

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a public hearing during the regular scheduled meeting on June 8, 2010, 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
Peggy Hash

ABSENT

Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Wilma Justus and daughter, Jack Weaver, Grace Mecimore

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

RURAL DEVELOPMENT BOND RESOLUTION – 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.

Jack Weaver asked for the information on the bonds. Mr. Matney responded this is for two bonds that include a \$734,000 loan for the in-town water project and a \$686,000 loan for the out-of-town water project. Mayor Litz stated the amounts do not included money that was received on a grant basis. Mr. Weaver asked for the interest rate on the bonds. Mr. Matney responded the rate is currently at 2.75% and at closing it could possibly decrease to 2.125%.

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There being no additional comments, the public hearing was closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Dale Yontz, seconded by Councilmember Peggy Hash to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2010 regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of five (5) for and zero (0) against.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Mr. Jack Weaver distributed a bag of Indian corn meal and a sample of lavender recently harvested from his farm to the Council members and staff. Mr. Weaver also distributed a report to the Council outlining various activities he has been participating in that addressed agri-tourism and tourism. A copy of Mr. Weaver's report is attached and made a part of these minutes.

Mayor Litz addressed Mr. Weaver's request for the town to form a committee to promote tourism. He stated the people on this potential committee need to have the same interests. Mr. Matney referred to the Downtown Revitalization Plan that was addressed several years ago because there were many volunteers who served on the committee and did a lot of work toward this plan. He suggested the Council and others present recommend 8-10 individuals to serve on the committee. Mr. Weaver explained if a committee was formed he hoped it would possibly form into a non-profit organization such as Marion has recently done. Mayor Litz asked the Council members to make suggestions of individuals interested in serving on this committee. Councilmember Yontz stated he assumed if the committee was formed, Mr. Weaver would take the lead because of the time he has already invested. Mr. Weaver commented he would help if he can. He continued by stating agri-tourism is the second largest tourism base in Virginia and he and his wife are developing their farm to move in this direction. Councilmember Yontz added he felt the key to tourism is to keep the public educated. Following additional discussion pertaining to tourism benefiting towns in the area, the consensus of the Council was to ask the Planning Commission to review the Downtown Historical District Plan and make a recommendation to the Council as to whether it should be pursued.

Ms. Wilma Justus addressed the Council concerning a dog issue in her neighborhood. She stated people are concerned with the dog getting in their gardens and damaging their plants. Chief Mitchell and Mr. Matney commented on conversations they have had with residents in the neighborhood. Both are to follow-up with the residents in order to resolve this problem.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney read a thank you card from the advisors of the Students Against Destructive Decisions club at Rural Retreat High School for the donation the town made to assist the club in hosting a safe after prom environment for the students.

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Councilmember Hash stated she had attended the graduation ceremony at Rural Retreat High School and they recognize the town council members. She asked if the council had been invited to attend. Mr. Matney responded the school recognizes the council every year but no invitation is received.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell explained the activities for May increased. He is working on a larceny that occurred June 1 which he believed was not related to the previous larceny he is working. Chief Mitchell is continuing to run radar on each shift and is issuing warnings. Dog complaints also increased during May he noted. Chief Mitchell also explained he injured his shoulder while assisting the Virginia State Police with a subject at Chevron. The subject has been charged with assault on two officers. He added his shoulder is feeling better.

Mayor Litz asked if the majority of the dog complaints were due to loose or barking dogs. Chief Mitchell responded mostly loose dogs.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RURAL DEVELOPMENT BOND RESOLUTION – IN TOWN WATER PROJECT – Councilmember Hall made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation and water revenue bonds to the town for the in town water project for the principal amount not to exceed \$734,000. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and was approved by a roll call vote of five (5) ayes: Yontz, Schaack, Hash, Hall and Mecimore; zero (0) nays and one (1) member absent from the meeting: Crigger.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT BOND RESOLUTION – OUT OF TOWN WATER PROJECT – Councilmember Yontz made a motion to adopt the resolution authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation and water revenue bonds to the town for the out of town water project for the principal amount not to exceed \$686,000. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hash and was approved by a roll call vote of five (5) ayes: Yontz, Schaack, Hash, Hall and Mecimore; zero (0) nays and one (1) member absent from the meeting: Crigger.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business offered for discussion at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE – Mr. Matney reported minor changes had been made to a few line items in the draft budget; however these changes did not affect the total revenue and expenses. The public hearing is scheduled for the consideration of adopting the budget with tax rates and fees for the next meeting on June 22, 2010. Councilmember Mecimore asked if a summary of the budget would be available for the public to view. Mr. Matney responded yes and it will be published in the

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local paper. Councilmember Mecimore offered to post the summary on the town's website. Mr. Matney informed the council members if they had any questions, comments or concerns on the budget to contact him. Mayor Litz asked about the overtime line item in the wastewater fund. Mr. Matney responded it was not related to the operators but due to paying maintenance personnel from the fund. Mayor Litz explained he wanted to verify it was for bookkeeping purposes. Councilmember Hall asked about snow removal. Mr. Matney responded the employees involved in snow removal are paid from the same fund they are assigned to during the balance of the year because it was easier for bookkeeping purposes.

