

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular scheduled meeting on November 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
Scott Mecimore

Dale Yontz
Peggy Hash

ABSENT

Ed Schaack
Jerrell Hall

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Rev. Geary Jonas
Jody Gibson and Eric Hudgins – The Lane Group

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Rev. Geary Jonas.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

PUBLIC HEARING

TEA-21 EAST BUCK AVENUE PROJECT - 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.

Town Manager Matney explained this project application would extend the sidewalk/bikeway project on East Buck Avenue from the intersection at North Greever Street to the Rural Retreat High/Middle School Agricultural Building and from the North Greever Street/Evergreen Avenue

intersection to the Rural Retreat High School parking lot. He further explained the application will be asking for funding to construct sidewalks and curb and guttering on both sides of East Buck Avenue and one side of Evergreen Avenue; however, funding will not be granted to construct curb and guttering on the other side of Evergreen Avenue therefore local funds may have to be used. Mr. Matney added he has asked for letters of support from local civic organizations to be submitted with the application.

There being no comments from those present, Mayor Litz closed the public hearing.

TEA-21 RURAL RETREAT TRAIN DEPOT RESTORATION PROJECT - 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.

Mayor Litz asked Jody Gibson, Architect with The Lane Group to come forward and give a presentation on the potential development of the Rural Retreat Train Depot. Ms. Gibson explained they have been investigating the alternatives for the development of the train depot into a community facility that include the possibility of an exhibit area, meeting space, vending space and restrooms. She stated an added enhancement to the transportation grant will be the fact Rural Retreat is located on the 76 Bike Route and the depot can potentially be used as a rest stop for bikers. Ms. Gibson presented various illustrations of the proposed interior and exterior restoration.

Mr. Matney explained he is soliciting letters of support from community organizations to be submitted with the TEA-21 application. He continued by stating he has been in contact with Winston Conway Link, O. Winston Link's son, and he will also be submitting a letter of support.

The council members reviewed the illustrations and made various comments and suggestions. Ms. Gibson thanked the council members for their comments and suggestions and stated the items will be taken into consideration. There being no additional comments, Mayor Litz closed the public hearing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Dale Yontz, seconded by Councilmember Peggy Hash to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2009 regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of four (4) for: Dale Yontz, Peggy Hash, Keith Crigger, Scott Mecimore and zero (0) against.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Those present did not wish to address the council.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell explained his October activity report. He added the larceny investigations he has been working on have been forwarded to the Wythe County Sheriff's Office.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

APPOINTMENT TO PLANNING COMMISSION – Vice-Mayor Crigger made a motion to appoint Allan West to the vacated planning commission seat. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and passed by a vote of four (4) and zero (0) against.

5K PEPPER RUN – Councilmember Hash asked if this concerns brought before the Council had been resolved. Mayor Litz commented he had researched the concerns and all participants had been informed the course was open.

RECORDING OF MEETINGS – Councilmember Mecimore explained he had discussed with Clerk/Treasurer Guynn recording the council meetings to post online and to send a DVD copy to Porter Sage with Rural Retreat Cable T.V. Inc. Mrs. Guynn expressed her concern about purchasing a digital recorder and accessories especially if this did not receive a favorable response from the citizens. There was discussion about borrowing a recorder to record the meetings on a trial basis.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business offered for discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAY – Chairman Yontz stated the next meeting will be held December 8, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

PERSONNEL – Mrs. Guynn reminded the council members that a work session has been scheduled following the conclusion of the next council meeting to discuss the Town Manager/Assistant Town Manager position.

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:

WELLNESS/FITNESS STUDY – The Wythe/Bland Community Foundation has awarded a \$30,000 planning grant to complete a study for the need of a facility in this area of the county. Requests for proposals (RFP's) are being advertised with a December 4, 2009 deadline. Upon speaking with Wythe County, they are not in a position to offer assistance on this project.

JOINT GOVERNMENTAL BODIES MEETING – The next Joint Governmental Bodies Meeting will be held Monday, November 30, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Wytheville Meeting Center. An administrative review of the county wide Water Consolidation Study will be held on Monday, November 23 prior to being presented at the Joint Governmental Meeting.

COMMUNITY WIDE AUDIO WARNING SYSTEM – There was an error in the advertised RFP for the audible warning system specifications. USDA Rural Development was made aware of the error and approved rewriting the specifications for re-bidding. A letter will be sent to the firms that replied to the RFP explaining the error.

TOWN HALL SIGN – The current sign is in need of replacement however, a decision needs to be made on the type of sign to install. Vice-Mayor Crigger suggested this item be tabled until the spring at which time it can be reviewed again.

MRPDC ANNUAL AUDIT – The Mount Rogers Planning District Commission's 2008-2009 Annual Audit is available for review.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – There are still a few easements and right-of-ways that have not been obtained. Those individuals will be given until the end of the week to sign and return the easements and right-of-ways at which time the process for condemnation will begin. This project will be advertised on Sunday, November 15, 2009 in *The Roanoke Times* with a December 15 deadline. A pre-bid conference will be held on December 1.

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – The plans and specifications are to be submitted by the town and the Virginia Department of Health by Friday, November 13, 2009.

TERM CONTRACT ARCHITECTURAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES – A response was received from six firms. The firms will need to be ranked and interviews completed with those who are being considered. Councilmember Mecimore volunteered to review the RFP's with Mr. Matney.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills for November 24, 2009 were read and approved.

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.

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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