

he Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on December 13, 2016 at 7:30 pm with the following present:

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

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

Mayor-Do we have any additions or deletions to the agenda? Does anyone want to speak that is not on the agenda? Last call? Are there any other changes to the agenda? If not do I hear a motion to approve the agenda as presented?

Larry Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mary Ann Strong seconded the motion.

Mayor-any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 6/0.

Mayor-Does anyone have any corrections, additions, or deletions to the November minutes?

Rod Cury- On page 26, under my comments it says Hartco County, it should be Henrico County. It refers to my principal Mr. Addison but my principal was Mr. Levinson just for the record. Then the last one there it says handed us our paycheck and a pencil at Tuckaho, it is Tuckahoe Junior High School.

Mayor- 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 as amended. Rod seconded the motion. Motion carries 6/0

Mayor- Each year the Virginia Municipal League sponsors an essay contest for the seventh graders in our area and the title is" What Would I do If I Were Mayor ". Up to this point we have not had anyone to participate. We are very excited tonight to have a participant and a winner. So we would like to let Mr. Dotson and the winner, Gillian Guierro, tell us about the process.

Mr. Dotson-Good afternoon. The process is about 202 students that participate out of the three seventh grade class. We sat down individually and looked through our papers and chose the one that we thought would be best. Then the three of us came to an agreement that Ms. Guierro's paper was the best.

Mayor-Would she like to share a portion of her essay?

Gullian-Don't forget to vote November 8, 2016. A vote for me is the right thing to do. My name is Gillian Guierro and I am running for Mayor of Richlands Virginia. I know mayors don't seem very important but trust me when I say local government has a major impact in our everyday life. I was born and raised in Richlands, which is a small quiet town in southwest Virginia. Although our town has many wonderful features, I think we all can agree that there are a few things that we can improve in our community. Each year our population decreases mostly due to lack of employment opportunities. I would make it my priority to work with county and state officials to bring more job opportunities to the area. I would also like to improve the quality of life for the rest of the town offering more community based opportunities, to bring members of the communities closer together. Which would improve the quality of life for everyone. A large variety of healthy activities would be offered. A healthy community is a happy community. I would also like to put together a local choir, band, theater and visual arts institute. We would all interact with each other and be able to work together to help solve problems for everyone. High quality education needs also to be addressed by our community. Our town's future is riding on the success of the students and that one day they will give back. We need to create a town that they will one day want to come back to with a family of their own. I would strive to make a safe and peaceful town for our citizens. The police department would play a vital role in this success. We would work together with the citizens to ensure the safety of everyone in the community. Our police force would be respected in serving in our community but would be equally important to the community. In short I want our town to be a town to where other people would come and see that we are a safe small town and have an excellent quality of life. A small town with a big city feel. Don't forget to cast your vote for me. I look forward to working with all of you to make our town a wonderful place to live.

Mayor White presented Gullian a plaque.

Mayor- The next item is scheduled comments.

Ernest Edgett-206 Terry Drive. On two lane streets where there is a no parking lane, what is the legal parking?

Mayor- We will defer this question to our police chief.

Frank- it is considered parking as long as there are no parking signs and does not impede traffic.

Ernest-What if there is no lane or no paved lane? Where there are two cars out in the street, is that considered legal?

Frank- it is still on street parking. It would depend on how wide the street was to be considered legal. If you are talking about Terry Drive, it would be.

Ernest- No I am talking about Cresswood Drive. It has been parked there about three weeks. If you met another car, then you had to stop. The last two weeks it didn't have any license on it.

Frank- I received a complaint on a car on Cresswood Drive but I don't know if that is the one that you are talking about. It was parked on the street but it wasn't what we would call illegal.

Ernest- If you have two lanes of traffic and one has to stop because there is a car parked and it doesn't have a full lane, it should be illegal.

Tim-We have that trouble especially in the town, for instance, like East Second Street. There is no way; they have to share the parking lane with the travel lane. There is no other way to park because the way it is. Now Hidden Valley is a little wider. Most of them have fifty foot right of ways. Most of the streets have 20 to 24 foot of pavement, therefore probably ample room. Now if there was a line that they have to cross over and then we would have some issues. That is why we don't stripe residential areas. That does cause some rural issues and have to have tickets.

Doug- It seems to me like if it is in traffic and people are having to wait we could do something about it.

