

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a public hearing during the regular meeting on February 10, 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
Scott Mecimore

Dale Yontz
Jerrell Hall
Kristie Osborne

ABSENT

There were no members absent.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Steven Crigger – Rural Retreat Pentecostal Holiness Church

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Steven Crigger.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

PUBLIC HEARING

RURAL DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION FOR FUNDING – Mayor Litz read the public notice as published in the *Wytheville Enterprise*. A copy of the notice is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. The public hearing was opened for public comment. There being no one present who wished to comment, the public hearing was closed.

Mr. Matney explained this funding application is for the water distribution project within the corporate limits that he reported on at the previous meeting. He stated he had received an email from Draper Aden and Associates stating there is the possibility that stimulus money will be available to fund this project through the Virginia Department of Health.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Jerrell Hall, seconded by Councilmember Ed Schaack to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2009 meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Those present did not wish to address the council.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to be shared.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell explained the monthly activity report for January.

Mr. Matney added there was an article in the *Southwest Times*, a Pulaski County paper, addressing the 599 funding that localities receive to fund police departments in which the General Assembly is considering eliminating. This article contained a statement about Rural Retreat which stated 90% of the salary for the town's one sworn officer is from 599 funding. The information for the article was supplied by a survey conducted by the Virginia Municipal League.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

YOUTH FACILITY REQUEST - Mr. Matney stated he had spoken to Gail Catron with the Wythe-Bland Community Foundation and scheduled a meeting with her on March 3 at 6:00 p.m. Mayor Litz asked Vice-Mayor Crigger, Councilmember's Osborne and Schaack to attend this meeting. He further requested Rick Hilton be contacted and asked to attend. Vice-Mayor Crigger stated Rick Hilton has been notified of the meeting.

Vice-Mayor Crigger explained the bleachers are being removed from the Rural Retreat High School Gymnasium and will be used for scrap wood in the agricultural department. He added he had spoken to Mr. Hilton in reference to the bleachers and Mr. Hilton is planning to contact Jim Phipps, Michael Neal and Steve Sage to find out if the bleachers could be salvaged and possibly used for the recreation facility if it is built. Mr. Matney recommended contacting Dr. Ted Phillips.

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

CHURCH STREET ADDRESSING – Mr. Matney explained he had reviewed the addressing system on Church Street and had made contact with Wythe County to inquire how the street was

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named on their mapping. He stated all mapping was showing the street as Church Street not North Church Street and South Church Street. Contact was made with all property owners on Church Street to inquire about their street address and it was even as to the number of people that use Church Street and North Church Street.

Mr. Matney also conversed with former Police Chief Robert Lewis on the issue. Mr. Lewis stated the street broke at the railroad tracks therefore creating a North and South Church Street. However, the street numbering is consistent from West Baumgardner Avenue to Chinquapin Avenue, Mr. Matney added. He proposed two options to remedy the situation. Leave the street named Church Street as it is on all 911 mapping or change the mapping to North and South Church Street.

Councilmember Hall stated he felt the Council should consider what would require the least amount of change. Councilmember Hall then made a motion to leave the street as Church Street and correct all signage to reflect the correct street name and notification be sent to all property owners on the street notifying them of the change. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Crigger and passed by a vote of four (4) for and zero (0) against with the following voting in favor: Jerrell Hall, Keith Crigger, Ed Schaack and Kristie Osborne. Two (2) abstained from the vote: Scott Mecimore and Dale Yontz.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business offered for discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAY COMMITTEE – Committee Chairman Dale Yontz explained the committee is continuing to work toward using Dr. Pepper as a theme for the 2009 festival and honoring a citizen as the 2009 Citizen of the Year. The meeting held prior to the council meeting has been continued to Tuesday, February 17 at 6:00 p.m.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Chairman Ed Schaack stated the committee will have a short meeting following the conclusion of the council meeting.

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:

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER LINE EXTENSION - Wythe County has scheduled a public meeting on February 17 at 7:00 p.m. in the Rural Retreat Council Chambers to discuss the possible line extension on Myrtle Lane and Rural Retreat Lake Road.

