

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on October 11, 2016 at 7:30 pm with the following present:

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

Mayor White called the meeting to order.

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

Mayor White- Do we have anyone who would like to speak that is not on the agenda? Melanie Counts, Virginia Department of Health was added. The soccer team was added under scheduled public comments. Is there anyone else who would like to speak that is not on the agenda? Are there any other additions or deletions to the agenda?

Rod Cury- Mayor White, I would like to add that we have an eagle scout here tonight that I would like for the town council to recognize. If I could suggest that we add him under section 5 and we will call it 5A. Will that work?

Mayor White- Does anyone else have any additions or corrections to the agenda?

Joe McCracken- I don't know if it is the appropriate time or not, Mayor, but I would like to recognize the former town mayor Ken Wysor who recently passed away. He served this town for 16 years. I would like to have a moment of silence. Thank you.

Mayor White- Thank you, Joe. He did a lot of service to this town. We want to compliment and thank him for his service to our town.

Are there any other corrections? We do need to change the night of the next meeting since it falls on Election Day and the polls won't close until 7:00. Would everyone be open to the next night on Wednesday? We will change the next meeting to Wednesday, November 9th at 7:30 pm. Any other corrections, additions, or changes to the agenda? If not, do we have a motion to approve the agenda as amended? Rod Cury made the motion. Doug Ratliff seconded the motion. Any further discussion? Motion carries 6/0.

Mayor White- You have one set of minutes from the September meeting. Are there any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes? If not, do we have a motion to approve the minutes as amended? Mary Ann made the motion to approve the minutes as presented. Doug Ratliff seconded motion. Any further discussion? Motion carries 6/0.

Mayor White-We will move on to scheduled public comments. You have 5 minutes maximum. First on the list is Karen Helmandollar, CVCA discussing domestic violence awareness month.

I am actually **Christy Marshall**. Karen was unable to attend. I am the domestic violence advocate for Clinch Valley Community Action.

Mayor White- We have a proclamation that she would like for us to vote on. This is the domestic violence awareness month October 2016 proclamation. Mayor White read the proclamation. "Every year women, children, and men across Richlands experience a trauma of domestic violence. It affects our citizens, harms our communities, and hurts those that we love the most. From physical violence and sexual assault to emotional and financial abuse, this crime occurs far too frequently, goes uninterrupted for too long, and leaves long-lasting physical and emotional scars. During domestic violence awareness month we recommit ourselves not only to erasing the secrecy and shame surrounding domestic violence but also to raising awareness, expanding support for victims, strengthening our response, and embracing the basic human right to have happy, healthy, and safe relationships. Whereas more than 1 in 3 women have experienced rape, physical violence, and or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime. Approximately 7 million women are raped and are physically assaulted by an intimate partner each year according to the US Department of Justice 2000. Whereas men exposed to physical abuse, sexual abuse, or domestic violence as children are almost 4 times more likely than other men to perpetrate domestic violence as adults. Whereas approximately 15.5 million children are exposed to domestic violence every year. Therefore I do hereby proclaim October 2016 as domestic violence awareness month. I urge all residents of Richlands to recognize the survivors and victims of domestic violence whose courage inspires us all by responding to and working toward ending domestic violence. We can support our community's efforts, learn more about this crime, and speak out against it. Let us rededicate ourselves to take action in our community and stop violence before it starts. Together we can increase awareness, eliminate the violence, hold offenders accountable, support victims, and heal lives". We don't actually have to vote on the proclamation, but would someone like to make a motion to adopt this proclamation? Rod Cury made the motion. Doug Ratliff seconded the motion. Motion carries 6/0.

Mayor White- Matthew Horn is here to discuss Front Street parking.

Matthew Horn- I have the Communication Café. Myself, my patrons, and my employees have noticed a huge issue in Richlands and that is pedestrian safety. I have walked into the police department and have seen the wall hanging when you first walk in on the left that shows how safe this town is for pedestrians. I want to commend and thank you for the years of dedication to make that happen. I also want to recognize that we do have an issue. That issue is the first thing that people want to do when they get to Richlands is leave. Myself, I live in Cedar Bluff and I chose to open a business in Richlands. I didn't have to do it, but I am very thankful that the town has welcomed me in with open arms. That means a lot to me. Every day we pick up more of the community getting to come in and try out the different offerings that we have. I have walked this town and walked into communities. I have walked into the parts of different business areas down on Front Street and back up Second Street numerous times in the past 2 months. I have recognized that our drivers, as safe as we want to be sometimes, don't notice that there are pedestrian markings to yield for pedestrians and stop. I think a lot of people have grown used to not stopping for pedestrians, but it is a huge issue. There are two issues. One is the speed of which people can travel on Front Street. I understand in the Richlands 2020 plan that it has been written that Front Street moves 18,000 average cars a day. By 2020 it's supposed to be 24,000. At 25 MPH that's great but the majority of people that I see driving especially in front of my café are going well over 25 MPH and

