

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on May 22, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rural Retreat Town Hall Council Chambers.

PRESENT RURAL RETREAT TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Timothy Litz	Ed Schaack
Vice-Mayor Jim Lloyd	Dale Yontz
Keith Crigger	Jerrell Hall

ABSENT

Scott Mecimore

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Raymond Matney, Town Manager
Lori Guynn, Clerk/Treasurer
Robert Lewis, Police Chief

OTHERS PRESENT

Matthew Cox – Assistant Resident Engineer, Virginia Department of Transportation
Porter Sage – Rural Retreat Cable T.V., Inc.

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was delivered by Rev. Ed Schaack.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vice-Mayor Lloyd made a correction to the minutes of the May 8, 2007 meeting. Rev. Brian Burch delivered the invocation not Rev. Ed Schaack as stated.

Following the correction, a motion was made by Councilmember Dale Yontz, seconded by Vice-Mayor Jim Lloyd to approve the minutes of the May 8, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

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CITIZEN'S TIME

NONE

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney read a letter from the Town of Wytheville inviting all Councilmember's to the Wall of Honor Ceremony to be held in Withers Park on Sunday, May 27, 2007 at 1:00 p.m.

A request was received from the Rural Retreat High School Band Boosters asking for a donation to assist in funding the expenses the band incurs throughout the year. Councilmember Crigger made a motion to donate \$200 to the Rural Retreat High School Band Boosters. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and passed unanimously.

Mr. Matney reminded the Council of the Virginia Municipal League Town Section Meeting to be held in Marion on Thursday, May 31, 2007 at the General Francis Marion Hotel.

POLICE REPORT

NONE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL GRANT PROGRAM – Mr. Matney stated he received an email from Kelly Dunn with Anderson and Associates, Inc. concerning the approximate cost to complete and submit the program application which was estimated to be \$2,000.

CHERRY STREET PROJECT – Matthew Cox, Virginia Department of Transportation Assistant Resident Engineer addressed the Council concerning the Cherry Street project. Mr. Cox stated Cherry Street was part of the Rural Rustic Program that requires a 50/50 cash match in which the locality applies for state funding and pays the balance. The project went over the projected cost by \$10,148.40 therefore; VDOT is asking the Town to pay \$5,074.20 to cover the additional expense. Mr. Cox stated the estimate was made in early 2003 but the project wasn't started until late 2004 and in that time the cost of raw materials increased.

Mr. Matney stated the original estimate was done in April 1999 and went through three resident engineers before being completed. He further stated the concerns that the Town Council has is that more work was done to the road than was necessary to complete the project. Mayor Litz asked Mr. Cox what the requirements were to upgrade roads under this program. Mr. Cox stated VDOT surface treats which includes six inches of base material then the overlay of asphalt. Mayor Litz stated he felt the Town was being held responsible for others inefficiencies. Mr. Matney stated he feels that the Town has no choice but to pay the cost overrun. He further stated that VDOT has been responsive in the past to the needs of the Town.

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Councilmember Schaack made a motion to pay the additional \$5,074.20 to cover the cost overrun of the Cherry Street project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hall and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

MACDOWELL MUSIC CLUB 80TH ANNIVERSARY – Councilmember Schaack stated the MacDowell Music Club will be celebrating its 80th anniversary the following week and asked if the Town would designate May 27 – June 3 as MacDowell Music Club 80th Anniversary Week. He further stated that Dr. Joel Brown will be performing at Grace Lutheran Church on Sunday, June 3, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. to mark the end of the week long celebration. Councilmember Schaack made a motion to designate May 27 – June 3 as MacDowell Music Club 80th Anniversary Week. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Lloyd and passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee Chairman Keith Crigger asked that all member of Council review the budget draft that was handed out and to bring comments back to the next 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:

ANDERSON & ASSOCIATES, INC. STATUS REPORT – Mr. Matney explained the monthly status report submitted from Anderson & Associates, Inc.

Mayor Litz asked Mr. Matney to explain the TEA-21 Program to the citizens that watch the meetings on Rural Retreat Cable T.V. Mr. Matney stated the money applied for is 80% federal grant money with a 20% match. In November, the Town submitted an application for additional funding that has been awarded \$240,000 to continue the sidewalk project. The Town has been participating in this program since 1999.

Mr. Matney further stated he had spoken to Jim Phipps at the Wythe County School Board Office and asked him to send longest bus and worst driver to make the turns in question. The driver called back and stated the turn could be made without crossing the center line.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM – Notification was received from Robert Linck with the National Flood Insurance Program and as of March 8, 2007 the Town is now participating in the program.

WATER SERVICE REQUEST – A request for water service on Rural Retreat Lake Road has been made. Mr. Matney recommended this request be approved. Vice-Mayor Lloyd made a motion to approve the request on Rural Retreat Lake Road. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hall and passed unanimously.

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SITE SOLUTIONS REQUEST - Mr. Matney stated he had been contacted by Bradley Baise with Site Solutions concerning U.S. Cellular putting a repeater on the blue water tank to increase service. They are interested in ground space and space to place three antennas on the tank. Site Solutions proposed paying the Town \$600 per month. Mr. Matney spoke to Tony Varner with Utility Services in which he stated he didn't see any problems with the request however he felt the proposed rental fee was low. Following additional discussion it was the consensus of the Council to pursue this request.

2007/2008 FISCAL BUDGET – Mr. Matney stated the proposed budget is almost in a final form other than capital items. An increase in water and sewer user rates and tap fees was discussed. Mr. Matney stated an increase is needed to meet the demands of new lines and needed repairs. Councilmember Crigger stated he would rather the rates increase a small amount at a time instead of significantly at one time. The proposed real estate tax rate would decrease from \$.21 to \$.17 per \$100 in value. Machinery and tools tax is proposed to increase from \$.10 to \$.12 per \$100 in value. Personal property tax rates would remain unchanged.

The consensus of Council was to advertise for the Public Hearing on June 12, 2007 then adopt the 2007/2008 Fiscal Budget on June 26, 2007.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills were read and approved for May 22, 2007.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Mayor Litz asked if a member of Council would be available to go to the WYVE/WXBX radio station to participate in the Talk of the Town. Councilmember Yontz stated he would participate this week.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Councilmember Crigger.

Mayor

Clerk