

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular scheduled meeting on April 27, 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  
Scott Mitchell, Police Chief

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Becky Harrison, Wilma Justus, Jack Weaver, Bob Lewis,  
Keith Holland – The Crooked Road  
Mike Sobey – Town Attorney

### **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**

Mrs. Guynn noted a correction to the minutes from the previous meeting which reflected Chief Mitchell as being absent. Chief Mitchell was present at the meeting. Following the correction, a motion was made by Councilmember Dale Yontz, seconded by Councilmember Peggy Hash to approve the amended minutes of the April 13, 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. Jack Weaver addressed the Council to further explain the formula for the Dr. Pepper drink that he had presented at the previous meeting. He stated the soft drink was invented in Morrison's Drug Store in Waco not in Rural Retreat as believed. In Rural Retreat it was invented as a stomach bitters. Mr. Weaver gave a history on the invention of the drink and the ingredients used. He added he has used the recipe he obtained to make the stomach bitters and it tastes like the soft drink. A death certificate for Mr. Alderton is also in Mr. Weaver's possession. Mr. Weaver stated he would also like to discuss tourism in Rural Retreat whether good or bad he feels Rural Retreat is sitting on a gold mine. He added he would like to do something with the old hotel but cooperation would be needed from the town. Mr. Weaver also stated the depot is still sitting in town and he is listening.

Ms. Becky Harrison addressed the Council and explained she is beginning to walk around town now that it is spring. She expressed her excitement about Mr. Weaver's presentation and added she supports controlled tourism. Ms. Harrison stated she is concerned about the depot and the burned house on North Greever Street. Mr. Weaver responded to Ms. Harrison by explaining the depot had always been a land issue because neither he nor the town owns the land even though he made numerous requests to the town which fell on deaf ears. Mr. Matney added the town made contacts on Mr. Weaver's behalf with the railroad but the requests fell on deaf ears the same as Mr. Weaver felt his requests were. Mayor Litz commented that actions taken by the Council on the depot has brought public awareness. Councilmember Mecimore explained he has people from out of state to patronize his business and they ask what else is there to do in the area. He added people want to spend money in Rural Retreat but there is no where to do so.

Mr. Bob Lewis commented on a question asked of the council candidates during the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce Candidate's Forum which asked what are the two most important things you have done since you have been on council. He stated the question was asked of Councilmember Yontz but he felt he gave the best answer when he said we and everyone followed with we because the council has made decisions as a group. Mayor Litz stated whether good or bad the answer is we.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to be shared.

### **POLICE REPORT**

Chief Mitchell stated the new radar unit has been fully installed and he is now running radar on all shifts he is working. He added warnings are being issued. Chief Mitchell explained he is continuing to investigate dog complaints and he will be mailing letters to owners of inoperative motor vehicles this week. He has also downloaded the 2009 crime report but has not had the opportunity to compare Rural Retreat's crime statistics with other localities of our size. Upon completing this report it will be distributed to the Council, Chief Mitchell stated. Chief Mitchell

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explained he will be scheduling a meeting for Mr. Matney and himself to meet with Wythe County Sheriff, Doug King, to discuss the Heritage Day festival. He asked Mayor Litz and Heritage Day Chairman Yontz to also attend if possible. Vice-Mayor Crigger asked Chief Mitchell if he had followed up with residents on the proper display of 911 addresses. Chief Mitchell responded he followed up with one that was not properly displayed and the residence is now in compliance.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**RURAL RETREAT FIRE STATION REPAIRS** – Mr. Matney explained he had met with a representative from Engine Bay Floors. The representative evaluated the repairs needed and different options were discussed which comes with a ten year guarantee. A quote will be submitted for the towns review. He added he wasn't sure if the price would be \$5,000 or \$50,000 but he felt it was in the town's best interest to look into it and if it didn't meet our budget then other alternatives could be considered.

**PAPERLESS CORRESPONDENCE** – Mr. Matney explained the council is continuing to review this. He expressed his appreciation to Councilmember Mecimore for forwarding information on laptops as he finds it. Mr. Matney stated he assumes the cost for the laptops is to be included in the fiscal year 2011 budget. Vice-Mayor Crigger responded yes.

