

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on June 11, 2013 at 7:30pm with the following present:

Mayor: Jannis White  
Town Manager: Tim Taylor  
Town Clerk: Susan Whitt  
Town Attorney: Brad Ratliff  
Council Members: Joe McCracken, Rod Cury, Larry Johnson,  
Frances Meadows, Doug Ratliff

Mayor White called the meeting to order.

Mayor White gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor White asks if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.

Sue Carr and Vern White were added to the agenda.

Rod Cury made the Motion to approve the Agenda as presented with changes, seconded by Larry Johnson. All in favor 5/0. Motion carried.

Minutes for the public hearings and council meeting of May 14, 2013 were reviewed and Brad Ratliff asked that the following changes be made to the Council minutes:

On page 2, mid-way in fourth paragraph down, "refutable license agreement" needs to be changed to "revocable license agreement"

On page 8, second paragraph- "if they are done according to Town Charter" needs to be changed to read "if they meet provisions of the Town Charter and State Law."

Motion to approve minutes, both public hearings and council (with changes) made by Joe McCracken and seconded by Rod Cury. 5/0 vote, all in favor. Motion carried.

Scheduled Public Comments:

**Marcie Estep**-director of Teen Venture Center, which is chartered through the Boy Scouts of America. Serves teenagers of the area ages 14-20. Nonprofit organization, center is open 6 out of 7 days a week. The Center likes to hold community events, it gives their teens the opportunity to highlight some of their skills; gives them an opportunity to partner with the community and bring outside resources into our community. One such event is set for July 27, 2013, Battle of the Bands, actually a Battle of the Rock Bands. They already have 12 bands secured for the event in the parking lot behind the Teen Venture Center, which is owned by Tru-Point Bank. She has already spoken with the Bank and they are agreeable to allow them to use the lot. Asking Council's permission to block off and utilize the alley between Teen Venture and the old White Building. Would like to keep any traffic from coming through there during the event, as it might disrupt the event or possibly cause injuries. Mayor White asked Chief Dorton if he knew of any issues that would prevent this request from being granted. He did not. The event is set for 12:00 pm to 7:00 pm but would like to block the alley off around 10:00 am until probably 8:00 pm. They have a couple of vendors that are going to set up for the event. Tim Taylor spoke of his concern of keeping the street beside of Teen Venture (Third Street) in front of the Verizon office open in case Verizon employees needed to get in or out. Marcie Estep said that the kids from the Center would be volunteering and helping with the flow of traffic, etc. and that they would not interfere with TruPoint Bank while they were open until 12 that day. She also said that First Community Bank, right down the Street, had offered the use of their parking lot as well. She said she hoped to see everyone there.

Unscheduled public comments:

**Sue Carr from Tazewell-Farmer's Market.** She had spoken to Council a couple of months ago about the Farmer's Market and the needs of the community. Said normally she would be setting up on Tuesdays at our Farmer's Market. She had even updated the state's websites saying that they would have a farmer's market on Tuesday mornings but, from what she understands, other people are allowed to come in and sell things that they haven't grown. There is a man down there today selling who goes to Hillsville and buys things and comes back and sells them at the Farmers Market. Because of this, it's not a market for farmers; she is not going to be coming out. She will not compete against people who do not go through all of the work to

grow their own produce. She has been getting calls from senior citizens who want to know when the market is going to open and their concern is that they have vouchers through the Senior Nutrition Program and he can't take those vouchers. He is not set up to take them. Nancy Lyons and Sue Carr have told people that they are not going to be at the Market, and they will have to go all the way to Tazewell or Lebanon to redeem the vouchers. They are upset, because they are low income, which is why they get these vouchers, and they cannot afford to go long distances to redeem their vouchers.

The other issue she noticed today when she was at the Farmer's Market is food safety violations. He was giving out samples of cantaloupe. This is very innocent but it is a safety violation. Must be iced and properly dispensed. One of the things she had spoken to council about before was having a market manager that was specifically for the farmers market, someone who has training through VDA on food safety, you could potentially have a food illness outbreak. She had spoken with John Willis, he is willing to try to develop the market for farmers, but he could not be here tonight. She also wanted to let council know that she would not be putting ads in the paper or updating the websites, keeping them current like she had been doing the past couple of years. She will not be selling here. She wasn't sure if council wants to try to develop a market for farmers or continue with the "open market" policy, which does serve a purpose, provides a service.