they don't have time to see anyone walking. I don't know if you all have seen the Facebook video that has become so popular online that shows Richlands in the 50's or 60's as a bustling place and as a business owner I would love to see that. As a human being and being part of this community and Cedar Bluff; that's what I want to see in our town. That is how I want to raise my kids and my family. I understand that years ago Front Street was more narrow and we had diagonal parking spaces where you could simply pull into a parking space and pull out. I have created a petition and I think there are more than 70 signatures and by the time I finished and turned it in, I had well over 100 signatures recognizing that we would like to slow traffic down and create better parking for the entire Richlands. How I proposed to do that was to narrow Front Street and create diagonal parking spaces rather than the parallel ones that exist now. Parallel parking is hard. I think it would be much easier to slow traffic down first. We could have one of our wonderful police officers help us do just that. I know that you all have very busy days and you give a magnificent effort. I am asking not only for the police but for our town members and everyone to open up communication and let people know that we want this town to be successful. We don't want to have anything on our safety record and we want to draw in business. I want to see that happen. We have to slow traffic down. We must or there is going to be a huge issue that we don't want.

Mayor White- I have a question for Mr. Taylor. Is it possible to go back to the diagonal parking?

Tim Taylor- There are provisions and codes for certain exceptions. A lot of provisions today versus years ago are different. So with that be said, I doubt it.

Matthew Horn- I would invite any of you to walk with me through Richlands and stand at the crosswalks. I am sure you have. I would like for you to do it again and pay very close attention. We even have tractor trailers that come around that corner like they have somewhere else to be. I understand that years ago the store front that I am in has had to be replaced because of a vehicle going straight through. I don't know the circumstances however I do recognize the issue that we have. I would love each council member to consider at least the vertical markings in the crosswalks and the middle. If we could reach out to VDOT or if it's a town situation or whatever we might need to do. If I need to raise the money in order to get those pedestrians crossing there, I will work very hard to do just that. I would like everyone to be able to know that they need to slow down. I know when I ride through Salem or Abingdon, I'm going to slow down when I reach a vertical marker that's in my way.

Mary Ann- Mr. Taylor, since Joe and I are on the street committee is that something the 3 of us could talk about? We can meet soon.

Joe McCracken- I am not opposed to trying to make a change of color in the crosswalks or something flashing. Maybe a sign that says pedestrian crosswalk or something to that affect. There are a lot of people that walk through town that I have seen myself. I think we should try to meet and create a solution for the crosswalks.

Matthew Horn- I want to pay as many taxes as I can because I have so many patrons to pay those taxes in the town of Richlands. I want people to be able to stop and enjoy our community and buy things, services, and products. The only way we can do that is to have traffic stopped. I know a lot of you are businesses owners yourselves and you understand how important that parking is. I have heard several stories about parking in Richlands. A crowd draws a crowd so I want to see as many people stopped as possible. I want Front Street and Second Street to move as swiftly as possible to move traffic. I don't

want to lose that 18,000 plus cars a day. I think that is magnificent that we might have 1 ½ to 2 times more traffic on Front Street than we do on the bypass. I was very surprised and interested to learn that.

Rod Cury- Several years ago at the corner of Front Street and Norfolk, there was a barrel type of thing that sat at the middle of the crosswalk that cautioned for pedestrians. Several years ago we had this same issue to come forward and I think it is a VDOT issue with having that right there in the middle of the road. I think the street committee might investigate some option to help pedestrian's safety in a crosswalk. It did exist for the longest time, but it was a VDOT issue wasn't it, Tim?

Tim Taylor- The United States Federal Highway System has standards for safety. For the state of Virginia, the US Highway System, we have to abide by those rules. There are guidelines there and we have to go look at the standards for that. The best thing to do is to let us and the street committee do our homework. There may be some options we will have. Give us a few days to get some material together so we can do that.