Tim-Are all the streets pretty much basically the same? Is there any that is narrow like the Dalton Addition streets? Are all of them lined? I can't remember.

Mayor-What about over on Henderson? People park there all the time.

Doug- It looks like it would be a safety issue. If you have to stop and let someone pass and someone runs into the back of you. It looks like we should have some kind of footage way that two cars can pass.

MaryAnn-Particularly on Cresswood. I know what you are talking about because when it is dark, you are almost on a car before you realize it.

Doug- I mean if they are on pavement, it is to drive on not to park on.

Ernest-If I am not mistaken that part over there was designated street property.

Tim- The streets are fifty foot and some of the grass if you pulled and enforced it, it would probably not be allowed either.

Doug- I think what they meant was pavement. Looks to me like we could enforce that in the valley to keep them off the pavement.

Tim-That wouldn't be a traffic violation. We can't enforce the by laws.

Ernest-You told us you would.

Tim- We can enforce what is included in the zoning. That includes issues with fencing and lights but not all of it. I am not the legal person and I know enforcing has some issues.

Doug-Is there any way that council could pass an ordinance that you could not park on the pavement?

Tim-In Hidden Halley? You couldn't do it town wide I will tell you.

Mary Ann-It would be possible to look in to it and specify the area. I think it is dangerous in the valley especially at night.

Doug-On that aspect could you come back next council and our attorney will have something.

Ernest-I don't know if I will be back or not, I have some operations scheduled.

Tim-We can research it for you. It becomes nicer when the police have an ordinance.

Frank-If you make it no parking, then anyone that parks there could be issued a ticket.

Ernest- Terry Drive in front of my house is a high speed drive.

MaryAnn- You don't see much trouble with parking on Terry Drive as Cresswood Drive.

Ernest-I call the police every time I see someone parking in the street. I am the Grinch over there.

Tim-You need to look at the car span and the ditch. We need to probably look at it and see if they can park completely off the street.

Doug-I guess we can enforce the bylaws and if we can pass an ordinance to back those bylaws, why not.

Tim- You might can. I know you couldn't do it town wide because residents on East Second Street wouldn't have any place to park. They don't have by laws there either.

Ernest-Where are you on these unpermitted carports and out buildings?

Tim-It is in the enforcements hand right now; Brad can speak on this.

Ernest-The way that I read that letter that I received from the town was that should be enforced on anything that went in over there after that letter went out.

Tim-Not that we have hit all of them. If you know of the other ones we can research them.

Ernest-Mr. Brown I think still owns that house with the carport.

Tim- do you have an address?

Ernest-I don't know because the boxes are not marked.

MaryAnn-How many are you working on Brad? I thought it was only the two that I mentioned to you.

Brad- There may be three. There is one coming down the hill which is a grey area. I know you have the portable buildings down here on Front Street.

Tim-The right side going down the hill has been zoned there too. It is allowed there.

Ernest-They don't have to have a permit?

Tim- They don't have to have a permit but they do have to have zoning permit. There is one guy that we know that didn't get a permit and we are working on that too. That is another issue, Mr. Sayers, I believe is the name. That is the enforcement officer issue.

Ernest- I have picked up plenty of trash over there periodically. I am sure other people do too or you couldn't get up and down the hill. I know that is hard to enforce. Then there are rocks in that ditch there across from Riley's. We had a few problems there a few years ago and still had same problem there this winter. That is about all the things that I have got and if I see anything else I will come back.

**Council Reports:**

Rod Cury-The Planning Commission didn't meet this month. Did we get some revisions Tim from Community Planning Partners that we are doing business with?

Tim-We did receive some updates from the draft that you had. You do have that one on line now for the public to see. You should have gotten an email too.

Rod- I just wonder if you could print that for me.

Tim- I can print a copy for all council members.

Rod- The Planning Commission is waiting to review the updated version and then also for council to review that. Have you all got the updated version that we got on email?

MaryAnn- I apologize I haven't gotten the opportunity to get on line.

Rod-It is easier for me to have it printed out. I guess what we are waiting for is to have the opportunity to review that. Then with the council hold a joint public hearing. I don't defer in telling this that we need to meet and review the updated version.

Tim-It is fairly simple to make sure the items you wanted to make sure were included.

Rod-We should plan a joint public hearing with the council, once the council has had time to review the plan. If there are small changes, I think we ought to be aware of them.

