

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular scheduled meeting on April 13, 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 **Correction – Chief Mitchell was present at the meeting**

OTHERS PRESENT

Vicar Matt Carpenter – Grace Lutheran Church
Wilma Justus & daughters
Jack Weaver, Bob Lewis

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Vicar Matt Carpenter.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger, seconded by Councilmember Dale Yontz to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2010 regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

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CITIZEN'S TIME

Mr. Weaver addressed the Council and asked if the court order that Mr. Sobey had regarding the decision on the depot had been signed. He quoted Ted Turner who once said "lead, follow or get out of the way". Mayor Litz asked Mr. Matney to address Mr. Weaver's request. Mr. Matney stated he would like to talk to Mr. Sobey because he didn't realize the court order needed to be signed. Mr. Weaver commented his attorney, out of courtesy, had asked for Mr. Sobey to sign the document.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney read an invitation from the Town of Wytheville Wall of Honor Committee inviting the council member's to the Memorial Day Ceremony on Sunday, May 30, 2010, at 1:00 p.m. at the War Memorial in Withers Park. Dr. George Farrell will be the guest speaker. Members interested in attending were asked to RSVP. Mr. Matney added the American Legion Post #229 will also be hosting a Memorial Day Ceremony the same day at 3:00 p.m. with Dr. Farrell as the guest speaker.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell explained his March activity report. He commented there had been an increase in activity, especially dog complaints, which he attributed to the nicer weather. Chief Mitchell added Mr. Matney had spoken to Wythe County Assistant Administrator Stephen Bear concerning the cooperation from the Wythe County Animal Control personnel in which Mr. Bear spoke to Arlan Dunford with Animal Control. He stated there is now more understanding especially regarding who will handle the complaints. Previously, Wythe County Animal Control thought Chief Mitchell was to handle all complaints but he explained he can only resolve the ones that the owner of the dog is known because he is not equipped to catch and house the dogs. Councilmember Mecimore asked who should be contacted about barking dogs. Mr. Matney responded Chief Mitchell should be contacted unless the dog is not restrained.

Chief Mitchell informed the Council the new radar unit for the police car had been received and installed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RURAL RETREAT FIRE STATION REPAIRS – Mr. Matney explained Councilmember Hall had contacted Engine Bay Floors concerning the needed repairs to the floor of the Rural Retreat Fire Station. He added he had spoken to a representative and discussed the repair needs. Mr. Matney stated a representative will be at the fire station on Tuesday, April 27, at 1:00 p.m. Councilmember Hall was asked by Mr. Matney to evaluate the cost of repairing the roof. Councilmember Hall explained screws are being sheared off of the roof and then found in the parking lot.

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

PAPERLESS CORRESPONDENCE – Vice-Mayor Crigger stated various laptop models are being reviewed at this time for comparison.

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

NEW BUSINESS

STREET CLEANING – Mr. Matney explained he had contacted VDOT and asked them to clean the curbs and gutters along the streets within town. He added town personnel have cleaned the gravel and debris from the sidewalks and upon VDOT completing their work the streets should look better. Mr. Matney added the curbs and gutters will be cleaned again prior to the Heritage Day Festival.

TOWN SHOP INTERNET ACCESS – Councilmember Mecimore explained the maintenance personnel had talked to him and provided a list of reasons why internet access is needed at the town shop. He stated the list contained items such as obtaining information from the GIS site, ordering parts for equipment, etc. Mr. Matney stated regarding the utilities the GIS site does not give enough detail for it to be used at the town shop. He continued by stating he would like to have a program that would allow for all valves, manholes, inverts and water meters to be included so the information could be used in house. Councilmember Mecimore explained this information can be added to the site and Anderson & Associates, Inc. should be able to add this information in the password protection area. Councilmember Mecimore asked that Wythe County be asked for an update on parcel information.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE – Chairman Crigger stated the Finance Committee met at 6:00 p.m. to review the draft budget. The next committee meeting will be held Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Crigger added each councilmember will receive a copy of the draft budget prior to the meeting. He invited all councilmember's to attend.

PERSONNEL – Chairman Schaack stated the Personnel Committee was scheduled to meet prior to the Council meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. however due to the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce Candidate's Forum being held at 5:30 p.m. the meeting has been rescheduled and the committee will meet after the Council meeting.

HERITAGE DAY – Chairman Yontz stated there was no new activity to report on the 2010 Heritage Day Festival.