Mayor White said Council would have to discuss this at length and let her know.

Rod Cury said he appreciated her sentiment about the locally grown produce. Mayor White asked how she qualified to accept the vouchers. Ms. Carr said she went through Virginia Grown and submitted an application. It's based on how much you have sold; it's only fresh fruits and vegetables. They make farm inspections to make sure that you are producing it yourself. She was grandfathered in but now people have to go through a tough application in order to qualify to sell under the program. They do inspections at the Market as well. The last two years, while she was there, the inspector did come to the market and did do inspections. Since the Town is a government agency, it is under the Dept. of Agriculture. They are cracking down on farmers markets that don't have farmer's market managers available, so they are really getting strict on that. Rod Cury thanked her and said they would need to consider all of this for a comprehensive plan for the market.

**Vern White-417 Purcell Road**-asked Tim Taylor about the status of his claim on his property damage. Mr. Taylor said they had talked to a contractor. He solicited some professionals to give a quick cost estimate, they gave a response. Need to see what role they will have in the legal process and examine the costs. Once they meet, they may need Mr. White's assistance. He said to just let him know. Mr. White said his roof had been leaking ever since they started, well almost 3 years now. Rocks are still on top of the house, he got up on the house and tried to patch it but he is not doing anything until someone comes to look at it.

Council Member Reports:

**Rod Cury**- 1. Richlands participation in the Clinch River Valley Initiative. On May 20<sup>th</sup>, Aaron Arnett and Ben Muldrow, of the firm Arnett-Muldrow, who are employed by CRVI, which is why the Clinch River Valley Initiative came to Richlands, spent Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> in Tazewell County. Margie Douglass, who is the Director of Tazewell County Dept of Tourism, escorted them through the county which starts in Tazewell at the head waters, the Town of Tazewell, the Museum, the Town of Cedar Bluff, and they ended up in Richlands. These men were here for marketing and branding for the whole Initiative. They were really impressed with the vision that we have to extend the Walking Trail. It was a positive step. He said he had attended several meetings on the Clinch River Valley Initiative. They are covering each Town but they had very positive things to say about the Town of Richlands.

2.-June 3<sup>rd</sup>-Town received a grant from Virginia Tech from the Community Design Assistance Center which is Architecture and Landscape Architecture for their team, what they call the CDAC team, to do a conceptual design and they started their "on the ground" work here on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and this team consisted of Laura Browning, the director of the program here, her senior assistant Jenn Jessup, who is a graduate of Virginia Tech, and two students of Virginia Tech, Matt and Elisa. Mayor White was in attendance, as well as Mr. Taylor and several other folks, Mr. Taylor (Jim), Richard Vance and others. The important thing is these people spent from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm. They were very excited and they saw things that Mr. Cury couldn't see

because outside eyes can see things we can't because we live here all of the time. We got down in the weeds next to the river and it was a very productive day. He received an email from Laura Browning thanking the Town for its graciousness and helping to tour the river from the Walking Trail. We walked the Walking Trail at Williams Fields and Critterville Playground and then we walked as much as possible to the old swinging bridge. Under direction of the Town Manager, letters were sent to the land owners along the Clinch asking permission for these students and team members from Tech to walk along the banks. The Town did not receive any objections at all.

3.-On June 2<sup>nd</sup> the Planning Commission met for its regular monthly meeting and the topic of discussion was the Walking Trail and the possible extension of it. The Planning Commission has been supportive of it, as has the Council. The Community is very appreciative. It seems to be a very positive thing. Today, he received an email from Laura Browning that they will be ready on July 11<sup>th</sup> to have their community meeting when they present to the Stakeholders/Shareholders, the Mayor, the Members of Council and the Planning Commission, the Members of the Recreation Commission and any interested citizens the beginning of their conceptual design. It is scheduled for July 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm here in Richlands. We are not positive about the location yet. We will set that up and let the Town Staff know so that they may send out letters to the stakeholders, the council and any interested parties. We received accolades and applause for our part of the Initiative today in St. Paul. Next Planning Commission meeting will be held in conjunction with this July 11<sup>th</sup> meeting so that we won't double-up on meetings. Everyone will be notified properly of date, time, place. Thanked council and town staff for their support of this project.

