

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular scheduled meeting on August 24, 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

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Ace & Rose Kennedy, William “Skipper” Patton, Jr., John Burnett, Leigh Ann Pridemore, Ronnie Shupe, James “Rod” Wagner, Clayton Horne, Wilma and Sarah Justus and 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Schaack, seconded by Councilmember Yontz to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2010 regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Crigger, Hall, Hash, Schaack and Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) abstention: Mecimore, due to his absence from the previous meeting.

CITIZEN’S TIME

Mayor Litz asked for all citizen comments to be made from the podium and for those speaking to identify themselves for the minutes. He asked Skipper Patton to come forward to address the council on behalf of the residents of Myrtle Lane. Mayor Litz then asked Mr. Matney to report

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 24, 2010 – PAGE 2

on the meeting they had attended with the Wythe County Water Committee. Mr. Matney reported since the last town council meeting Mayor Litz and himself had met with the Wythe County Water Committee. He stated the committee told them it was a Rural Retreat project and Rural Retreat could deal with the issues. Mayor Litz concurred with Mr. Matney's comments. Mr. Matney also explained he has discovered there is a requirement for a homeowner's association in the Meadow Ridge Estates subdivision. He referred to the covenants for the subdivision which include easements for phone, electric and water service. Mr. Patton commented the utility easements are on each lot of Hazelnut Lane and can't be closed. Mr. Matney added the easement consists of 5 ft. on each side of the lots. He continued by stating the homeowners association is to consist of lots 4, 5 and 7-16 and refers to Hazelnut Lane as "the private road" though it isn't named. Mr. Matney asked Mr. Patton if a homeowners association was in existence. Mr. Patton responded it has not been formally organized. Mr. Matney explained he had spoken to Lee Saunders concerning the deeds and easements and he was very interested in being involved because he would be signing some of the easements. Mr. Patton stated he had received quotes on the cost to run water lines to the eight homes on Hazelnut Lane which would cost approximately \$11,700. He also inquired about the water line being built to serve the fairgrounds property when it is already served by the town and the line being extended .4/mile. Mr. Matney explained the line that currently serves the campground and pool runs from the dam and has had extensive failures so the goal is to serve the facilities with a more reliable line. Mr. Patton questioned Wythe County subsidizing \$24,000 to run the water line to the pool as he had found in meeting minutes. Vice-Mayor Crigger clarified the \$24,000 was the cost to extend the line from the fairgrounds to the property line on Lake Road. Upon receiving clarification regarding the line extension to the Rural Retreat Lake property, Mr. Patton asked Mr. Matney if Mr. Saunders had indicated any problems with obtaining easements. He further stated he wanted to clarify a comment for the other councilmember's made at the last meeting by the vice-mayor who stated the town doesn't cross private property. He stated the town does cross private property. Mr. Matney added with easements. He also explained he had previously corrected this with Mr. Patton but should have corrected this statement during the meeting. Mayor Litz asked for an explanation on the width of easements that was discussed with Wythe County. Mr. Matney explained the utility easement in the covenants for Meadow Ridge is 10 ft. but is generally 25 ft. He added the Council should decide if they want to spend x amount of dollars to extend the water line onto Hazelnut Lane. Mr. Patton commented seven of the eight homeowners want the water service and they have spoken to representatives with Wythe County. Mr. Matney suggested members of the council and himself meet with Lee Saunders to discuss this. Mr. Patton asked if they return to the next meeting and the homeowners association is established and they have a letter from Mr. Saunders supporting this would the town have an answer for them. Mr. Matney responded it would be a decision made by the council on whether or not to allocate the additional money to run the water line or not. He continued by stating the \$11,000 cost does not put the water line adjacent to the properties. Mr. Patton stated he had gotten copies of the utility ordinances from the town hall relating to the utilities but after reviewing them he did not find a non-user fee ordinance. He then questioned how this could be enforced because there is no ordinance for it. Mr. Matney responded he would need to research this because it may be part of the funding guidelines. Mr. Patton further stated the rate

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 24, 2010 – PAGE 3

ordinances are out of date and need to either be updated or eliminated. Following additional discussion, Mayor Litz encouraged the residents present to attend the next meeting.

