

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on November 10, 2015 at 7:30 pm with the following present:

Mayor:	Jannis White
Town Manager:	Tim Taylor
Town Attorney:	Brad Ratliff
Town Clerk:	Julie Cordle
Council Members:	Joe McCracken, Doug Ratliff, Frances Meadows Mary Ann Strong, Rod Cury, and Larry Johnson

Mayor White called the meeting to order.

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

Do we have anyone who would want to speak that is not on the agenda? Mayor White asks if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Brad Ratliff-An update for closed session 2.2-3711(A) 3, Acquisition of Real Property. Mayor White asks if there are any more additions or deletions to the agenda. If not, do I hear a motion to approve the agenda as presented? Motion made by Rod Cury, seconded by Joe McCracken to approve the agenda as amended. Vote all in favor 6/0. Motion carried.

Mayor White said you have three sets of minutes for October 13th 27th 29th. Are there any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes?

There was a correction on page 5 wrong name, from John to Joe McCracken. Does anyone else have any corrections, additions, or deletions? If not, do I hear a motion to approve the minutes as amended? Joe McCracken made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Frances Meadows. Motion carried 6/0.

Mayor White- Before we get into the comments section, I just want to thank Julie Cordle. At the last council meeting she just observed the meeting. We welcome you aboard again. Julie Cordle - Thank You. Mayor White- Would everyone please speak loud and clear.

Scheduled Public Comments:

Kevin Dye, 2423 Charles Street-Discuss Break-in - Was Not Present

Unscheduled Public Comments:

Ernest Edgell- Is the speed limit on Front and Second Street 25 mph? Yes it is through town. Ernest Edgell-that's what I thought and it doesn't look to me like its being observed especially when the school buses are stopped. I think some people think it is a drag strip between the red lights. Also the trash is real bad all over town especially where Southwest was located. You can drive down there and look at the curb. What's going on with the fish farm or does anybody know? I have asked other people and nobody seems to know. Mayor White- We are not at liberty to discuss this matter since we are under confidentiality agreements. Ernest Edgell-Is this going to be like blue stone? Mayor White-We hope not. Ernest Edgell- The trailer park on Kent's Ridge looks like most of the trailers are uninhabited. Tim Taylor- We have a comprehensive plan going on. Frank Dorton- We are in the process of sending notices to trailer park owners to bring their parks up to the mobile home ordinance located within the town. There are some trailers of Mozel's that are not rented. We don't have anything in the law that says they can't be rented. There are two or three trailers in that park that are not on the mapping for that park that has to be moved. Joe McCracken- Do you know if we are collecting our fee for each trailer? Frank Dorton- I don't know. Mayor White-Are you dealing with the trailer parks in order or all at one time? Frank Dorton- We are dealing with all of them. Mayor White- Thank you Ernest.

Council Reports:

Rod Cury: We had a meeting with Tim, Richard Smith, Chairman of the Planning Commission, and myself regarding the revised version of the survey that will be distributed at some point and time. Tim Taylor- Basically we have received copies this week of the draft of the community comprehensive plan for

Richlands. There will also be some direction on how to proceed with the community meeting that is being solicited by the Planning Commission for the comprehensive plan process. For council's purposes we will have that available at the night of the community meeting. Our hope is to schedule that meeting the week of November the 30th to December 4th. Community surveys will be mailed to all the citizens within the Town of Richlands. There will be a survey online that citizens will be encouraged to go fill out. These particular surveys will give people the opportunity to say what they feel about Richlands, good or bad. When they go to the community meeting they will have a chance to speak with the Planning Commission members on anything else they would like to see. The closer we get to Christmas we may have less participation. Hopefully the date for this will be on December 3rd. However it will be Richard Smith's decision since he is the chairman. Doug Ratliff- Will the council have the opportunity to give their input? Tim-I think the Planning Commission should get the vision of the council also.

Joe McCracken:

I had a report of a possible water leak on East Second Street. Tim and I checked the street lighting over on Purcell; Buskill Avenue may need to have a fire hydrant added; checked on a mud issue in Hidden Valley. I was assured by Mr. Taylor that it would be taken care of at some point.

Mayor White:

I have a request for the Street Committee. Several people have asked that we put a mirror on Floyd Street because it's hard to get out. Tim Taylor- We have one mirror on the next street up but be advised that when you are looking through those mirrors it flips the traffic lanes around. They are targets for vandalism. Frank Dorton- We put one up on Friday of one week and by the following Monday it was broken. Tim Taylor-If you want to we can put one up if that is how council feels. Joe McCracken- We should consider the mirror and/or other things that might help such as signs. Mary Ann Strong-Its very dangerous. Joe McCracken-We could extend the yellow lines but that would take up customer parking. Mary Ann, Joe McCracken and Tim Taylor will look at it.

