

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on January 27, 2009, 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

Jerrell Hall
Kristie Osborne

ABSENT

Scott Mecimore
Dale Yontz

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Marilyn Hall and James Rumfelt

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. Ed Schaack.

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 Jerrell Hall to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2009 meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of four (4) for and zero (0) against.

CITIZEN'S TIME

The citizens present did not wish to address the council.

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CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to be shared.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell reported he is making progress with Star Transportation on rerouting their trucks going to Mid-Atlantic Manufacturing. A Star Transportation truck was witnessed traveling on Maple Avenue on January 20. Chief Mitchell was contacted by Mr. Matney to investigate the report. The truck damaged a property fence at the intersection of Maple Avenue and South Greever Street as it was attempting to pull out. Chief Mitchell stated he located the truck and driver at Mid-Atlantic Manufacturing and charged the driver with failure to report an accident and failure to maintain control of the truck. He could not charge the driver with destruction of property.

Following this incident he contacted Star Transportation directly and spoke to their safety manager. Chief Mitchell stated the person he spoke to was upset because the drivers were not reporting the incidents that were occurring. Chief Mitchell also spoke to the dispatcher for Star Transportation. The dispatcher gave him the directions the drivers are given which sends them down Gienow Road to the industrial park.

Mr. Matney stated he felt progress was being made because he had personally witnessed three Star Transportation trucks turning down Gienow Road. Unfortunately, the guardrail on East Railroad Avenue was damaged again earlier in the day. Councilmember Hall stated he witnessed a Star Transportation truck traveling down East Baumgardner as he was coming to the meeting.

Councilmember Schaack stated he completed the information that Garmin requested he submit to them when he contacted them concerning correcting their directional database.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

YOUTH FACILITY REQUEST - Mayor Litz asked Mr. Matney for an update on the request previously made by Rick Hilton for a youth athletic facility in Rural Retreat. Mr. Matney stated he had spoken to Gail Catron with the Wythe-Bland Community Foundation following the December 9, 2008 meeting and she explicitly told him the Foundation does not fund projects for athletics. The projects must be geared toward health so that it doesn't preclude or exclude any person. Mr. Matney recommended he schedule a meeting with Ms. Catron to discuss the programs the Wythe-Bland Community Foundation supports.

Mayor Litz requested this item remain as unfinished business on the next meeting agenda.

CHURCH STREET ADDRESSING – Councilmember Schaack asked Mr. Matney for an update on the Church Street addressing issues. Mr. Matney stated all maps show the street named

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Church Street but as Councilmember Mecimore had pointed out at the previous meeting the street signs read North Church Street. Mr. Matney stated he would contact David Suthers who now handles all of the 911 addressing for Wythe County to find out what they have on their mapping system.

Mayor Litz requested this item remain as unfinished business on the next meeting agenda.

RURAL RETREAT DRUG STORE PROPERTY – Councilmember Schaack asked for the status on the town purchasing the former Rural Retreat drug store property from Barry Ricketts. Mr. Matney stated the town now owns the property. Mayor Litz stated he has been asked about the Rural Retreat Historical Society's request to obtain a portion of the property to use for parking. Mr. Matney explained he felt that a plan should be developed for the property before making a decision on the Historical Society's request.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business offered for discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAY COMMITTEE – In Chairperson Yontz's absence, Mayor Litz asked Councilmember Schaack to report on the meeting held prior to the town council meeting. Councilmember Schaack reported the 2009 Heritage Day Festival will be held on Saturday, July 25. Discussion was held on a theme in which the committee is considering using Dr. Pepper. Mayor Litz added there will be a car show this year. The committee also discussed ways to better utilize having a parade especially to have more people attending the parade than participating in it. Mayor Litz also stated the committee was considering building a permanent stage for the entertainment.

Vice-Mayor Crigger asked if the Dr. Pepper name could be used. Mr. Matney stated he would be making contact with Troy Harris with Cadbury/Schwepps the following day to inquire on the use of the name. Vice-Mayor Crigger recommended providing maps to the Mountain View Cemetery so that people could visit the burial site especially if the Dr. Pepper name it used.