Prior to continuing with the agenda, Vice-Mayor asked the residents present if they want a water line built on Hazelnut lane. The consensus of the group was yes. Vice-Mayor Crigger then asked how this can be profitable. Mr. Patton responded the town will recover the money in five years. Vice-Mayor Crigger commented the town doesn't make money from the water because it isn't free. Mr. Matney added the rates are established based on debt service, operations and maintenance for the system. Following additional discussion, Rod Wagner addressed the council. He asked who is responsible for repairing things damaged because his mailbox was damaged a week ago and gravel has been dumped in front of it. Mr. Matney told Mr. Wagner the contractor is responsible for repairs and he encouraged him to contact him with any other concerns so that he can get this taken care of. Mr. Wagner also commented about the water runoff from Myrtle Lane that is being directed onto his property. He added this has been an issue since VDOT worked on Myrtle Lane in the past. Mr. Matney explained this issue is not part of the town's water project but he would contact VDOT to follow up on this. Mr. Wagner asked Mr. Matney to have the contractors return his traffic cones that he had along his property. Mr. Matney apologized for this and stated they would be returned to him. Mayor Litz thanked those in attendance for attending the meeting. The citizens from Hazelnut Lane left the meeting and no other citizens addressed the council.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney read a thank you card from Bernie and Debbie Lyons thanking the town and those involved in choosing them as the 2010 Citizens of the Year.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell stated the activity for August has decreased. He will be assisting Mr. Matney in obtaining property owner information on Hazelnut Lane and Rural Retreat Lake Road due to inaccuracies in mapping. Mr. Matney added this will assist in sending out a second mailing of letters regarding the water project due to several property owners not receiving a letter from the first mailing.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PROPOSED TOWN NEWSLETTER – Mayor Litz commented he and Councilmember Yontz have discussed the newsletter and they would like Chief Mitchell to be included. Councilmember Mecimore addressed the discussion and Mrs. Justus' comments from the previous meeting. He asked if the newsletter could be made available in digital format in addition to print. Councilmember Yontz commented a digital copy will be made available but every effort needs to be made to get the newsletter in the peoples hands. Mrs. Guynn added she thought the newsletter should be available online, through email and in a print format. Mr. Matney suggested focusing on the design, organization, proofing and content. He commended

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 24, 2010 – PAGE 4

the Town of Wytheville for their quarterly newsletter and recommended looking at theirs to get ideas. Councilmember Yontz added he would like to include civic organizations, employee information, and fire department and rescue squad points of interest. Councilmember Hash commented the businesses should be included also.

COMMUNITY WARNING SYSTEM – Mr. Matney stated he has been discussing the warning system with the manufacturer. He explained the representative is having difficulty understanding why the coverage area is low and it has been suggested that remote locations be added. Bob Lewis commented on this and stated when this was initially discussed it was also discussed that two remote locations would be needed to get full coverage of the community. Mr. Matney stated the coverage is great when in direct line of the speakers. Mr. Lewis explained the majority of the systems of this nature in the mid-west revolve. Councilmember Mecimore commented discussion was held on a revolving system but would require more maintenance. Vice-Mayor Crigger asked if the water tanks would be idealistic for a remote site. Mr. Matney stated the electrical supply and security was an issue. He added potential remote sites may be at Rural Retreat Elementary School and the Briarwood community. Councilmember Mecimore asked why the old siren was so much louder than the new system. Mr. Matney responded it revolved internally. Mr. Lewis suggested applying for grants on an annual basis until the system is satisfactory. Councilmember Mecimore stated the citizens understood this system would cover the entire town. He added he has been approached by many who have expressed their displeasure with the system and questioned why it was installed at the fire house. Mr. Lewis responded to Councilmember Mecimore by stating the security for the control panel was needed. Following additional discussion, the item is to remain on the agenda as unfinished business.