Tim-Do you think you could contact the chairman and have a meeting in January?

Rod- I think that would be a good thing.

MaryAnn-Could we set a goal, possibly to have the joint public hearing later in January after the Planning Commission and council has met in January?

Rod-The Planning Commission meets on Tuesday prior to council. Then council meets on the tenth of January. Could we possibly meet the Tuesday before? Ms. Hart I just threw that out there for consideration and we need to ask chairman Smith also and then we could meet with council. Then we could schedule a public hearing later that month. I am sorry I mean chairman, Richard Brown. I am just trying to think of orderly process.

Doug-We haven't met with the group yet have we? I would like to meet with the group and let them explain it before we do any of that. I would just rather have it explained strictly to council.

MaryAnn-Do you think Community Planning Partners could come before council on the tenth, or would that not be enough schedule time?

Rod- If they come here and the Planning Commission makes a recommendation, that is what we do at council. They have equal opportunity to learn everything. I think it would be a wise thing for council and the Planning Commission to meet with Community Planning Partners. That is my personal opinion.

Doug- I would rather the council meet first. That is my personal opinion. Use what we think first before the Planning Commission. I want a say in it before, and I want them to report strictly to council. We are the ones that pushed for this. We put out the money and it is essentially being taken from us and given to someone else. I want to have an input. I want them to look me in the eyes and tell me exactly what they found out. I kind of feel slighted on this. How many times have we asked them to meet with us? They have never met with us.

Tim-We will try to do it prior to the tenth but I don't know if I can get it scheduled.

Doug-We paid \$60,000.00 for this and council did not even have a direct say in it. I would like to meet with them personally.

MaryAnn- The Planning Commission is going to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and then council meets on the 10<sup>th</sup>. So Doug are you saying that we both meet with them?

Doug- I understand about the Planning Commission. They don't know council views of what we had planned when we spent the \$60,000.00. Put our name on the line and what we wanted it for.

Tim-You will have plenty of opportunity and if you want to take that route that is fine.

Doug-Before it goes to far, I want them to come to council and explain the phase of it and we will understand it first then the commission will have their chance, then we can have the hearing here.

Tim-If you want time to really talk, it might be hard to meet on the 10<sup>th</sup> because it is quite involved. We could do it; I could ask if they are available. That would be acceptable, we could try that and if that doesn't work then we could try the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> or the 9<sup>th</sup>, even the day before council. Is that days that you all have available as a group?

MaryAnn- I am not available on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

Tim-So we are looking at the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Would you be available either of those two evenings? Doug, I can assure you that you will have say and that the council has say when that is going to pass.

Doug-What I was going to say was that the new council should have a say.

Tim-If you need to have multiple meetings with them prior to having the public hearing you may even have a public hearing and then have another meeting with them. I mean I don't know but you certainly want to get it right.

Doug-There were certain things that were discussed in closed session and in a work session that I think it was only for council.

Tim-Some of those, if they were in closed session, won't be in the plan. But if it is general knowledge, then you can do that. You can decide as a group.

Rod- Tim can we have them come back after we meet with council and meet with the Planning Commission too?

Tim-If you think it is necessary. I am certainly not the expert here; Brad you can help me. I think the intent was for the Planning Commission to review, have the meeting, have the same product, let council look at it and then you can collaborate if you think you need to meet again. I mean you can talk through the process again but your products have already been delivered.

Rod-But it had been altered.

Tim-Just the motto was added and numbers for capital improvements. That is all that it is.

Rod-Does it have in there for non-conforming use? There was a change in that.

Tim-It could have been. Is it something that you feel like you want to withdraw?

Rod-No I don't want to withdraw it. I think that the Planning Commission needs an opportunity to look at the changes as well as the council.

Tim- There might be something that you see after you went through the process that you want to change as a group anyway and that is perfectly fine for the Planning Commission to do that. Everybody wants to get it as good as possible.

Rod- I am trying to get an equal opportunity for everyone and not that the council has the final say so. It is that no one is slighted.

Tim-My thinking on it is that this is first phase. There are two other phases that are going to depend on this first phase. We have got to get the first phase correct. If we don't get the first phase, then second and third phase is going to be in trouble. The second and third phase is strictly for council right now.

Tim-Do you want to meet more days than the first week? Since it is right at the holidays, you may want to try to get the 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> maybe? Would that be okay put those three days down for planning?

Rod-What are the options?