Melody Counts- Hello, I would like to thank the mayor and the council members for allowing me to speak. I am the health director for Cumberland Plateau Health District with the Virginia Department of Health. I wanted to talk a little bit about some of the benefits about the fluoride in the drinking water. Basically the CVC has stated that having fluoride in the drinking water is one of the top 10 greatest public health benefits of the 20th century. The benefits of the dental health are well known, and it can prevent up to 25% of cavities in children as well as adults. Anyone who has been to a recent RAM event such as the one in Grundy knows that dental health is much needed in our region. The dental health is lacking in our regional area and I feel that it would be lacking even more if we were to take the fluoride out of the drinking water. We are very much in favor of keeping the fluoride in the drinking water for the Town of Richlands.

How long has it been since we had fluoride in the drinking water?

Tim Taylor- I don't know the answer to that. As long as I've been here and I don't think we had it well before that. Our equipment has problems and the complexity of what we are using, can no longer be bought in the United States. Getting the materials from imports isn't going to work very well. The equipment is 20 some years old and is going to have to be replaced. Some of the operators have read about possible health concerns and some issues occurring in Flint, Michigan. This is the reason why we wanted the council to research it, so that everyone will know what we are doing.

Melody Counts- I just want to make the point that it's not just my view. They feel like there isn't any convincing evidence that there are health problems related to fluoride. Extremely high doses of fluoride can discolor teeth. That's something that is well known, but in the amount that is recommended for drinking water is 7 mg per liter. That should not be an issue. It is a very safe method of improving our dental health.

Tim Taylor- I just recommend for due diligence purposes, that if council makes the decision that they feel good about. This is probably going to cost equipment and we will have to have professional engineering services.

Joe McCracken- Years ago the water wasn't as pure or as good as it is today. Back years ago it wasn't as available as it is today for people. Now in this day and time, fluoride is in all toothpaste and in all mouthwashes. There is fluoride available without putting it in our drinking water. Fluoride is in several

of the products that we use already. I am not saying anything against it, but it is a possible financial issue.

Doug Ratliff- Can I add something to what Joe said? If we do decide to put it in the drinking water, we have to be very careful. It can cause bone disease at higher levels.

Melody Counts- There is a recommended rate.

Doug Ratliff- I know, but if something happened and we had a mistake. You have to look at the pros and cons. We would have to be very cautious having that in our water system.

Tim Taylor- I'm sure our folks are very conscientious.

Melody Counts- There are other ways to get fluoride, but I'm not sure that is it the 7 mg that is recommended to provide the 25% decrease in the cavities.

Mary Ann- Tim, do you think by next meeting you could have the cost for us?

Tim Taylor- Yes. We have some estimates, but not the actual cost. We will have to get a professional engineer to basically design it for us. I think in all fairness that council should share it with the public to look at all issues. Maybe we will need you all to come back, not to debate, just to give more time than just the business meeting with council.

Doug Ratliff- Could we also check other communities and see how to approach it?

Tim Taylor- Some have dropped it and some haven't. It is pretty controversial somewhat because it looks like you're trying to let the kids down too. There are some emotional issues there. Our operators are really professional and they want it right.

The Health Department thought other water works in the Cumberland Plateau health district all add fluoride to it.

Tim Taylor- Does Lebanon? I was thinking they did not.

Mr. Stanley, Health Department-There are like 2 that does not. The public notice issues that had to go out to inform parents are not required from the water works to do that. You also want to inform parents when you are not adding so their physicians, pediatricians or dentists can recommend a fluoride rinse for their children. It is an overall cost savings to a community to add it at the appointed time to the public water.

Rod Cury- We need to give it a closer look because obviously there are financial costs. I consider it a community health safety issue. I think from what I see and read good dental health also protects heart health and other issues. In all consideration I think that you will be instrumental on helping us to make a proper decision based on what we can get and what we can afford but not risking public health.

