

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular scheduled meeting on July 27, 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

Rose Lester – President of Friends of the Rural Retreat Public Library
Sarah Pike – Regional Director of Wythe-Grayson Regional Library
Wilma Justus and daughters
Skipper Patton, John Burnett, Rose Kennedy and other residents of Hazelnut Lane

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Mecimore, seconded by Councilmember Yontz to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2010 organizational/regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack and Yontz and zero (0) against.

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CITIZEN'S TIME

Mrs. Rose Lester introduced herself and stated she is the President of the Friends of the Rural Retreat Public Library and also serves on the board of the Wythe-Grayson Regional Library. She introduced Sarah Polk who is the new Regional Director of the Wythe-Grayson Regional Library to the Council. Ms. Polk then addressed the Council and stated she appreciates the support the Library receives from the town and hopes to continue to work with the Council.

Skipper Patton, a resident of Hazelnut Lane, addressed the Council about the water line extension on Myrtle Lane. He explained he and his neighbors have concerns about this water line and asked if it will be extended to include Hazelnut Lane because he was under the impression they would be included. Mr. Matney responded the money available is to develop the water line from Bruce Porter's residence on Myrtle Lane to Ridge Avenue. Mr. Patton asked if he would have the option of connecting to the water line because he lives approximately 800 ft. from Myrtle Lane and would he have to install a water line from Myrtle Lane to his house. Mr. Matney responded yes they way the project is designed he would be allowed to connect to the line but his meter would be installed in the right-of-way on Myrtle Lane. Mr. Patton further explained that 14 residences were included but eight were left out. Mr. Matney commented the lots are considered flag lots. Mr. Patton then asked if easements were given to install the water line on Hazelnut Lane would the town do so. Mr. Matney asked if Hazelnut Lane was a private lane and if so who owns the roadway because easements would need to be obtained. Mr. Patton responded yes, Hazelnut Lane is private but he would have to check deeds to find out who owns the property. He referred to the meeting previously held with Wythe County concerning the water line expansion and stated it was his understanding that the residences on Hazelnut Lane would be included in this expansion. Mr. Matney explained he thought the engineers viewed the properties on Hazelnut Lane to have road frontage due to the 20 ft. wide portion that connects to Myrtle Lane. Mayor Litz asked what would be involved in extending the water line onto Hazelnut Lane. Mr. Matney responded the thought was to stay in the public right-of-way but if the line is extended to include Hazelnut Lane which is private, the owners would need to be determined and right-of-ways obtained. He added he would contact the engineers and ask them to review Hazelnut Lane and determine what would be involved to install lineage. Mayor Litz asked how many households this would effect. Mr. Patton responded eight. Councilmember Mecimore asked how many households were being represented at the meeting. After a show of hands, five of the eight were represented. Following discussion of the potential water line expansion, Mr. Matney asked if the other households present shared the same concerns as Mr. Patton. Those in attendance agreed. Mr. Matney explained a 20 ft. right-of-way would be sufficient but if this is done, precedence will be set especially on Rural Retreat Lake Road. He informed the Hazelnut Lane residents the Council will meet again in two weeks and asked that they allow him 2-3 days to get more information and contact him regarding information he has received. Mayor Litz expressed his appreciation of the residents attending the meeting to express their concerns.

John Burnett, a resident of Hazelnut Lane, inquired about the \$2,000 fee to connect to the water system. Mr. Matney responded this consists of the cost for the water tap and includes an access

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fee. He continued by stating this would be the charge if public water was available and they chose to connect in the future instead of during construction. Mr. Burnett asked about the codes that will need to be met. Mr. Matney responded he wasn't sure if there were any regulations on the type of pipe installed. Councilmember Hall added there was not a code governing the pipe. Mr. Matney explained the Virginia Department of Health requires a physical air gap between a private water source and a public water connection. Councilmember Hash asked if the property owners who weren't in attendance were interested in connecting to the town system. Mr. Patton responded he was unsure but there was the possibility of at least one. Mayor Litz asked that this item be placed on the agenda as unfinished business.

CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to be shared.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell reported activity had slowed and final preparations are being made for Heritage Day. He is working with Mr. Matney and Councilmember Yontz to resolve minor issues. Mayor Litz inquired if the dog issues had been resolved. Chief Mitchell stated it has decreased. Mr. Matney asked Mrs. Justus if her neighborhood was still experiencing dog problems. Mrs. Justus responded it had gotten better.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PROPOSED TOWN NEWSLETTER – Councilmember Yontz explained discussion has been held on publishing a town newsletter but it will be pursued more following Heritage Day.

COMMUNITY WARNING SYSTEM – Councilmember Mecimore stated a citizen had asked him why the community warning system was installed at the fire station because the person is unable to hear it at their residence on Sherwood Avenue. He added he explained to the citizen the decision was made to put it there but he wasn't sure why. Mr. Matney responded by explaining when the manufacturer conducted the acoustical survey the ideal location was in front of Lindsey's Funeral Home. He added the system has eight horns pointing in four directions however the system is only heard in the directions the horns are pointing. Councilmember Mecimore commented the system isn't high enough to project over the hills because it was put in a flat location. He asked if the system could be raised to increase the projection. Mr. Matney responded by explaining a remote site could be installed or add another set of eight horns pointing in the directions the current horns aren't. Councilmember Mecimore further expressed his concern of the sound not reaching the citizens. Councilmember Yontz commented he felt the concern is that citizens can't hear the warning tones in their homes especially if a disaster is approaching. Mr. Matney suggested contacting the manufacturer to inquire about options to improve the coverage area because the acoustical survey is computer generated. Councilmember Schaack asked if the system could be tested daily at noon for two weeks to narrow down who is hearing the warning. Mrs. Justus commented she was unable to hear the siren at her residence

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and she suggested raising the current one to increase the coverage. Mr. Matney commented the system is currently six feet higher than is recommended for the system. Councilmember Hall suggested allowing Mr. Matney to contact the manufacturer and quit guessing what can be done to resolve the concerns. Mayor Litz asked that this item remain on the agenda as unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business offered for discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS – In Chairman Crigger's absence, Mayor Litz inquired about the 2009/2010 fiscal audit. Mrs. Guynn explained the auditors have planned to begin the audit work in three weeks but at this time she was unsure if she would be able to accommodate their schedule. If they are unable to begin then, it may be November before both schedules will allow for them to begin. She stated she will provide an update at the next meeting.

FIRE, POLICE AND HEALTH – Chairperson Hash explained the committee met with Chief Mitchell prior to the Council meeting. She stated the meeting was productive and they plan to meet on a quarterly basis.

HERITAGE DAY – Councilmember Hash asked if the councilmember's were planning to ride in the parade. Councilmember Yontz explained usually the member's available ride in his street rod. Following additional discussion, the member's decided to meet the morning of the parade.

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE – Chairman Hall explained the information he had will be reported on during the town manager's report.

PERSONNEL – Councilmember Schaack stated there was nothing to report at this time.

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:

Mr. Matney explained while he was out of the office last week he asked Mrs. Maxey to mail letters to the property owners effected by the out-of-town water project and upon his return he had received several phone calls and messages in reference to the letters sent.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – DIVISION I, ADDITIVE BID A & B – The notice to proceed was issued on July 14 and the construction began this week. King Construction is the primary sub-contractor for DCI/Shires on this project. He added all materials had been purchased and is being stored on town owned properties therefore the first pay request will be significant.

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OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – DIVISION II – The notice to proceed was issued on July 14 with the construction scheduled to begin this week. Larry Lindsey is the resident inspector for both water projects. Mr. Matney commended Mr. Lindsey of his knowledge on the construction of utility lines.