Mayor-Can you meet on those dates, Rick and Vickie?

Tim-The 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> would be right after council and then the 12<sup>th</sup>. We usually meet in the evening so everybody can be here. Does 6:30 or 7:00 pm sound possible? It would be nice to give them three days.

Tim- This is a public meeting unless there is something that council wants to qualify, that would be the only reason why and we would make sure it is right with legal council. I will contact those folks tomorrow and get you an email out, let the rest know and we will schedule it for 7:00 pm.

MaryAnn-Then again if we can make it our goal to have the public hearing later in the month. I know the chamber and the economics committee is very anxious. We could push it the last week of January

Tim-The ultimate goal would try to get this thing in place for the physical year end if you could. That is kind of the goal if the ordinance passes. So you have gotten from now to do the public hearings and get it delivered in some kind of form we feel good about in six months. We will put this out to the folks that we have hired in Richmond.

Mayor-Are we clear on this? Rod do you have anything else?

Rod- Yes I do. When we were having a little bit of food and conversation and MaryAnn was complimenting Joe on how hard he has worked and Earnest was here and he said the same thing. I am thinking that we have people here who really have devoted a lot of time and energy to the town. All of us have. There is not one person that hasn't.

Rod- I think that Vickie, when she takes office, will have to resign from the IDA. There will then a position open and I think we need to nominate Joe McCracken as that vacancy as of January 1. Joe is that something that you would consider doing?

Joe-Yes I would.

Rod-Considering that he has experience and knowledge of a lot of things, I think he would be an asset to the town and to council. So I would like to make a motion that we add Joe McCracken as the member.

Brad-What is this for?

Rod-The Richland's IDA, Industrial Development Authority. I make a motion that we make Joe McCracken a member to fill Vickie England's position until her expired term. So I put that in motion form.

Mayor-We have a motion, do we have a second.

Frances Meadows seconded the motion.

Mayor-We have a motion and a second. All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 6/0.

Rod- I appreciate that I just hate to pass up; I think that all those that have served on the council in the past that they really need to offer their help. I think we should try to accept it. Joe thank you for serving the community. As well as saying Merry Christmas to everyone because this will be our last meeting for this year. I just want to take a personal moment to thank Frances Meadows and Joe for their service to the town and to the community. Both of them have brought perspective to the community and I think



that is what we all do. We have had tie breakers and things like that which is just part of politics. I am appreciative of their views as well as the views of the other council members. But it means a lot to me that they have had the convictions that they have had and like all of us they were willing to stand by them. I am looking forward to working with Vickie and Mr. Wood in the future. I am sure they will be in the same boat. So it means a lot when we have people that are willing to do what they personally think is right. It is not a matter of them versus us, or drawing a line, it is simply doing what you personally think and pray is the right thing for the Town of Richlands. Thank you very much for your service I am very much appreciative.

Joe- I would like to thank Mr. Cury for the kind words. It has been a pleasure working with the people here and the town. I would just like to take this time and thank the town and the town's people for letting me serve this town for the last four years. It has been an experience, one that I will never forget. It has not all been bad and it has not been all good. It has been an experience and I just want to thank the Town of Richlands and I have tried to address anything that anybody brought to me in the four years that I was here and I would like to continue to help this town to prosper and thank you very much. Good luck to the new people.

Frances Meadows- I would like to thank the town for picking up the garbage that was in the mobile home park in Hill Creek. Does the owner of the mobile home parks have to get rid of the tanks and stuff that are sitting there? Or does the town come and get them?

Tim-Are they fuel tanks?

Frances-Propane I think.

Tim- I don't know if they own them or if they are rentals. I will have to check on that. We would not be doing it; the owner would be. The owner paid us by the way, it wasn't something that we just do.

Frances- I appreciate him doing that and they do.

One other thing I had a call and I just want to turn it over to Chief Dorton about the parking on Front Street. The lines were put back and everything looks good. There are some people who do not know where the line ends and begins so they are still taking up a couple of parking spaces. It is limiting people to getting into businesses. I just wanted to see if they could keep an eye on that. I know they are busy but people had called and complained.

