

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE RURAL RETREAT TOWN
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON
TUESDAY, April 11, 2017 - 7:00 P.M.**

Mayor and Council Members Present: Mayor Timothy Litz; James P. “Sean” Viars; Geary Jonas; Brian Vaught; Michael Duncan

Council Members Absent: Vice-Mayor, Dale Yontz, James Lloyd

Administration Present: Jason Childers, Town Manager
Monica Patton, Clerk/Treasurer
Derek Breedlove, Police Chief

Administration Absent: None

Others Present: Trae Shumate, Ben Sowers, Ethan Martin, Ross Via, Trey Boyd, Richard Boyd, Lukis Sheckles, Josh Wynn, Crystal Wynn, Shirley Vipperman, Jacob Huff, Donald Meredith, Devon Meredith, Jerry Hurt, Ray Matney, Alan Rouse, Rebecca Rouse, Carson Carico, Shelly Wagoner

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Councilmember Jonas.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Viars and seconded by Councilmember Jonas to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2017. There being no discussion, the motion passed by a vote of four (4) for: Jonas, Duncan, Viars, Vaught; zero (0) against.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Mayor Litz read a resolution to recognize the Rural Retreat High School Wrestling Team. The Rural Retreat High School Wrestling team distinguished itself as the Virginia High School League 1A State Wrestling Champions for the 2016-2017 wrestling season. The team completed the 2016-2017 season with an overall record of 13-3 and a fourth consecutive sub region, region, and state championship. Mayor Litz stated the Rural Retreat Wrestling Team brings great pride to the Town of Rural Retreat.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Raymond Matney addressed council on behalf of the American Legion Post 229. Mr. Matney explained that in 2012 President Obama authorized May 28, 2012 through November 11, 2025 as a commemorative of the 50-year anniversary of the Vietnam War. Federal, State and Local officials are asked to honor our Veterans nationwide. American Post 229 has honored our Veterans for many years. Mr. Matney stated he would like for the community to take the initiative and pay tribute to Veterans. Mr. Matney added he will be willing to help in any way with the Veterans Day event. Town Manager Childers stated he is happy to take the event over, but he added the speakers should be Veterans themselves. Logistically the town will help put the event together.

Shirley Vipperman of Maple Avenue addressed council regarding her property which was affected by Phase 8 of the Sidewalk Project. She is concerned because the grass is not up and tree roots are sticking up out of the ground. Mrs. Vipperman added the netting on her bank that was placed when the grass was sewn needs to be removed because it will get tangled in her weed eater. Town Manager Childers replied, he has not inspected the property, but he will. Mrs. Vipperman added trees were supposed to be planted. Town Manager Childers stated he has been in touch with King Contractors regarding the issues of other property owners. He added that the final payment will not be made until all issues were addressed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Town Manager Childers read a letter from the Wythe County Sheriff's office. Sheriff Dunagan extended an invitation to council to attend a presentation to honor our nation's military veterans on April 28, 2017 at 9:30 am. Veterans from Northeast Tennessee will stop in Wytheville to speak with members from the community. These veterans will stop briefly and continue to their destination in Washington, D.C.

Councilmember Vaught stated he spoke to two citizens about the potholes on Sherwood Avenue and Richmond Avenue. Councilmember Vaught added that it will be difficult to pave Richmond because it is so narrow. Town Manager Childers stated he did a ride along with a representative from Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Friday and inspected the streets. He was told the holes would be repaired this week. VDOT will patch holes on Sherwood. Town Manager Childers added that Varnelle Avenue is in bad shape as well. He stated that he plans on requesting several streets be repaved by VDOT. This year he will request Williams Avenue and East Baumgardner Avenue for paving. Route 90 from the interstate through town will be repaved this year. Town Manager Childers stated Richmond Avenue will be the most difficult to pave because it is so narrow. Raymond Matney asked if Richmond Avenue and Sherwood Avenue were in the VDOT secondary system. Mayor Litz stated Richmond is a town street. Town Manager Childers added that the town maintains Sherwood Avenue up to Meredith's Garage. Town Manager Childers stated the town maintains Frye Avenue as well.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Breedlove reported he has written four speeding tickets so far this month. Town Manager Childers reported Chief Breedlove will use the town code for speeding tickets, therefore the town will receive a portion of the fine when prosecuted.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DR. PEPPER LOT PROJECT – None

CROSSWALKS - Report included in Town Manager’s report.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION – Report included in Town Manager’s report

THE CROOKED ROAD - Report included in Town Manager’s report.

