

The Rural Retreat Town Council held regular meeting on October 14, 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  
Lori Guynn, Clerk/Treasurer  
Scott Mitchell, Police Chief

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

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 Raymond Matney.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was made by Councilmember Kristie Osborne, seconded by Councilmember Jerrell Hall to approve the minutes of the September 23, 2008 meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of five (5) for and zero (0) against.

### **CITIZEN'S TIME**

There was no one present who wished to address the Town Council.

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### **CORRESPONDENCE**

At this time, Mr. Matney expressed his appreciation to Michael Sobey for attending the meeting and being involved in the operations of the town.

Mr. Matney read a letter from the Town of Wytheville Wall of Honor Committee inviting the council members to their Veterans Day Ceremony to be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the Wytheville Meeting Center. A RSVP is requested.

### **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Mitchell explained his monthly activity report for September. He also noted there had been a decrease in calls to provide assistance to the Wythe County Sheriff's Office for the month.

Chief Mitchell stated the Rural Retreat and George Wythe football game will be held on Friday, September 26 and on occasion there have been vandalism issues to host school's field. He also stated the annual 5K Pepper Run/Walk hosted by the Rural Retreat Historical Society will be on Sunday, October 19. The Wythe County Sheriff's Office will be assisting.

Mayor Litz asked Chief Mitchell to explain the verbal warnings he had given during September as stated on the monthly report. Chief Mitchell explained the warnings were for speeding and were issued as school was dismissing.

Councilmember Mecimore asked Chief Mitchell if he would have the brush trimmed in some of the intersections that are blocking a clear view of on coming traffic. Mr. Matney stated he could contact VDOT and request them to clear the brush if it is located on the right-of-way. He further stated that VDOT had recently completed brush chipping to clear intersections. Mr. Matney then asked Chief Mitchell to compile a list of the intersections that have limited sight distance due to brush. Vice-Mayor Crigger stated the shrubbery at Jones Nursery located at the intersection of South Main Street and East Baumgardner Avenue needed to be trimmed.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business to be addressed.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to be addressed.

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### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Matney recommended having a Heritage Days Committee meeting prior to the next council meeting on Tuesday, October 28. Chairman Yontz asked if the meeting could be scheduled for 6:30 p.m. The consensus was to conduct the meeting at 6:30.

### **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, WYTHEVILLE & RURAL RETREAT WATER INTERCONNECTION –** Funding was received from the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (MRPDC) for \$39,960 and from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) for \$25,000. There is a local match of \$15,000 which each locality will be responsible for \$5,000.

An agreement needs to be made to connect the Rural Retreat water system with the Wythe County/Wytheville system in which Wythe County will be recognized as the lead agency. Vice-Mayor Crigger made the motion to accept the concept of obtaining a preliminary engineering report to investigate the feasibility of connecting the Rural Retreat water system to the Wythe County/Wytheville water system. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and was approved by a vote of five (5) for and zero (0) against.

Mr. Matney explained that two members of the council will need to be appointed to the committee as liaisons for Rural Retreat to assist in ranking proposals for professional services. Mayor Litz stated he was interested in serving on this committee if council so desired. Mr. Matney recommended appointing Mayor Litz and himself. Councilmember Mecimore made the motion to appoint Mayor Litz and Mr. Matney to serve on this committee. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Crigger and was approved by a vote of five (5) for and zero (0) against.

**WATER SYSTEM PLANNING PROJECTS –** Phillippi Spring #1 has been determined to have a low water yield that is not being captured. In this situation there is no need to continue with this project therefore the funding received from the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) will need to be returned. Mr. Matney stated he felt VDH would be appreciative of the town not wasting the grant money for this project due to the circumstances.

By using the existing spring house at Phillippi Spring #2 we were only able to monitor a flow of approximately 80 gallons per minute. Upon meeting with the engineers it was agreed by all to modify the collection area which will now yield between 300-400 gallons per minute. In the future, if this spring is developed, the water could be pumped to the treatment plant which would give Rural Retreat a tremendous supply of water.

A pilot study to test the water treat ability for Staley Spring will need to be completed. This requires a manufacturer of a treatment system to prove that their system would treat the water quality of the source. The town is currently partnered with US Filter/ Memcor at the treatment

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plant. However US Filter/ Memcor is requesting \$10,000 to complete this test. Paul is another manufacturer that is similar to US Filter/ Memcor but is only requesting \$500 for a bench test.

Mr. Matney expressed his concern over the charge presented by US Filter/ Memcor because Rural Retreat was the first water treatment plant to approach the Virginia Department of Health to use their filtration system. He further explained once Rural Retreat obtained the filtration from them, other treatment plants in Southwest Virginia followed suit.

PICKUP TRUCK BIDS – Bids are being received for a pickup truck until 3:00 p.m., October 31, 2008.

FTC ID THEFT POLICY “RED FLAG RULES” – The town is required to adopt a policy and procedures by November 1, 2008. An administrator must also be appointed. VML is composing a draft policy that will be reviewed and amended to meet Rural Retreat.

At this time, Councilmember Osborne expressed her concern for the need to hiring an assistant town manager. She stated when Mr. Matney retires the town will be losing an extremely valuable employee. Mr. Matney stated he doesn’t expect the next person to perform the duties the same as he has but he would like for the person to get an understanding of what is happening with the town and he felt that would require at least one year. He further stated that consideration needs to be given in finding a water treatment operator because Gerald Musser is also eligible for retirement. Mr. Matney recommended a training period of one year for this position.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

The bills for October 14, 2008 were read and approved by a vote of five (5) for and zero (0) against.

**TALK OF THE TOWN**

Mr. Matney 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 Schaack.

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Mayor

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Clerk