

The Rural Retreat Town Council held regular scheduled meeting on July 28, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rural Retreat Town Hall Council Chambers.

PRESENT RURAL RETREAT TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Timothy Litz
Ed Schaack
Scott Mecimore

Dale Yontz
Jerrell Hall

ABSENT

Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Wilma Justus and daughters

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Rev. Ed Schaack.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

At this time, Mayor Litz adjourned the continued from June 9, 2009.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jerrell Hall, seconded by Councilmember Yontz to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2009 regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of four (4) for and zero (0) against.

Councilmember Yontz made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2009 meeting that was a continuation of the June 9, 2009 meeting as written. Councilmember Schaack stated he was unable to attend this meeting but due to the minutes being well written he felt as though he

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was present. He added he would like to thank Mrs. Guynn for writing the minutes well. There being no additional discussion the motion passed by a vote of four (4) for and zero (0) against.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Wilma Justus addressed the Council and asked if it was possible to update the minutes on the town website more often because currently the most recent minutes showing were from May 26.

Mrs. Guynn responded to Ms. Justus' question by explaining the minutes do not become official until they are adopted by the Council and due to the cancellation of the June 23 meeting and the lack of a quorum at the July 14 meeting the minutes could not be adopted until this meeting. Mrs. Guynn added those minutes will be posted on the website the following day.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence reported.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell explained his June activity report.

Mayor Litz asked Chief Mitchell if things had calmed down with the residents of Indian Circle. Chief Mitchell responded yes, it had. He added it was his understanding that Mr. Callahan will be dropping the charges against Mr. Bowers. Councilmember Mecimore commented he thought Chief Mitchell handled the situation very well.

Mayor Litz asked Chief Mitchell if he encountered any problems during Heritage Day. Chief Mitchell replied no.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VACATED COUNCIL SEAT – Mayor Litz stated four individuals have expressed interest in the council seat vacated by Kristie Osborne. Those individuals are Wilma Justus, Bob Lewis, Geary Jonas and Peggy Hash. He asked the council members to consider those individuals and ask for input from citizens so that a decision can be made at the next meeting. Councilmember Schaack asked if the Council was limited to those four people. Mayor Litz responded no, if there was anyone else interested to bring forth their name.

NEW BUSINESS

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AUDIBLE WARNING SYSTEM RESOLUTION – Mr. Matney explained the town had applied for money for the purchase of an audible warning system through Rural Development which was denied in the first round of funding. Rural Development is now offering a grant for \$11,290 toward the purchase. Mr. Matney added the approximate cost of an

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audible warning system is \$25,000-\$30,000. In order to receive the grant from Rural Development, a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to execute documents on behalf of the town, must be adopted. Mr. Matney added as a stipulation of the grant, the town must also accept the lowest bid on this system. Councilmember Mecimore made a motion to adopt the resolution as presented on the audible warning system. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Schaack. Mayor Litz stated he had received several comments from citizens concerning the need for a warning system in Rural Retreat. A copy of the resolution is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes.

Mr. Matney asked for a motion stating the Town would accept the lowest bid received on the audible warning system because the funding will be federal money and there are no negotiations. Councilmember Mecimore made a motion to accept the lowest received bid on an audible warning system. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and passed by a vote of four (4) and zero (0) against.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAY – Mr. Matney suggested the Heritage Day Committee meet and report back to the Council. Mayor Litz thanked all of those who were involved in the festival. Mr. Matney stated Troy Harris, Regional Marketing Director for Dr. Pepper Corporation was pleased with the Dr. Pepper Stage and with the entire festival. Mayor Litz recognized Councilmember Hall for his hard work in building the stage. He also thanked Councilmember Yontz for his work on the festival and the posters and flyers he printed.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

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:

COMMUNITY WARNING SYSTEM – Mr. Matney explained information has been received from ATI and Federal Signal on a community warning system. The system must be bid out to meet Rural Development's specifications. He added a location must be determined for this system.

BRUSH TRUCK RD LOAN CLOSING – This loan has been closed. The closing was accelerated to take advantage of a lower interest rate.