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – The pre-bid conference was held July 15 and the bid opening will be Thursday, July 29 at 2:00 p.m. If the loan through Rural Development is closed by September 30 the interest rate will be reduced from 2.75% to 2.375% which would result in a savings of just over \$72,000 over the term of the note. Mr. Matney stated the September 30 date could be met to take advantage of the savings.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK/BIKEWAY PROJECT – An email was received from the Bristol District VDOT last week stating they had received verbal approval for the project; however, a notice to proceed will not be issued until a hard copy of the notice is received by the Bristol District Office. Hopefully the pre-construction conference can be scheduled for early next week and the notice can be issued at that time. The contractor is anxious to get started due to the cost of materials increasing and the start of school coming soon.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT – The monthly status report from Anderson & Associates is available. The report highlights the status of the water projects as well as other on going projects.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY REAL ESTATE OFFER – Copies of the Norfolk Southern letter as well as a copy of Attorney Sobey's review comments are attached for your information. In addition to other conditions, the property must be used only for civic or governmental purposes and if the depot is demolished the property will revert to Norfolk Southern. The success of this transaction will depend upon Mr. Weaver's planned future use of the depot. Mr. Matney commented Mr. Weaver needs to be included in this and he recommended approving the documents. Councilmember Mecimore asked if they could be given more time to review the distributed documents due to just receiving them. Mr. Matney replied yes and asked the council members to take time to read all of the documents prior to proceeding. He asked that this item remain on the agenda as unfinished business for the next meeting.

Mayor Litz asked Mr. Matney to explain what Norfolk Southern has stated about the demolition of the depot. Mr. Matney explained when he first read the offer letter he viewed it as worst case scenario because if the depot is destroyed and Norfolk Southern takes the property back there is the possibility it would become a storage yard. Upon speaking with Jeff George, the real estate representative with Norfolk Southern he was assured the property would not become a storage yard. Mr. George stated he would give the town a lease for a beautification project so that the railway can't put anything on the property. Mr. Matney added he is confident in Mr. George comments. Mayor Litz commented the Miller Street crossing is the only crossing the railway has requested to be closed not the Church Street crossing. Councilmember Mecimore added the

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Church Street crossing can't be closed due to emergency vehicle access. He then asked if the railroad had made a decision on the railway section house property located on Church Street. Mr. Matney responded no decision has been made but he had asked an individual that tears down houses for the materials to submit a proposal however no response was received.

VPDES PERMIT #VA0089147 RE-ISSUANCE – The discharge permit at the Water Treatment Plant costs \$1,200 for an annual renewal. Due to some rule changes with the Environmental Protection Agency, the annual cost can be streamlined to \$600 for a five year permit if toxicity test requirements are met on discharge. The required tests would cost approximately \$3,000. The savings would be \$2,400 for this renewal and \$5,400 for the next renewal.

WATER ACCOUNTABILTY – The accountability is still extremely high. The water projects should aid in decreasing this.

FIRE DEPARTMENT FLOOR REPAIR PROPOSAL – A copy of the proposal received from H and F Contracting, Inc. to repair the floor was distributed. The proposal is at a cost of \$40/hour and the town would furnish all materials for the repair. Councilmember Hall explained he contact the materials supplier for an updated cost which was previously around \$1,200. He also pointed out the \$40/hour cost is for man hours and the crew consists of three people working a 40 hour week. Councilmember Yontz made a motion to accept the proposal from H and F Contracting, Inc. to repair the floor at the Rural Retreat Fire Department building. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Schaack and passed by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz and zero (0) against.

Councilmember Schaack commented the Council has been working on this for a year and a half. Councilmember Mecimore commended Councilmember Hall for his work on this project and for saving the town almost \$20,000.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills for July 27, 2010 and the associated expenses for Heritage Day were read. Councilmember Hall made a motion to authorize the payment of the July 27, 2010 and Heritage Day bills. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Schaack and was approved by a vote of five (5) for: Hall, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz and zero (0) against.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Mayor Litz and Councilmember Yontz will be attending the *Talk of the Town* radio program at the WYVE/WXBX radio station on Thursday morning instead of the customary Wednesday morning due to both attending on July 29 to discuss Heritage Day.

Mayor Litz informed the Council that Mr. Matney, Councilmember Yontz, Curtis Vaught and he are to attend WMEV FM-94 on Friday morning 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