4.-Section House-ready to advertise for Request for Proposal for Architectural design, engineering services. Deferred to Tim Taylor. Thanked Mr. Taylor and staff for work done on the application. Mr. Taylor said the actual RFP is set to be applied by July 12<sup>th</sup>. We have one more set of final revisions to do to send back to VDOT for their approval. Will run for 3 weeks in the paper, hopefully will receive a good response. Will need the Section House Committee to go over their role in it, as far as selection, etc. Don't expect it to move too quickly, it is a long process. Everything that we do, we have to have VDOT look over it to make sure it meets all of the criteria. Rod Cury also added that the Section House Committee would have a booth at the Freedom Festival, wanted to again thank Mayor White and her team for a fantastic job on the Festival. Mentioned the Freedom Festival Face book page, suggested everyone like it and help support the festival. The Section House Committee will be in front of the Section House on the day of the Festival, June 29<sup>th</sup>. Also, Damon Whitt, a native son, will be here on that location and has agreed to donate 10% of the all the proceeds from his book sales that day to the Section House Restoration.

**Joe McCracken**-has discussed with Tim Taylor some issues, one concerning 1017 Kents Ridge Road, ditching problem. Mr. Ernest Edgell had also added that concern. Also discussed certain roads in Town, about weeds and grass that needed to be addressed.

**Frances Meadows**- 1. Asked Mr. Taylor if he had been able to get in touch with VDOT about the "no-u-turn" sign on Altizer Street. Mr. Taylor advised that there are two areas that had no-u-turn signs requested and both of those are controlled by VDOT, the first one being Altizer Street and the second one down near where Food City's Gas-n-Go in Doran. He said he had not had the chance to check on those yet but that he will do that.

2. Over at the Soccer Field at the Rec Park, Jeff Hurst and Chad Ashby said they had talked to someone about relocating the light pole and the breaker box. In the first field, it is now a soccer field. Mr. Taylor said he had not received a work order on it but would check on it. He said it may be complicated due to everything being underground and it could be high voltage. He would have someone look at it.

**Doug Ratliff**-asked about the Power Cost Adjustment. Mr. Taylor said it would be -0- again this month. He said it may change next month due the transmission changes that they had talked about. Mr. Ratliff asked if he had a date to meet with AEP. Mr. Taylor said he had not due to working on the budget. He did discuss it with his group at AMP and talked with the general manager and he has contacts that he will share with us.

**Larry Johnson**- 1. Had a couple of people concerned about the smoke from the Burn Building last Saturday. He said he knew the first run they had, there had been no smoke, wondered what

had changed. Keith Reynolds said that the weather was humid and there were 2-3 large fires down in Doran that day. He said due to the humidity, everything was just pushing down and not allowing the smoke to rise. Tim Taylor said he was there and it actually got worse as he stayed there. He said it wasn't just there, it was in other areas too so he thought it was the humidity as well. It was an unusual event.

2. Larry Johnson also mentioned the issue of speeding in that area. Doug Ratliff inquired if speed bumps could be installed to slow people down. Tim Taylor said they may have to patrol it more. Jim Taylor said it was almost ready to pave. Tim Taylor suggested trying it without the speed bumps first. Jim Taylor said if the Town gets state funding for the road, there can be no speed bumps. Doug Ratliff suggested rumble strips, Mr. Taylor said we could do that.