That is all I have but I really wanted to say to everybody that this eight years has been an experience for me and I love this town. This had been a growing experience for me and I do not regret any day that I have spent doing things for this town. I had told myself that I would not cry. It is an emotional time for me. I just want to see this town prosper. I am glad that I can still be on the Rec Commission and keep up with Fred who has done such great things over there for these kids. I really appreciate that, because that is our future. So, I thank you Fred. What I wanted to say was I hope that people will realize that being on council is a hard job; it is not an easy job. You have got to want to stay on it, and put forth the time and effort that goes into it. It takes a lot of time away from your family; it does because you are here long

hours. But, I don't regret that. I enjoyed working with the public safety. I would like to thank Tim for being so patient with me. I want to thank Adrienne and Sue in the office. George West for being patient with me and helping with things. I appreciate all the citizens in the town for allowing me to do what I have done for the last eight years. I just want to thank you so much and I am sorry that I was a baby but it was an emotional time for me.

Doug Ratliff- I have only one thing. We had an electric meeting, and even though we face challenges in the future, things look okay presently and we will probably have to take another look in the spring. We are currently doing pretty well in town.

Larry Johnson One thing that I spoke with Mr. Taylor about is the property on Kents Ridge. That is what we are looking into. I guess an abandoned partial piece of property. I am going to check with Brad to see what the status is on the Walt Keen property.

Brad Ratliff-I had a call today with an attorney involved in that situation. Apparently there are some issues with the estate and a pretty significant dispute over the property remaining or whatever is over there that has not been cleaned up. Some of the family members are represented by and the estate by Bob Brenham in Grundy. Bob and I discussed what is going on and he indicated that they needed just a little bit of time to sort out what is happening between the two parties. They will get it cleaned up, hopefully by the spring. if the council would be patient. I told him that I would get back with him after discussing this with council.

Mayor-Is that the property over in Brooklyn and Laramie road?

Brad Ratliff-I don't know which area it is.

Tim- Doesn't it apply to both of them?

Brad-Yes, I am sure that it does.

The airport is included in this.

Brad-He owns the estate and there are folks that are claiming and accessing values things that may or may not be realistic. He asked me to give him until April. I told him I would certainly see what council directives were. Certainly if they can work it out and do it without our intervention, then that would be better for council.

Doug-Why don't we say 90 days and they can always come back? I have a lot of complaints on the airport.

Brad-If that is council's pleasure, then I will get a letter out tomorrow.

Joe- Since we are speaking with the attorney, did we write Ingersoll Rand a letter like we said that we were going to and do we have a report? Do we have the letter or copy of it?

Brad-No I haven't done that, I have met with the people that have the adjacent property.

Joe-We said we were going to write a letter to Ingersoll Rand.

Brad-I didn't know that it was my responsibility.

Tim-It is legal now, I am sorry it wouldn't be mine now.

Brad-I may have misunderstood because I didn't send anything out but I will do that. I have been working with the property owners on the property swap and move forward with the cleanup. So I have written letters to the property owners and adjacent property owner. I have met with those folks about two weeks ago to see if we can work out the transaction without any problems to see if we can work out the deeds. But they are not very forthcoming in that. I do have a final answer and it was a no. I am still trying to convince those folks.

Joe-I would like for you to go ahead and contact Ingersoll Rand with that letter that we all agreed on to send Ingersoll Rand last month. I would like to see a copy of the correspondence.

Mayor-You all are taking Larry's time.

Tim-We received approval for money from Cumberland Plateau for the West Fork sewer. We are going to wait until we get that process in and get a construction grant for that. We also got, but not through Cumberland, monies for the other. We really don't have an asset program for water; we really don't need anything today. It doesn't fit some of their criteria. Unfortunately, we don't have anything that would qualify. We do have two big projects coming but we are not ready to do that.

The only people in town that need water are some couples down on Rec Park Road and I have already tried to get that and we don't qualify for the money. Sewer is not a problem though, so we can get money for sewer. We are hoping that we will actually get money for the construction which I will report on it in a minute. I would want to get sewer first and then if we have an opportunity for water, then we can go that way too.

Tim- I don't mind meeting with them to see if we might qualify for those distributions that would increase reliability if we can meet the criteria. I go to a lot of the round table meetings but not all of them.

Larry-I want to thank the police department, fire and rescue and other town employees for their help with the Christmas parade, despite the weather. Thank the mayor and Karen Deel also.

Finally I want to thank Joe and Frances; it has been an eventful eight years, well six years for me in both cases. I served on the public safety committee with Frances. I appreciate the debates with Joe, sometimes it is a little heated, but if everyone agreed on everything then we need everybody replaced. I do appreciate it and thank you for serving.