RETAIL COACH - Report included in Town Manager’s report.

NEW BUSINESS

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER – Vice-Mayor Yontz was not in attendance therefore no report was given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAYS – None

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS – Treasurer Patton explained council will need to vote to appropriate grant funds for the downtown revitalization project. A motion was made by Councilmember Vaught and seconded by Councilmember Jonas to appropriate Community Development Blok Grant (CDBG) funds in the amount of \$695,550 and Wythe-Bland Foundation funds in the amount of \$100,000 for the downtown revitalization project. The motion passed by a vote of four (4) for: Jonas; Viars, Vaught, Duncan; zero (0) against.

PERSONNEL, ORDINANCES & LEGAL MATTERS – None

PUBLIC UTILITIES – None

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

The Town Manager’s report is attached and is hereby made part of these minutes. The following items were reported and discussed:

- Everything has been completed for DHCD, and I have signed the contract for the BLOCK grant. At this point the town is waiting on a signed contract back from DHCD. I spoke to Brian Reed and he wants to meet with the downtown committee on Tuesday, 4-18-17. Brian and representative from Hurt and Proffitt will be in attendance. A specific time has not been set.

- Met with Stephen Bear and David Manley. I was assured by the governing body (JIDA) and the county administrator that any interested businesses that would like to come to our area will first notify Mr. Manley and the JIDA, and then Mr. Manley would report to the

Town of Rural Retreat. That is will be the contractual language and process by which we work with Retail Coaching.

Councilmember Viars stated he trusts David Manley from the JIDA that he will contact the town office before any decisions are made. Councilmember Vaught asked Town Manager Childers if the town could get out of the contract at any given time. Town Manager Childers answered, yes indeed the town can decide to opt out at any time. A motion was made by Councilmember Viars and seconded by Councilmember Jonas to accept the contract for Retail Coach and proceed with the agreement with the JIDA. The motion passed by a vote of four (4) for: Jonas, Viars, Vaught, Duncan; zero (0) against.

- Did a ride along with VDOT about some of the roads in town. They stated that a lot of our streets are in bad shape and need to be repaved. They will work with the town to get as many on future schedules as they can.
- I was able to get quotes on the signs for the crosswalks. It appears the town will have to pay around \$350 to \$375 per sign.

Councilmember Viars asked Town Manager Childers if he has been in touch with VDOT regarding the parking area across from McDonald's. Town Manager Childers stated he spoke with a representative with VDOT and they plan to transition the drop off sometime this summer.

Town Manager Childers reported when the Farmer's Market is moved to the new location within the downtown revitalization project a decision will need to be made regarding the grant funds from Wythe-Bland Foundation. Jerry Hurt stated the charter only includes the Depot building and as of now the Farmer's Market sets up inside and around the Depot. The Wythe-Bland Foundation contributes \$8,000 each year for the Farmer's Market. Mr. Hurt added this funding helps pay operating costs for the market.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The invoices for April 11, 2017 were read and approved.

CLOSED MEETING

A motion was made by Councilmember Viars, seconded by Councilmember Jonas to convene to a closed meeting in accordance with the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711-A.7, consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body; and consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

The motion was approved with the following voting in favor: Jonas, Viars, Vaught and Duncan.

Mayor Litz called the regular meeting back into open session.

Motion was made by Councilmember Jonas, seconded by Councilmember Vaught. **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
Geary Jonas	X	
James P. “Sean” Viars	X	
Brian Vaught	X	
Michael Duncan	X	

Absent during meeting: James Lloyd, Dale Yontz

Absent during vote: James Lloyd, Dale Yontz

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