

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on September 28, 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
Peggy Hash

ABSENT

Jerrell Hall

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

William Patton, Wilma Justus and daughter, 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 Vice-Mayor Crigger, seconded by Councilmember Yontz to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2010 regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of four (4) for: Crigger, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) abstention: Hash due to absence at previous meeting; one (1) absent: Hall.

CITIZEN'S TIME

William Patton addressed the council and stated he and other citizens from Meadow Ridge Estates were present at the last meeting however, the meeting was changed and upon reading the

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 28, 2010 – PAGE 2

minutes from the last meeting he now understood why it had been changed. Mayor Litz responded the meeting times haven't changed and are posted on the door to the council chambers. Mr. Patton stated he thought meetings were held every two weeks. Mayor Litz explained the meetings are not always two weeks apart. Mr. Patton commented he would verify the meetings with the posted schedule. Mr. Patton then questioned Councilmember Mecimore as to why he commented at the last meeting that the water line shouldn't be put on Hazelnut Lane. Councilmember Mecimore stated he hadn't seen a plat of the property until then but he made the comment because the lots are narrow at the road. Mr. Patton continued by stating at the last meeting he had attended he and the other citizens were told to form a homeowners association and to obtain letters from Mr. Saunders then the council would make a decision. Mr. Patton thanked the councilmember's for their time and left the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney explained Mayor Litz had received a letter from Klöckner Pentaplast contesting sewer charges for the Rural Retreat plant. The letter asked for a meeting with Mayor Litz and specifically requested that Mr. Matney not be in attendance. Mayor Litz and Mr. Matney had previously discussed the letter and decided the representatives from Klöckner Pentaplast should present their claims before the entire council. Vice-Mayor Crigger suggested at a minimum a group from council should meet with them and not just an individual. Mr. Matney then explained the discharge to the manhole and how the discharge and rainfall can affect the meter readings. He continued by stating the town has historically given credit for the days with significant rainfall which is monitored at the wastewater treatment plant. Mr. Matney referred to a violation notice that was sent to Klöckner Pentaplast in 2009 due to metals being discharged into the sewer system. Councilmember Schaack asked if discussions were possible with Mr. McClain and Mr. Ring. Mr. Matney explained previously Mr. Ring had been cooperative but he has apparently been instructed to have no contact with the town. Mr. Matney encouraged the council members to talk with Tony Wright, Donald Vaught and he concerning previous findings. Mayor Litz commented he felt threatened when he read the letter but he spoke with Mr. Matney and he feels all decisions should be made in open session and as a group. Councilmember Mecimore asked where the meters Klöckner refers to are located. Mr. Matney responded they have internal water meters that also monitor the water from their wells. He also stated previously a camera was borrowed from Wytheville to get an internal look at the lines and what was being discharged from the facility. Vice-Mayor Crigger asked Mr. Matney if Klöckner agreed to abide by the town's discharge regulations when the plant was built. Mr. Matney responded yes. He then read the response letter that will be sent to Klöckner Pentaplast on Mayor Litz's behalf. Mr. Matney stated Town Attorney Michael Sobey had reviewed the letter submitted by Klöckner Pentaplast and has requested he attend the meeting on the town's behalf.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell stated he had been on vacation for over a week. He added the Wythe County Sheriff's Office had been notified in advance of his vacation and increased their patrol in Rural Retreat. During his time off, he noted Rural Retreat High School had celebrated homecoming

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 28, 2010 – PAGE 3

and he was not aware of any issues that occurred. Chief Mitchell also informed the council that a patient at the Southwest Virginia Mental Health facility had escaped and other agencies suspected he was trying to get to Radford.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PROPOSED TOWN NEWSLETTER – Councilmember Yontz reported a rough draft has been distributed. He asked for ideas on content. Mr. Matney referred to the draft and stated he felt it was overboard by including the school projects. Councilmember Yontz responded he had put items in the newsletter for reference only but because citizens are not aware of the projects at the school it could possibly be included in a future edition. Councilmember Hash again expressed ideas that she has previously presented and added the newsletter should contain town information and include the businesses. Mrs. Guynn commented information pertaining to taxes and utility bills such as due dates and payment options should be included.

COMMUNITY WARNING SYSTEM – Mr. Matney reported there was no update on this item.