Maryann Strong-Regina Sayers, Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens, gave this to me and asked if I would share this with you all. It is basically telling what they do, I can't read it all. I am very proud of

what the agency does, Regina and their fine staff. While we have some time left I will just pass that around so you all can glance at that.

Brad I was going to ask where we stand and I know the meeting before last I think we talked about the e cigarettes.

Brad-I had, at the last meeting with the council, that we would talk about the ordinances that includes the e cigarettes. In regards to whether we pass an ordinance or if that ordinance is appropriate and meets all the criteria that you are looking for, it would be whatever council decides.

Maryann-So it is really in our hands now because you did give us the draft. I would like to ask council members and get Rick and Vickie a copy so they could review that about the e cigarettes and in our January meeting hopefully we could make a decision on that. I apologize if you did your part and I let that fall, we could have done that tonight but maybe it would be better to start with both of the new members.

Brad-It is certainly something that the council needed to take some time to consider. In reviewing, you may have some elements of it that you don't want to use. You may want to weaken or strengthen it. I don't know that we can make it any stronger and it certainly can't be any stronger than the state legislation.

Tim-Does that require public hearings; I am just curious?

Brad-Yes.

Tim-Just so you know that might be one that we need public input on. I think some of those require it.

Brad-I don't know if it is required or not but I would suggest it.

Maryann-Doug, Rod, and Larry, do you still have the copy so you could review that before we meet in January.

Mr. Taylor gave us some more information on the fluoride in the water in our packet and we haven't had the proper time to review that. Also each of you should have received an email from Ginger Branton with more information on the fluoride. We talked last month that we were going to take our time and research this before we made a final decision. I want to keep that subject fresh in everybody's mind and encourage council members and the new members to be looking at this material. Once again we need to get all that to Vickie and Rick also.

Tim-They have a paper copy. We won't set up their email until they are sworn in and ready to go. We will get it to them then.

Maryann- Ginger had sent a copy yesterday I think. We will make sure you two get that as well. Then people should never complain that they have nothing to do in the Town of Richlands because as Larry mentioned we started Christmas celebration on Sunday December 4. Larry said it very well; the weather really didn't dampen the parade. Everyone had a good time and the floats were nice and also the band.

We appreciate all those people that Larry mentioned that contributed to that. Last Saturday morning the Shop with a Cop was held that Jerry Gilbert leads. I would like to thank Jerry and the police department. This is my favorite thing of anything that I do. I know Susan Whitt and her daughter Maddie feel the same way. I would encourage anyone to, if you really want to feel what Christmas is really all about, helping needy people. Next year on that Saturday and Sunday morning you should come out and shop with the children. I would like to thank Magic Mart and Wal-Mart for their generosity for opening their doors to us and allowing us to shop with these children. Then I would like to thank Gordon Russ on Sunday for the very nice dinner for fire and rescue at the police department. As always I don't know how Gordon pulls off all this delicious food, but it is always a nice event. Thank you for having us for that.

To end things, I would just like to congratulate the Richlands football team and the Richlands High School Band. They both had extremely successful seasons. Both the football team and the band have made us proud everywhere they go. I never hear anyone say anything but compliments about how our young men and our young women present themselves. I would like to congratulate the young men and women and their coaches.

Lastly just to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and ask that you try your best to shop locally if you can and to please keep Christ, which is the true meaning in Christmas.

Mayor- We have the department head reports. Does anyone have any questions or comments?

Frances-I did see the summary police report. It says that some of the mobile home parks are being given extensions. Is that like a 60 day or how much is that?

Frank Dorton-That is a 30 day. They have made substantial progress.

Mayor- Does anyone else have anything? Again I want to thank Wanda and Karen for helping me with the parade. They made a lot of phone calls and passed out a lot of materials. We had more businesses participate in this parade than I could ever remember and they actually did the floats. We really appreciate that.

We have a plaque from Gordon that he presented us on Sunday. It is presented to the Town of Richlands in appreciation for your dedication and support for fire and rescue. So I just wanted everybody to be aware of that.

We would like to thank the Garden Club who purchased three huge wreaths approximately for approximately \$1,000. We need to send a thank you letter to them for their contribution to the town for the wreaths.

