

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular scheduled meeting on October 13, 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
Peggy Hash

ABSENT

There were no members absent.

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

Councilmember Mecimore addressed the section of the minutes under new business that included discussion on public communication he had stated “people are no longer using cable or satellite services to watch television because with high speed internet services people are watching television shows online.” Councilmember Mecimore added he should have stated that internet savvy people are doing this.

Following the correction to the minutes, a motion was made by Councilmember Ed Schaack, seconded by Councilmember Dale Yontz to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2009

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regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Mrs. Justus asked Mayor Litz why Porter Sage was no longer video taping the council meetings. Mayor Litz responded that Mr. Sage quit taping the meetings some time ago other than the meeting that included the public hearing on the Rural Retreat Depot. He continued to explain that Mr. Sage has been asked to record the meetings but he no longer has an interest in attending the meetings to do so.

Vice-Mayor Crigger suggested Mayor Litz to explain to Mrs. Justus the council's discussion from the previous meeting. Mayor Litz explained the council is considering purchasing a digital camcorder in order to record the meetings to be placed on the town website and for Mr. Sage to show the meeting on the local channel of Rural Retreat Cable T.V. Councilmember Mecimore asked Mrs. Justus to share her opinion about this idea. Mrs. Justus responded she thought it would be a good idea because citizens could watch the meetings sooner than the minutes are posted online.

Mayor Litz thanked Mrs. Justus for sharing her comments.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney read a flyer from Wythe County Community Hospital and Blue Ridge Family Medicine and Pediatrics in reference to a presentation on the recognition, prevention and treatment of influenza and H1N1 (Swine Flu). This presentation will be conducted by Dr. Kim Lacy and Dr. Anita Henley on Tuesday, October 27, 2009 at the Rural Retreat Community Center from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

A plaque was shown to the council from the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services in appreciation and recognition of the town's loyal support for 2008.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell explained his activity report for September. Chief Mitchell stated he is continuing to assist the Wytheville Police Department on a fraud investigation which is the same case that has been on the local television newscasts.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LEGALIZING TOWN SEAL – Town Attorney Sobey researched this process and has determined the town should register the town seal as a trademark which has a minimal cost. When complete, this will require the council to approve future use of the seal.

RESIDENTIAL 911 ADDRESS ISSUES – Mr. Matney explained Chief Mitchell has been working on this issue in an effort to resolve the address problems. Chief Mitchell stated he has spoken to those residents on North Greever Street that he noticed were not in compliance previously when there was an emergency in the area. Mr. Matney commented he had contacted Rural Retreat Fire Chief Dave Evans and asked if the department would be interested in taking this on as a project. Chief Evans was to address the membership and notify Mr. Matney of their decision.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK PROJECT – Councilmember Schaack asked Mr. Matney if the issue with the Rural Retreat Baptist Church had been resolved in order to move forward with this project. Mr. Matney responded no, but the trustees and deacons are to meet this week. He added as soon as the necessary information is received the petition will be filed on behalf of the church and will then be sent to VDOT for certification.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – Mayor Litz asked Mr. Matney if the utility easement from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries had been received. Mr. Matney explained it has not. He added an easement is needed to build a new water line across the property at the entrance to the dam area of Rural Retreat Lake.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Hash stated the council is invited to attend various events throughout the year. She suggested the town purchase professional looking name tags for the council members. She continued by stating there are some events that people are not aware of who they are and do not realize there is a town representative in attendance. Mayor Litz agreed with Councilmember Hash and added he thought this was a good idea. This item is to be researched and more information will be brought back for the council's consideration.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAY – Chairman Yontz stated he had previously reported the next Heritage Day meeting would be held in January but he has items that need to be discussed prior to this time. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, 2009, at 6:00 p.m.

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:

PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT – The proposed PPTRA rate for 2009 has been calculated at 61.28%. This is an increase over the 2008 rate of 56.75%. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Crigger to accept the proposed 61.28% PPTRA rate. Councilmember Yontz seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

PLANNING COMMISSION APPOINTMENT – An appointment needs to be made to the Planning Commission seat vacated by Councilmember Hash. Councilmember Mecimore commented he was comfortable with either Allan West or Dawn Crigger filling the seat. Vice-Mayor Crigger asked that this item be placed under unfinished business so that action can be taken at the next meeting.