Frances Meadows:

Ernest, I want to thank you for coming and saying something about the garbage. I tried back at the first of the year to have some cleanup days for the garbage but that didn't work out. If it's ok with Tim and Frank I would like to speak with Fred and see if we can get some detainees from Blackford to see if they will come and help us with the garbage. They are always looking for something for them to do as far as work. I will talk to Fred tomorrow and see what he can help us do. Joe McCracken-I think some citations would go a long way as far as stopping that. Tim Taylor-How many garbage bags did we pick up from corporate limits to the Hidden Valley area, sixty bags?

I talked to Kevin Blankenship while he and Tim were out of town concerning an electric pole. Kevin did send someone down to look at the pole in Tackett's Trailer Park. Kevin said the pole was leaning but it is the park owner's pole. The park owner had been notified several months ago on this issue. Frances asked if the Town can make him fix the pole. Tim Taylor-We can deny service but the people that suffer from that is the tenants. As long as it's a public health hazard we will have to discontinue service which is a problem. We can't just do it for him and expect him to pay for it because he won't. Another solution might be to call the landlord's son because he has helped us in the past.

Doug Ratliff:

Can we get a consensus that we talked about the gas? Could the Electric Committee and Tim meet with John Ebert and get his intentions and try to work something out on the natural gas in town. Mayor White-Did you know he sent out surveys today? Tim Taylor-I knew he was going to but not today. Doug Ratliff-We have talked about it but we are running out of time and I'm hoping that you will give permission for us to meet with him. Joe McCracken- I see no problem.

Larry Johnson:

First, I want to say that I appreciate the people that participated in the Veteran's Day parade. The weather kept a few people back and some people said they didn't know about it. We use social media to

try and advertise because you can put it in the newspaper and on the radio and they see it on Facebook. We appreciate everybody that donated for the food. We appreciate the Bearded Moose for giving us a discount on the food and we had plenty of food. Everything worked out well. Sherriff Hyatt had to cancel at the last minute but he did send his apology.

The Veterans Day flags are still available through the 15th. The ground is heavily saturated and they have been falling down so I have been taking them down at night and putting them back up first thing in the morning. If anybody drives by and sees one down please let me know so that I can get it put back up quickly. I'm going to leave the flags on them through the end of the week and we will leave the crosses on them through the end of the month. We are going to make some changes on that next month. We didn't think it was right to put someone's name on a cross that was still alive. We will change that next year to making a plaque for the survivors.

The Festival Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday at 7:00 p.m. after the Tuesday council meeting; and thereafter on Thursdays. The parades and festivals are planned through the Festival Committee meetings. We need more participation. I may step on somebody's toes but we all have jobs and other things we have to do but we are elected to serve the people. We need to get out and participate in this stuff. A few people doing everything isn't going to cut it because it wears you down. My wife, Angie, did the Veteran's Day parade this year and by the time it's over you are done. And you still have to go back to work. So the more people that you have helping the more it takes off of everybody.

The Christmas parade will be on Sunday, December 6th at 4:00 p.m. Anyone wishing to participate in the parade should be ready to line up by 3:00 p.m. If you get there early that's fine it just makes it that much easier. Everyone is welcome to participate, there is no fee. We have several churches that always participate and we appreciate that. We moved the parade from Saturdays to Sundays because of football. Since we are at playoffs on Saturdays, it makes it hard not having a band, football players and the support of the school.

I have had a few people to complain because it was moved to Sunday because of church. I totally understand that. What my suggestion is and I think most people will agree is that this is a Christmas parade. Christmas is about Christ so what better thing to do than to make this your evening service and go out and spread the word about the meaning of the season instead of Christmas presents and Santa Clause because that's not what it's about. So that's my recommendation. I think everybody should come and enjoy it with your friends and community and try to participate because the more the merrier. It gets longer every year and that makes it that much better.

I would like to recommend that the employee's get off Christmas Eve to give them a four day weekend.

Jan White- Do we have a motion? Larry Johnson made the motion, seconded by Mary Ann Strong. Motion carries 6/0.

We are going to try to have a truck for the council members at the Christmas parade to travel in. I think it would be good if we have everybody.

Mary Ann Strong: Are we going to do the commercial and professional type floats for the Christmas parade? Mayor White- I called but they are not available for December 6th. The parade marshal will be Greg Mance and the senior football team.

