

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular scheduled meeting on March 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

Dale Yontz
Jerrell Hall
Peggy Hash

ABSENT

No members were absent.

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

Raymond Matney, Town Manager
Lori Guynn, Clerk/Treasurer

ADMINISTRATION ABSENT

Scott Mitchell, Police Chief

OTHERS PRESENT

Rev. Rick Beryl – Grace Baptist Church, Jay Hawkins – Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services, Darrell Miller - Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services Board of Directors, Curly Miller, Daniel Ball, Sr. and Daniel Ball, Jr. – Boy Scout Troop #58 and 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. Rick Beryl.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Peggy Hash, seconded by Councilmember Dale Yontz to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2010 regular meeting as written. The motion passed

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 9, 2010 – PAGE 2

by a vote of five (5) for, zero (0) against and one (1) abstention: Scott Mecimore whom was absent at the previous meeting.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Jay Hawkins introduced himself to the Council and stated he is the Administrator of the Rural Retreat Volunteer Emergency Services or the rescue squad as most citizens refer to them as. He asked the Council to remember them during their budget process by allocating money to them as has been done in the past. Mr. Hawkins explained the rescue squad recently changed to a paid service and they are now billing for their services. This change requires them to purchase all medical items whereas before the hospitals would provide them with their supplies. He stated there are five full-time employees available from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 midnight Monday thru Friday but they still rely on the assistance from volunteers. The addition of full-time employees has aided in decreasing the response time for each call especially during the daytime. Previously the response time was 30 minutes but has now been decreased to less than two minutes. Mr. Matney asked Mr. Hawkins if multiple calls are received do the volunteers still assist. Mr. Hawkins responded yes but now the calls only require one volunteer. Mayor Litz thanked Mr. Hawkins for addressing the Council concerning their needs. He then asked what the perception with the public is now that they are a paid service. Mr. Hawkins replied in a situation like this there is both good and bad but so far positive feedback has been received. Mr. Matney added he felt the public needs to know that donations are still needed to support the group. Vice-Mayor Crigger asked what was being done to educate the public. Mr. Hawkins replied right now word of mouth. Vice-Mayor Crigger suggested placing an ad on Rural Retreat Cable T.V. to notify the citizens of the changes and that donations are still needed. Mr. Matney recommended contacting the *Wytheville Enterprise* and ask them to write a feature article. Mayor Litz suggested attending the *Talk of the Town* radio program at WYVE/WXBX. Mr. Hawkins commented he would be interested in all of the recommendations. Jack Weaver asked Mr. Hawkins if the rescue squad had any immediate needs such as equipment. Mr. Hawkins replied that operational funds are needed the most. He added the equipment they have is top of the line and is very good equipment but it must be maintained. Mr. Matney commented on Mr. Weaver's question and explained in the past the Council has allocated money to the RRVES and this will be the third year of funding an additional \$15,000 to aid in replenishing reserve funds that were used toward the purchase of a new emergency vehicle. Mr. Hawkins added there will be three fundraisers coming up soon. A ham dinner will be held on Saturday, March 27 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. to raise money for uniforms. On Friday, April 2 a womanless beauty pageant will be held and an Easter egg hunt will be on Saturday, April 3. Vice-Mayor Crigger wished them much success with their fundraising efforts.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney noted he would be addressing received correspondence in his report.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 9, 2010 – PAGE 3

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell's activity report for February was available. Mr. Matney noted Chief Mitchell was absent due to family medical reasons.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RURAL RETREAT FIRE STATION REPAIRS – Operations and Maintenance Chairman Hall stated he had not received any information concerning the floor repairs. He added upon evaluating the roof, it appeared new guttering was not needed. Chairman Hall stated by making the minor repairs it will save the town money. Mr. Matney added Chairman Hall had provided a quote to repair the roof damage and to install snow/ice breakers.

Mayor Litz asked for this item to continue to remain under unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to be addressed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAY – Chairman Yontz stated the music group Confederate Railroad has been booked and will be the headlining band for this year's festival. He added issues with parking are being resolved. Meetings will now be held on an as needed basis.

PERSONNEL – Chairman Schaack stated there was no report from the Personnel Committee. The next meeting will be held within the next few months.

FINANCE – On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chairman Crigger made a motion to pay the current salary reserve of \$10,000 to Mr. Matney, continue to fund salary reserve to allow for consultant work in the future, advertise the salary range for the next town manager for \$45,000 - \$65,000 and to purchase a new mower from capital outlays. Councilmember Mecimore seconded the motion and it passed by vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

Vice-Mayor Crigger explained discussion was held on purchasing laptop computers for each councilmember. He asked that everyone consider this item for discussion at a later time.

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:

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 9, 2010 – PAGE 4

JOINT GOVERNMENTAL BODIES MEETING – The next Joint Governmental Bodies meeting will be hosted by Wythe County and will be held Monday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m. A request has been received for agenda items which must be submitted by March 19.

RURAL RETREAT / SMYTH COUNTY WATER PROJECT – A meeting has been scheduled next week with Smyth County to discuss the preliminary plans for the Rural Retreat / Smyth County water project. Mr. Matney explained if both parties are in agreement then federal stimulus money would be pursued.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – Discussions are continuing with the Virginia Department of Real Estate Services concerning the easement to cross the property at Rural Retreat Lake. A call was received from the Department of Real Estate Services, in which the person stated Delegate Bill Carrico had spoken with the Director of General Services but Mr. Carrico hasn't contacted us back. The bid opening will be held Thursday, March 18 at 2:00 p.m.

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – Anderson & Associates, Inc. has promised to submit the plans for this project no later than the end of next week. The plans have been reviewed in house and comments were offered.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK / BIKEWAY PROJECT – Mr. Matney explained he has been communicating with the VDOT Bristol District on a weekly basis. VDOT is now satisfied with the easements and right-of-ways and they have assured us the right-of-way certification and request for authorization to bid will be forwarded to Richmond this week. Approval should be received within two weeks. Work is continuing with CenturyLink and AEP for utility pole relocations.

WELLNESS / FITNESS STUDY – COMMITTEE INPUT – A draft of part one of the Market Feasibility Report for the Wellness / Fitness Study has been completed and will be shared with the committee members at their next meeting which will hopefully be held next week.

THE CROOKED ROAD – A telephone call and a letter have been received from The Crooked Road requesting financial support of \$1,000 this year. A representative was asked to contact us to discuss the advantages to Rural Retreat participating in this program. It has been understood that if we participate, they will promote musical events and festivals in our community. Mr. Matney stated he felt if the Dr. Pepper Stage and Heritage Day could be promoted this would be beneficial. He added money has previously been spent with Song of the Mountains but The Crooked Road may be a better investment. Mr. Matney stated he informed the representative that Confederate Railroad will be performing at Heritage Day and he felt this increased their interest in Rural Retreat. Councilmember Mecimore asked Mr. Matney if Rural Retreat chooses to participate in this program would this allow us to start hosting musical events one to two times per month. Mayor Litz responded there was a possibility.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – MARCH 9, 2010 – PAGE 5

2011 BUDGET – The preliminary first draft of the budget is being completed and should be available for the Finance Committee prior to the next meeting. Discussion was held concerning various projects and potential facility upgrades.

TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills for March 9, 2010 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