I want to add my thanks to Frances and Joe for their service to the town and like Frances said if you are active in this you do put in a lot of time. Lord knows you are not compensated for it; you do it out of the willingness to serve the citizens of the town. Both of them have done an excellent job and I really appreciate both of you. Thank you so much. We will move on then to the attorney's report.

Brad-The final edits on the codification have been delivered over to the publishing company. I spoke to him today and the final copy will be delivered in 40-45 days including the current ordinances as well.

Mayor-I wanted to add one thing that MaryAnn said to shop locally. If you can only buy one gift in town to support your local businesses it would greatly be appreciated. We had a little shop local thing last Thursday night and we had the high school come down and did some caroling. That happened to be the first day that it got so cold. It was not the most successful night but like I told the people participating, you won't get much from it tonight but the carry over from the advertising, the days after you will see an upswing in your business. You are not only supporting them, but that puts more money in the town because of the tax base and so forth. We appreciate you out there and the people listening to us tonight.

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

Tim-If you would take a moment to look at the check register for this month's billing and if you have any questions I would be glad to answer. Most all of them are reoccurring.

Mayor-The Dell Financial Services, is that where our technology package?

Tim-That is the package for the improvements to the servers.

Doug-How are we doing so far with the towns stickers?

Tim- They are not due until December 31st so we won't know until next month how those came in.

Tim- We are working on the software conversion right now that is probably one of our projects that I can talk on. Part of our upgrade is that all of our financial packages as well as our utility billing which would include taxes, and any type of fees. The financials keep accurate records for billing and collections. One of the modules that we have is business license. We haven't determined whether we are going to print our own notices or still contract that out. But ultimately the data is from the county and the DMV and until we get better data, it is a challenge to be honest.

Doug-Can we make it a priority where we can we synchronize with them especially on the town stickers. I don't want to go back to the decals.

Tim-Until we get the software that we can use to actually get us a base, that is hard to do. Real estate is just as bad. We have to depend on the county for the tax base because they do all of the assessing and all that.

They are out assessing now aren't they?

Doug-I guess what I am trying to say is that when you are doing your modules, could you talk to Laramie and make sure that our modules will recognize their data and we can synchronize so that we will not lose any information.

Tim-The town has the same issues whoever their carrier is. The county's data comes off of whatever software package, a company in North Carolina, which almost everyone uses in Virginia that converts the data. They don't go with the county all they do is give them the data and they convert it for us. The problem there is that the software package never integrated those taxes properly with centralized collections and all the other things.

We have been talking about this for a year and took a long time to pick the right folks. We feel real comfortable with who we got that they will deliver. It is nothing that the county can really do more than what they are doing to be quite frank with you. If the data is corrupted by whatever it is then we can fix it. Part of it will start in February. We are going to actually start collecting data on the data bases this month after we get the billing in. We are on track and hopefully it will be finished by the time the fiscal year ends. There are a lot of features that we hope will be delivered to the public which includes payment online, a lot of things like that we will be able to get more modern with.

Tim-Check 54825 Thompson & Litton is for engineering work on the sewer. That is not a total cost either because they are still in progress.

Tim-Check 54796. Kidd Tire. We actually went to bid for one of our snowplows and we shopped locally and they were cheaper. They hadn't been competitive in the past. Part of that is a snow plow spreader, the \$9816.00 is for that and the other was for parts and services.

Rod- Tim what is 54766, CWD Government, Inc.?

Tim-That is our license subscription for our governmental package, all of our software, that has to do with the office including emails that is an annual fee. That keeps us up to date all the time and that takes care of all our security issues. Keeps the Russians out hopefully and all that.

Rod- Check 54815, Robinson, Farmer and Cox; I think I know what this is for.

Tim- That is our partial billing for annual audit. Anything else?

Maryann-I make a motion that we approve the bills to be paid as presented. Larry seconded the motion.

Mayor White- Any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 6/0.

Tim-The work that is being done on the West Fork sewer is the last portion of town that is not being currently served by the sewer system, that has inhabitants that live in the section. It looks like it is going to have gravity flow which is going to help because we hate to do pump stations. It is going to require a creek crossing and across the West Fork crossing. What our plans are that once those plans are approved and we are going to see if we can get those permits in place and get us a cost estimate. Now more than likely we will do the work unless it doesn't make sense for us to do the work or at least a portion of it. If we are able to get money from Cumberland Plateau and that is the group that we plan on asking funds for through Cumberland Planning District funds for construction. We will apply for that. If

that happens, then we will probably just put bids out. But if we can't find any other source of funding, then we will probably have to do it locally. It will be an eight inch sewer line.

