

The Rural Retreat Town Council held an organizational meeting during the regular scheduled meeting on July 13, 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

Bob Lewis 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. Ed Schaack.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Litz.

ORGANIZATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Litz stated the next item for consideration was to elect a vice-mayor, appoint members to the standing committees, and appoint a town manager, clerk/treasurer, police chief and town attorney. Councilmember Schaack asked if all appointments could be made at once or if they should be made individually. Mayor Litz responded that can be clarified in the motion. He added if the council was in agreement he would like the standing committee chairs and members to remain the same. The consensus was to make no changes. Councilmember Hall added previously the Council has chosen to reappoint all positions at one time. Councilmember Hall then made the motion to re-elect Keith Crigger as Vice-Mayor, Raymond E. Matney as Town Manager, Lori C. Guynn as Town Clerk/Treasurer, Scott A. Mitchell as Police Chief and

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Michael J. Sobey as Town Attorney. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Schaack and passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; and one (1) absent: Crigger.

Fire, Police and Health Committee Chair Hash stated she would like to schedule a committee meeting and asked Chief Mitchell to attend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Yontz, seconded by Councilmember Hash to approve the minutes of the June 22, 2010 public hearing/regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of three (3) for: Yontz, Hash, and Hall; zero (0) against and two (2) abstentions: Mecimore and Schaack due to their absence at the previous meeting.

At this time Chief Mitchell excused himself due to the Wythe County Sheriff's Office requesting assistance at the Staley Crossroads area.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Those present did not wish to address the Council

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to be shared.

POLICE REPORT

Mayor Litz asked the councilmember's if they had any comments on Chief Mitchell's written activity report for June. Councilmember Mecimore commented he has been seeing a lot of loose dogs running around town and asked if the town should send letters to citizens. Mr. Matney stated he would like to comment on this issue during the Fire, Police and Health Committee meeting that Chairperson Hash has called. He asked the councilmember's to solicit comments from their constituents. Chairperson Hash scheduled a committee meeting on Tuesday, July 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. She invited all members to attend.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

RESOLUTION TO PROHIBIT PREDATORY, USURIOUS LENDING PRACTICES IN VIRGINIA – Mr. Matney recommended adopting the draft resolution to support the City of Staunton in their efforts to ask the General Assembly to regulate lending practices. He added this is not an issue in Rural Retreat but he felt it is an issue that needs to be addressed. Councilmember Hall made the motion to adopt the proposed resolution as written. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Yontz and passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Crigger.

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NEW BUSINESS

TOWN NEWSLETTER – Councilmember Yontz explained Wytheville publishes a newsletter that is mailed to citizens that highlights events around town and activities with the council. He stated he felt this would be a good idea for Rural Retreat to consider. Councilmember Hash stated she receives inquiries from citizens about the various projects in town and things that the town council is doing. She added recently a citizen had approached her about the idea and made some suggestions on what to include in the newsletter. Mayor Litz asked Councilmember Yontz what the approximate cost would be to publish a newsletter. He replied approximately 5¢-8¢ each plus mailing. Mr. Matney suggested Council members Yontz and Hash compose a proof for review. Councilmember Mecimore suggested naming the newsletter Rural Retreat Times. Additional discussion was conducted and Mayor Litz asked for this item to be placed on the agenda under unfinished business.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PERSONNEL – Councilmember Schaack stated at the previous council meeting in which he was absent the proposed town manager profile was scheduled to be adopted. He asked the council members to consider adopting the profile tonight since all had more time to review it than planned. Councilmember Schaack made the motion to adopt the town manager profile as previously distributed. Councilmember Yontz seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Crigger.

Councilmember Schaack added he would like for the town to begin writing an advertisement similar to the one distributed from a town in Connecticut so that the process of hiring the next town manager can begin in January 2011.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE – Chairman Hall explained repairs to the fire house roof and floor were discussed at the meeting held June 29, 2010. Mr. Matney added Chairman Hall and he discussed spending approximately \$4,000 to repair the roof which would help to extend the life of the facility. Chairman Hall explained the aluminum screws that are shearing off when the roof expands and contracts would be replaced with stainless steel screws. Mr. Matney further explained the quote received from Engine Bay Floors was discussed. Chairman Hall and Mr. Matney concurred this would be a nice repair for the floor but due to the proposed cost other options are being considered at a lower cost. A copy of the written committee report was distributed.