Larry Johnson: I know we had complaints about the Veteran's Day parade and various other things so I have made a habit of telling the ones that complain that they can be the person to handle the situation the next time. I have done this before. We did it with trash pickup last year or year before last and it worked really well. We had some complaints about trash on Facebook so I contacted a person and ask him if he would help me clean it up and he did along with some other people. The mayor and her family were there along with other people in the community and it really made a difference. That's my policy. If you complain about something then I'm going to ask you to help fix it. That's what I do. I'm sorry if I hurt anybody's feelings. But that's the way it has to be and it works. Some people don't realize how they can help so I give you an avenue to do it.

The school has asked if we can decorate the town in blue for the football game Thursday to let everybody see the support for this week's game.

Mayor White- What is the fine for littering? Brad Ratliff-The littering code is a class one misdemeanor carrying up to 12 months in jail and up to a \$2,500 fine. Mayor White-I think we should post a few of the signs around town. It might make people think twice before littering.

Mary Ann:

I would like to say thank Larry Johnson and his wife, Angie, for all you do. Many times people don't understand how much time and effort they put in. I respect and admire their challenge.

I had a conversation with someone this week about our utility bill where there is a notation on the bottom where you can donate to the Teen Center. I'm glad Sue is here maybe she can comment. Is it possible to clarify how customers can donate to the Teen Center because there is some confusion whether or not if they are to send cash or send a separate check? If the customer is on the budget plan they need to put a note in with the bill letting the town know what the extra money is for. Tim Taylor-If there is a mistake on how it was applied, they just need to contact us.

George there appears to be a lot of leaves in the ditches in Hidden Valley and I know you all are spread very thin and I think you do a great job. Also I think it is important for customers to know that in order for the town to pick up the leaves they have to be at the edge of the street. Hopefully this will help spread the word.

I think it's important for the community to know that Clinch Valley Health has recently received a nice recognition from a rating agency called Leap Frog and they were rated "A" which is excellent. That is not easy to achieve and it speaks volumes of our hospital and I think it shouldn't be kept quiet. You will also see some media recognition concerning this too. We have a new surgeon whose name is Joseph Moran, who deals in weight loss and gastric bypass.

Mayor White:

I appreciate the street crew and George for putting up all the flags. We have bought 123 flags to add to what we had in town. I have a list of those donors which will be going in the paper. Michelle and Becky collected about \$2,200.00 for those flags. I know it really pushed the street crew to get them up at the last minute but we really appreciate it. Town really looked pretty.

We also want to thank the Garden Club for their donation of \$993.00 for new bows for the Christmas decorations. A letter will be prepared thanking them for their donation.

Department Head Reports:

Mayor White asks if anyone have questions for any of the department heads.

Tim Taylor-Last week the sky lights were patched at the recreation park. This is guaranteed for 15 to 16 years. They told us the roof was in worse shape than what we had originally thought but it is an affordable solution. They have been able to get some volunteers to paint the inside to brighten things up. The biggest challenge is the insulation on the inside. We are still discussing a solution for that. It would be wonderful if we could afford to spray the insulation inside like we had talked about but we are short about \$15,000 to do that. The big leaks have been repaired.

Mayor White- Brad do you have anything?

Brad Ratliff-I want to make a correction. The case section is 2.2-3711 (A) 7.

Mayor White- Ok. We will move on to the manager's report.

Manager's Report:

Tim asks members to look at the monthly check register and monthly bills so that he can answer any questions that council may have.

Tim Taylor-Check # 52530 to Carter Machinery is for our annual generator maintenance and repair. We had to do some repair on our wastewater treatment plant generator. We had to change out some of the boards that were 25 years old and subject to failure without any replacement parts. We upgraded that as part of our ongoing preventative maintenance program. We also have a larger generator that is at the water treatment plant that goes through annual inspections to make sure it meets all the requirements. That's a large generator and has a lot of pollution potential according to the EPA so we have to keep it tuned in the proper order.

Check # 52538 to Community Planning Partners is an invoice from them and Sue has checked it and it is correct and up to date. He hadn't billed us for quite some time and this is why the bill is so large.

Check # 52546 to Eaton Corporation for SCADA capital. That is part of our ongoing improvements for the substation for the electrical department. That project is fairly well finished now so we are pretty much looking at a completion date which I love to hear.

Rod Cury- Tim what is check # 52585?

Tim Taylor- Radiant Industrial Solution for the wastewater treatment plant. I believe that is a repair on a motor.

Rod Cury- What is check # 52569?

Tim Taylor- That check was for Liberty National Insurance.

Sue Wade- This is insurance that the employees have for coverage such as short term disability, cancer, life, etc.

Mayor White- On the American carpet care last month wasn't that a large amount?

