

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on August 12, 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

Jerrell Hall
Dale Yontz
Kristie Osborne

ABSENT

There were no members absent.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Rev. Ricky Byerly – Grace Baptist Church
Robert Lewis and Peggy Hash – Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services Board
Michael J. Sobey – Rural Retreat Town Attorney

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. Ricky Byerly.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Scott Mecimore, seconded by Councilmember Jerrell Hall to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2008 regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 12, 2008 – PAGE 2

CITIZEN'S TIME

Mayor Litz introduced Michael Sobey who thanked the councilmember's for allowing him the opportunity to serve the community in the capacity of Town Attorney.

Mr. Sobey also invited the mayor and councilmember's to the annual Veterans' Day Parade hosted by the American Legion Post 229 on Sunday, November 9, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney read a letter from the Appalachian Christian Academy inviting the mayor and councilmember's to their open house and dedication ceremony on Sunday, August 24, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell explained his monthly activity report for July.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to be addressed.

NEW BUSINESS

HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL – Councilmember Schaack stated he wanted to thank festival Chairman Yontz and those that participated in the organizing for conducting a great festival. Chairman Yontz expressed his appreciation to Mayor Litz and Town Manager Matney for their hard work in making the festival a success.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE AND APPROPRIATIONS – Committee member Hall reported on behalf of the Finance and Appropriations Committee which met prior to the council meeting to discuss the request made by the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services Board of Directors. Councilmember Hall made a motion to donate \$15,000 to the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, to be paid from the undesignated budget line item, with the stipulation the money be earmarked for equipment reserve. The allocation of additional funds for the 2009-2010 fiscal budget will be reviewed prior to its adoption. Councilmember Mecimore seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Robert Lewis, Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services Board of Directors gave an update on the delivery of the new emergency vehicle. The exact date is still unknown however they are still being told the truck will be delivered in August. Mr. Lewis and Peggy Hash thanked the town council for the allocation of funds.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 12, 2008 – PAGE 3

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:

SIGN ORDINANCE – The Planning Commission considered the request to change the sign ordinance. The commission voted to make no changes.

CONDITION OF TOWN STREETS – The concerns expressed by Councilmember Osborne at the previous meeting concerning the town streets were relayed to VDOT. They suggested sweeping the streets however no commitment was made.

INTERCONNECT WATER SYSTEMS – Discussion has been held with Smyth and Wythe Counties to connect the town’s and the two counties water systems. A preliminary engineering report (PER) is needed in order to compile a grant application with the Virginia Department of Health. Each locality has been asked to contribute \$5,000 toward the cost of the PER. Vice-Mayor Crigger made a motion to contribute \$5,000 toward the total cost of the preliminary engineering report. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Schaack and passed by a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19 at 10:00 a.m. in Smyth County.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANT/LOAN OUT-OF-TOWN PROJECT – A funding offer from Rural Development for \$1,606,000 has been received. The amount of \$686,000 will be at a 2.75% loan and \$920,000 will be on grant. The 2.75% loan rate may decrease to 2.50% prior to closing on the funding package. Several documents must be adopted in accordance with the Letter of Conditions

The Resolution was read by Mr. Matney with Vice-Mayor Crigger making the motion to accept the Resolution as read. Councilmember Yontz seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

The Code of Conduct was read by Mr. Matney. A motion was made Councilmember Mecimore to accept the Code of Conduct as read and was seconded Councilmember Yontz. The motion passed by a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

Mr. Matney read the Grant Agreement which will not be executed until closing on the grant/loan funding. Councilmember Yontz made a motion to accept the Grant Agreement as read. The motion passed by a roll call vote with 6 ayes and 0 nays. The following voted in favor: Vice-Mayor Crigger, Councilmember’s Yontz, Schaack, Osborne, Hall and Mecimore.

The Loan Resolution was read by Mr. Matney. A motion was made by Councilmember Hall and seconded by Councilmember Osborne to accept the Loan Resolution as read. The motion passed by a roll call vote with 6 ayes and 0 nays. The following voted in favor: Vice-Mayor Crigger, Councilmember’s Yontz, Schaack, Osborne, Hall and Mecimore.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 12, 2008 – PAGE 4

Mr. Matney expressed his appreciation to Travis Jackson and Robert Hilt with USDA Rural Development. He further stated that Rep. Rick Boucher will be at the town hall on Tuesday, August 19 at 3:00 p.m. to make the official grant/funding announcement.

VDH GRANT/LOAN IN-TOWN PROJECT – The grant/loan announcements will be announced in October. The VDH loan rate is expected to be for \$650,000 at 0% interest. A preliminary application has been made with USDA Rural Development if the funding with VDH isn't favorable.

AEP INFORMATION BREAKFAST – Mayor Litz and Mr. Matney will be attending this informational meeting on Tuesday, August 19 at 8:00 a.m.

PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENTS – The planning commission was asked to review a draft ordinance that addressed planned unit developments (PUD's). The planning commission asked for the town council to review this draft ordinance so that a Joint Public Hearing could be conducted on Tuesday, September 23. Currently plans have been received from a developer that is planning to build a PUD on North Greever Street.

FULL-TIME MAINTENANCE POSITION – The full-time maintenance position is being advertised. Applications will be accepted until 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 22, 2008.

RURAL RETREAT FIRE DEPARTMENT RESPONSES – Information was received from Rural Retreat Fire Chief David Evans indicating the number of fire calls that the department responds too. Based on the information received, seventy-five (75%) percent of the calls the department responded to in 2007 were located outside of the corporate limits.

RETIREMENT DINNER FOR ROBERT LEWIS – Mr. Matney reminded the councilmember's of Mr. Lewis' retirement dinner at Joey's Country Kitchen the following evening at 6:00 p.m. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills for August 12, 2008 were read and approved by a vote of 6 ayes and 0 nays.

TALK OF THE TOWN

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

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 12, 2008 – PAGE 5

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Vice-Mayor Crigger.

Mayor

Clerk