HERITAGE DAY – Mayor Litz asked Chairman Yontz to clarify an item that Bob Lewis had asked about for Heritage Day. Chairman Yontz explained the contract for Confederate Railroad requested alcohol but since the festival is a family friendly event they are not requiring this. He continued by stating alcohol is in the contract for other events they participate in. Chairman Yontz asked for the councilmember's opinion of hanging a banner on the front of the stage with all of the sponsors listed. Representative Rick Boucher will be giving the opening remarks and has promised to not make any political remarks, Chairman Yontz stated. He further explained

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the town needs to complete an application asking Governor McDonnell to issue a proclamation recognizing Rural Retreat's 100th anniversary next year. Currently we are first on Governor McDonnell's list of activities for 2011. Discussion was held on advertising Heritage Day on various radio stations. Chairman Yontz explained he is working with WMEV FM-94 on running promotional ads.

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS – No report was given.

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:

Chief Mitchell returned to the meeting and Mr. Matney informed him the Fire, Police and Health Committee had scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, July 27, 2010 at 6:00 p.m.

HISTORICAL DISTRICT REQUEST – At the request of the Council, the Planning Commission reviewed the request for a historical district. They decided upon publishing a notice in the *Wytheville Enterprise* to solicit interest in designating this area. A total of three responses was received which included Jack Weaver's original request. At the planning commission meeting the previous night, the Commissioner's decided to mail letters directly to the property owners explaining the concept in hopes of receiving a better response. A suggestion was also made to bring a person to the next planning commission meeting that is familiar with historical districts and receiving tax credits.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – A pre-construction meeting will be held tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. and the loan closing with Rural Development has been scheduled for 11:00 a.m. The information requested to construct the water line on Myrtle Lane and Ridge Avenue with the remaining funds has not been received from Rural Development. Mr. Matney stated there had been discussion on waiving the tap and access fees for those individuals who connect to the town's water system during construction. He asked if the council member's were in agreement of this. Letters will be mailed to the property owners affected notifying them of Wythe County's Mandatory Water Use Ordinance, he added. Councilmember Mecimore made the motion to waive the tap and access fees for those property owners that connect to the town's water system during the construction phase only. Councilmember Yontz seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Crigger.

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – The pre-bid conference was held today with nine firms in attendance. The bid opening is scheduled for Thursday, July 29, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK/BIKEWAY PROJECT – We are still awaiting approval from VDOT.

GRASS CUTTING ON PROPERTY OWNED IN TOWN – Following Town Attorney Sobey's research on setting requirements for cutting grass and other foreign growth from property more

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than twice per year it was determined that §15.2-901 of the Code of Virginia states “at such time or times as the governing body shall prescribe.” Mr. Matney stated the General Assembly is now leaving the decision to the local governments. He added an ordinance could be adopted to change the town’s current requirements. Councilmember Mecimore commented there should be set definitions such as height because it shouldn’t be on a judgmental basis. Following additional discussion, Mayor Litz asked Mr. Matney to take this proposal to the planning commission for review.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILROAD PROPERTY (DEPOT SITE) – Norfolk Southern is proposing to donate the real estate of the depot site to the town. Legal counsel is reviewing the conditions and restrictions and will report at the next meeting.

Councilmember Schaack inquired on the ownership of the guardrail on East Railroad Avenue because it has been damaged again. Mr. Matney stated it is owned by VDOT. Chief Mitchell explained he has noticed Star Transportation trucks are taking that route to Mid-Atlantic Manufacturing again. Chief Mitchell has spoken to human resources at Mid-Atlantic Manufacturing and has made contact with the corporate office of Star Transportation to attempt to resolve how directions are being given to the drivers. He added he has previously spoken to the dispatcher for Star Transportation but the drivers are following their GPS units.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Mrs. Guynn informed the Council she will be out of the office July 20-23 therefore the next council packets will not be ready until Monday evening. Councilmember Schaack suggested distributing the packets on Tuesday at the meeting. The consensus was to distribute the packets at that time.

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

Prior to proceeding, Jack Weaver informed the council that Mr. Matney and he attended a meeting with Hill Studios and Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (MRPDC) last week. He explained the MRPDC informed them grant money is available if the town wants to pursue the 2000 plan. Mr. Matney added there is a lot of potential for various things but there needs to be a tremendous amount of groundwork completed. Mr. Weaver encouraged the council member’s to return the surveys he distributed to them at a previous meeting.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Chief Mitchell is to attend the *Talk of the Town* radio program at the WYVE/WXBX radio station on Wednesday morning. Mayor Litz and Councilmember Yontz will attend on July 29 to discuss Heritage Day.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor

Clerk