

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on January 22, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rural Retreat Town Hall Council Chambers.

PRESENT RURAL RETREAT TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Timothy Litz
Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger
Ed Schaack
Scott Mecimore

Dale Yontz
Jerrell Hall
Kristie Osborne

ABSENT

NONE

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Raymond Matney, Town Manager
Robert Lewis, Police Chief
Lori Guynn, Clerk/Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT

NONE

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Mayor Litz called the meeting to order and determined the presence of a quorum.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Rev. Ed Schaack.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Crigger, seconded by Councilmember Dale Yontz to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2008 meeting and the motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN'S TIME

NONE

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CORRESPONDENCE

NONE

POLICE REPORT

Mr. Matney stated Chief Lewis now had the new 2008 Ford Crown Victoria police car in service.

Vice-Mayor Crigger asked Chief Lewis if he had the opportunity to take a look at the street light request on Gammon Avenue. Chief Lewis stated his opinion was there is a need for a light at the end of the street where the asphalt ends near Mr. Richard Martin's property line. Vice-Mayor Crigger asked that all council members review the area on Gammon Avenue so that a decision could be made at the next meeting.

Chief Lewis stated he had been speaking with a representative at Senator Webb's office concerning the audible warning system however he has not received any information since November. He is now speaking with Representative Boucher's office.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LODGING TAX ORDINANCE – Mr. Matney stated he had given the information to Michael Sobey concerning the lodging tax in which additional information was received from Virginia Municipal League. Mayor Litz asked Mr. Matney to provide an update on this ordinance at the next meeting.

2006/2007 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT – Mr. Matney stated the audit will not begin until approximately mid February. Mayor Litz requested this item remain on the agenda until the audit is completed.

JOINT IDA APPOINTMENT – Mr. Foy Patton has agreed to serve as the Town's representative on the Joint Industrial Development Authority. Mr. Matney stated he felt Mr. Patton would represent the town well especially since he is a business owner and understands commercial and industrial growth. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Crigger to appoint Foy W. Patton to serve on the Joint Industrial Development Authority Board. Councilmember Yontz seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

REQUEST FOR STREET LIGHT – GAMMON AVENUE – This item was addressed previously in the meeting.

Vice-Mayor Crigger asked Mr. Matney about the request he received from the Hillcrest Divide Subdivision Homeowners Association. Mr. Matney stated he had spoken to Jon Fitzwater with AEP and they are designing a street light plan for the subdivision.

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Vice-Mayor Crigger asked if the installation of street lights in subdivisions should be included in the revisions to the Subdivision Ordinance. Mr. Matney stated it could be included and he had also considered requiring curbing and guttering in the ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – Mayor Litz stated he was appointing Councilmember Osborne to fill the vacancies as Fire, Police and Health Chairperson and Finance and Appropriations Committee member.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL, ORDINANCE AND LEGAL MATTERS COMMITTEE – Chairperson Schaack stated the committee is to meet for a work session following the regular meeting. He requested all members to attend the session.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

The Town Manager’s report is attached and is hereby made a part of these minutes. The following items were discussed and/or acted upon:

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT –The monthly status report from Anderson and Associates, Inc. was submitted for review.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM – This ordinance will have to be amended. The mapping and panel numbers referenced in our ordinance have been changed. These changes become effective May 2008. The current ordinance will have to be rescinded and readopted to reflect the new panel numbers and to correct the Town’s ordinance number that was previously assigned.

LODGING TAX ORDINANCE - This item was addressed previously in the meeting.

CABLE TV FRANCHISE ORDINANCE – The General Assembly made changes during the 2007 session. VML has written a model ordinance in which Michael Sobey is reviewing. As required by law this ordinance requires the Town to grant a franchise to providers that submit a petition.

VDH PLANNING GRANTS – The procurement for professional services is being drafted. The town submitted five applications in which three were granted funding. The funded grants include a water source study on Staley Spring, the collector basin at Phillippi Spring and the undeveloped Phillippi Spring.

2008/2009 BUDGET CALENDER – Currently work is being done on the General Fund of the budget. Mr. Matney stated he hoped to complete the other funds and have a budget draft included in the next council packets.

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REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY – County Administrator Cellell Dalton suggested that legislation be introduced to create a Regional Transportation Authority in the Mount Rogers Planning District. Localities would charge an additional two cents tax per gallon of fuel that is purchased within the planning district. This revenue would go to the district minus administration and collection fees. Five percent of the revenue would go to the state for administration and collection, five percent to the planning district for transportation planning, forty percent to fund interstate and primary improvements and fifty percent will be returned to the localities and ear marked for road projects identified in the six-year plan. Mr. Matney stated he had some reservations concerning this proposal but he would keep the Council informed.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills were read and approved for January 22, 2008.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Mayor Litz asked Councilmember Osborne to attend the Talk of the Town radio program at WYVE/WXBX radio station on Wednesday morning. Councilmember Osborne agreed and Mr. Matney stated he would also attend.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor.

Mayor

Clerk