

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a Public Hearing during the regular scheduled meeting on June 9, 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

Rev. Jason McNeese – Rural Retreat Baptist Church
Peggy Hash and Bob Lewis – Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services Board of Directors
Wayne Sain and Tommy Compton – Randy's Inc.
Jack Weaver and Charles Slagle

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Mayor Litz called the meeting to order and determined a quorum was present.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Rev. Jason McNeese.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

PUBLIC HEARING

2009-2010 FISCAL BUDGET - Mayor Litz read the public notice as published in the *Wytheville Enterprise*. A copy of the public notice is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. He opened the public hearing for comments from those present.

Bob Lewis addressed the Council on behalf of the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services and thanked them for their previous donation. Mr. Lewis asked that \$15,000 be allocated to the

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Emergency Services again this year to aide in replenishing the reserve funds that were depleted with the purchase of a new rescue vehicle.

Mr. Lewis explained some of the changes that have taken place within the organization since the funding request was made last year. A new treasurer with book keeping experience has been appointed. The books have been audited by and were found to be in order. Mr. Lewis added the new treasurer is doing a super job in being able to tell the Board what money is available and what has been spent at any given time. Mr. Lewis commented previously, there were problems with getting figures when they were requested.

In the past, there had been problems with response times to emergency calls. There is now more harmony within the squad that has resulted in faster response times. Mr. Lewis credited Mrs. Hash with these changes because she requires that a Board member attend all squad meetings so that the Board will be aware of what is happening within the organization.

Vice-Mayor Crigger asked Mr. Lewis if any information had been received from Wythe County on the future of volunteer organizations. Mr. Lewis responded he was not familiar with this and he knew there has been some talk of emergency services doing work with Guardian Ambulance Service. He added he wasn't sure if this was good or bad, without looking at the information, because he would have to see what it would do for Rural Retreat. Councilmember Mecimore asked how much Guardian Ambulance Service is responding because he is seeing their ambulances with Rural Retreat's. Mr. Lewis stated Guardian responds on the third call if no one from Rural Retreat has responded. Mr. Matney added if the call requires an advanced life support technician then Guardian will send personnel to assist. Mr. Lewis commented that the state requires extensive training to meet these requirements and the people responding to Rural Retreat's calls are volunteers. These people have to earn a living and can't afford to miss work to get the training. The personnel at Guardian are paid and can obtain the training. If a call is responded to by both Rural Retreat and Guardian the patient is to be transported by a Rural Retreat ambulance which is no charge. Guardian imposes a charge for transportation.

Mr. Matney asked Mr. Lewis about the financial stability of the rescue squad. Mr. Lewis responded it was good but they do not want to deplete their reserve funds. Mr. Matney asked Mr. Lewis to submit a financial report semi-annually to the town so the Council will be aware of their finances.

Vice-Mayor Crigger made a motion to allocate \$15,000 to the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services from the 2009-2010 Fiscal Budget. Councilmember Mecimore seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

Jack Weaver stated he had questions concerning the water fund revenues and expenses. He stated there is a proposed increase of almost two million dollars from last year's budget. Mr. Matney responded this is due to capital improvement projects to the out-of-town water distribution system. He added over \$900,000 is a Rural Development grant and \$638,000 is a Rural Development loan. Mr. Weaver asked if this project included the connection to Smyth

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County. Mr. Matney stated no, but that project is moving forward. Mayor Litz added the water line upgrades outside of the town limits are occurring due to the water rates being at a level required by the federal government for funding consideration. He further added the in-town rates are too low to qualify the town for federal funding. Mayor Litz stated the proposed budget does include a water and sewer rate increase for all customers.

Mr. Matney explained the need to improve water lines located outside the town limits is due to significant water loss. Most of the water lines are constructed of the galvanized pipe and have been in the ground for many years. The Virginia Department of Health requires the town to meet a minimum water loss percentage and in order to do that we must replace aging lines.

Mr. Weaver asked if this project will improve the water line on West Lee Highway from the crossroads area toward Smyth County. Mr. Matney responded this project does not include this line because that will be addressed in the proposed interconnect with Wythe and Smyth Counties. Mr. Weaver asked if the water rates would be increased if this project is done. Mr. Matney explained to Mr. Weaver that he felt there would always be rate increases due to the required state regulations in testing.

There being no additional comments on the proposed 2009-2010 budget, Mayor Litz closed the public hearing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Jerrell Hall, seconded by Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2009 regular meeting and the May 26, 2009 Joint Public Hearing as written. The motion passed by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Tommy Compton with Randy's Inc. addressed the Council concerning the heavy rain that caused water to back up in the West Baumgardner Avenue and South Main Street areas. Mr. Compton stated he felt there was a problem down stream that was causing the water backup. He asked if the pipe behind Joey's Country Kitchen is checked during the rain. Mr. Matney stated he had checked the pipe and water was running through it at about 50-60% capacity. Mr. Compton explained he felt the drainage issue wasn't under the Randy's building but in the area of Parkway and the restaurant.

