

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

ADMINISTRATION ABSENT

Scott Mitchell, Police Chief

OTHERS PRESENT

Vicar Brian Chaffee – Grace Lutheran Church
Ricky Hilton

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Vicar Brian Chaffee.

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 Kristie Osborne to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2008 meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

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CITIZEN'S TIME

Ricky Hilton addressed the Council concerning the need for a sports facility in Rural Retreat. He explained that the youth programs, mainly ages 8-11, are conducting basketball practices between 7-8:30 p.m. at the school gymnasiums because of limited availability due to high school sports using the facilities at the three schools. Mr. Hilton distributed a copy of an article from the *Wytheville Enterprise* announcing that Wytheville Community College received a \$400,000 grant from the Wythe-Bland Community Foundation to develop a walking and biking trail around the college campus.

Mr. Hilton asked the Council to consider applying for funding through the Wythe-Bland Community Foundation in order to possibly build a facility. The next application deadline is February 1, 2009 in which funding will be awarded in April. Mr. Hilton further explained that he had measured the area in the middle of the walking track at the Rural Retreat Community Center as a possible location. Mr. Hilton contacted RGM Erectors and asked them to give him a cost estimate for a basketball facility. The estimated cost was \$175,000 for 100 x 70 building but did not include specific details that would need to be added to the facility to make it fully functional.

Vice-Mayor Crigger asked Mr. Matney how the property at the Community Center was deeded that Mr. Hilton was referring to. Mr. Matney responded the property is deeded to the town and that only the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services property is deeded directly to them. He also stated he felt the Community Center Board would be supportive of a facility being constructed there.

Councilmember Yontz asked if this facility would be for all ages or only for youth. Vice-Mayor Crigger stated he felt it should be available for all ages. Councilmember Mecimore added the size of the facility would need to be limited due to the cost of construction because the town can not afford to build a facility similar to the new Wytheville Community Center. Councilmember Schaack suggested a fitness area be considered. Vice-Mayor Crigger asked if the Council was interested in applying for funding. The consensus was to pursue this request in an effort to obtain funding. Mr. Hilton stated the article pointed out that most of the money has been given to Wytheville because other areas aren't applying.

Mr. Matney suggested a committee be formed and make contact with Gail Catron, Executive Director of the Wythe-Bland Community Foundation so that a plan can be put together. He also stated in talking with Ms. Catron we need to find out how the Foundation provides funding. Mayor Litz asked Vice-Mayor Crigger to head the committee. Councilmember Osborne, Mr. Hilton and Mr. Matney were also appointed to serve. Mr. Matney is to contact Ms. Catron to discuss the funding application and the criteria to receive funding.

Mr. Hilton thanked the Council for their time and for the consideration of his request. Mayor Litz also thanked Mr. Hilton for attending.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney read a thank you card sent to the Town Council from the maintenance department thanking them for the Christmas bonus that was received. Mr. Matney added he felt all employees were appreciative of the Christmas bonuses.

Councilmember Schaack stated he was pleased to see the new Christmas decorations in town with the train on them. He added his granddaughter is very appreciative.

POLICE REPORT

There was no report given in Chief Mitchell's absence. The monthly activity report of November had previously been distributed.

Mr. Matney stated Chief Mitchell is on a three day medical leave.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to be addressed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to be addressed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Chairperson Schaack informed Mayor Litz that the Personnel Committee will be meeting following the conclusion of the Council meeting.

FIRE AND POLICE COMMITTEE – Mr. Matney stated there is an issue before the Rural Retreat Fire Department concerning fire personnel. He added he has pledged the full support of the Council and himself to Fire Chief Dave Evans as this matter is resolved. Mr. Matney stated he had previously spoken to the members of the Fire and Police Committee to make them aware of the situation at hand.

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:

LEGISLATIVE BULLETINS – The Virginia Municipal League offers Legislative Bulletins, via email, free of charge. Mr. Matney asked members interested in receiving these bulletins to contact him.

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PHILLIPPI SPRING #2 – A meeting was held today. Since there has not been a spring developed for a public water supply under the new Virginia Department of Health regulations it was decided to pursue developing this spring in the future. The spring currently yields a maximum of 150 gallons per minute.

STALEY SPRING – A treat ability assessment of the water will be conducted in the spring of the year due to turbidity and bacteria levels being higher.

WATER DISTRIBUTION PROJECT – We are in the process of complying with the letter of conditions that was received for the out of town project. Currently the water lines are being designed and permits are being obtained. The project should be ready to put out for bids by spring.

TEA-21 PHASE 4, 5 & 6 – The land rights has been received for this project. The descriptions will be done for these and the legal work will be completed. Upon completion of the descriptions, an appraisal will need to be conducted which will require certification. The property owners will need to be met with. At this time most of them have been made aware of the project and are pleased to hear there will be a sidewalk in front of their property.

ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES MONTHLY STATUS REPORT – The monthly status report has been received and distributed.

WATER SYSTEM INTERCONNECT PROJECT – Engineering firms will be interviewed on Thursday, December 11 from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Additionally, a meeting with Wythe and Smyth Counties will be held on Friday, December 12 at 10:30 to discuss connecting water from Rural Retreat to Smyth County.

GROUND MICROPHONE – The town is experiencing significant water loss. The pumps at the water plant are running a great deal more than usual so the maintenance personnel have walked all main lines in the system but no leaks were found.

Virginia Rural Water Association suggested the town purchase a ground microphone at an approximate cost of \$2,800 to aid in locating leaks. The ground microphone has a headset that will allow the operator to hear leaks in the ground by placing the device on water valves then going to the closest water meter. If a sound is heard then there is a leak between the valve and the meter. The sound will be louder on the end of the line where the leak is closest. Councilmember Schaack asked if a surrounding locality had the same equipment that could be borrowed. Mr. Matney said not that he was aware of but he could look into it. Councilmember Mecimore made a motion to purchase the ground microphone at the approximate cost of \$2,800. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and passed by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

JIDA OPEN HOUSE & RETIREMENT RECEPTION – The Joint Industrial Development Authority is hosting a holiday open house and retirement reception for Joe Freeman, Chairman

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of the Joint IDA Board on Thursday, December 18 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. All council members are invited to attend.

BUSINESS CONNECTION AFTER HOURS & RIBBON CUTTING – The Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce will be having a business connection after hours and ribbon cutting hosted by First Bank & Trust Co. at their new building located at 1290 North 4th Street, Wytheville on Thursday, December 18, 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. Mr. Matney encouraged the council members to attend.

EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS CHEER PROGRAM – The money raised by the council members and employees for this special program will be used to assist a needy child at the Rural Retreat Head Start Program. Mr. Matney stated Brenda Maxey and Lori Guynn will be doing the shopping for this child. The Head Start asked the gifts be wrapped and brought to them directly so they could coordinate the distribution of the items to the child’s family.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER – The annual Christmas Dinner will be tomorrow evening, Wednesday, December 10 at Joey’s Country Kitchen. Everyone is asked to come after 5:30 for hors d’oeuvres with the meal being served at 6:30.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills for December 9, 2008 were read and approved by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Crigger to cancel the December 23, 2008 meeting and authorize the treasurer to pay bills. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and was passed by vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

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 by Mayor Litz.

Mayor

Clerk