Vice-Mayor Dale Yontz; Jerrell Hall; Geary Jonas; Peggy Hash; James Lloyd

Council Members Absent: James P. "Sean" Viars

Administration Present: Jason Childers, Town Manager; Monica Patton, Clerk/Treasurer; Scott Mitchell, Police Chief

Others Present: Tony Wright, Brian Reed, David Evans, Bob Lewis, Jack Weaver, Jerry Hurt, Roger Hedrick, Brian Vaught

**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 April 26, 2016 regular meeting. There being no discussion, the motion passed by a vote for five (5) for: Yontz, Hall, Jonas, Lloyd, Hash; zero (0) against.

**CITIZEN'S TIME**

Mr. Jack Weaver addressed the Council and just wanted to thank them for the help on National Day or Prayer.

Chief David Evans gave an update on C.J. Earles that no other notices have been received and he has not heard any resolution yet from Wythe County on outstanding medical bills from injury sustained during a fire. Also, Chief Evans reported the Fire Department has received grant money for smoke detectors and if there are any elderly persons in need of a smoke detector direct them to Chief Evans.

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – MAY 10, 2016 – PAGE 2**

Mr. Bob Lewis asked about a patch on Church Street from a water leak repair and asphalt was used to make a curve on the sidewalk. Tony Wright replied that the job is not completed and a curve and guttering will be put back. The patch is a temporary fix to ensure public safety.

Mr. Lewis stated that he thought the banner for the Farmer's Market was a good idea but he thinks that there needs to be a ratchet system attached to the current pole to make it safer to rise and lower banners. He suggested looking at the Town of Wytheville's ratchet system. Town Manager Childers stated that Mr. Roger Hedrick is going to look at the Town of Wytheville's ratchet system to see what we can implement here. He also commented that we should have a bucket truck by the end of May. AEP is decommissioning a bucket truck and as soon as their budget is approved we should be able to get the bucket truck. Town Manager Childers wanted to commend Tony Wright on the work he has done on getting this truck.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

An invitation was received from Carrington Place at Rural Retreat for a BBQ on Wednesday, 11, 2016 from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm. It is their first annual Carrington Cares Community Service BBQ.

A letter was received from Mr. Ken Noble thanking the town for relocating the street sign for Richmond Avenue to make it more visible to people .

Councilmember Jonas has received a request from Mr. Danny Cline with the Boy Scouts asking for a donation of \$150 for events that they attend. Councilmember Jonas made a motion to make a donation to the Boy Scouts in the amount of \$150 and was seconded by Councilmember Lloyd. Motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Yontz, Hall, Jonas, Lloyd, Hash; zero (0) against.

### **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Mitchell distributed his Monthly Activities Report and updated the Council that the radar sign is out every day now. There was a summons issued, as referenced on the monthly activities report, by using the handheld radar on Parsonage Avenue. He feels that it will definitely be an asset.

### **UNFINISH BUSINESS**

DR. PEPPER LOT PROJECT – Councilmember Lloyd stated we are approaching the point we will be contacting Troy Harris of Dr. Pepper Corporation about the billboards. Town Manager Childers added to this comment that Lamar has a billboard for rent on the service road that goes to the dirt track and there is one in Marion owned by Roland available for rent. These billboards were grandfathered in and Town Manager Childers is getting pricing on rental of these billboards.

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – MAY 10, 2016 – PAGE 3**

RENTAL OF RANDY’S PROPERTY – Town Manager Childers will hopefully have agreed upon terms for a lease with Jack Weaver at the next Council meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS - None**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

HERITAGE DAYS – Vice-Mayor Yontz stated he is working on finalizing the inflatables and has sent out sponsorship letters. He is still working on the advertising details and a decision needs to be made if we are going to use Three –Rivers Media or FM 94. He has the proposal from FM-94 but is still waiting on Three-Rivers Media. Town Manager Childers asked what the deadline to receive sponsorship contributions is. Vice-Mayor Yontz responded there is no deadline but posters and advertisements need to be completed by the end of June first of July.

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS – Vice-Mayor Yontz wanted to compliment the town office and Tony Wright on the input of the budget this year. He feels we are on track and not worried about finalizing and getting everything done on time.

PERSONNEL, ORDINANCES & LEGAL MATTERS – No report.

PUBLIC UTILITIES – Mayor Litz reported that there was a meeting with Smyth County Utility Committee and felt it was a very positive meeting. There will be more meetings with Smyth County Utility Committee about future endeavors between the Town of Rural Retreat and Smyth County but at this time these are discussion meetings only and no plans are being made.

### **TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT**

PHASE IX SIDEWALK PROJECT– (Baumgardner) Town Manager Childers reported that AEP has not started moving utility poles yet but King Construction will begin as soon as utility poles are moved. The official start date was May 9, 2016 but King Construction is doing preparation work until the utility poles are moved.

RURAL RETREAT WASTEWATER ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND COMPLIANCE PROJECT – Town Manager Childers stated we are in the process of laying our sewer pipe to correct our flow readings out of the Waste Water Treatment Plant due to a crushed pipe. He is anxious to see what kind of effect it has not only on our flow readings but our efficiencies at the Waste Water Plant.

CAPTIAL OUTLAY PROJECTS – Town Manager Childers asked Town Council if money that has been saved on budgeted items in the amount of \$36,014 can be used to purchase a new meter reading system. We can purchase it now or budget it for next year. Unfortunately, the current Interrogator we have is obsolete so if it breaks we would have to read manually or borrow a unit.

## **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – MAY 10, 2016 – PAGE 4**

Mayor Litz asked how many customers we have and Tony Wright answered 1180 customers. Councilmember Jonas made a motion to approve purchase of a new meter reading system and was seconded by Vice-Mayor Yontz. Mayor Litz asked if there would be only one Interrogator. Tony Wright responded that it would be a laptop system which will power up at the orange water towers and read 700 to 800 meters at one time. He also commented it would be time saving and would change reading meters from a day and a half to one day process. Mayor Litz asked if laptop is included in this package. Tony Wright responded it is a standard laptop and the programming is included in this system. The standard package cost is \$33,000 and we are working to include meters and MXU's in the package which would be an additional cost of \$5000 to \$7000 stated Tony Wright that they are trying to work out in the package cost of \$33,000. Motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Yontz, Hall, Jonas, Lloyd, Hash; zero (0) against.

**TRASH TRUCK** – Town Manager Childers stated he wanted to explain to the Council why the trash truck is not being used to pick up trash. There have been several citizens to ask about this. He explained that trash has to be at the transfer station each week by 3:00 pm. If it is not delivered by this time it has to sit in the trash truck with garbage and there could still be more trash to collect and that would leave bags sitting out on the streets. We all know that leaving trash out just allows for birds, cats, dogs to get in the trash. Plus leaving trash in the trash truck until it can be delivered is not good for the trash truck either. It is much more efficient to use the pickup trucks and small dump truck to pick up trash. He felt this needed an explanation because he hears the question so much about why the town is not using the trash truck. In the past it could take anywhere from a day to a day and a half to pick up trash and doing the trash this way it is usually completed in half a day. There is no question how we do trash pickup now is the best way. Councilmember Hash asked if we load the trash truck. Town Manager Childers stated yes so it can be hauled to the transfer station. He wants the citizens and the Council to understand why it is done this way.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The invoices for May 10, 2016 were read and approved.

### **TALK OF THE TOWN**

There will be no *Talk of the Town* radio program at the WYVE/WXBX radio station on Wednesday morning so no one will have to attend.

### **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