WELLNESS/FITNESS STUDY – An application for funding has been made to the Wythe/Bland Community Foundation to study the need of a wellness/fitness facility in Rural Retreat. The announcement for funding will be made in November.

Mr. Matney commended Ray Kohl, former Director of Wythe County Parks and Recreation who was instrumental in completing this application for submission. Mr. Matney added he had hoped Mr. Kohl would be instrumental in bringing this project to completion however, he has learned that Mr. Kohl is no longer an employee of Wythe County.

COMMUNITY WARNING SYSTEM – The request for bids was advertised this past Saturday, October 10, 2009 in the Roanoke Times and as of today approximately five inquiries have been received. The deadline for bids is November 4.

TEA-21 APPLICATION – SIDEWALK/BIKEWAY PROJECT – The extension of this project on East Buck Avenue from North Greever Street to the Rural Retreat High School Agricultural building can be included in a proposed phase 7. A public hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to hear public comments prior to the Council potentially proceeding with this project.

TEA-21 APPLICATION – DEPOT PROJECT – The Lane Group has begun working on a funding application for the Rural Retreat Depot restoration project. The application must include potential uses for the facility such as a welcome center, facilities for travelers on the Route 76 Bikeway or combining efforts with the O. Winston Link Museum for a museum. A public hearing has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. to hear public comments/suggestions prior to the Council potentially proceeding with this project.

Councilmember Schaack asked if the former railroad section house on Church Street belonged to the town. Mr. Matney responded no, it belongs to the railroad. Councilmember Schaack asked if the railroad was trying to get rid of the house. Mr. Matney responded the railroad is interested in removing the house from the property. Councilmember Mecimore commented the approximate cost to move the house from town is \$25,000. Councilmember Schaack stated the building is not considered a historical property at this time but in the future it will be. Mayor Litz commented the house will be destroyed before that time. The town has been asked to tear the house down or move it from the property, he added.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK/BIKEWAY PROJECT – This item was previously discussed during unfinished business.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – This project has now fallen under the time frame of requiring federal reporting. The deadline was October 9, 2009. At this time, registration has not been completed due not receiving a pin number that must be used when submitting the report online.

ENGINEERING SERVICES – An advertisement is being written for a term contract for engineering services. Currently, Anderson and Associates, Inc. and The Lane Group are under term contracts with the town. Previously, term contracts could be written for two years with a one year renewal. Now, they can be written for five years.

TOWN HALL SIGN REPLACEMENT – Bristol Sign was asked to submit a proposal on the replacement of the sign in front of the town hall with an illuminated sign. Mr. Matney met with a representative and received several recommendations. The approximate cost to replace the sign is \$2,800 - \$5,300. An optional message board can be added for an additional \$9,500. The message board can be added at the time of installation or in the future. Mr. Matney distributed a copy of the proposals to the council members. He asked the council members to review the proposals and to share their recommendations at the next meeting.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT – The monthly status report from Anderson and Associates, Inc. was distributed for review.

ASSITANT TOWN MANAGER – A list of localities with assistant town managers was received from the Virginia Municipal League and The Weldon Cooper Center at UVA provided a list of localities with assistant town/city/county administrators. Both listings provide position classification and salary information. The reports were distributed to the council members for review.

Councilmember Schaack asked if the assistant town manager position should be advertised now so that a person can be hired and will be in training. Mr. Matney suggested deciding if the assistant town manager position was going to be permanent or temporary. Councilmember Mecimore echoed Mr. Matney's comment and added the council needs to make a decision on how to address this including salary issues. Mr. Matney suggested conducting a work session following a regular meeting. Councilmember Schaack agreed and recommended the work session be held following the next meeting on October 27th.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills for October 13, 2009 were read and approved.

Following the treasurer's report, Mrs. Guynn informed the Council that she had attended the Municipal Clerk's Institute in Virginia Beach the prior week. Mrs. Guynn stated she will be filing the application to receive the Certified Municipal Clerk designation in the near future.

TALK OF THE TOWN

No councilmember was 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 adjourned upon a motion by Councilmember Hash and was duly seconded and approved.

Mayor

Clerk

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