PERSONNEL – Chairman Schaack distributed a profile for use in hiring the next town manager. He asked the council members to review the draft and make suggestions. Chairman Schaack added he would like the profile to possibly be adopted at the next meeting. He encouraged everyone to visit the International City/County Management Association website to view their code of ethics.

HERITAGE DAY – Chairman Yontz reported Heritage Day is on track and last minute details are being finalized. He asked for the council member's participation in the parade and opening ceremonies.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Town Manager's report is attached and hereby made a part of these minutes. The following items were discussed and/or acted upon:

TEA-21 SIDEWALK/BIKEWAY PROJECT – The bid tabulations, a copy of the low bid including the VDOT forms C104 and C105, Disadvantaged Business Enterprises and bid documentation have been forwarded to VDOT for approval. The notice to proceed will be issued upon final approval.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – DIVISION I & ADDITIVE BIDS A & B – The contract documents, performance and payment bonds and the notice to award have been sent to Rural Development for final approval. The notice to proceed will be issued upon final approval by Rural Development.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – DIVISION II – Rural Development has approved the Preliminary Engineering Report and the contract award to Cross Pointe. The contractor is preparing bonds for approval by Rural Development. Once all documents have been received they will be sent to Rural Development for final approval. Both projects should begin within three to four weeks of each other, Mr. Matney added.

VIRGINIA RETIREMENT SYSTEM – The General Assembly has enacted legislation for new employees hired after July 1. Employers will have the option to require the employee to pay all or any portion of the employees 5% contribution that may be paid by the employer currently. The town currently pays the employees 5% contribution. A resolution will need to be adopted at the next meeting stating whether the town plans to continue to pay this contribution or make

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changes and require the employees to pay all or a portion of the 5%. Each percentage the town pays currently is equal to approximately \$12,000.

WYTHE-BLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GRANT WORKSHOP – This workshop is scheduled for tomorrow. The foundation has provided a grant to the town to conduct the wellness/fitness study in which the site selection has been completed. The primary site selected is owned by Klöckner Pentaplast. They have been contacted and a response has not been received. While attending a function at their facility, Mr. Matney stated he had the opportunity to speak with the vice-president about the possibility of a facility being located on their property in which the person was excited about the potential. The workshop will address grant writing and reporting and will be held at the Wytheville Meeting Center from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

WYTHE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT FUNDING – A meeting will be held with the county administrator following the Wythe-Bland Community Foundation Workshop if time allows.

RURAL RETREAT / WYTHE COUNTY WATER INTERCONNECTION – Wythe County is planning to build a line from Wytheville to interconnect with Rural Retreat's system. This plan does not state Rural Retreat is buying water from Wythe County nor does it state water will be sold to Wythe County. This is a contingency plan to connect the systems. Councilmember Mecimore asked if a valve to separate the systems would be installed. Mr. Matney responded yes, there would be a valve and two meters. A meeting with Elvin Peed is scheduled for tomorrow at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Matney added Rural Retreat is continuing to work with Smyth County. Mayor Litz attended a meeting last Thursday on the town's behalf. Wythe County will be involved in the project because they will need to be the lead agency on the application to Rural Development. A grant application will be submitted to Mount Rogers Planning District Commission for design work. At this time, Wythe County is on board to submit the applications. Mayor Litz added Smyth County and Rural Retreat were planning to be the applicants for the project but the water rates for both were lower than the amount needed to qualify for funding through the American Recovery Reinvestment Act. Mayor Litz and Mr. Matney explained the new requirements for funding.

DR. PEPPER'S 125TH ANNIVERSARY – Dr. Pepper is celebrating their 125th anniversary this year. A meeting will be held with representatives of Dr. Pepper and Pepsi tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. Discussion will be held on ways the anniversary can possibly promote the Heritage Day Festival. Following this meeting, we should know if we have the support of Dr. Pepper this year.

MOWING OF LOTS IN TOWN – After being told of a news report on television stating Henry County now requires all non-agriculture property to be mowed once a month instead of twice a year as stated in the Code of Virginia. Upon asking Brenda Maxey to research this online, she found information pertaining to Henry County's new requirement and it was forwarded to town attorney, Michael Sobey for review. Mr. Matney asked the Council if they would be interested in amending their ordinance if the town has the legislative authority to do so and require lots to

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be mowed more than twice a year. The consensus of the Council was to look into this for future consideration.

PROPOSED 2011 BUDGET – This item was previously addressed in the meeting.

COMMUNITY WARNING SYSTEM – Councilmember Schaack asked for an update on the community warning system. Mr. Matney responded the system is operational but he had not finalized the standard operating procedures. The system is to test at noon each Friday and thus far it hasn't been so he hoped to get that resolved. In some areas the warning is louder than others but it seems to be based on the direction of the speakers. Discussion was held on additional ways to increase the warning area. Upon speaking with the Wythe County Emergency Services Coordinator, Mr. Matney stated he was told the County is looking at installing a county wide warning system. The town's system would possibly work in conjunction with the County's. As more information is received it will be reported.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills for June 8, 2010 were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Councilmember Yontz and Mr. Weaver are 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