

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on May 13, 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

Dale Yontz
Jerrell Hall
Kristie Osborne

ABSENT

Scott Mecimore

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Rev. Roger Crigger – Rural Retreat Pentecostal Holiness Church
Lisa Martin, Helen Crigger and James A. Hall – Rural Retreat Community Center Board
Eleanor Williams and Jeff Barrett – Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services
R. T. Taylor – Davenport & Company, LLC

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. Roger Crigger.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

PUBLIC HEARING

RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANT/LOAN - Mayor Litz read the public notice as published in the *Wytheville Enterprise*. A copy of the notice is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. The public hearing was opened for public comment. There being no comments concerning the Rural Development Water Improvement Project grant/loan, the public hearing was closed.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger, seconded by Councilmember Kristie Osborne to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Lisa Martin and Helen Crigger, members of the Rural Retreat Community Center Board addressed the Council concerning capital improvement projects to be completed especially to the four restroom facilities. Mrs. Crigger distributed a copy of the Board's five year capital renovation plan while Mrs. Martin explained the handout. Mrs. Martin stated the Board suffered a \$76.00 loss for 2007 due to expenses exceeding the rental income. Mrs. Crigger stated the Board is planning to upgrade the restroom facilities in order to make them compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act which would result in an approximate cost of \$10,000. The current restrooms are grandfathered under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Upon conclusion of Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Crigger's presentation, Mayor Litz thanked them for attending the meeting and informed the ladies that their request would be taken into consideration by the Town Council, which is working on the 2008-2009 fiscal year budget.

Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services members Jeff Barrett, First Lieutenant and Eleanor Williams, whom handles all grant work, addressed the Council concerning the purchase of a new emergency services vehicle. Mr. Barrett gave a history of the squad and explained their need for a new emergency services vehicle while Mrs. Williams distributed a handout outlining members, fundraising information and rescue squad data. Mr. Barrett also showed the councilmembers a picture of the vehicle being purchased which is scheduled to be delivered in June 2008.

Mr. Barrett stated the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services is requesting \$45,000 from the Town of Rural Retreat to fund the remaining balance due upon delivery of the emergency vehicle. Vice-Mayor Crigger asked Mr. Barrett how many calls the squad responded to that were within the corporate limits, Wythe County and Smyth County. Mr. Barrett stated he didn't have the breakdown with him but he could provide the data. Vice-Mayor Crigger asked Mr. Barrett if this presentation would be given to the Wythe County Board of Supervisors. Mr. Barrett stated it would be but they have already been told by Wythe County that RRVES would not receive any additional funding beyond the original allocation of \$25,000. Mrs. Williams commented that the funding received from Wythe County and the Town barely covers half of the expenses. She further stated that Wythe County wants the RRVES to go to a paid rescue squad but the current members are fighting to keep the rescue squad as a volunteer organization.

Mr. Matney asked if financing was available on the emergency vehicle if RRVES is unable to pay the full amount upon delivery. Mr. Barrett responded yes but they would like to pay the balance due in full.

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CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to bring before the Council.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Lewis stated he would have the activity report for April at the next meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

REFUNDING LONG-TERM DEBT PROPOSAL – Mr. R. T. Taylor with Davenport & Company, LLC distributed a copy of the results received from the request for proposals that was advertised. Proposals were received from Carter Bank & Trust, Bank of America and SunTrust. Davenport & Company, LLC recommended refinancing the Town's long-term debt with Carter Bank & Trust. Mr. Taylor presented two scenarios. In scenario #1, the loan would be amortized over 25 years reflecting a savings of \$252,679 while scenario #2 is amortized over 20 years resulting in a saving of \$410,887. Mr. Taylor stated Carter Bank & Trust will lock the interest rate at 4.1% for the first 15 years after which the rate will change.

Mr. Matney asked Mr. Taylor what the typical fee that Davenport & Company, LLC charges for this type of refinancing. Mr. Taylor stated the fee was generally one percent or less but in this case the fee would be \$20,000 - \$25,000.

Following additional discussion, Councilmember Hall made a motion to accept scenario #2 submitted by Carter Bank & Trust and to authorize Mayor Litz to sign the resolution and necessary paperwork related to the transaction. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and it passed unanimously.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANT/LOAN – No action was required on this item. A resolution will need to be adopted by the Town Council when the application to Rural Development is filed.

2008 HERITAGE DAYS FESTIVAL – Festival Chairman Dale Yontz stated those involved in the planning are finalizing the plans. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

POLICE CHIEF POSITION – Mr. Matney asked that this item be discussed in Executive Session following the Treasurer's Report. The Councilmember's concurred.

