

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RURAL RETREAT TOWN
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2016 7:00 P.M.**

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

Council Members Absent: Jerrell Hall

Administration Present: Jason Childers, Town Manager; Monica Patton, Clerk/Treasurer

Administration Absent: Scott Mitchell, Police Chief

Others Present: David Evans, Brian Vaught, Michael Duncan, Cody Duncan, Jerry Hurt, Zachary Sheckells, Cheryl Viars, Grayson Viars, Lily Viars, Alisha Belcher, Don Smith, Ian Smith, Kevin English, Sarah Steffey, Katy Belcher, Cameron Bear, Trevor Tidwell.

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 May 10, 2016 regular meeting. There being no discussion, the motion passed by a vote for five (4) for: Yontz, Jonas, Lloyd, Hash; zero (0) against; one (1) abstain: Viars.

CITIZEN’S TIME

Jerry Hurt provided Council with a handout that gives an overview of the progress of the Depot. Mr. Hurt explained that the heat and air conditioning will be installed within the month of June. He also expressed the Depot Foundation’s appreciation to the town for it’s support.

Don Smith, Pastor of Rural Retreat United Methodist Church came forward to express his gratitude to the town and its employees. He stated that he will be leaving Rural Retreat after serving as Pastor of Rural Retreat United Methodist Church for the past four years.

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Pastor Smith stated he has lived in many communities over the years and it has been a privilege to be a part of this community. Mayor Litz thanked Pastor Smith for his kind remarks.

CORRESPONDENCE - None

POLICE REPORT

In Chief Mitchell's absence David Evans, Deputy Sheriff was present and gave an update on the traffic situation in the school zones. Deputy Evans stated there is an increased presence of law enforcement by Chief Mitchell and Wythe County Sheriff's office on Buck Avenue and on West Lee Highway. Town Manager Childers added that letters have been sent out to citizens who have vehicles that are uncovered and untagged. Town Manager Childers also stated that he and Chief Mitchell are looking into properties that have not been mowed and notifying property owners of the ordinance regarding property maintenance.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DR. PEPPER LOT PROJECT – Councilmember Lloyd reported he received a phone call from Troy Harris with the Dr. Pepper Corporation. Mr. Harris is planning on visiting Rural Retreat within the next month.

RENTAL OF RANDY'S PROPERTY – None

NEW BUSINESS

RURAL RETREAT HIGH SCHOOL INDIAN BAND RESOLUTION – Mayor Litz read the resolution recognizing the Rural Retreat High School concert band. Mayor Litz asked Kevin English, band director to come forward and accept the resolution on behalf of the band. Mr. English came forward and explained in March the band attended a competition at the Virginia Band and Orchestral Directors Association Concert Assessment and received a perfect score of "Superior". All bands across the state were judged the same regardless of the size of the band. Councilmember Hash thanked Mr. English for his cooperation in the past with getting the students together during the summer to perform at the annual Heritage Day Festival. Councilmember Viars expressed his gratitude to Mr. English for his dedication and for pushing the band members to do their best.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAYS – No report

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS – Treasurer Patton presented a draft copy of the FY 2016-17 budget to Council for review. A public hearing is scheduled for June 14, 2016 during the regular Council meeting and the budget will be adopted at the June 28, 2016 Council meeting.

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PERSONNEL, ORDINANCES & LEGAL MATTERS – No report.

PUBLIC UTILITIES –No report

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT LINE REPLACEMENT – The sewer line replacement is complete. Town Manager Childers reported after a heavy rain this past weekend the flow was down tremendously and now we are getting a true reading of what is coming in and going out.

PHASE IX SIDEWALK PROJECT – AEP started the utility pole relocation today and King Contractors will start when the utility pole relocation is completed. Town Manager Childers stated it was brought to his attention that it has been ten years since VDOT paved an entire street in the town. Town Manager Childers called VDOT and requested Williams Avenue and East Baumgardner Avenue be paved. East Baumgardner Avenue will be paved after the sidewalk project is completed. There is \$26,000 left in this year’s budget for street maintenance and this money will be used to pave West Baumgardner Avenue.

METER READING SOFTWARE – The new software to read water meters has been ordered. It is scheduled to be in place by late June. The software will enable workers to read all meters in 30 to 45 minutes as opposed to the 1 ½ days it currently takes.

BLOCK GRANT COMMITTEE – Town Manager Childers requested approval from Council to establish a committee for the block grant and downtown revitalization.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION – Town Manager Childers requested \$5,000 from undesignated funds to pay Tommy Reedy to demolish buildings on the backside of the Randy’s property. Vice-Mayor Yontz stated we have excess money in the budget and the finance committee does not see a problem in spending some of it for this purpose. Vice-Mayor Yontz made a motion to use \$5,000 of undesignated funds to hire Tommy Reedy to demolish and haul off the buildings located on the backside of the Randy’s property. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Lloyd. Councilmember Viars asked specifically which building would be torn down. Town Manager Childers explained that it is not the cinderblock building but the old building with the tin roof. Motion passed by a vote of five (5) for; zero (0) against. Town Manager Childers is going to check with Stephen Bear, Assistant County Administrator and see what the process is to haul off the old tires that are located behind the building. Town Manager Childers asked councilmembers and citizens to notify the town office of any property that needs to be mowed. Councilmember Viars asked Town Manager Childers about getting the street sweeper from VDOT and when VDOT is planning on updating the crosswalks. Town Manager Childers stated he would check with VDOT on both issues.

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TREASURER’S REPORT

The invoices for May 24, 2016 were read and approved. Councilmember Viars asked if the amount paid to Wythe County for Consolidated Dispatch was correct as reported in the amount of \$2477.47. Treasurer Patton stated this amount is correct as reported.

TALK OF THE TOWN

No one was available for 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