Mary Ann- Coach Lindsey can you and the team come up here and stand? On behalf of the council, the mayor, and all the town we welcome the team and we are so proud of your season last year. You have had great years many times, but last year was just phenomenal finishing top 4 in the state and having an

undefeated conference record. We really appreciate all of you that came out tonight. These girls are very busy. They play other sports and they're good students so it is wonderful that so many of you were able to come out. Here is the resolution recognizing and commending the 2016 Richlands Blue Tornado's girl soccer team. "Whereas the Richlands Town Council desires to recognize the outstanding performance of the 2016 Richlands Blue Tornado's girl soccer team whose season ended with an undefeated in conference 18 and 0 record, a season record of 20 and 2, and an overall finish in the top 4 in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Whereas the Richlands Town Council notes with gratitude the exemplary season and achievements by the team and its members. Whereas head coach LaRonda Lindsey and assistant coach Jim Gibson have given their time unselfishly to the players working tirelessly towards the goals of improving the team's skills, building individual character, and instilling a work ethic. Whereas the accomplishments of Richlands Blue Tornado girls' soccer team have brought honor and recognition to the town, the player's families, and the community at large. Whereas the 2016 Richlands Tornado girl soccer team and its coaches are indeed deserving of public recognition. Now therefore be it resolved by the Mayor and the Town Council of the town of Richlands on behalf of the citizens of this municipality we hereby formally express and record our appreciation for the team and each individual member's commitment and dedication which exemplifies noble character, demonstrates positive values, and a work ethic that serves as inspiration and a source of pride for their families, neighbors, the town council, and the citizens of Richlands Virginia. Be it resolved that the Town Council for the Town of Richlands in regular session assembled hereby publicly recognizes and formally commends the 2016 Richlands Blue Tornado girls' soccer team and its coaches for their achievements. Be it further resolved that an attested copy of this resolution unanimously adopted on the 11th day of October 2016 shall be recorded in the minutes of the official record of the Town of Richlands". This will be signed by our mayor and our clerk. Again, we are very proud of each of you. Thank you for being here.

Joe McCracken made the motion to adopt the resolution, Rod Cury seconded the motion. Motion carries 6/0.

Mary Ann- I would encourage everyone here to attend the next soccer season and watch these young ladies play. It is very exciting and you won't be disappointed.

Rod Cury- Could I ask that you remain for just one moment? We have one of their class piers that is going to be recognized and I think that they would enjoy it. First I would like to say that during World War 2 my father served in the army air force and before he was shipped overseas to serve in the pacific, he was stationed in many places in the United States. Everywhere he went my mother went with him. Always she managed to get a job as a secretary. They lived in Orlando, Miami Beach, Indianapolis, Denver, and several places in California. When dad was stationed in Salinas which is near San Francisco, my mother managed to get a job there as the personal secretary to the executive director of the Boy Scouts of America. His name was Mr. Young. I don't know his first name. I have that in my mother's written hand. She told me that one of the greatest experiences of all the jobs that she held during World War 2 was working for the Boy Scouts of America. Growing up she encouraged me to become a boy scout so I became one. She did this because she wanted me to embrace the values of the scouts. Unfortunately, I never made it past knots. I have always been proud about the fact that I was a boy scout. With that being said, tonight I have the honor of introducing a boy scout who has excelled far beyond nots. He has attained the highest rank award in scouting that of an Eagle Scout. I can speak of him professionally that he is an excellent student and someone of the very highest character. Part of boy scouting is to help other people at all times. Dalton Plumly is a senior at Richlands High School. Dalton is helping others and he is also helping our town. No one can tell his story and tell about his project any

better than Dalton Plumly. I would like to invite you to come forth and tell about your scouting experience and your project for this community.

Dalton Plumly- For my project I went with my troop and cleaned out the Richlands Police Department shooting range. We built 3 shooting benches for the police.

Rod Cury- The shooting ranges I am sure have been very helpful. I am sure that Chief Dorton can attest to that. The service that you have offered is in the tradition of the scouts of this town and carrying on this tradition is extremely important not only to the community but it speaks to your character. I thank you and I am sure the council thanks you.

Mayor White- Thank you Dalton. It is a pleasure to have you here.

Council Member Reports:

Rod Cury- The first thing that I would like to do is thank the police department very much for all the service that they have given to the town and especially recently. We had a bomb threat at the high school and I saw so many members of the Richlands Police Department there taking care of the welfare of the students and the staff. I am very grateful. I also want to express to you that after the building was secured and the students and staff were able to return into the building that Mrs. Ringstaff announced her gratitude to the police department for all of the hard work and diligent work that was done. I just wanted to personally thank you for that. I saw many of you up there. It is sad that these threats are becoming way too common, unwelcome, unwanted, and uninvited. Nonetheless we have to take it all very seriously. She didn't ask me to but on behalf of the school, myself, and the other faculty members and students thank you. It means a lot. It makes me feel very safe. I appreciate it and I know the council members do too.