Mr. Matney stated he doesn't disagree that there is a problem. He added the drainage between Parkway and Joey's Country Kitchen and under the Randy's building needed to be looked at. Mr. Compton responded if there was anything under their building he would take care of it. Mr. Matney said he could not remember the last time there was open drainage under the Randy's building nor the last time it was cleaned. Mr. Compton stated the culvert was made of railroad ties that caved in and crushed gravel was put in the hole and asphalted over. Mr. Matney asked Mr. Compton to refresh his memory on this. Mr. Compton stated when, he thought, Mike Atwell

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owned Parkway Gas, the parking lot started caving in. The town worked on the drainage then. Mr. Matney said that drain was abandoned and relocated. Mr. Compton disagreed with Mr. Matney and stated he also checked the drainage pipe behind the restaurant and there was very little water running through it.

Mayor Litz asked Mr. Matney what he thought needed to be done to resolve this issue. Mr. Matney stated the problem needs to be evaluated and resolved. Referring to the work done at Parkway, he stated tanker loads of water was dumped in the inlet and it did not come out behind Joey's Country Kitchen. Mr. Compton disagreed again and stated there is another culvert that carries the water out from under their building. Mr. Compton commented they were not responsible because a permit had to be issued to build the building there. Mr. Matney stated he would be meeting with Matthew Cox, Resident Engineer for VDOT, next week to evaluate this area and others where flooding occurred.

Mayor Litz asked if a sewer camera could be used to check out the drain. Vice-Mayor Crigger stated we would be responsible for replacing the camera if it is damaged. He asked Mr. Compton if the drop inlet behind the building was taking water. Mr. Matney commented the water build up was too excessive. Vice-Mayor Crigger asked what size drop inlet is located behind Randy's Inc. Mr. Compton responded there was no inlet only an open four foot ditch that begins at Mr. Weaver's property. Mr. Weaver commented where Church Street ends there are three pipes that reduce to one pipe.

Mayor Litz stated every effort will be made to resolve this issue.

Mr. Weaver informed the Council that Wythe County recently held the Relay for Life event. He stated Ms. Guynn participated in this event with a team from Rural Retreat. Mr. Weaver further stated he thought the Council should recognize the participants from the community that raised money for this event. Mayor Litz asked Mr. Matney to draft a resolution recognizing those who participated.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence reported.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell explained his monthly activity report. He stated he assisted other agencies more than the Wythe County Sheriff's Office during the month of May.

Chief Mitchell introduced Mike Clark to the Council. He explained that Mr. Clark is attending Roanoke College and is doing an internship with him this summer.

Vice-Mayor Crigger asked Chief Mitchell if he had received any public comments on his change of work hours. Chief Mitchell stated the comments he has received have been positive.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT (OFF PREMISES BUSINESS SIGNS) – Mayor Litz explained the Planning Commission at the May 26, 2009 Joint Public Hearing voted to approve the proposed amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to allow off premises business signs. Mr. Matney added final approval from VDOT has not been received. He recommended if Council so chooses to approve this amendment, that it be contingent upon receiving final approval from VDOT.

Councilmember Hall made a motion to approve the Zoning Ordinance amendment to allow off premises business signs pending final approval from the Virginia Department of Transportation. Councilmember Schaack seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of five (5) for: Jerrell Hall, Ed Schaack, Dale Yontz, Keith Crigger and Kristie Osborne; zero (0) against and one (1) abstention: Scott Mecimore.

CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT – CANDU AUTO – Mr. Matney explained this would allow Candu Auto to conduct automotive body repair work at their building located on Church Street. Councilmember Mecimore made a motion to approve the conditional use permit to allow Candu Auto to conduct automotive body repair work. Councilmember Yontz seconded the motion. Councilmember Hall stated he felt the town would not have any problems with this because Candu would have to meet the federal mandates to conduct this type of repair. The motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Scott Mecimore, Dale Yontz, Ed Schaack, Kristie Osborne and Jerrell Hall; zero (0) against and one (1) abstention: Keith Crigger.

2009-2010 FISCAL BUDGET – Councilmember Hall made a motion to accept the proposed 2009-2010 fiscal budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Crigger and passed by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to be discussed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – Chairman Schaack explained he had revised the town manager's position description by combining the description for the town manager and assistant town manager. Chairman Schaack made a motion to adopt the town manager's position description as written. Councilmember Hall seconded the motion. Councilmember Mecimore asked Chairman Schaack if he would be redrafting the assistant town manager's position. Chairman Schaack responded yes, at a later time. There being no further discussion, the motion passed by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

Mr. Matney addressed the Council concerning employee benefits. He explained he has struggled with the sick leave benefit since adding short-term disability coverage because one benefit

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overlaps the other. He requested the Council eliminate sick leave effective July 1. Mr. Matney stated he would decide whether the employees should be paid for 25% of their sick leave or be allowed to keep it. A recommendation will be made in the future, he reported.