LABORATORY ACCREDITATION / CERTIFICATION – The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has been inspecting labs and procedures for many years. DEQ is no longer going to inspect labs and will now require labs to achieve accreditation and certification status that costs approximately \$30,000. Tests that require being reported to DEQ must now be tested by a qualified lab. A meeting has been scheduled with Gary Johnson with

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Environmental Management Services, Inc. on Wednesday, July 29 to discuss contracting out the tests. By contracting out the tests, Mr. Matney added it would free up an operators time. Councilmember Mecimore asked what the estimated cost will be to conduct the testing. Mr. Matney responded he would be obtaining that information when he meets with Gary Johnson. Mayor Litz asked Mr. Matney to bring more information back to the Council as he receives it.

VDOT WORK ZONE SAFETY SIGNS – The Virginia Department of Transportation has changed the requirements for work zone safety signs. Currently, the town is noncompliant with the new standards. The approximate cost to obtain the required signage is \$10,000. Mr. Matney explained the four maintenance employees are certified in work zone safety to conduct work on VDOT right-of-ways. Councilmember Hall stated the new requirements are more inattentive driver friendly.

CABOOSE PAINTING – Mr. Matney commended Jayne Hall with the Rural Retreat Historical Society for coordinating the painting of the caboose. Ms. Hall had students with a school group that the Historical Society hosts annually to do the painting. The students were unable to apply the clear coat before leaving therefore; one of the maintenance employees completed this project. Approximately \$500 was spent to paint the caboose.

AMAZING STRIDES – PEPPER STAGE – Amazing Strides is interested in using the Dr. Pepper Stage to conduct a fundraising effort on August 15 and requires the approval of the Council. Mr. Matney suggested the Council set guidelines for the use of the stage by other organizations in the future. All events will need to be approved by the Council so that the event would become town sanctioned for liability purposes.

Councilmember Schaack made a motion to allow Amazing Strides to use the Dr. Pepper Stage. Councilmember Yontz seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of four (4) for and zero (0) against.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK PROJECT – The right-of-ways and easements have been secured and the right-of-way certification has been requested through the District Right-of-Way Engineer in Bristol.

WATER CONSOLIDATION STUDY – The preliminary data indicates the cost to produce water is much higher for Rural Retreat than for Wythe County. Wythe County has applied for funding to design a water line from Wytheville to Rural Retreat to better serve the future development and water demands at exit 60. This line would also serve as a backup water supply for Rural Retreat.

Mr. Matney explained he received a call from the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission inquiring if Rural Retreat was participating in the cost for the design of a water line from Wytheville to Rural Retreat. Rural Retreat's cost was estimated at approximately \$65,000 of the \$237,000 project design total. Mr. Matney replied the town hadn't been made aware of any cost

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sharing however; the water study had not been completed to determine what the estimated cost will be.

WELLNESS / FITNESS CENTER – The application for the wellness / fitness center study was completed by Ray Kohl, Director of Wythe County Parks and Recreation. The application will be submitted prior to the August 3 deadline and will be requesting money to identify the need for the facility, how to accomplish and pay for the construction. The application was for \$45,000 but only \$30,000 was asked for with the balance being in-kind donations. Mr. Matney expressed his concern about the way the application was written because it stated Rural Retreat was the lead organization and he felt Wythe County should be the lead organization. Mr. Kohl has met with a few of the board members with the Wythe / Bland Community Foundation for them to review the application prior to submitting it. Mr. Matney stated the application must be approved by the Council prior to being submitted to the Wythe / Bland Community Foundation. Councilmember Yontz made the motion to approve the application to request funding for a study to assess the need for a wellness / fitness facility in the Rural Retreat area. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hall and passed by a vote of four (4) for and zero (0) against.

WATER IMPROVEMENT PROJECT – OUT-OF-TOWN – Work is continuing on securing right-of-ways and easements for this project and must be secured before the final title opinion is written.

AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE – A draft copy of the Off-premises Business Sign Ordinance has been distributed for review and approval. Councilmember Mecimore asked if the signs will be double sided so that the business name can be seen on both sides of the sign regardless of the direction of travel. Mr. Matney responded they should be but it would increase the cost for the business and be at their discretion. He added the sign structure would need to be redesigned to accommodate the double sided signs. Councilmember Schaack made the motion to approve the draft Off-Premises Business Sign Zoning Ordinance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and passed by a vote of four (4) for and zero (0) against.

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

TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills for June 23, 2009, July 14, 2009 July 28, 2009 were approved.

Councilmember Mecimore asked for an itemized expense report for Heritage Day. Mrs. Guynn responded she would prepare the report for distribution at the next meeting.

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TALK OF THE TOWN

Mayor Litz is 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 adjourned upon a motion by Councilmember Schaack.

Mayor

Clerk