

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a public hearing on June 10, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rural Retreat Town Hall Council Chambers.

PRESENT RURAL RETREAT TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Timothy Litz
Ed Schaack
Scott Mecimore

Jerrell Hall
Kristie Osborne

ABSENT

Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger
Dale Yontz

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Cecil Dunford

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.

PUBLIC HEARING

2008-2009 PROPOSED FISCAL BUDGET - 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 2008-2009 Proposed Fiscal Year Budget, the public hearing was closed.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Scott Mecimore, seconded by Councilmember Ed Schaack to approve the minutes of the May 27, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Mr. Cecil Dunford addressed the Council members about concerns on North Greever Street. Mr. Dunford stated the house on North Greever Street that had caught on fire is omitting a smoke and sewer smell. Mr. Matney informed Mr. Dunford that he had spoken to Wendy Wingo whom owns the house and she had informed him that she was to settle with the insurance company last Tuesday, however, they did not. Mr. Matney further stated that demolition of the house can not begin until a settlement is made with the insurance company.

Mr. Dunford stated he also had traffic concerns on North Greever Street especially the speeding and loud car stereos. Chief Lewis asked Mr. Dunford if there was a certain time that he was noticing the speeding and loud car stereos. Mr. Dunford responded he has noticed the loud stereos at approximately 10:00 p.m. Mr. Matney informed Mr. Dunford that contact will be made with the Wythe County Sheriff's Office and they will be asked to run additional radar during the day.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to bring before the Council.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Lewis explained the activity report for May.

Chief Lewis further stated that Officer Mitchell will be attending National Incident Management System (NIMS) classes at the New River Criminal Justice Training Academy for four days next week so that he can become certified in those classes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2008 HERITAGE DAYS FESTIVAL – Mayor Litz reported in the absence of Chairman Yontz. The entertainment schedule has been finalized and is ready for distribution. All plans are coming together and being finalized.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. This will be the final meeting prior to the event.

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE AIRPORT FLY-IN PARTICIPATION – A request was received from the Mountain Empire Pilot's Association requesting funding and participation for the fly-in to be

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held at the airport. Councilmember Hall made a motion to donate \$500 to the Mountain Empire Airport Fly-In. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mecimore and passed unanimously.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT TOUR – Mr. Matney requested all Council members to participate in a tour of the wastewater treatment plant so that each can see the capital upgrades that have been completed. The tour was scheduled following the next Council meeting on June 24, 2008.

Mr. Matney informed the Council members that Chief Operator Tony Wright had attended an area meeting in Abingdon with the Department of Environmental Quality concerning the land application of sludge. Due to new legislation, we will now have to dispose of the sludge by trucking it to Carter County Tennessee.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business offered for discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Personnel Committee Chairman Schaack read the proposed sick leave policy revision to the Personnel Policy which states “Upon voluntarily separation of employment, any full-time employee whose term of employment with the town is five years or more will be entitled to receive payment of twenty-five percent (25%) of accrued sick leave days.” Mr. Matney stated this change would encourage employees to accumulate sick leave and not abuse it.

Chairman Schaack made a motion to accept the proposed sick leave policy revision as read, effective July 1, 2008. Councilmember Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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:

2007-2008 FISCAL YEAR AUDIT – Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates will be providing auditing services for the 2007-2008 fiscal audit. The engagement letter from Corbin Stone with Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates has been received and due to new auditing standards the Mayor is now required to sign the document. Councilmember Osborne made a motion to accept the engagement letter from Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates and to authorize Mayor Litz to execute the necessary documents. Councilmember Hall seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The firm Hicok, Fern, Brown and Garcia will again be conducting the portion of the audit to compile the adjusting entries.

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BOND ISSUE REFINANCING – All documents have been executed by Mayor Litz, Clerk/Treasurer Lori Guynn and Mr. Matney. The closing will be tomorrow, June 11, 2008 at 11:00 a.m.

VDH MEETING – The Virginia Department of Health will meet on June 26, 2008 to determine the funding rate for their applications.

The Farmers Bill was signed which will allow Rural Development to loan money at 2.7%. This rate could possibly drop as low as 2.5%. Mr. Matney presented different funding scenarios for the water projects to the Council. The consensus of the Council was to allow Mr. Matney to evaluate all funding options for this project and make the decision that is in the best interest of the Town and its citizens.

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING CONFERENCE – A meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 18 with the Virginia Department of Health, The Lane Group and town representatives.

TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE – The painting has been completed at the town hall with the exception of the Town Manager's office. The carpet is to be installed next week and will be coordinated with the installation of wallpaper.

ALLEYWAY – NORTH GREEVER STREET – Opal Hubble has asked Mr. Matney if the Town would vacate an alleyway on North Greever Street. One of the houses that Ms. Hubble owns joins an alleyway however the alleyway doesn't join North Greever Street.

VML LIABILITIES WORKSHOP – The Virginia Municipal League hosted a Special Events Liabilities Workshop today, in Marion. Scott Mitchell and Lori Guynn attended.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills were read and approved for June 10, 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.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor

Clerk