3. Larry Johnson asked Brad Ratliff about the BPOL tax incentive, he said he would have it completed by next council. He has been doing legal research and consulting with other attorneys. He said they need to revisit the BPOL Plan as it exists right now. He said Larry's plan had some really good incentives to influence businesses to come into Town. Tim Taylor said in light of time constraints, the BPOL's are due by the end of the year, we have to mail out notices somewhere around November so if there are going to be any changes, need to have them done by October in order to make it effective this year. Mr. Johnson asked if while doing the legal research if he found that other towns are doing what is suggested in the new plan. Mr. Ratliff said they were. There is one particular code section that is used that will allow us to modify a little more than the way things are now. Projected 2 year plan, more intense than 5 year plan but still good.

4.-Two hour parking that was brought up last council; he said Joe McCracken wanted to study it more. He asked Mr. McCracken for the results of his study. Mr. McCracken said that he walked through town and checked with 90% of businesses in town, the results were 7 for enforcing parking, 17 against enforcing parking. He asked the business owners what they might want before the council imposed something on them. 71% of the businesses surveyed do not want parking enforced. Larry Johnson asked if he was going to make a motion to do away with the Two-Hour Parking.

5-As Rod Cury has said, Mayor White has done an excellent job with the Freedom Festival. It's really going to be great. She has some awesome volunteers that are doing an awesome job. He said he attended a meeting with them the other night, it's going to be a good thing and next year will be even better.

#### Dept. Supervisor's Reports

**Fred Phillips**-was not able to attend and left his information with Frances Meadows, who referred to the printout and memo. **Dave Ascue**, Rec Park, provided the following information:

They have opened the pool for the season. He worked last Saturday, it was hot and sunny, and they had around 220 swimmers. When it is cloudy, like today, they are not going to have many swimmers.

The concession stand that was put in last year is doing really well. They are serving hot dogs, nachos, BBQ sandwiches (added this year), drinks, candy and snacks. He wanted to add that he had been with the Recreation Dept. for 34 years as of June 1<sup>st</sup>, and it's been great. Since Fred came on board, he has seen a lot of great improvements. Invited everyone to come and tour the park. Bill Nuckolls retired June 1<sup>st</sup>. They are training a young lady to fill in Bill's spot.

He asked if there were any questions as far the print out. Tim Taylor asked if basketball was just off this time of year. He said it was down and due to adding the outdoor courts at Critterville. Basketball drops during the summer months. The weight room seems to be doing really well. With the new equipment from Cross Fit, they are getting a lot of people that come to the weight room. They are even getting some weight trainers come over and operate their own business. They pay our daily rates and do weight training. So in the future, they may even consider getting a weight trainer.

Tennis Tournament coming up last of July, first of August.

Held Project Graduation at the Rec Park on May 31.

**Chief Frank Dorton**-total calls for service they have handled this year is 4,880 since January 1, 2013. That is up about 540 calls from this time last year. The month of May we had 981 calls, which is up some from last year. During the month of May, all officers completed Law Fit, everyone passed. They participated in two weeks of Click it or Ticket, which is the national incentive for people to wear seat belts. During that two week period, the Dept. issued 91

citations, from speeding to driving suspended to 18 seatbelt violations. They participated in the annual Prom Promise at Richlands High School, along with Fire & Rescue.

June will be a busy month with the Road Race on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Carnival from the 18<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> and the Freedom Festival on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

2-The Dept. did get a truck in for the Ordinance Officer. He had a photo to show council showing the final paint design. They do have a car on order. There were no '13 models left; they are slowly making them because the 2014s are coming out. Joe McCracken asked about the cost on the truck, Chief Dorton said it was \$24,845.00. It came from Sheehy Ford out of Richmond, it was cheaper than a Chevrolet and Chevrolet didn't have the interior that was needed. It is a four wheel drive, extended cab and power windows. It was not a Police package truck. Sheehy had this truck on the lot and we didn't have to order it, plus they brought it to us. The one it replaced was a 2004 truck.

**Gordon Russ**-Still working on the trucks. Trying to sell one to be able to re-chassis the other two trucks. Still trying to decide which way to go. This will be a busy month (the last two weeks of the month) will be a busy time for all us, Fire, Rescue and Police. Been working on some billing issues with Brad, nothing finalized. Had a slight increase from last month. Working on a grant. When you have in-house billing, it's 2.5% vs. 7% for out of office billing. But you have to consider all of the aspects of it. The program is around \$800.00 per month. If you get into transporting dialysis patients, you run into the problem of tying up an ambulance for 5-6 hours. Joe McCracken asked about going into the private sector. Mr. Russ said they would have to consider all of the aspects.

