

The Rural Retreat Town Council held a regular meeting on January 25, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Rural Retreat Town Hall Council Chambers.

PRESENT RURAL RETREAT TOWN COUNCIL MEMBERS

Vice-Mayor Keith Crigger, Ed Schaack, Scott Mecimore, Dale Yontz, Jerrell Hall, Peggy Hash

ABSENT

Mayor Timothy Litz

ADMINISTRATION PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

Wilma Justus; Carl R. Anders; Amanda Evans – Wytheville Enterprise

DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Vice-Mayor Crigger 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 Vice-Mayor Crigger.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Councilmember Hash, seconded by Councilmember Yontz to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2011 regular meeting as written. The motion passed by a vote of five (5) for: Crigger, Hash, Mecimore, Schaack, Yontz; zero (0) against; one (1) abstention: Hall.

CITIZEN'S TIME

Carl Anders addressed the council in reference to conversations he has had with Mr. Matney regarding construction of the water line on Rural Retreat Lake Road. Mr. Anders explained he had worked with Mr. Matney on the water line to the Rural Retreat Elementary School because it crossed his property and he had also given a right-of-way for. In return he stated he expected cooperation with the water line on Rural Retreat Lake Road that would provide service to his property on Anders Lane. He added Mr. Matney had insinuated he would receive assistance with the water meter location for Anders Lane. However, Mr. Matney has told him the water

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meters will be placed on the right-of-way but he would prefer to have the meters on his property. Mr. Anders explained he has a 50 foot public right-of-way across Wythe County's property. Councilmember Mecimore asked if Anders Lane is state maintained or only a right-of-way. Mr. Anders responded the 50 feet is an actual public right-of-way and that it is not a road. Councilmember Mecimore then asked for the distance from the road to the last house on Anders Lane. Mr. Matney responded approximately 1,200 feet. Mr. Anders asked Councilmember Mecimore if he meant from the state maintained road. Councilmember Mecimore replied yes. Mr. Anders then agreed with Mr. Matney's estimate of 1,200 feet. Vice-Mayor Crigger commented the town has mirrored their water connection policy with Wythe County's. He then read an excerpt referring to the placement of water connections from Wythe County's ordinance. Mr. Matney commented the issue is the difference between a state maintained right-of-way and a private right-of-way. He added this situation is similar to connection issues on Hazelnut Lane because it is not a developed state right-of-way. Vice-Mayor Crigger reiterated the town's policy is to install meters on state maintained right-of-ways. Councilmember Hall explained to Mr. Anders if the council chose to do anything with his request it would be unfair to others that have made the same request that they had adhered the town's policy on. Mr. Anders commented he didn't understand because it wasn't crossing any private land. He then referred to work that had been done on the Dallas Shumate property which he stated crossed town property to get to private property. Mr. Matney explained Mr. Shumate's existing water service line and meter was not located in the state right-of-way and has now been moved due to the relocation of the town's main lines to the state right-of-way.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Matney read a thank you card from Chris Buckingham's family. He explained Chris' dad passed away and he has been going through an emotional time. Mr. Matney commended the employees for their support of Chris.

POLICE REPORT

Chief Mitchell explained the Star Transport truck issue has gotten worse during January. He addressed the recent accident involving a Star Transport truck being struck by a train which was a result of the truck driver following his GPS unit. The driver attempted to make the turn at the North Greever Street railroad crossing became stuck and was unable to maneuver off the crossing. In the meantime, Chief Mitchell explained, a Norfolk Southern train came through. The truck was damaged but the driver escaped and was unhurt. Chief Mitchell explained later in the day he used his personal GPS unit to get directions from the interstate to Mid-Atlantic Manufacturing by entering the 708 Milk Plant Road address. His unit gave him the same directions the Star Transport drivers are following. On a second attempt he entered 3 Ambrose Drive and his GPS unit followed the correct route by turning onto Gienow Road. Vice-Mayor Crigger asked for the correct address of Mid-Atlantic Manufacturing. Chief Mitchell stated they use 708 Milk Plant Road as their mailing address. Discussion was held on asking Mid-Atlantic Manufacturing to use their correct physical address to potentially correct the truck issues. Councilmember Schaack questioned what action Norfolk Southern has taken as a result of the

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continuing damage to the railroad crossing. Chief Mitchell responded the night of the accident he had spoken to one of the maintenance crew members who had explained they have had unsuccessful attempts to resolve the issue with Star Transport. Mr. Matney added the damage to the crossing was in excess of \$10,000 so he felt this will get Star Transport's attention. Councilmember Schaack asked who has been paying to replace the guardrail and crossing when damage has occurred. Star Transport's insurance company, Chief Mitchell responded.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no items offered for discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items offered for discussion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HERITAGE DAY – Chairman Yontz reported he will give a full report at the next meeting upon finalizing a few items.

PERSONNEL – Chairman Schaack reported the advertisement for the Town Manager position is listed on the Virginia Municipal League (VML) website and will be published in the next edition of their magazine. The listing on the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) website is being corrected due to errors. Chairman Schaack stated he would like to compose a mission statement to be put on the town's website. He added he had searched Google for town mission statements and found some great ideas. He asked the councilmember's to do the same so this can be discussed at the next meeting. Chairman Schaack commented he would still like to have a picture gallery added to the town's website.

FINANCE & APPROPRIATIONS – Mrs. Guynn reported Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates has completed the audit work and a draft copy has been received for review. Upon approval and writing the Management Discussion and Analysis the final audit report will be issued.

TECHNOLOGY – Chairman Mecimore reported the committee will have a brief meeting following the council meeting.

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:

RIDGE AVENUE WATER LINE EXTENSION – The plans and specifications for the Ridge Avenue water line extension have been approved by the Virginia Department of Health. A preliminary bid opening will be held March 10th.

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OUT-OF-TOWN WATER PROJECT UPDATES – All but two existing customers have been connected to the new water line on Rural Retreat Lake Road. New customer taps will begin as the weather permits. On Myrtle Lane all but one existing customer has been connected to the new line. As the weather permits, new customer taps will be made also. The line construction on East Railroad Avenue, Gienow Road and Milk Plant Road has been completed. The lines have been pressurized and testing and disinfecting is now being conducted. This project is progressing well, Mr. Matney reported.

Councilmember Mecimore asked for clarification on the Myrtle Lane connections. Mr. Matney replied most of the households within the 350 feet requirement are connecting to the water line and some that are beyond the required distance have chosen to connect.

IN-TOWN WATER PROJECT – The contractor has discontinued work on West Lee Highway until the weather improves due to traffic issues. Work will now be taking place on Richmond Avenue, Church Street and Delp Avenue as the weather permits.

TEA-21 SIDEWALK PROJECT – The contractor is continuing to install storm water drainage infrastructure on East Railroad Avenue and Catron Street.

MONTHLY STATUS REPORT – The monthly status report has been distributed for review.

SMYTH COUNTY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL – The ribbon cutting at the Crossroads Medical Campus will be held tomorrow at 3:00 p.m., weather permitting.

2011/2011 BUDGET CALENDAR – A draft of the budget calendar will be presented at the next meeting. Mr. Matney also explained he included in the Management Discussion and Analysis his displeasure with the General Assembly passing mandated fees on to local government.

JOINT GOVERNING BODIES MEETING – The Joint Governing Bodies meeting will be held Monday night at 7:00 p.m. Presentations will be given on the Wellness/Fitness Feasibility Study by Thompson and Litton and Blue Ridge Mass Appraisals will be giving a presentation on the Wythe County reassessments.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The bills for January 25, 2011 were read and approved.

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.

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ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor

Clerk