The next thing that I would like to do is mention that our trunk-or-treat that is being held at the police department on the 29th this month is a community activity. I know there are a lot clubs and organizations from the high school will be participating in that fun and safe time for the children. It is my understanding that there will be a large crowd of parents and children expected there and we hope for good weather. I think it is also a part of the project LEAD Tazewell County. They have asked that it would be a nonpolitical event. The major parties here in Tazewell County the Republicans and the Democrats have agreed that it should be for the children and not anything political. They won't be handing out any literature or campaigning. It is truly a night for the children to enjoy and all of the people that are participating. I just want to thank LEAD Tazewell County for coming to terms with those positive things and for our youth and whole community. It creates a positive environment. I personally am very happy about it.

The other thing that I have been asked about, are we leaving the general trick-or-treating for the 31st which is Monday? Maybe not all children are aware of trunk-or-treat. I would suggest that we have the regular trick-or-treat on the 31st. I would also like to refer to Chief Dorton about any comments that you have about either.

Chief Dorton- As far as the police department, it doesn't really matter to us. With us being involved it's more of the trick part not the treat part. We will have it on the 29th and the 31st. We will be ready here for both regardless of when we celebrate Halloween.

Rod Cury- Would the council recommend that we have hours that are set and are published? 5:30-8:00 or something of that nature. Chief Dorton and Mr. Brown, does that seem ok with you?

Chief Dorton- Yes. We are prepared for both nights. If it is two separate nights, we still have to have people out for both nights. Whatever your decision is won't make any difference to us.

Rod Cury- My personal recommendation is that we advertise that we are ready for both so that people will be aware. The trunk-or-treat is from 5:30 until 8:00 at the police station and then trick-or-treat on the 31st from 5:30 until 8:00.

Mary Ann- Usually the newspapers call the town hall and ask them when they are going to have it. I don't believe they have yet.

Rod Cury- Should we send out a notice to the papers so that they will be aware of that? Can we do that, Mayor White?

Mayor White- I am fine with whatever you all decide.

Rod Cury- Thank you members of council, Mayor White, and the police department.

Tim Taylor- So that we are clear and there is no confusion, trunk-or-treat is on Saturday with no door-to-door. Then the door-to-door will be on the traditional Monday.

Rod Cury- That is my impression. That is not to say that children will not venture from trunk-or-treat and go door to door.

Tim Taylor- I understand that. I just needed to specify so that everyone knows.

Rod Cury- The Planning Commission met last Tuesday night and regretfully I was unable to attend. I will have to ask Tim to report on that.

Tim Taylor- Basically we had some new members added to the Planning Commission, Virginia Hart and Priscilla Russ. It was their first meeting for the Planning Commission along with Randy Smith who was reappointed. The new chair of the Planning Commission is Richard Brown, the vice chair is Randy Smith, and the secretary would be Virginia Hart. There was one issue that the council certainly needs to be aware of. Mrs. Betty Honaker came to council last month and asked for rezoning for a piece of property located on Veteran's Drive. There is some clarification on that and they were at the meeting to clarify their request to the Planning Commission so they could start on the process. The Planning Commission would have to decide if they were going to have a joint public hearing. Following the meeting, it was evident that Mrs. and Mr. Honaker explained exactly what they wanted to do with their property. The more it was discussed, there appeared to be more opportunities that they think may be more beneficial to them and the town themselves. At this particular time they have asked that their request be put on

hold. I think they are going to try to list the property as residential and then mark it for professional offices which are allowed for in that particular zone.

We also had another request for rezoning on Patricia Raines property, Robin Hood Lane. This was a request to put another potential business in town that was having issues with their use and wants the Planning Commission to listen to what that use would be. It is basically a school for the arts. If they decide to do that particular project, that will be another business in town.

We had Craig Wilson there to present the final draft to the comprehensive plan. It was accepted by the members to read and review since we had two new members who had never seen it before. They decided to take that up at the regular scheduled meeting which will be the first Tuesday in November. Hopefully at that time they may recommend for that be presented to council to review unless there are some issues with it. At that time, you will have the chance to schedule a public hearing or work session. The planning commission will either participate as part of a joint public hearing with the council or have another one themselves. I think it would be best for them to have a joint public hearing. Once it goes to council, we can publish the notice and post it on our website. It's 50 some pages but it has lots of good material in it. I feel like it is a good road map for our future. I am looking forward to hearing the comments from the council.

Rod Cury- We aren't ready to set that date yet?