HAZELNUT LANE WATER CONNECTIONS – This item was previously addressed during citizen's time and will remain on the agenda as unfinished business.

NORFOLK SOUTHERN RAILWAY REAL ESTATE OFFER – Mr. Matney stated he had spoken to Jack Weaver earlier in the day and Mr. Weaver had asked about the status of the Norfolk Southern offer in which he advised Mr. Weaver the offer had been sent to Norfolk Southern for their consideration.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business offered for discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS – No report was given.

FIRE, POLICE AND HEALTH – No report was given.

HERITAGE DAY – Chairman Yontz stated the meeting scheduled for 6:00 p.m was cancelled and will be rescheduled.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 24, 2010 – PAGE 5

OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE – Chairman Hall stated an update on the floor at the Rural Retreat fire house will be given during the town manager's report.

PERSONNEL – Chairman Schaack scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, September 14 at 6:00 p.m. to review a community description to attract potential candidates. He added he would like to have this completed by January. Vice-Mayor Crigger suggested adding the demographics for Wythe County to this description.

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:

KIWANIS CLUB – MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – The Kiwanis Club is asking for nominees and contact information for individuals to contact for club membership.

RURITAN CLUB – The Ruritan Club will be holding an organizational meeting on August 31st at 7:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post home. Mr. Matney encouraged the council to consider joining either the Ruritan or Kiwanis Club and to talk to individuals that may be interested.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH – The Emily Fund, a domestic violence awareness group, is asking governmental organizations across the United States to adopt a proclamation recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. A draft proclamation was distributed to the Council for review. Mr. Matney asked the council members to review the draft for possible adoption at the next meeting.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK/BIKEWAY PROJECT – The pre-construction conference will be held tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. with construction scheduled to begin on Thursday. The contractor will begin with the East Railroad Avenue / Rural Retreat High School storm water portion of this project. The balance of funds previously awarded is being reviewed and compared since the project was bid under the engineer's estimate. The most recent award of \$200,000 is being reviewed to determine if an additional application needs to be submitted. If necessary, the additional application will need to be submitted by December 1. More information will be reported in the future.

MRPDC GRANT APPLICATION – The application was jointly submitted by Rural Retreat / Wythe County / Smyth County for design money for the Smyth/Wythe/Rural Retreat Staley Spring project was not funded. The rationale for the denial was in-kind money was not included. Mr. Matney explained he assured the MRPDC Director that there was in-kind money when the town spent \$25,000 to conduct a preliminary engineering report on Staley Spring.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – The Myrtle Lane phase of this project is near completion. The Gienow to RRES line should be complete by the end of the week. The first progress meeting will be held on Friday, August 27.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 24, 2010 – PAGE 6

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – We are still waiting for the final closing instructions from Rural Development.

FIRE STATION FLOOR REPAIR – The floor repairs have been completed with the exception of sawing the expansion joints. Mr. Matney explained some of the fireman thought they would be receiving the Engine Bay Floor system. He added the cracks have been filled and it may not be the most attractive floor but it will be the most functional. Mr. Matney stated the town has previously spent a lot of money on quality apparatus while trying to maintain a functional facility.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT – This report from Anderson & Associates, Inc. is available and was distributed for the council's information.

WATER ACCOUNTABILITY – The latest report was distributed. Mr. Matney referred to the monthly changes as a yo-yo; however the water loss decreased for July.

REQUEST FOR REZONING & CUP – The Planning Commission has received a request to rezone property on Cherry Street. A request was also received for a Conditional Use Permit. Both requests will be advertised for a Joint Public Hearing to be held in conjunction with a town council meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Guynn informed the council member's the laptops are ready for distribution. She asked they stay after the meeting to receive them.

The bills for August 24, 2010 were read and approved.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Councilmember Yontz is 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 Vice-Mayor Crigger and was duly seconded and approved.

Mayor

Clerk