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WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (OUT-OF-TOWN) – The plans and specifications are being finalized. Permits will be applied for with Norfolk Southern to request the installation of a water line underneath the railroad tracks at Tea Olive Lane.

VDH PLANNING GRANT – The Virginia Department of Health has offered the Town a \$22,300 planning grant to connect the Gienow Road and Rural Retreat Elementary School water lines. This possible water connection would assist in improving fire flows at RRES which are only yielding 100 gallons per minute.

Vice-Mayor Crigger made a motion to accept the Virginia Department of Health Planning Grant for \$22,300. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Schaack and passed by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

Mr. Matney added the Town will need to comply with the Virginia Procurement Act for engineering services. He also stated this will become the fourth active planning grant with the VDH.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT – The monthly status report for Anderson & Associates is available for review and was distributed.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK PROJECT – A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 11 with Anderson and Associates and AEP to review the necessary pole relocations to complete the upcoming phases of the project.

WYTHE-BLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – This item was previously discussed.

JOINT PSA WYTHE & BLAND COUNTIES – The Wythe-Bland Joint Public Service Authority is proposing an increase in tipping fees from \$44/ton to \$60/ton. Councilmember Mecimore asked how much trash is being dumped at the transfer station each week. Mr. Matney stated the town averages eight tons per week.

FIRE TRUCK SPECIFICATION APPROVAL – USDA Rural Development approved the truck specifications and the request for proposal (RFP). Bids are being accepted through February 28. The RFP will be published in the *Roanoke Times* and will be mailed directly to all vendors that have previously expressed interest. The Rural Retreat Fire Department will review the bids and make their recommendation to the Council at the March 10 meeting.

SERVICE TRUCK FOR METER READING – Candu Auto Sales and Service has offered a 2006 Chevrolet Colorado, 2WD, 4 cylinder, truck to the town for \$7,250 which includes the installation of a utility strobe light and vehicle decals. He stated the book value on the truck is \$8,000.

Vice-Mayor Crigger stated this truck would be more economical on fuel instead of driving the full size trucks for daily activities. Mr. Matney further explained he is planning to make changes

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in the meter reading personnel and process. He would like to dedicate this truck to be used for the purpose of reading the water meters. Mr. Matney also stated when the economy improves he would like to reduce the maintenance fleet by selling the 1996 Ford F-250.

Councilmember Yontz made a motion to purchase the 2006 Chevrolet Colorado from Candu Auto Sales and Service for \$7,250. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Osborne and passed by a vote of five (5) for and zero (0) against with the following voting in favor: Dale Yontz, Kristie Osborne, Ed Schaack and Scott Mecimore. One (1) abstention: Keith Crigger.

FIRE STATION DOOR OPENERS – Automatic door openers are being installed on all doors at the fire station with an approximate cost of less than \$200 each. One opener has been installed and is working properly. Mr. Matney stated the automatic door openers will help reduce the heating cost for the fire station.

The Wythe County Needs Assessment Report included repairing the floor, installing a new roof and insulated windows and doors at the fire station. This is to be presented to the Wythe County Board of Supervisors but no information has been received on this report.

NIMS TRAINING – Mr. Matney recommended all council members participate in the National Incident Management System training by taking the ISO-100 and ISO-700 courses. Currently all members with the exception of Councilmember Osborne have taken the ISO-700 course which is available online. He further recommended Mayor Litz and Vice-Mayor Crigger take the ISO-300 and ISO-400 courses which are only offered in the classroom setting.

Chief Mitchell explained the NIMS training was implemented after 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina. The programs purpose is to train officials how to handle emergency situations and operate in the same manner.

SIEMENS WATER TECHNOLOGIES – Siemens which is the software system that operates the water plant has offered membrane filters at a significant discount in order to move them out of their inventory. The filters cost approximately \$900 each at regular price. The maintenance cycle on the water system filters is nearing the replacement stage. These filters can be purchased with reserve funds and placed in storage until needed. The consensus of the Council was to purchase the filters if a significant cost savings can be achieved.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills for February 10, 2009 were read and approved by a vote of six (6) 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 by Mayor Litz.

Mayor

Clerk