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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:

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – Mr. Matney recommended DCI/Shires be awarded the contract for Division 1 of the out-of-town water project for \$746,919.50 which includes additive bids A and B for the projects on Myrtle Lane and Rural Retreat Lake Road. CrossPointe Contractors was recommended by Mr. Matney to be awarded Division II of the project to connect the water line from Gienow Road to Rural Retreat Elementary School for \$50,680.00. He added the contractors and their respective bids are subject to approval by USDA Rural Development. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Crigger to award the contract for the Division 1 project including the additive bids to DCI/Shires and to award the Division II project to CrossPointe Contractors pending approval of both contractors from USDA Rural Development. Councilmember Mecimore seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

Mr. Matney continued by explaining the low bids on this project came in approximately \$370,000 under the engineers estimated construction cost. He further explained the entire project was estimated to cost \$1.6 million which consisted of over \$900,000 in grant money and over \$600,000 in loan money. Mr. Matney stated the general rule is the loan money is spent first then the grant money but if a balance is left on the grant money it must be given back. He suggested considering possible additional items to fund with the excess money such as constructing a water line on Ridge Avenue from South Greever Street to Myrtle Lane, the installation of surge protection devices at the water treatment plant, additional valves, the replacement of some or all of the water meters or upgrading the meter reading equipment. Discussion was conducted on the items proposed. Mr. Matney further explained these items would require approval from Rural Development. He asked the council to allow him to speak with the water operators and maintenance personnel then compose a list of potential additional needs. The consensus of the council was to allow Mr. Matney and town personnel to prepare a list of potential needs.

Mr. Weaver asked Mr. Matney about the Smyth/Wythe County water line connection. Mr. Matney replied work is continuing and the discussions have been positive. He added he had contacted Robert Hilt with Rural Development and the project is very fundable. Mr. Matney stated there are some details and agreements that need to be worked out and Wythe County also needs to be on board.

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – The plans and specifications have been approved by the Virginia Department of Health. Upon approval from Rural Development, the authorization to bid this project should be received within a week.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK / BIKEWAY PROJECT – Phases 4, 5 and 6 of this project will be advertised on Sunday, April 18, 2010. A pre-bid conference will be held on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 and the bid opening is scheduled for Tuesday, May 18, 2010.

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COMMUNITY WARNING SYSTEM – A site adjacent to the Rural Retreat Fire Station has been selected for the community wide warning system. The operating system will be housed at the fire station in the fire chief's personal office. The equipment is scheduled to be shipped this week with the mounting pole to be installed on Monday. Once the system is installed, training sessions will be held.

THE CROOKED ROAD FUNDING REQUEST – Keith Holland will be present to address the Council at the next scheduled meeting. He has requested to meet with Mr. Matney prior to the meeting to look at the Pepper Stage.

FIRE HOUSE FLOOR REPAIR – This item was previously addressed in the meeting.

VML TOWN SECTION MEETING – Mr. Matney stated Mrs. Gynn and himself attended the Town Section meeting in Christiansburg. He commented on newly adopted legislation that will impact the town of Rural Retreat. Vacancies on the Council will now require a special election to fill the vacated seat for the remainder of the term for localities with populations of 3,500 or less. Mr. Matney explained an individual can still be appointed but will serve until the next special election can be held. He continued by adding the town's municipal elections are held in May and at this time a special election would be held regardless of it being an election year or not. Effective January 1, 2011 there will be changes to Miss Utility markings which will now require private sewer laterals to be marked on private property. Another change is the distribution of handbills / sales or service which can now be regulated by the locality. This item has not previously been an issue for the town.

DRAFT DROUGHT ORDINANCE AND CONTINGENCY PLAN – A draft Drought Ordinance and Contingency Plan was distributed for review. Mr. Matney explained this is part of the Regional Water Source Plan that is being created by the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission. He asked the council member's to review the draft documents in order to take action on them at the next meeting.

CHAMBER CANDIDATES FORUM – As mentioned previously in the meeting, Mr. Matney reminded the council members of the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce's Candidate's Forum to be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 27 in the council chambers.

WATER LEAK REPAIR – Mr. Matney explained a water leak was repaired on Saturday evening on Black Lick Road between Staley Crossroads and the interstate. He added work would have been extremely difficult if the town didn't have work zone safety signs. He commented the signs were a great asset.

There being no more items in the Town Manager's report, Mr. Weaver commented on the invention of the Dr Pepper drink in Rural Retreat. Mr. Weaver explained he had found paperwork that contained the recipe for the drink

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TREASURER’S REPORT

The bills for April 13, 2010 were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Councilmember Mecimore is to attend the *Talk of the Town* radio program at the WYVE/WXBX radio station on Thursday morning. Mrs. Guynn was asked to contact Danny Gordon of this change.

ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Mayor Litz stated he received a compliment from Danny Williams commending the town for the work done above and beyond what he felt was necessary to resolve the sewer issues at his property.

Mr. Matney commented he had received a compliment from a citizen on the town’s brush chipping. He stated the gentleman explained the men chipping the brush also cleaned up the debris from where the brush had been on the ground and once complete it was difficult to see where the brush pile had been.

There being no additional business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Vice-Mayor Crigger and was duly seconded and approved.

Mayor

Clerk