Tim Taylor- Right now it is set to be on the regular meeting which is the first Tuesday in November. You have to have a public hearing before you can adopt it.

Joe McCracken- Tim and I met a couple times last week and discussed several issues. One issue is condition of the road and the ditches on Laramie Road. I don't know whether they have been done or not. I saw in the report where something was done over there.

Tim Taylor- There was some activity going on there and legally too. We have to wait and follow that legally to fix the ditches.

Joe McCracken- I would just like to inquire, Brad, if you heard anything about the Ingersoll Ram property?

Brad Ratliff- I have read all of the documents that we have, but I haven't heard anything new. I have been working on some other things for the town. I have been pretty busy this past month, but have been focused on getting something worked out with the property swap. I have looked at those deeds and the surveying that was presented in that information package. I haven't had the chance to talk to the owners, but that is the next step. Hopefully I can convince everybody to get along enough to do what needs to be done to get that property opened for the town.

Joe McCracken- From what I understand, the other property owners are two feet on that property. I just can't hardly see stopping the cleanup process with contaminated material because somebody is on that property two feet. There are several acres over there that needs to be cleaned up and we are letting a person that has two feet of the property stop the whole process.

Brad Ratliff- I agree with you. If we can negotiate a resolution from all to do the best for the whole community, I think folks will hopefully be open to that.

Joe McCracken- I appreciate your influence and talking to get this resolved for the Town of Richlands not just the people on that whole street. Thank you very much.

I have one more question on the billing for the Fire and Rescue. Have we checked anymore into that? From what I hear, Tazewell does their own billing and Cedar Bluff does their own billing. I am just wondering why we can't do our own billing and save the \$40,000 a year that we are spending.

Tim Taylor- We have a worksheet on that and it's on my desk. The big issue that we haven't overcome in order to get things rolling, is that we cannot do it in house without adding a person. With the volume that we have, we can't do a part time like some of the smaller communities do. To do a full time individual with benefits and office space even at \$10 an hour the benefit package would possibly be in the \$50,000 range when we are getting it done for \$40,000. It is kind of hard for us to figure out a way to do it.

Joe McCracken- The numbers have not been crunched at this time. It is estimates.

Tim Taylor- No, I can crunch it pretty easy because the \$10 an hour is \$20,000 a year and if you can get health insurance that's \$18,000 equals \$38,000. When you put social security and the retirement package in you're right at \$50,000.

Joe McCracken- You don't think anyone would be interested in doing that part time?

Tim Taylor- I don't think they can handle it part time. That's what we have determined.

Joe McCracken- Tazewell is doing theirs and they are pretty big.

Tim Taylor- How much is our billing receipts? It's over a million dollars a year. We take of over half of the county so it is just hard to do that.

Joe McCracken- I can see where we are taking care of more. We are going out in the county and it's not just the town. I can understand that.

Tim Taylor- That is the problem. If it was smaller, I think it would be doable. If we had someone on staff that is part of that organization, but we just don't. We don't have that expertise plus we stay busy most of the time with the places we have to go. The unknown is whether we could do a better job than our current people, then it would make sense. We will continue to look at this.

Mayor White- How are the collections coming, Brad?

Brad Ratliff- I couldn't report that tonight. I apologize, Mayor. As far as I know it is continuing on its usual path. We are having court hearings monthly so we do have revenue coming in to the town monthly. Adrienne may know how much is being paid to the town. I don't know that tonight but I can bring you a billing report next month.

Tim Taylor- It would be good to see it. It might help that unknown piece.

Joe McCracken- I think we should have one at least every 3 months.

Tim Taylor- Is that possible, Brad?

Brad Ratliff- Yes, absolutely.

Frances Meadows- I know that you were going to inquire about the Recreation Commission. I do have one more name that I wanted to bring before council to be approved for the Recreation Commission and that is Ronnie Cordle. Ronnie has been very interested in joining the Recreation commission for a little while, but I never was able to get in touch with him. He was very excited about it and said that he would do anything he could to help. He does have children so he really is interested in doing stuff for the kids. I do have one other person that I am going to bring before council next month. That will be the final spot. The one for tonight is Ronnie Cordle and I would like for the council to consider approving him.

Mayor White- We will put that in the form of a motion. Frances Meadows made the motion. Rod Cury seconded the motion. Motion carries 6/0.

Frances Meadows-The last thing that I noticed is that there wasn't an update the mobile home parks.