**Keith Reynolds**-On his handout for Fire Calls for the month, there was one listed for Cedar Bluff, that was actually Daw Road. Cedar Bluff Fire Dept is responding to calls with the town limits of Cedar Bluff. They had 13 calls in Town, 18 in the County. One issue is an individual on Daw Road, which is in Russell County, is only 4.3 miles from Richlands Fire Station. When a person from that area calls 911, the call is automatically sent to Russell County. Larry Blankenship, is the individual that lives just on the county line on Daw Road and is wanting the Town to work with him to get an Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement with Russell County since he is on the borderline and is closer to Richlands. He said he would get the names for the people in Russell County such as the Administrator. It would be a shame for those people on Daw Road to have to wait on Honaker to come from 15 miles away and Richlands is only 4 miles away. We never turn anyone down, but if we don't get the call, we can't respond. The same thing happens in Raven. In front of Jerry Plaster's store, it's only 3.7 miles from our front door. We don't currently charge for house fires; only for wrecks and hazmat issues. Some people on the Russell County side of Raven actually have a Tazewell County phone number, so when they dial 911, it comes to Tazewell County but then is re-routed to Russell County. So a lot of time is lost. Not trying to take Honaker's territory, but trying to help the citizens. Tim Taylor said it needs to be handled the right way, so that it is a mutual thing between the counties. Tim asked Keith to request the information gathered by Mr. Blankenship and bring to next council meeting.

Joe McCracken inquired about the grand opening of the Burn Building. Keith said they were planning something for later. They are waiting on the paving. They are having a class with a coal company to simulate a tippie on fire so that the men will be able to be prepared for such an event.

**Jim Taylor**- Chipped and cut brush on the right of way for Mt. Road, Terry Drive, Big Creek Road, Railroad Avenue. Cleared a lot on Mountain Road, put gabion baskets in the slide areas there. Replacing signs all over town. The State has mandated HEI signs, they are about \$10 higher for each sign but they are reflective and easier to see. Worked on some drainage issues on Mountain Road, Ninth Street and Shale Street, also on Farmer Avenue and Oxford Street. Poured 80 ft of new sidewalk on Va. Ave in front to the new business location across from water plant. Also worked on a drainage issue there. Repaired a few more rumble strips. They are less than \$200 in materials per pack. Council discussed that rumble strips are cheaper than speed bumps and State Law prohibits speed bumps from being installed on state funded roads. Redone street lights on Front Street, Second Street, Town Hall and Allegheny Street. American Carpet Care has contracted the mowing for the season. Is working really well. It is a learning curve. Worked on Cool Down Shed at the Burn Building, worked on facade and the trim. Finished the electrical and has been inspected. Plans for Thursday night, most all of the crew will be out washing down Front Street from 12 am to 8 am and that will be the Friday shift. Actually, plans for the next two Thursday nights to do this. The new vacuum truck is on the way. Had to go Mid-Atlantic Waste for refurbishing. Tim Taylor said it was probably about 3-4 weeks out. Grapple Truck-

found a couple. The one that he found was not a “true” grapple truck it was just a claw grapple and it was \$125,000 to \$145,000 new. The trash grapple is like a drum, it’s around 5 ft long and it’s like a big drum and it opens up and scoops it up. The claw won’t do the job. 94 stops for brush and junk for the month, 538 for the year. Probably 100 less than last year.

Rod Cury asked if the mowing contract with American Carpet Care was month to month. It is seasonal contact through September with an extension through October if needed. Saving a little less than \$400.00 per week based on paperwork. It is a work in progress. They are doing a good job.