**TOWN SHOP INTERNET ACCESS** – Mr. Matney stated he had spoken to Anderson & Associates, Inc. to discuss including multiple layers on the GIS site as either password protected information or as a stand alone program to be used in house. Anderson & Associates, Inc. will be sending information on both options.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**THE CROOKED ROAD** – Keith Holland with The Crooked Road gave the Council a presentation on the history of this program and distributed handouts. He added as everyone is aware tourism is becoming necessary for economic development. In previous correspondence with Mr. Matney, Mr. Holland requested the town invest \$1,000 in order to become involved in The Crooked Road. He provided a handout that included benefits the town would receive if the Council chose to become a partner. He added if the town was interested in promoting the Pepper Stage then The Crooked Road would aid in doing so through their publications. Following additional discussion between Mr. Holland and the councilmember's, Councilmember Hash made a motion to recommend the Finance Committee review this request for possible inclusion in the fiscal year 2011 budget. Councilmember Schaack seconded the motion. Vice-Mayor Crigger commented the council has received a direct response on what the town will receive for the contribution. Councilmember Yontz asked if the town will be included on The Crooked Road maps. Mr. Holland replied the maps for 2010 have been printed therefore the town will not be included until next spring when the next printing is scheduled. There being no additional discussion the motion was approved by a vote of six (6) for and zero (0) against.

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### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

FINANCE – Chairman Crigger stated the Finance Committee will be meeting Tuesday, May 11, 2010 following the regular meeting instead of 6:00 p.m. as previously scheduled. 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 he distributed information with examples of what should be included in the profile for a town manager. He asked all members to review the information and to notify a committee member if they want something included in the profile. Chairman Schaack stated the meeting previously scheduled following the regular meeting has been rescheduled for a date and time to be announced later.

HERITAGE DAY – Chairman Yontz stated he will need to meet with Mayor Litz and Mr. Matney to discuss parking for the festival. He asked the meeting be held following the meeting with Chief Mitchell and Sheriff King. Mr. Matney recommended holding a meeting with key personnel to work out final details 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:

COMMUNITY WARNING SYSTEM – The pole, speakers, control panel and electrical supply have been fully installed. The tones selected include two warning and one all clear. The town's maintenance radio frequency will be used to operate the system. The operating system that includes the tones has been ordered.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – Town personnel and the engineers are continuing to look at ways to spend the remaining grant money from this project. However there is an issue that needs to be resolved and at this time Mr. Matney asked Town Attorney Sobey to explain this issue to the Council which is a difference of opinion. Mr. Sobey explained the bond council for the project is suggesting three members of the council were not properly sworn in following the previous elections and the seats are vacant based on §15.2-1524. He added this does not include the seat occupied by Councilmember Hash because Kristie Osborne resigned and Mrs. Hash was appointed to fill the vacancy and has taken her oath of office. Mr. Sobey stated it was his opinion that the members continue to serve until their predecessors qualify. Mr. Sobey advised the Council to appoint Mr. Hall and Mr. Mecimore to the current terms they are serving. Mr. Matney added when the bond resolution was adopted in November 2008, the bond council is claiming the seats were vacant. He added Mr. Sobey had conducted a lot of research and received numerous opinions but this project is ready for construction so in order to proceed with the project we need to comply with the bond council's request. Vice-Mayor Crigger made a motion to appoint Jerrell Hall and Scott Mecimore to their current terms on the Town Council. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Schaack and was passed by a vote of four (4) for:

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Keith Crigger, Peggy Hash, Ed Schaack, Dale Yontz; zero (0) against; and two (2) abstentions: Jerrell Hall, Scott Mecimore

The required public hearing has been re-advertised and scheduled for Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Following the public hearing the bond resolution will need to be readopted.

**IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT** – The engineers are continuing to address comments from the Virginia Department of Transportation and Rural Development. This should be resolved no later than next week, and this project will then be ready for advertising.

**TEA-21 SIDEWALK / BIKEWAY PROJECT** – A total of eight contractors attended the mandatory pre-bid conference held earlier today. The bid opening on this \$1.2 million project is scheduled for May 18, 2010.

**EMPLOYEE 457 SAVINGS PLAN** – A contract with Hartford Life was signed and returned today. In approximately four weeks employees will have access to this savings plan. This savings plan will be a supplemental retirement plan the employees can participate in if they choose.

**MONTHLY STATUS REPORT** – A copy of the Anderson & Associates, Inc. monthly status report is available for review.

Prior to continuing with the Treasurer's report, Bob Lewis asked Mayor Litz what could be done about the burned house on North Greever Street because it had been brought up during the candidate's forum and during the meeting. Mr. Matney responded to Mr. Lewis's question and explained he had asked the Wythe County Building Official to look at the house and he was told nothing could be done because there is no legislation that regulates life style unless there is a health issue. The Council directed Mr. Matney to ask Mr. Sobey to research the issue.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The bills for April 27, 2010 were read and approved.

### **TALK OF THE TOWN**

Councilmember Hash is to tentatively attend the *Talk of the Town* radio program at the WYVE/WXBX radio station on Thursday morning pending other commitments.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no additional business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Councilmember Schaack and was duly seconded and approved.

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Mayor

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Clerk