

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on July 8, 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
Scott Mecimore

Dale Yontz
Jerrell Hall
Kristie Osborne

ABSENT

Ed Schaack

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Robert Lewis and Peggy Hash – Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services Board of Directors
Linda Dillow, Felicia Osborne, Tim Crigger

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Raymond Matney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger, seconded by Councilmember Dale Yontz to approve the minutes of the June 24, 2008 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Robert Lewis, Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services Board of Directors member, addressed the Councilmember's concerning the Emergency Services need for financial funding from the Town. Mr. Lewis stated as the Council was aware the emergency services is purchasing a new fully equipped emergency vehicle for \$196,000 which is scheduled to be

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delivered soon. A 50/50 grant was received from the state which will pay for half of the cost but the RRVES is responsible for the balance. Currently in savings, the emergency services has enough money to pay for the truck in full upon delivery; however, the Board of Directors wants to keep approximately \$100,000 in savings. Mr. Lewis further stated the Board of Directors is asking the Town of Rural Retreat for a total of \$45,000 to be paid out over three years with the designation that money be returned to savings.

Vice-Mayor Crigger thanked Mr. Lewis and the Board of Directors for their presentation. He then suggested the Finance Committee take this request under review. Mr. Lewis added any money the Town is willing to give will be appreciated.

At this time, Mr. Lewis apologized for missing the last council meeting due to his wife's medical emergency as it was his last meeting as the Town's Police Chief. He emotionally thanked the council for his tenure. Mayor Litz thanked Chief Lewis for serving as Police Chief and informed him he was welcome to attend the meetings anytime he so desires.

Felicia Osborne addressed the Council to request permission for Tim Crigger and herself to operate a shaved ice concession in a mobile unit in the parking lot of the El Rancho Mexican restaurant located at the intersection of West Lee Highway and North Main Street. Ms. Osborne stated Mr. Crigger had come to apply for a peddlers license and was told one could not be issued at the time due to problems in the past. She asked the Council what the difference was in them operating from a mobile unit and there being an ice cream truck that is operating in town. Councilmember Hall stated that upon reviewing the request it becomes a zoning issue because an ice cream truck is a motor vehicle licensed by the Department of Motor Vehicles and not a temporary or mobile structure.

Mayor Litz explained the precedence was set by a previous council that had made the decision to deny operations of mobile units as concession stands during the October 11, 2005 meeting. He further stated the mobile unit is considered a temporary structure. Mr. Matney explained the business is a great idea but the issue isn't the type of business but the structure the business would be operated out of.

Vice-Mayor Crigger stated he thought the Council should contact other localities to inquire as to how this type of business is handled. He then asked what the difference was in purchasing a peddlers license and setting up at the crossroads area and a business license. Mr. Matney stated the difference is the ice cream truck is a mobile unit. Ms. Osborne explained they had purchased a peddlers license from Wythe County and that Smyth County only requires a license if a business operates within town limits.

Mayor Litz informed Ms. Osborne that the town would like to see the business be in town but due to the previous decision made, the temporary structure could not be allowed. He thanked Ms. Osborne for addressing the council members. In return, Ms. Osborne also thanked Mayor Litz and the council members for their time.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney stated information was received concerning AEP's application to the State Corporation Commission for a rate increase.

Notification was received on the Cripple Creek water shed meeting to be held at the Speedwell Firehouse.

Councilmember Mecimore stated he had received a complaint from a citizen concerning the items on the sidewalk in front of the buildings owned by Jim Lloyd. He further stated he contacted Mr. Lloyd concerning the complaint and the items have been removed.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell explained the activity report for June.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2008 HERITAGE DAYS FESTIVAL – Chairman Yontz stated all plans have been finalized and all events will be free of charge. He further stated that this year there will be more activities directed toward children. The Heritage Day parade will begin at 11:00 a.m. with the Roger Rich family as parade marshals. Opening ceremonies will be held at 12:00 p.m. beside the Rural Retreat Firehouse in which the Citizen of the Year award will be presented. A car show will be held on the portion of North Greever Street beside the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services building following the parade. The entertainment lineup will begin at 1:00 p.m. and continue until 9:00 p.m. Food and miscellaneous vendors will also be at the event.

NEW BUSINESS

REAPPOINTMENT OF TOWN MANAGER – Councilmember Yontz made the motion to reappoint Raymond Matney as Town Manager. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Osborne and passed unanimously.

REAPPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK/TREASURER – Councilmember Mecimore made the motion to reappoint Lori Guynn as Town Clerk/Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and passed unanimously.

REAFFIRMATION OF POLICE CHIEF APPOINTMENT – Vice-Mayor Crigger made the motion to reaffirm the appoint of Scott Mitchell as Town Police Chief. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and passed unanimously.

MOUNT ROGERS PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION BOARD APPOINTMENT – Councilmember Mecimore made a motion to recommend to the Wythe County Board of Supervisors that Councilmember Yontz be reappointed as the Town's representative on the

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Mount Rogers Planning District Commission Board. Councilmember Osborne seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – Mayor Litz stated he is not changing the standing committee appointments.

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:

PHILLIPPI SPRING #1 & #2 PROJECTS – Meetings have been held with the Virginia Department of Health, the engineer and geological technician.

STALEY SPRING PROJECT – A plan for the pilot test has been submitted to the Virginia Department of Health for approval.

WATER DISTRIBUTION PROJECT – The Rural Development application was finalized today for the out-of-town project and will be sent to Richmond for approval. The proposal includes a project cost of \$1,606,000. A grant was received for \$920,000 and the remaining \$686,000 being a loan at 2.75% interest. This project will replace the water lines on Rural Retreat Lake Road, Myrtle Lane and the line from the water treatment plant to the lake dam.

An application has also been made to the Virginia Department of Health for the in-town improvement project. The application results will not be announced until October 2008.

WATER PLANT TOUR – The council members agreed to tour the water plant following the next meeting on July 22, 2008.

COPY MACHINE PROPOSAL – Proposals have been received for a new copy/fax machine. A black and white machine costs approximately \$3,700 with a color machine costing approximately \$8,300. The current machine is 10 years old and requires maintenance often. Also the fax machine has been printing a message that references it is at the end of its useful life. A decision will be made that best suits the town’s needs and a final decision will be given to the Council.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPDATES – The Virginia Municipal League emailed a copy of the General Assembly updates for local governments. There are twenty-five pages of discretionary updates and fifty pages of required changes to local ordinances.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS – Employee Donnie Widner became medically disabled on May 13, 2008 due to heart trouble. The Town’s short-term disability insurance coverage began May 19. Mr. Matney said he did not anticipate Mr. Widner returning to work. He asked for clarification

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concerning when is Mr. Widner no longer considered eligible to accumulate paid time off such as vacation and sick leave and is he still eligible to receive the health savings account contribution the town makes on the employees behalf? Currently he will be removed from the town's insurance policy effective September 1 because short-term disability coverage will terminate August 18.

Vice-Mayor Crigger asked what the personnel policy states. Mr. Matney responded the policy doesn't address this issue. Councilmember Mecimore commented he thought Mr. Matney should seek legal advice before making a decision on this issue. Mr. Matney stated he would contact Mark Flynn with VML and would also ask other localities what their policy is for similar situations.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills were read and approved for July 8, 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.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor

Clerk