**Mayor’s Comments**-Presentation of proposed Ordinances-defers to Town Attorney, Brad Ratliff. Mr. Ratliff presents the first Ordinance for Consideration Sec. 17 which is Article II of Chapter 17 of the Richlands Town Code, Ordinance #O-2013-06-01. As discussed in the Public Hearing earlier, the amendment is to the existing rates for garbage collection as outlined in the Ordinance. Mayor White asks for Council’s pleasure, any discussion. Asks for Motion to dispense with the second reading. Doug Ratliff said that he was not voting for any new taxes until the town can show that they are going to modernize and save costs. He asks for a plan. Rod Cury made the Motion to dispense with the second reading, seconded by Joe McCracken. Mayor White asks for any further discussion. All in favor to dispense with second reading, 5/0 Motion carries.

Mayor White asks for Motion to adopt the Ordinance. Joe McCracken made the Motion to adopt the Ordinance, seconded by Frances Meadows. All in favor, vote was 4/1. Voting No was Doug Ratliff. Motion carries.

Next is Ordinance #0-2013-06-02, Tax on Prepared Food and Beverage. Pursuant to the Public Hearing held earlier this evening, this particular ordinance is a proposal to increase the tax on prepared food and beverage, known as the “Food Tax”, and it’s an increase of 1%. Mayor White asks for Motion to Waive the Second Reading, made by Frances Meadows, seconded by Rod Cury. No discussion. All in favor, vote yes 4, no 1-Doug Ratliff. Motion carried.

Mayor White asks for Motion to Adopt Ordinance, made by Joe McCracken, seconded by Rod Cury. No discussion. All in favor, 4 yes, 1 no-Doug Ratliff. Motion carried.

Next for consideration is amendment to Chapter 21, Taxation, Article IV, to add Section 21-8 “Local Tax on Cigarettes, Ordinance #O-2013-06-03, which imposes a cigarette tax on each pack of a maximum of 10 cents per pack, which amount may be less. Brad Ratliff stated that the maximum value of 10 cents per pack is the value that most towns impose. He suggested council discuss the value of the tax initially before proceeding. Mayor White asks Council to decide on a specific amount of tax per pack. Council discussed. Joe McCracken proposed 6-8 cents per pack with an adjustment next year if needed. Doug Ratliff said we needed a 5 year plan, said that is why he isn’t voting for any tax increases. Rod Cury made a Motion to Dispense with the second reading. Mayor White advised they need to decide on the amount first. Rod Cury made a Motion to go with the 10 cents per pack tax, Frances Meadows seconded. No discussion. All in favor 3 yes, 2 no (Larry Johnson, Doug Ratliff), Joe McCracken voted yes but noted he would like for it to be less than 10 cents. Motion carries.

Tim Taylor said that they had not identified a date, he had discussed this with Art Meade and the Town of Bluefield and they recommended that takes a little more effort than just sending out notices. He would recommend that the date would be at least September 1, 2013 in order to have time to take care of everything that will be involved in this. Brad Ratliff advised that the Ordinance be with an effective date of (date that council agrees on). Rod Cury agreed with the date suggested by Tim Taylor.

Rod Cury made the Motion to dispense with the second reading, seconded by Frances Meadows. All in favor, 4/1 no-Doug Ratliff. Motion carries.

Mayor White asks for a Motion to Adopt the Ordinance with the effective date of 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2013. Rod Cury made the Motion, seconded by Frances Meadows. All in favor, 3-yes, 1-no (Doug Ratliff), 1-Abstain (Larry Johnson). Motion failed.

More discussion by council followed. Brad Ratliff said the Ordinance could be re-introduced by a separate party.

Consideration to Amend Chapter 11, Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article 3, Division 4, to add Section 11-64 "Motor Vehicle Compression Engine Brakes Prohibited" by Ordinance #O-2013-06-04. As discussed in the public hearing, this ordinance prohibits the use of compression brakes in the Town of Richlands. Joe McCracken made the recommendation that further study be done on this before making a decision. Ordinance was tabled until next meeting.