RECORDING OF MEETINGS AND INSTALLATION OF MONITOR – This item is to remain as unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

ACCEPTANCE OF CREDIT CARDS – Mrs. Guynn explained there is a need to offer credit card services by the town. Many options have been considered but most contain monthly and per transaction fees that the town can not recover, she explained. Mrs. Guynn added she had researched two companies, Business Information Systems (BIS) and Official Payments that offer credit card services to citizens by charging them a set fee or percentage per transaction. After speaking with other treasurer's offices in southwest Virginia about both companies, Mrs. Guynn chose Business Information Systems to provide this service to the town. She asked the council to approve the purchase of one over the counter card reader for \$100 to process credit card payments in the office. Mrs. Guynn explained this is the only charge the town will incur for the set up and use of this system and a one year contract is required. Citizens who wish to pay real estate and personal property taxes and utility bills with this service will be able to do so online, over the phone or in person. They will be charged a fee of \$3.00 or 3% whichever is greater. Vice-Mayor Crigger made a motion to authorize Mrs. Guynn to sign a one year contract with Business Information Systems (BIS) and to purchase one over the counter card reader for \$100. Councilmember Hash seconded the motion and it passed by a vote of five (5) for: Crigger, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Hall.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAY – Chairman Yontz stated a meeting was held at 6:00 p.m. Discussion was held on preliminary event for 2011 and the possibility of adding a day. Mr. Matney added several years ago activities were held on Sunday at the Rural Retreat High School's football field

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 28, 2010 – PAGE 4

but it was an extremely hot day and wasn't successful. He suggested activities could begin around 2 – 3 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Yontz suggested having gospel music for Sunday afternoon, if it is added. Mayor Litz asked Mrs. Guynn if there were any problems with the vendors. Mrs. Guynn responded she mainly received comments from food vendors because those farthest from the stage weren't patronized as much as those closer to the stage and the alternating of food and merchandise vendors. Other comments received were about the use and loudness of generators used by the food vendors because it drowned out the music if near the vendor area. Mrs. Guynn stated this could be changed on the vendor application by asking who will be using a generator to operate. Mr. Matney suggested those with generators be placed together so the noise doesn't effect the entertainment. Vice-Mayor Crigger suggested consideration be given to adding electrical pedestals and possibly moving the vendors.

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS – Mrs. Guynn reported she did not have an update on the audit.

PERSONNEL – Chairman Schaack referred to the community description previously distributed. He asked the council member's to make heading suggestions for the 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:

TEA-21 SIDEWALK/BIKEWAY PROJECT – The north side of East Buck Avenue between North Main Street and Catron Street are near completion. The contractor will move to the south side of same work area next. In conjunction with the drainage portion of this project we were able to arrange for Norfolk Southern to provide a track hoe to clean out the drainage ditch along the south side of the tracks adjacent to East Railroad Avenue. Having only a three day window, we did hire dump trucks from the sidewalk contractor. This drainage ditch is in better condition than it has been in for many years. Mr. Matney added since writing his report it has been discovered the ditch has negative flow which is causing the water to pond.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – DIVISION I – The Myrtle Lane line will be pressure tested and disinfected this week. The Rural Retreat Lake Road line is completed and will be pressure tested as soon as Myrtle Lane is in service. New customers on Myrtle Lane and Rural Retreat Lake Road have received letters establishing time frames of October 29th to make an application for water service and April 27th to be connected to the line. Mr. Matney commented this will allow time due to the winter season approaching.

OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT – DIVISION II – The line was pressure tested and disinfected today and will be placed in service soon. The fire flow at Rural Retreat Elementary School has increased from 100 gallons/minute to 500 gallons/minute. This line now provides a water loop to residents on West Lee Highway.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 28, 2010 – PAGE 5

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – The pre-construction meeting will be held on Thursday, September 30th and the notice to proceed will be issued at that time. The Rural Development loan closing has been delayed until after October 1 to take advantage of Rural Development's new loan rate of 2.25%. We were trying to close before the end of September; however, we were notified of the new lower rate that will now save additional money over the life of this loan.

FIRE DEPARTMENT FLOOR – Sherwin Williams has provided a materials proposal for the fire department floor system. This information has been shared with the fire department and the Operations and Maintenance Committee for review and recommendation. Mr. Matney explained this is an epoxy system and it is recommended the floor be blasted and sanded prior to applying the materials.

PPTRA RATE FOR 2010 – The 2010 personal property tax books have been received from the Wythe County Commissioner's office. The calculated 2010 rate for the Personal Property Tax Relief Act is 57.45%, down from 61.25% for 2009. Several years ago the State of Virginia changed the law on how motor vehicle tax is eliminated. All communities now receive a set amount and must calculate the PPTRA rate based on the number of vehicle registered in the respective locality. Mrs. Guynn requests the rate of 57.45% be approved. Councilmember Schaack made a motion to accept the 2010 Personal Property Tax Relief Act rate of 57.45%. The motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Crigger and was approved by a vote of five (5) for: Crigger, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) absent: Hall.

WATER ACCOUNTABILITY – The water accountability for August has decreased to 28% but is not related to the water projects.

GW/RR FOOTBALL GAME BET – Mr. Matney reported Councilmember Yontz has been speaking with a member of the Wytheville Town Council concerning a bet on the George Wythe and Rural Retreat football game. Discussion has included the losing team's town council wear the winning team's football jerseys to their next regular meeting. Councilmember Yontz stated he felt this would be a morale booster for the football team and would show the team the town supports them.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mrs. Guynn reported she hoped to receive the converted 2010 tax information later in the week. Taxes will be printed and mailed no later than October 15.

The bills for September 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.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 28, 2010 – PAGE 6

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