

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on September 9, 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

Dale Yontz  
Jerrell Hall

### **ABSENT**

Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger  
Kristie Osborne

### **ADMINISTRATION PRESENT**

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

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Rev. Brian Burch – Rural Retreat United Methodist Church  
Jayne Hall – Rural Retreat Historical Society

### **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. Brian Burch.

### **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 August 26, 2008 regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of four (4) for and zero (0) against.

### **CITIZEN'S TIME**

Ms. Jayne Hall addressed the Council concerning the annual 5K Pepper Run/Walk that is hosted by the Rural Retreat Historical Society. This year's event will be held on Sunday, October 19,

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2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the Rural Retreat Community Center which is the beginning and ending location. The logo on the souvenir t-shirts will be the Hiland Drive-In Theater because the theater may not reopen next year due to the need of extensive capital improvements. Ms. Hall asked the Council to sanction the 2008 5K Pepper Run/Walk as a town event.

A motion was made by Councilmember Yontz to sanction the 2008 5K Pepper Run/Walk hosted by the Rural Retreat Historical Society as a town event. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mecimore and passed by a vote of four (4) for and zero (0) against.

Ms. Hall stated she had been told the town was in negotiations with Mr. Ricketts concerning the purchase of the former Rural Retreat Drug Store property. Mr. Matney stated a purchase contract had been received and currently deed work is being completed for the purchase.

Ms. Hall explained the Rural Retreat Historical Society is in need of additional parking and a handicap ramp for citizens to access their building. She proposed the Historical Society to purchase approximately 20 feet of the property to accommodate additional parking. Ms. Hall stated the Historical Society would consider forfeiting the town's annual \$1,000 allocation to be used toward the Historical Society purchasing the portion of the lot.

Mayor Litz informed Ms. Hall that her request would be taken into consideration upon finalizing the purchase of the property from Mr. Ricketts.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr. Matney read a thank you card from the Rich family for allowing them to serve at parade grand marshals for the 2008 Heritage Day Parade.

### **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Mitchell explained the monthly activity report for August.

Mr. Matney asked Chief Mitchell to explain the award he had received. Chief Mitchell stated he received an award because he is certified in crisis intervention with Mount Rogers Mental Health and serves on the Steering Committee. This also makes the Rural Retreat Police Department completely certified. This program teaches those who participate in the program how to better deal with crisis situations especially improving the relationship between law enforcement officers and the personnel at Mount Rogers Mental Health so that patients can receive the assistance needed.

Mayor Litz asked Chief Mitchell if he attends the high school football games. Chief Mitchell stated he did not because the Wythe County Sheriff's Office attended the games so he patrols town during that time.

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Chief Mitchell stated the Rural Retreat High School Homecoming Parade is Friday, September 12, 2008 at 6:00 p.m.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Councilmember Mecimore stated he had noticed the house on North Greever Street that burnt recently is still open and hasn't been secured. Mr. Matney stated he would speak to the Wythe County Building Official concerning this property.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to be addressed.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

There were no committee reports to be given.

### **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:

**PROCLAMATION** – Mr. Matney read a proclamation designating September 17 through 24, 2008, as Constitution Week. Councilmember Hall made a motion to adopt the proclamation as read. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and it passed by a vote of four (4) for and zero (0) against. A copy of the resolution is attached and hereby made a part of the minutes of this meeting.

**COPY MACHINE** – The new copy/fax machine has been installed.

**PUD ORDINANCE** – This will be an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance. The Planning Commission has continued their September meeting to Monday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. to review the changes that were discussed at their regular meeting. A Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission will be scheduled for September 23, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. The final draft will be distributed to the Council prior to the September 23 meeting.

**AGRICULTURE OR HORTICULTURE ASSESSMENTS** – Wythe County adopted this ordinance as an amendment to the Agriculture and Horticulture Ordinance. This amendment addresses land use classifications for agriculture properties.

There are seven property owners in Rural Retreat that have their property classified as land use which allows the property to be taxed at an assessment lower than fair market value. If this property is changed from land use then the Town can collect taxes, based on fair market value, for the previous seven years prior to the change.

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Mr. Matney recommended the Town participate in this ordinance.

Councilmember Mecimore made a motion to participate in the Wythe County Agriculture or Horticulture Assessment Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and passed by a vote of four (4) for and zero (0) against.

**MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEE** – Eight applicants were interviewed for the maintenance position. Chief Mitchell is completing background checks on two of the applicants. Mr. Matney stated a decision will be made based on the information received.

Mr. Matney stated the Assistant Crew Leader position needs to be filled. He recommended promoting Michael Jones to this position with a one step pay increase. Mr. Matney further recommended starting the new employee one step below the lowest paid maintenance employee. The consensus of the councilmember's was to allow Mr. Matney to continue with his recommendations once a decision has been made between the final two applicants.

**RICKETTS PROPERTY** – The purchase contract has been received from Barry Ricketts and a title search is being conducted.

**KLÖCKNER PENTAPLAST MEETING** – A meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2008 to discuss the funding Klöckner Pentaplast received from the Governor's Opportunity Fund. The funding requires certain criteria to be met and to date Klöckner Pentaplast hasn't met all of the criteria outlined.

Mr. Matney explained the company has been sold to another international firm which is considering selling some of the unoccupied property the company owns. This may become beneficial to Rural Retreat in the future by allowing more property in the industrial park to develop.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The bills for September 9, 2008 were read and approved by a vote of four (4) for and zero (0) against.

### **TALK OF THE TOWN**

Councilmember Yontz 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 Schaack.

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Mayor

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Clerk