Consideration of Ordinance #O-2103-05-02, to amend Chapter 11, Article IV, Division 2, Two Hour Parking. As discussed the Public Hearing, there are some issues to be worked out in this Ordinance. Much discussion followed about how to handle this issue. Doug Ratliff made the statement that even with the Two Hour Parking ordinance that we have, it is a deterrent. Chief Dorton said that the way the Ordinance is now, it is two-hour parking seven days a week and this proposed Ordinance changes it to five days a week and gives us a mechanism to collect the money. Joe McCracken made a suggestion to dispense of the two hour parking signs. Chief Dorton said that just taking the signs down will not change the Ordinance. Brad Ratliff said that the Ordinance already in place prohibits more than two-hour parking seven days a week. That negatively affects a lot of people on the weekend, especially on Sundays. Tickets can be written, just like speeders can be caught, or not. That is the way it is enforced now. The new Ordinance gives us a way to get the money and makes it five days a week. Joe McCracken said that it came with attachments, such that we would have to hire another officer to enforce the parking. Brad Ratliff said that was not true, the Ordinance does not provide any provision for the hiring of any additional personnel. All the Ordinance does is clean up and give a remedy and all allow us to get the money if and when the ticket is written and resolves the issue of seven days a week and changes it to five days a week and gives the Town discretion for holidays. The Officers can enforce this now because it is a law. He uses speeding as analogy. He may get away with it sometimes, but the next time he may not. Brad Ratliff said that concerning the businesses in Town, if you don't have two hour parking the streets will be overrun and there is nothing you can do at all. Rod Cury offered two options: need to think about the businesses who want the enforcement and they have been identified in the informal survey taken by Mr. McCracken and there are those who do not want it due to the nature of their businesses. Need to think about what they can do for the businesses that want it. He suggested the Ordinance be tabled for further discussion.

Doug Ratliff offered a compromise, to leave it the way it is, just change the Ordinance to reflect Monday-Friday and leave it at that. Chief Dorton suggested that they pass the Ordinance the way that it is, it changes it to five days a week and allows the Police Dept. to issue a warrant if someone does not pay the parking ticket and if you wanted to appeal it later, then that would be the Ordinance you would be appealing. Tim Taylor said that they would not want to do away with it all together, because people who live in the apartments above the businesses would use the parking all of the time. Further discussion ensued. Chief Dorton said if they don't have "teeth" to enforce the Ordinance, people are just going to park there anyway. He also said he could show hundreds of dollars of parking tickets that are un-paid because they have no way to enforce. Rod Cury discussed that the Town used to have metered parking years ago and wondered why the Town discontinued using them. Chief Dorton said there were mechanical issues as well as other issues with them. Rod Cury said he could appreciate both sides of the debate. He suggested further consideration. Council discussed this issue at great length. This Ordinance will be tabled until the next council meeting.

Next is an Ordinance Adopting State Law Section 1-6 to the Code of the Town of Richlands. This is necessary for the Police Officers to perform their duties. Attorney Ratliff recommended passing this Ordinance. It is an annual Ordinance that is adopted each year. Rod Cury made the Motion to dispense with the second reading, seconded by Larry Johnson. All in favor 5/0. Motion carries. Effective date is 12:01 am on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2013. Rod Cury made the Motion to Adopt, seconded by Larry Johnson. All in favor 5/0. Motion carries.

The next Ordinance for consideration is an Ordinance adopting Article X, Section 11-112. This the state law for the statute of Motor Vehicle Code, for officers to properly enforce all motor vehicle codes within the Town of Richlands. Mayor White asks for a motion to dispense with the second reading, made by Joe McCracken, seconded by Rod Cury. All in favor 5/0, motion carries. Mayor White asks for Motion to Adopt the Ordinance that would become effective at 12:01 am on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2013. Larry Johnson made the motion to adopt, seconded by Rod

Cury. All in favor 5/0. Motion carries.

