

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a public hearing during the regular scheduled meeting on December 22, 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
Peggy Hash

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Wilma Justus and daughter

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.

PUBLIC HEARING

RESOLUTION FOR OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT PROPERTY CONDEMNATION – 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. Mayor Litz opened the public hearing for comments.

There being no comments, the public hearing was closed.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Scott Mecimore, seconded by Councilmember Dale Yontz to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2009 regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of four (4) for and zero (0) against.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Those present did not wish to address the council.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney reported the Virginia Municipal League will be conducting a Newly Elected Officials Conference in Charlottesville on January 8, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Mr. Matney asked for those members interested in attending to contact the office so registrations can be submitted.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell reported a low number of vehicle wrecks in Rural Retreat related to the snow storm during the previous weekend. He stated he felt Rural Retreat fared better than other areas. Mayor Litz explained he had received several positive comments for the town's personnel clearing the streets. Councilmember Schaack commended the town's personnel for their work during the snow storm.

Mr. Matney commented on the snow storm and explained he did receive complaints from residents because of snow blocking driveway entrances. He added the town is now using a loaned pickup truck plow and spreader from VDOT. Mr. Matney explained when working on the 2010/2011 fiscal budget, consideration should be given to purchasing a larger truck that will better accommodate the equipment.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION FOR OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT PROPERTY CONDEMNATION – Mayor Litz read the draft resolution for the out-of-town water project property condemnation. Councilmember Yontz stated he wanted to make sure people understood entire properties will not be taken, only enough to complete the project and obtain permanent utility easements.

Councilmember Hall made a motion to accept the draft resolution as written to condemn the three properties to acquire the necessary easements and right-of-ways for the completion of the out-of-town water project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Schaack.

Councilmember Mecimore stated he had spoken to Town Manager Matney because he was interested in knowing why approximately 20 property owners agreed to the easements and right-

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of-ways and three objected. He added he felt the people involved should have attended the public hearing if they had specific reasons for not signing the documents.

Mr. Matney explained the resolution authorizes the taking of the easements through condemnation. He added from the time the resolution is adopted until the petition is filed in court, the owners will have another opportunity to voluntarily sign the easements. Mr. Matney continued by stating two of the property owners have asked for compensation but the council has previously taken the stand to not give compensation for easements. He continued by stating the property value is increased due to public water being on the property therefore this is considered to be a form of compensation.

There being no additional discussion, the motion passed by a vote of four (4) for: Jerrell Hall, Ed Schaack, Dale Yontz and Scott Mecimore and zero (0) opposed.

SMYTH COUNTY WATER PROJECT – Mayor Litz asked Mr. Matney, after the first of the year, to follow up with Smyth County on their interest in Rural Retreat extending water service to the Smyth/Wythe County line. Mr. Matney responded he had been informed Smyth County is in the process of drilling a well on the eastern end of the county to serve the customers in need of potable water.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business offered for discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAY – Chairman Yontz stated the next 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:

SNOW STORM – An estimated 22-24 inches of snow was received during the previous weekend snow storm. The maintenance crew logged approximately 40 hours of overtime to clear the streets and Mr. Matney commended them for their efforts. As previously stated, Mr. Matney added as the budget process gets underway, he would like the Council to consider purchasing a pickup truck that will better accommodate the newly acquired snow removal equipment.

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AUXILIARY POLICE – A request has been received from an individual to form an auxiliary police unit. This person is interested in filling in for Chief Mitchell while he is not working such as on vacation or sick. A training certificate from the Police Academy has been provided by the individual. Mr. Matney added he has not spoken to VML concerning the liability issues because he needed to know if the Council and Chief Mitchell would be interested in this. Chief Mitchell stated he would possibly be interested. The Council asked Mr. Matney to obtain more information for further review.

WELLNESS / FITNESS STUDY – Councilmember Mecimore assisted Mr. Matney in reviewing and ranking the proposals for the Wellness/Fitness Study. The firm Thompson & Litton was selected and an interview was conducted with Scott Wilson. Mr. Matney recommended the engineering firm of Thompson & Litton be approved to conduct the Wellness/Fitness Study. Councilmember Mecimore added he felt this was a good choice because this firm is local and extensive travel expenses will not be incurred. Mr. Matney stated the firm was also involved in the Lifetime Wellness Center in Marion. Councilmember Yontz made a motion to hire Thompson & Litton as the engineering firm to conduct the Wellness/Fitness Study. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Mecimore and was approved by a vote of four (4) for and zero (0) against.

COMMUNITY WIDE WARNING SYSTEM – Two proposals were received for the community wide warning system. American Signal proposed \$24,624.69 for the system plus they recommended a spare parts cost for an additional \$3,874.00. ATI proposed \$34,500 for the system and had no additional recommendations. A grant was received from USDA Rural Development for over \$11,000 toward the purchase a system which would result in approximately a \$14,000 investment by the town. Mr. Matney stated copies of the proposals will be made and distributed prior to the next meeting for review. He asked the council members to review the proposals so that a decision can be made at the next meeting.

WATER ACCOUNTABILITY – The water accountability for November has increased by 7%. Mr. Matney stated he felt this was attributed to problems with the control valve on the blue water tank.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT – The monthly status report from Anderson & Associates was distributed for review. The term contract with this firm has been renewed.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – The town office and facilities will be closed Thursday and Friday, December 24-25 for the Christmas holiday and on Thursday and Friday, December 31 and January 1 for the New Year's holiday. Trash collection for both weeks will be on Wednesday.

WATER METER TESTING – Several water meters with in excess of 1 million registered gallons were bench tested at flow intervals of 10 gals/minute, 2 gal/minute and one-quarter gal/minute. The accuracy results for each meter are as follows: Meter 1 tested 100.1% at 10 gal/min and one-quarter gal/min and 100% at 2 gal/min. Meter 2 had the same results as meter 1. Meter 3 tested 99.9% at 10 gal/min, 101% at 2 gal/min and 95% at one-quarter gal/min. Mr.

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Matney added this information is good to have considering the water accountability is high because the accuracy of measuring devices must be taken into consideration.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills for December 22, 2009 were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Town Manager Matney 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 and was duly seconded and approved.

Mayor

Clerk