Vice-Mayor Crigger made a motion to eliminate the monthly accumulation of sick leave. Councilmember Osborne seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

HERITAGE DAY COMMITTEE – Chairman Yontz reported a proposal and contract from Dave's Moonwalk's had been forwarded to Ms. Guynn for approval. Discussion was held on the construction of the Dr. Pepper stage. Councilmember Schaack asked if the stage could be turned to face toward centerfield. Project Manager Hall responded no, because the foundation would have to be rebuilt. Mr. Matney added the \$5,000 contribution from Dr. Pepper had been received.

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:

2009-2010 BUDGET – The 2009-2010 Budget includes a 4% cost of living increase for employees with no merit increases. A line item for administrative salary reserve in the amount of \$10,000 has been included in the budget. Mr. Matney stated he believed to hire the next town manager the salary will need to be his current salary plus \$10,000.

USDA-RD OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – A meeting will be held with Mike Sobey, Rural Retreat Town Attorney to discuss the right-of-ways.

USDA-RD IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – A Resolution of Governing Body needs to be adopted authorizing the town manager to act on behalf of the town. Vice-Mayor Crigger made a motion to adopt the Resolution of Governing Body. The motion was seconded by Dale Yontz and passed by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

A Loan Resolution stating the loan amount is \$734,000 at 2.75% interest must be adopted and certified at the loan closing. Councilmember Schaack made a motion to adopt the Loan Resolution. Councilmember Osborne seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

PLANNING GRANT PROJECTS – PHILLIPPI #2 AND STALEY SPRING – The engineers have responded to the comments made by VDH. We are now waiting for a response from VDH.

GIENOW TO RRES WATER CONNECTION – A preliminary line design was received on this project today but hasn't been reviewed.

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TEA-21 SIDEWALK/BIKEWAY PROJECT – The project addendum has been received which shows the town received \$229,838 this year. The total funding received for this project now totals \$1,027,838 plus \$363,000 in open container money which requires no matching funds.

NS DEPOT SURVEY – Pillar Engineering conducted the survey on the depot property. Norfolk Southern advised they wanted 25 feet from the center line to the main line which created an encroachment on the wood deck on the west and south side of the structure along with a small portion of the building that extends toward the track on the south side. Norfolk Southern has agreed to a permanent easement to include an additional 4 feet for maintenance.

STORM EVENT – The following locations were discussed due to flooding occurring during the rain storm on June 4, 2009: South Main Street - previously discussed during citizens time; North Greever Street/ East Railroad Avenue – substantial amount of water in front of the fire department and rescue squad buildings; North Greever Street/ Valley View Avenue – one property owner had a boat sitting on a trailer but with the significant amount of water in the area the boat appeared to be on the water; Milk Plant Road – a dump truck load of debris was hauled from the ditch line in this area; East Railroad Avenue – water was approximately 3 feet deep.

Mayor Litz asked if Norfolk Southern should be contacted and made aware the ditch line needs to be cleaned out. Vice-Mayor Crigger asked if a culvert pipe is under the road at Chinquapin Avenue and Church Street because water built up in this area. Mr. Matney stated a pipe is there but may have been covered up.

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

FIRE DEPARTMENT BRUSH TRUCK – The Chrysler truck plant building the chassis is on a two month shutdown. The bed has been built and compartments are currently being built. The pump and reel has been shipped to Vest Sales and Service and a 2% discount can be taken if paid in advance.

BROADBAND SERVICE – Mr. Matney stated he was contacted by Citizens Cable Company earlier today. Councilmember Mecimore explained he had been talking with Citizens Cable and they are interested in bringing broadband service to Rural Retreat. He added they want to use stimulus money to complete this project but Councilmember Mecimore wasn't sure if the town would have to participate in the cost. Mr. Matney stated he was told if the town wanted to pursue this then an application to the Tobacco Commission needs to be made and the application is already late. The consensus of the Council was to meet with Citizens Cable and find out what they have to offer.

JOINT GOVERNING BODIES MEETING – The next Joint Governing Bodies meeting is scheduled for June 29, 2009 to be held at the Wytheville Meeting Center and hosted by the Town of Wytheville. Agenda items have been requested but if no items are, then the meeting will be cancelled. The Council had no items for discussion at this meeting.

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TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills for May 26, 2009 and June 9, 2009 were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

There was no councilmember available to attend the Talk of the Town radio program at the WYVE/WXBX radio station on Wednesday morning.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business for discussion, the meeting was continued. The June 23, 2009 meeting was cancelled. Mayor Litz authorized emergency powers to allow the bills to be paid.

Mayor

Clerk