Manager's Report: Tim Taylor-Taking into consideration council's actions tonight in regard to the adjustment to the fees and the food tax increased revenue projections. The Budget as presented to Council. Out of that Budget, once adopted and approved, will be an \$80,000 reduction due to the failing of the cigarette tax. That is the adjustment to make on the Budget that you see. The only changes on expenditures that were found was a reduction in the audit services fees by \$3,200.00, added \$1,000 to general maintenance for the street shop and added \$13,795.00 to the Dept of Fire Programs to purchase equipment that Keith submitted. That is covered by the Dept of Fire Programs that was not included in the first one. Basically, that is a revenue-neutral item. So, overall the budgets that Council has which includes the real estate taxes which is 16 cents per \$100.00, no changes at all really other than the expenditure changes which he discussed. He recommends they approve the budget and the real estate tax. Brad Ratliff stated that it required by the state that the real estate ordinance is voted on annually, even though there is no change in the rate. Mayor White asks for Motion to dispense with the second reading, made by Rod Cury, seconded by Larry Johnson. All in favor 5/0.

Mayor White asks for a motion to adopt the Ordinance for Real Estate Tax Rate, made by Rod Cury, seconded by Joe McCracken. All in favor 5/0. Motion carries.

With regard to the budget, Doug Ratliff asked how much the deficit would be this year. Tim Taylor said it would be positive due to delay in capital, as far as the governmental side. Doug Ratliff again requested a 5 year plan and said that raising taxes every year did not help the problem. Mr. Taylor said this was first time taxes had been raised since 2009. Mr. Taylor said we have a 12% reduction in staff, have cut more than one-half million dollars in the last five years. Further discussion ensued. Doug Ratliff discussed further staff reductions with modern equipment. He said as employees retire, don't replace them. If they are within 2-3 years of retirement, offer them a buyout. Joe McCracken stated that would cost money as well.

Mayor White inquired about the website and the codification. Mr. Taylor said part of the website is done, it isn't finished. As far as the codification, we have submitted things to them. Sue Wade said she talked to them this week, still working on ordinances and said they hope to have everything to them by next week.

Further discussed ensued on the Budget and the need for a five year plans. Larry Johnson suggested having some work sessions to work on these things before next year.

Mayor White asked for a Motion to dispense with the second reading the Budget Ordinance, made by Rod Cury, seconded by Larry Johnson. All in favor 4/1-Doug Ratliff. Motion carried.

Mayor White asked for Motion to adopt the Budget, made by Rod Cury and seconded by Larry Johnson. All in favor 4/1-Doug Ratliff. Motion carried. Effective date 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2013.

Mr. Taylor went over the bills. He mentioned the check to Emory C. Collins, check no. 46948. That is for a card reader for the gas pumps. The Town will own the card reader, so that it may be used with any vendor in the future. The gas pumps are close to being finished. Just a few modifications and getting the card reader in.

Ultra Petroleum, check no. 47009, \$27,000.00 was fuel purchases. The new police truck is listed, payable to Sheehy, #46995 in the amount of \$24,845.00. Lee Supply, \$5,896.75, check #46967, is for galvanized baskets, which are used on Mountain Road, Ninth Street for retaining slides.

Joe McCracken asked about check #46923. It is for Aramark, uniforms for different departments, also for mops and rugs. Brad Ratliff noted that his fee check was not included, Tim Taylor asked council to add his fee of \$4,500.00 to the total and a check would be written.

Frances Meadows made the Motion to Authorize the Town Manager to pay the bills, seconded by Larry Johnson. All in favor, 5/0. Motion carried.

Mr. Taylor updated council on the progress with National Weather Service project. He put in a request with the Tazewell County Administrator to include Tazewell County Public Service Authority in order to get a better antenna site at the tank, which is owned by Tazewell County



PSA. The NSW representative has the transmitter in hand. He is very helpful.

He discussed the need for the 5 year plan and is open to suggestion. He appreciates council considering the fixed income citizens when approving taxes. The taxes that were passed were for those who have a choice. He does not like raising taxes either.

Mr. McCracken asks about re-introducing the cigarette tax. He asked if Mr. Taylor could specify that the money from the proposed tax would be used in Public Safety so that they could get it passed but without earmarking it. Mr. Taylor guaranteed that the money would go there because that is where the deficit is. Further discussion ensued.

Mayor White asks for motion to adjourn. Made by Larry Johnson, seconded by Rod Cury. All in favor, 5/0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

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Mayor

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Clerk