Tim Taylor-Yes. That was everything including mowing and other clean up items. Includes all other services they performed. I'm pretty sure this will be their last check. Part of this was because we used them for mowing also. We usually do the mowing but we lost our mowing tractor operator. We are still down two operators at the street department; we were down three. It still should be a good deal for us overall.

Check # 52533 to Clatterbuck Pavement Markings is for the street painting on the new paving.

Joe McCracken- What is check # 52608?

Tim Taylor- That check is to USA Blue Book for the wastewater treatment plant. That's anything from meters to lab equipment. They sell everything for water and sewer.

Mayor White- What is check # 52598?

Tim Taylor- That check is to THI and is grapple truck parts that we had to buy.

Joe McCracken- I make a motion to pay the bills.

Mayor White- Do I have a second?

Frances Meadows- I make a second.

Mayor White- Motion carries 6/0.

Doug Ratliff- Tim Taylor would you have enough time to schedule a meeting with the electric committee? We had postponed the other one.

Tim Taylor- I have talked to Sue and Adrienne about that and we really need a full budget work session that we need to prepare for. We were looking at the first week of December because Adrienne will have to complete her deadline with the auditor for our annual report. We would also like to have a meeting with council if possible.

Tim Taylor- Doug we can meet December 2nd at 8:00 a.m.

Tim Taylor- We will need to have a meeting with council on November 30th at 6:30 p.m. for discussion of the full budget.

Tim- The next item I have is the resolution we talked about last month that we delayed in order to maximize our participation in the program with VDOT. Basically it reads that the town will participate in a revenue share program with VDOT. The local funds will be \$200,000 to be used for hard surface rehabilitation which is basically paving. \$200,000 will be matched by VDOT. This has been an excellent program for us the last few years. Every time that we have applied we have been very successful at receiving the funds. We think it's worth the opportunity to try and go from \$150,000 to \$200,000 simply because we don't think this lower cost of in asphalt will last a long time. We think the prices will be driven up because of fuel. It is my recommendation that council would consider the adoption of this resolution so that we can finalize that project and get everything we can to VDOT by the deadline which is the end of this week.

Doug Ratliff- I have been questioned a lot on the road in front of the Tabernacle. It's in bad shape. When is it schedule to be fixed?

Tim Taylor- It's on the list but I don't know if its next year or not.

Doug Ratliff- Can you make it a priority for the first of the year?

Tim Taylor- You can't because you have to do a paving analysis that is a computer program. You can put it on the list but where ever it ranks is where it will have to go. We will look at that real strong and do it according to its severity.

Frances Meadows- You did put Charles Street back on the list, right?

Tim Taylor- It's going to be on there but I'm not sure in what order. It probably won't rank high but it will be on the list. It looks like the only one that we haven't done but we have to start and stop somewhere.

Jan White- Do we have a motion to approve the resolution? Doug Ratliff made a motion; Frances Meadows seconded motion. Motion carries 6/0

Larry Johnson-Do you know when the EPA will be close to finishing?

Tim Taylor- I don't remember but I can find out.

Larry Johnson- I had to contact Mr. Taylor about some dust at the crane business and I do appreciate him for getting that taken care of.

Tim Taylor- I noticed that Mr. John Young is here. Brad did you get a chance to look at that? Brad Ratliff- No. I never received a letter giving me the information. Tim Taylor- Mr. Young we will expedite this process and try to get it done.

Mayor White- We need a motion to go in closed session for 2.2-3711 (A) 5 Perspective Business Project- Jonah and Pending Litigation 2.2-3711 (A) 7.

Rod Cury made a motion to go into closed session; Joe McCracken seconded the motion. Motion carries 6/0.

Council returned from closed session. Mayor White asked for a motion to return to open session.

Frances Meadows made the motion; seconded by Joe McCracken.

Jan White- All those in favor of the motion say yes. Those opposed say no. Motion carries 6/0.

Mayor White- Do all members affirm that the only items discussed in closed session was 2.2-3711 (A) 5 and 2.2-3711 (A) 7? All members affirmed.

Mayor White- Do we have a motion as of a result of the closed session?

Doug Ratliff- Yes I would like to make a motion to approve the memorandum of understanding with Tazewell County IDA as related to project Jonah, subject to edits discussed in closed session and approval by legal counsel.

Mayor White- Do we have a second? Rod Cury- I will second. Mayor White- We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those who opposed say no. Motion carries 6/0.

Mayor White-If we don't have anything else we need a motion to recess until November 12th at 5:30.

Joe McCracken- I make a motion to recess until Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

Mary Ann Strong- I will second that motion.

Mayor White- A motion and a second. All those in favor of the motion say yes. Those opposed no. Motion carries 6/0.

Jannis White, Mayor

Julie Cordle, Town Clerk.