Frank Dorton- Almost all that we have sent out have complied. We still have a couple that are pending in court. There are probably 8 or 10 more that we haven't got to yet.

Frances Meadows- I hope that no matter how the election goes that the council will still continue keeping an eye on these mobile home parks in the future. The police department had done their job on checking and getting them up to code as much as they can. That is another thing that we can check off saying we want our town to look good.

Doug Ratliff- I don't have anything.

Larry Johnson- I want to let everybody know that the Veteran's Day parade is going to be November 5th at 2:00 p.m. at the police department. There is a letter going out to businesses to sponsor the lunch and I am also going to make a donation. I would encourage everybody else to do the same. If it weren't for our veterans, we wouldn't be sitting here tonight.

Tim, did you get my email about the water run off on Christmas Tree Hill and on South Front Street? It's been a while since I sent it. It was back when we had that hard rain. The ditch needs to be cleaned out. We need to get that taken care of.

Tim Taylor- Yes. We will work on it.

Mary Ann Strong-I attended the Richlands Economic Enhancement committee meeting and Tim is very nice to always come when it is possible for him. We not only had Tim, but we also had Sue and Adrienne. It was great representation for the town and I appreciate the 3 of you. One of the things that

we did talk briefly about was the Planning Commission had met the previous night. The REEC committee, after we get the copy of the plan, that we really give strong consideration to a public hearing. We could advertise. That is something that is really important to that committee. We waited a long time and I think it is going to be well worth the wait when we see the plan.

I know, Brad, you have been really busy so hopefully next month we will know more about the e-cigarette. That is another item important to the REEC.

Brad Ratliff- I have done some work on that and have identified some information that is useful for us. We can regulate e-cigarette the same as we can smoking. We can't create an ordinance that is stricter than the state's requirements on smoking in public, but we can create one that will regulate smoke as a rule and that definition can involve e-cigarettes. We can have an ordinance for council to take a look out by next month.

Mary Ann- That would be my opinion. I value the opinion of the other council members. Would you like for Brad to work on that?

Brad Ratliff- It is for smoking in general. I looked at the statues in Virginia and I consulted with some other lawyers at the Local Government Attorneys Association about what's been done in some of their communities. You can regulate as long as we make that inclusive in the definition of smoke. It will essentially be a smoking ordinance.

Mayor White- What is the regulation on smoking in public buildings?

Brad Ratliff- It is illegal. We can definitely make it happen inside of the buildings but I wouldn't try to regulate the sidewalks. I think that would be a little intrusive.

Mary Ann- Many people go outside of their business on the sidewalk to smoke.

I would just like to compliment the Mayor and everyone who helped with the yard sale. It was the first one I have been to in the town and it was fun. I think everyone enjoyed it, made a little money, and got rid of some things. We had a couple ribbon cuttings but I will refer that to the Mayor.

For the trunk-or-treat if everyone can, it is very important that we get candy to give out. You can drop off candy at the police department, at the Chamber of Commerce, or at my office. We need a lot of candy because we are expecting and hoping for a lot of kids.

You have an invitation in your packet to attend a celebration at Clinch Valley Medical Center tomorrow at 3:30 pm. CVMC has attained a Duke Life Point Affiliate. I am sure people won't understand that, but in health care this is tremendous. Anyone who can attend should; we really need to show strong community support. It is also important because there will be representatives from the Duke University Health Care System and the executive team administrative of Life Point Hospital is coming from Nashville. It will be in the cafeteria of the hospital. You will be fed well and meet some very prestigious people.

Department Head Report-

Mayor White- Does anyone have anything?

Larry Johnson- How is the 24-hour gym at Claypool Hill going?

They seem to be doing fine.

Mayor White-The town teamed up with the LEAD group of Tazewell County for the yard sale. We felt like it was pretty successful for a fall yard sale. We actually had almost as many booths as we did in the spring. I thank the people for participating in that. I think it gave our community an opportunity to make some money.

We have had a couple of ribbon cuttings. BBU has relocated in the old Texaco garage on Front Street. They had a grand opening. They do a lot of environmental activities and other things that are posted on their window. They're very interested in helping out in the community, so if you get a chance, go by and speak with them. They want to help sponsor some teams and help with the youth.

Then we did a grand reopening at Simple Pleasures on Front Street which is the little antique store. We appreciate everybody that showed up for that. I know it isn't always possible for everybody to come, but they are always so grateful when people from the town show up.

Joe McCracken- Sometimes we need a little heads up before we can attend.

