

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular scheduled meeting on December 8, 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
Peggy Hash

ABSENT

Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Jack Weaver

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Scott Mecimore, seconded by Councilmember Jerrell Hall to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2009 regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of four (4) for: Scott Mecimore, Jerrell Hall, Ed Schaack, and Peggy Hash; zero (0) against; one (1) abstention: Dale Yontz

CITIZEN'S TIME

Those present did not wish to address the council.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney read an invitation from Smyth County Community Hospital inviting the Council to the ground breaking for the Rural Retreat Medical Office Building on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. The new facility will be located beside the current facility.

Mayor Litz shared a letter from Greg Orvick regarding the possibility of a Dr. Pepper Museum in Rural Retreat since Rural Retreat is the home of Dr. Charles Pepper. Mr. Orvick offered his assistance if the Council is interested.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell explained his monthly activity report. He added he is working with the Wythe County Sheriff's Office on thefts that have occurred on Church Street. Chief Mitchell commented the Christmas Parade went well and there were no issues.

Mayor Litz commented on the speeding on Parsonage Avenue. He stated a ticket has been written for 52 mph to a speeder by the Wythe County Sheriff's Office.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business offered for discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAY – Chairman Yontz explained a meeting was held prior to the Council meeting. He added Jim Mabe is assisting with the entertainment and possibly with recruiting a major act for the festival. Work is continuing on organizing events throughout the day. Discussion was held about a talent show on Friday night before the festival on Saturday. The next committee meeting will be held Tuesday, January 12, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

PERSONNEL – Chairman Schaack stated a work session will be held following the conclusion of the January 12, 2010 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:

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LEGISLATIVE DINNER – Wythe County hosted a legislative dinner at the Wytheville Meeting Center the previous evening. Mayor Litz and Mr. Matney attended on behalf of Rural Retreat. The meeting was also attended by representatives from the Town of Wytheville and Wythe County and Delegates Crockett-Stark and Carrico.

NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS CONFERENCE – The Virginia Municipal League has inquired if there is an interest in elected officials attending a conference in Charlottesville on January 8, 2010. This conference will potentially be held from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

JOINT PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY – The tipping fees for trash disposal have been decreased from \$66/ton to \$52/ton.

LEGISLATIVE BULLETINS – The General Assembly will be going back into session soon. VML offers free electronic bulletins that outline the legislation that will impact localities. Any councilmember interested in receiving these updates was asked to contact the office.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – The easement for the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has been signed on behalf of the town and was returned to Richmond for the Division of Real Estate to execute. There are still three property owners that have not signed easements. A public hearing has been scheduled for December 22, 2009 for condemnation of these properties, if necessary.

WELLNESS / FITNESS STUDY – Eight responses for Requests for Proposals (RFP's) were received on the Wellness / Fitness Study. Councilmember Mecimore offered to assist Mr. Matney in reviewing the RFP's and ranking them for interviews.

TEA-21 DEPOT APPLICATION – An application has been made for the Depot Restoration Project. The estimated cost including engineering and construction is \$858,958.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK / BIKEWAY APPLICATION – An application has been made for Phase 7 of the TEA-21 Sidewalk / Bikeway Project. The estimated cost is \$656,000.

CHRISTMAS PARADE – Mr. Matney added to Chief Mitchell's comments on the Christmas Parade. He stated he was impressed with the number of people that were out along the parade route watching the parade.

RURAL RETREAT / NEW RIVER SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLAN – The Virginia Rural Water Association (VRWA) is interested in writing a Source Water Protection Plan for the New River Water Authority. Currently, Rural Retreat has a Source Water Protection Plan in place. Nancy Carr with VRWA has asked that these plans be combined since Rural Retreat has the expertise in writing a plan. Mayor Litz will be the Chairman of this committee which will be meeting December 9, 2009, 10:00 a.m. at the Wythe County Administration Building.

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TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills for December 8, 2009 were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Councilmember Yontz 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 Hash and was duly seconded and approved.

Mayor

Clerk