PROPERTY ACQUISITION - Mr. Matney asked that this item be discussed in Executive Session following the Treasurer's Report. The Councilmember's concurred.

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NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business offered for discussion, however Councilmember Schaack suggested the Town should purchase PowerPoint equipment to aid those that give presentations to the Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Draft two of the 2008-2009 fiscal year budget was distributed for review. Mr. Matney asked for a Finance Committee meeting to discuss budget items prior to the next regular council meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. and will be duly advertised.

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:

WYTHE COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS PLAN – Chief Lewis is currently reviewing the plan that was approved by the Wythe County Board of Supervisors in April 2008. Chief Lewis stated there was no input from the Town of Rural Retreat in this report.

MOWING TRACTOR – The town's international mowing tractor purchased in 1995 has developed motor issues. Consideration has been given to purchasing a new tractor. The state contracts were reviewed in which two tractors, a John Deere 45 horsepower with a mower for \$32,000 and a 65 horsepower New Holland for \$34,000 are available. Mr. Matney stated he has spoken to Dale Steffey at Southwestern Equipment inquiring in regards to what he may have available in a smaller size.

WWTP SCREEN – The screen has been installed and all electrical controls and floats have been hooked up. Modifications were made to the discharge chute. Parkson, the manufacturer, will be on site as early as next week to conduct an eight hour training session with the operators. Mr. Matney commended Mike Jones for pouring the concrete pad and hooking the screen up. He further suggested upon completion, the councilmembers should take a tour of the plant to see the upgrades made.

WWTP – DISCHARGE PERMIT – The discharge permit was received today and is being advertised for public comment. Public comments can be made for 45 days following the first publication. This permit must be renewed every five years.

SPEED CONTROL – WEST BAUMGARDNER AVENUE – Citizens have expressed concern about the speeding on West Baumgardner Avenue, mainly between South Main Street and Miller Street. Speed limit and children at play signs have been requested. Mr. Matney suggested Chief Lewis could run radar on the street as well as ask the Wythe County Sheriff's Office to assist. Chief Lewis further stated the vehicles have been identified.

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TOWN HALL RENOVATIONS – Proposals were received on wall and floor coverings with renovations being completed prior to the end of the current fiscal year. Outside maintenance will also be done to improve the appearance of the building including pressure washing the retaining wall surrounding the back of the building.

VML NEWLY ELECTED MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS CONFERENCE – The 2008 conference will be held in Williamsburg, July 17-19. Mr. Matney encouraged all councilmembers to attend. Information will be passed on as it becomes available.

VML TOWN SECTION MEETING – The next Town Section Meeting will be at the Wytheville Meeting Center on Thursday, May 29, 2008. Councilmember's were asked to notify Mr. Matney or the office staff if they would like to attend.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills were read and approved for May 13, 2008.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Mayor Litz is to attend the Talk of the Town radio program at WYVE/WXBX radio station on Wednesday morning.

Prior to adjournment the following items were discussed and acted upon:

POLICE CHIEF POSITION – The recommendation from the Personnel Committee was to pursue Scott Mitchell as the new Chief of Police. Councilmember Hall made a motion to offer the Chief of Police position to Scott Mitchell at a pay grade 5, step 6 contingent upon meeting pre-employment requirements and after a six month probationary period, moved to pay grade 5, step 7. Councilmember Schaack seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

PROPERTY DEPOSITION – Mr. Barry Ricketts, son of Bill Ricketts, Sr., has offered to sell the drugstore property to the Town of Rural Retreat for \$30,000. Mr. Matney explained to the Council that the is lot is assessed at \$50,000 based on the latest assessment by Wythe County. He further stated he thought the Town should purchase the property but not exceeding \$30,000 though a counter offer should be made in an attempt to purchase the property at a lower price.

Councilmember Schaack made a motion to authorize Mr. Matney to negotiate a purchase price for the former Rural Retreat Drug Store lot at a price not to exceed \$30,000. Vice-Mayor Crigger stated he felt the property wasn't worth the price it was offered at. He further commented that the Dr. Pepper soda cans state "according to legend" and there isn't any information that states that was the original drug store. Councilmember Schaack said he thought purchasing the lot would be a good investment because if the Town doesn't purchase the lot then in ten years it will be regretted. Councilmember Hall also stated he felt \$30,000 was too much to pay for the property but the Town will want the property later.

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There being no further discussion, Councilmember Osborne seconded the motion made by Councilmember Schaack and it passed by a 4-1 vote. Four (4) for: Ed Schaack, Kristie Osborne, Jerrell Hall and Dale Yontz. One (1) opposed: Keith Crigger.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Councilmember Osborne.

Mayor

Clerk