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:

WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (OUT-OF-TOWN) – The engineers are continuing their work on the project. Once the engineers are finished then the legal work can begin to obtain the land rights and easements. These must be certified prior to requesting closing instructions on the loan. This project is moving forward and is a well funded project.

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WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (IN-TOWN) – Based on the in-town water rates, Rural Development has informed us this project will not qualify for grant eligibility. However, based on information published on the Federal Government Stimulus package, money will be available for infrastructure projects that are labeled as “shovel ready projects” which means projects that are ready for construction to begin. An application will be submitted to Rural Development for this project which requires a public hearing announcing the intent to apply for funding. The public hearing is being advertised and will be held at the February 10, 2009 meeting. This project will help in lowering our water accountability percentage.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK PROJECT – During the next cycle of awarding funding we hope to receive enough money to complete phases 4, 5 and 6 of the project. However; the proposed Federal Transportation Stimulus Bill will allocate \$800 million to Virginia with 4.5% being allocated to “shovel ready” enhancement projects. There is a possibility Rural Retreat could receive money from this stimulus package to complete the current project because it is “shovel ready” and possibly receive enough money to begin a phase 7.

RURAL RETREAT / SMYTH COUNTY CONNECT – A preliminary report should be available by the February 10 meeting. The Virginia Department of Health is favorable of funding the project. This project is moving forward and will greatly benefit Smyth County and Rural Retreat.

WATER ACCOUNTABILITY – The water accountability for December 2008 was 59%. The ground microphone is working well and leaks are being detected. Major leaks are being repaired but January accountability will remain high.

FIRE TRUCK SPECIFICATION APPROVAL – To date Rural Development hasn’t approved the truck specifications. Based on a conversation earlier today the approval should be received within 7-10 days. A copy of the request for proposal must be sent to them for approval. Once approved, bids can be solicited for the fire truck.

Mr. Matney stated he had spoken to Fire Chief Dave Evans and he informed him that he is receiving calls on a daily bases from truck vendors asking when the truck will be out for bid. Mr. Matney further stated he hoped with the economic situation Rural Retreat would get a good bid on the truck.

KPA SEWER DISCHARGE ISSUE – The current discharge from Klöckner remains good. The lab analysis results were received. There were things in the sample that are in violation of the town ordinance and can not be discharged into the town’s sewer system because it becomes detrimental to the treatment plant operations. Town personnel are continuing to work with the personnel at Klöckner to resolve the discharge issues. Our personnel are monitoring the sewer discharge multiple times on a daily basis.

Chief Wastewater Operator, Tony Wright and Mr. Matney met with Gary Johnson with Environmental Management Services, Inc. today to discuss the lab analysis results. Mr. Johnson

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and Mr. Wright are reviewing the discharge contents in detail then a meeting will be scheduled with Klöckner.

CLOSED SESSION – POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY – Mr. Matney requested the Council conduct a closed session to discuss the possible purchase of real property.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills for January 25, 2009 were read and approved by a vote of four (4) for and zero (0) against.

TALK OF THE TOWN

On Vice-Mayor Crigger’s recommendation, Mayor Litz asked Chief Mitchell to attend the Talk of the Town radio program at WYVE/WXBX radio station on Wednesday morning. Chief Mitchell agreed.

RE: CLOSED MEETING

A motion was made by Councilmember Hall, seconded by Councilmember Osborne to convene to a closed meeting in accordance with the Virginia Code §2.2-3711, paragraph A, sub-paragraph 3, discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

The motion was approved by four (4) for and zero (0) against with the following voting in favor: Jerrell Hall, Kristie Osborne, Ed Schaack and Keith Crigger.

Mayor Litz called the regular meeting back into open session.

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger, seconded by Councilmember Ed Schaack, **WHEREAS**, the Rural Retreat Town Council has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and,

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712, paragraph D, of the Code of Virginia requires a certificate by this Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Rural Retreat Town Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member’s knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certificate resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Council.

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Vote:	Ayes	Nays
Keith Crigger	X	
Jerrell Hall	X	
Kristie Osborne	X	
Ed Schaack	X	

(For each nay vote, the substance of the departure from the requirements of the Act should be described.)

Absent during meeting: Scott Mecimore and Dale Yontz

Absent during vote: Scott Mecimore and Dale Yontz

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned by Mayor Litz.

Mayor

Clerk