Mayor White- Most of the time they are posted on Facebook.

Joe McCracken- Some people don't Facebook.

Mayor White- I'm not sure if those were on the town channel or not. We will try to do a better job, Joe. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, what about our town email?

Tim Taylor – It is ready to go. We will get a package out to you with instructions on what to do. It actually just happened today. We will hopefully get that out this week.

Mayor White- The other issue is codification.

Brad Ratliff- I have my staff working up the changes so we can get it in the final forms. I had some conversations with someone so that we could submit those. We had put together all these changes and we have them sitting there in the book so we just have to get all of them typed to be converted. I am hopeful that we are almost there.

Brad Ratliff-I am going to ask for closed session.

Mayor White- We can do that after Tim's report. We will move on to his report.

Tim Taylor- If you would look at this month's check register to see if you have any questions.

Check #54370 American Carpet Care \$12,130.00 – Part was for someone to run a mowing tractor

Mayor White- If nobody has anything else, can we get a motion to pay the bills? Rod Cury made the motion. Mary Ann seconded the motion. Motion carries 6/0.

Tim Taylor- The Section House Enhancement Project had one bidder. Their particular bid has been forwarded on to VDOT and we haven't received approval yet. Once that gets through that particular process, then we will probably be looking for council to vote on the bid. We think we are going to get it in budget but whether we can or not right now we don't know. Once we get that we will let council know about it and provide a plan of action to get that project underway. It will be a 2-3 year project. We are on our last issue with it.

Regarding the water treatment plant fluoride issues, I added that on because I didn't know the Health Department was going to show up. We are trying to do a little more homework before we have them participate but that is fine. Sometimes things look really simple but there are always other sides. In order to do due diligence I think that once we get some of the pricing done, we can do a paper for council and decide how to go from there next month like you recommended. The only thing we are sacrificing is not having the fluoride in the water. I think it has been down 2 months. There are more issues than just one.

Doug Ratliff- Did you say we have been out of fluoride for 2 months?

Tim Taylor- Yes. We can't leave it down. If you are going to quit using it, you have to notify the public because they may have to do different things with their dentist or whatever. Our operators take it very seriously and they just want to make sure that council understands. We need to get it resolved.

We have quite a few VDOT projects and most of them are online type of applications. One good thing is we do have a process for a possible revenue stream for the bridge on Front Street. Our bridge is in really bad shape. It is very old but not unsafe or we would have to close it. I think it would definitely qualify for rehabilitation. I don't think it would be a replacement.

We have two pavement projects that we have had for two fiscal years in the budget from Revenue Sharing. We may have to step away from that for a year and then come back to it. We have done this before. All of it has to go towards pavement because that is where we need it the most. Eventually we would like to be able to do something else.

I did cover Betty Honaker's letter and that is resolved. She could very well come back for that request but I am hoping she will be able to sell her property.

After we go to into closed session I have one more thing to discuss. I sent out a memo concerning a work issue for boundary adjustment issues. That could be a possibility of someone coming tomorrow to talk to council, which of course would be closed session. That is something we can do.

Doug Ratliff- How does that affect the meeting next month with the Planning Commission?

Tim Taylor- Really we don't have a meeting with them until you decide about the comprehensive plan. Its two different contracts and two different issues. I have to let him know tonight. What particular time

is good with everyone? I can ask for a different day because I feel like it is important for everyone to be there.

Doug Ratliff- Could you get a date on Tuesday so Larry could be there?

Mary Ann- It's better for me on Tuesdays if it is later.

Tim Taylor- Can we put the 25th as a possible date at 7:00 pm? It will be a work session so no voting or anything. The first is the Planning Commission meeting.

Larry Johnson- I can do a Thursday.

Tim Taylor- It can be the 20th, 25th, or the 27th. That's all I have.

Mayor White- What is the section for the closed session?

Brad Ratliff- 2.2 3711.A7- Potential Litigation. Joe McCracken made the motion. Larry Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carries 6/0.

Mayor White- We need a motion to come back to open session. Joe McCracken made the motion. Rod Cury seconded the motion. Motion carries 6/0.

Mayor White-Will all members affirm that the only thing discussed in closed session was 2.2 3711.A7. All members said yes.

Mayor White- We need a motion to adjourn. Frances Meadows made the motion. Joe McCracken seconded motion. Motion carries 6/0.

Jannis White, Mayor

Sue Wade, Acting Town Clerk