

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular scheduled meeting on February 9, 2010, 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
Jerrell Hall
Peggy Hash

ABSENT

Dale Yontz

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Rev. Brian Burch – Rural Retreat United Methodist Church
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. Brian Burch.

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 January 26, 2010 regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of five (5) for and zero (0) against.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Those present did not wish to address the Council.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2010 – PAGE 2

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to be shared.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell explained his monthly activity report for January. He attributed the low number of activities to the weather. Chief Mitchell added he is continuing to work a larceny investigation.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was no unfinished business to be addressed.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to be addressed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAY – Mr. Matney reported in Chairman Yontz's absence. He stated the meeting scheduled prior to the Council meeting had been cancelled. At this time the meeting has not been rescheduled.

PERSONNEL – Chairman Schaack reminded the councilmember's of the next committee meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2010 at 7:00 in the council chambers. Chairman Schaack encouraged all members to attend the meeting. Councilmember Mecimore asked that each member be contacted and reminded of the meeting.

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 CONCEPTUAL STUDY – An organizational meeting for the Wellness/ Fitness Study was held Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the council chambers. The consultant with Thompson & Litton encouraged the committee to express all ideas and to dream big. Many ideas were expressed and currently location sites are being sought.

VML INSURANCE – Virginia Municipal League (VML) offers a 5% discount on insurance premiums if all Risk Management Guidelines are 100% completed. Mr. Matney met with Matt Reid, Safety Consultant with VML and Mr. Reid assisted Mr. Matney in updating the town's Risk Management Plan. Rural Retreat is now 84% complete. Upon full completion, this will save the town approximately \$1,300 on the next policy renewal. VML also offers a 5% matching grant program up to \$1,000 for Work Zone Safety. To meet the new Work Zone

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2010 – PAGE 3

Safety requirements the town recently spent \$7,000 to update work zone signs and holders, traffic cones and flags. Mr. Reid suggested applying for a grant on both liability and worker's compensation insurance. If approved, the town may receive two \$1,000 grants.

RURAL RETREAT FIRE STATION – During the recent winter storms, the guttering on the Rural Retreat Fire Department building has been damaged. Mr. Matney asked Councilmember Hall to evaluate the damage to the roof. He added the roof will eventually need to be replaced because of the light weight material on it. Councilmember Schaack asked Mr. Matney if the floor in the building had been repaired. Mr. Matney responded no, because it has been difficult to find someone to repair it. Councilmember Hall suggested removing the section of floor instead of filling the crack. Mr. Matney also asked Councilmember Hall to evaluate the roof at the town shop due to developing leaks.

Mayor Litz asked this item be placed under unfinished business.

RURAL RETREAT EMERGENCY SERVICES – Mr. Matney stated Councilmember Hash had explained at the previous meeting the Rural Retreat Emergency Services would become a paid organization. Discussion was held at that meeting concerning the language in the property deed to the Rural Retreat Emergency Services. After researching the deed, Mr. Matney read a portion of the deed which states the property was conveyed on the agreement for the “..operation and maintenance of volunteer emergency services for the benefit of the public, organized and operated on a non-profit basis and whenever said property shall hereafter cease to be so used by the Grantee for such exclusive purpose for a period of 12 consecutive months...the title to the premises shall revert to the Town of Rural Retreat....”

Mr. Matney spoke with Town Attorney Michael Sobey concerning this deed. Attorney Sobey suggested writing another deed to the property to modify the stipulations or worst case scenario inform the emergency services they can not operate from the building. Mr. Matney suggested modifying the deed to allow the emergency services to operate because it is a community asset. Councilmember Mecimore expressed concern about the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services being bought out by another organization. Mr. Matney explained the RRVES property can not be sold without the town council's consent. The consensus of the Council was to rewrite the deed and bring the revisions to the next meeting for review. Councilmember Hash explained the paid service is operating wonderfully and she encouraged the council members to visit the emergency services building to see first hand how well the building is maintained by the members.

This item is to be placed under unfinished business.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – There are still three signatures to obtain for this project however, USDA Rural Development has authorized us to move forward with the advertising. The water project will be advertised on Sunday, February 14. A pre-bid conference will be held Thursday, February 25 and the bid opening will be Thursday, March 18.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – FEBRUARY 9, 2010 – PAGE 4

TEA-21 SIDEWALK PROJECT – VDOT has not certified the right-of-ways for the sidewalk project. When the certification is received this project will be ready to bid.

CODE OF ORDINANCES – The 2009 supplement to the Code of Ordinances has been received. Any councilmember who has a copy of the Code of Ordinances was asked to bring it to the office so that the supplements can be inserted and returned.

NAME TAGS – At a previous meeting, Councilmember Hash had suggested having name tags made for the council member's so that they can be more easily identified at town functions. Mr. Matney presented a sample made by D&D Trophies in Marion with Councilmember Hash's name on it for review. The tags are magnetic and would contain each member's name, council position, i.e. Mayor, Vice-Mayor, Councilmember and the town seal. Councilmember Mecimore asked Mr. Matney what the cost per name tag would be. Mr. Matney responded he didn't ask the cost but he felt it would be minimal because D&D Trophies has all of the materials in house.

WATER ACCOUNTABILITY – Mayor Litz asked for an update on water accountability. Mr. Matney responded approximately 280,000 gallons is being pumped per day. However, Klöckner is experiencing issues with their wells so they are using more town water.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Councilmember Mecimore stated he had received an email from the Thomas Jefferson Institute regarding the posting of financial information online. He suggested adding the town's financial information to the website so it would be more available to the public. Mr. Matney commented he had a concern with the amount of time it would take to do this. Mrs. Guynn added the town's financial information is available for review and if any citizen is interested in reviewing it they should contact the office.

The bills for February 9, 2010 were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Mayor Litz stated no councilmember was available to attend the *Talk of the Town* radio program at the WYVE/WXBX radio station on Wednesday morning. If possible, someone will attend on Thursday 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