Mayor-Is that mainly for people on the right side and how many families will it help?

Tim-If you cross the bridge it will be on the right side of the road all the way up to corporate limits. There are about seven residents I believe. Possibly eight if we take a couple out of town folks.

Joe-But that may be a possible developing area? It is pretty up in there if you like the country.

Tim-Economic development has always talked about that area up on top of that hill. We could be thinking about that too. That brings you up to date on that particular project.

The Section House project did a briefing on that and basically, Mr. Ratliff, can talk to you about that if you like. We had some compliance issues with the bidder on the project as you are aware of. A panel review was selected and basically made an investigation on a good faith on behalf of the project. That has been preformed; we have not received total clearance from VDOT. I called them today to see if they had gotten any approval from Richmond. Obviously they provide the money to be satisfied and be in compliance with everything. There is no reason to think why it hasn't happened yet. There aren't any problems; they are fairly slow with this project. We did get some good news. Our time frame had run out on our project and I asked for an extension and that was granted today. As soon as we know something we will let council know. Do you have anything to add on that Brad?

Brad-Just an issue that VDOT has in their contract disadvantage enterprise. The contractor that was successful on the bid didn't meet those requirements but we were able to get through that with some paperwork. We have gotten a report to VDOT.

Tim-Another item that I just wanted to make you aware of is that we were able to get some money from the Virginia Department of Health to do a distribution management capital improvement plan project. Which we had been talking about in our budget work sessions that is necessary. It wasn't eligible for the sewer side but it was eligible for the water side. So we were granted money for that. I am meeting with certain engineers Thursday to get the details on the scope of work. But what it will include basically is that our pump stations, our water and the assets that we have on the books, will be analyzed to determine the useful life left. They will look at our report of preventative maintenance records to see what kind of shape they are in and what we have done and that is good. They will make recommendations not from a critical point of view, but a constructive criticism view. They will tell us what they think should be done. Then they will look at the capital improvement plans. This is the first thing that you need when you go borrow money. What has happened in the past, to make a long story short, is that lots of money was given out over the years for construction to a lot of communities not only nationwide but state wide. Some of the things that happen on TV are part of that problem. But what they have learned is that with all the money there is a push for but there is no oversight to see if we are taken care of what they done. It really is the tax payer getting the best for their buck or are they just getting money to construct without looking behind them to see if there is any money to maintain their asset. What happens to a lot of communities is they keep building and some of the stuff that they



built they received free money and it falls apart and they don't have the money to replace it and or to keep it up. This particular planning is what they are going to require in the future. That is a piece that we want to do on water and sewer. When we get those documents then we would have a first good step to go on. To do something with what we have done with the electrical. Where everybody will really know where their money is being spent on water and sewer services. It was spent wisely and with good recommendations not only with staff and consultants so council can make good decisions that the public feels comfortable with. It is just the right way to do business. We have really got some free money to do that. It would be a good time to do this in the winter.

We have a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tazewell PSA. Mr. Ball had brought to my attention that our MOU is running out this month. They have already passed it through their board and it is the same thing that passed through this council three years ago. So basically I am asking council to pass or allow me to sign this Memorandum of Understanding with Tazewell County and basically it is for goods and services. We can use each other's resources. It also requires you to use, for instance, they bought a truck for a good price, we feel it is a very good price, we could ask that we use their proposal without going through the bidding process. We want to make sure that we do it properly and this way that it is legal. You have already seen this because you approved it. Nothing has changed, it is just a renewal.

Rod I make a motion that we allow Mr. Taylor to sign the Memorandum of Understanding. Joe seconded the motion.

Mayor White-We have a motion and a second. Is there any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 6/0.

Tim-I do appreciate the opportunity to work with Frances and Joe. I thank you for everything that you have brought to the table. Like you said if everybody agreed on everything then it wouldn't work. I think good debate is healthy for the government. I do appreciate working with you I found that you do a great job; you are very honest. I love to work with good honest folks that tell me things and I appreciate the opportunity to work with you and you all have a Merry Christmas.

Maryann- It is always dangerous when you recognize people and organizations because I have a bad habit of leaving people out. Also I would like to congratulate the football team, the band and the cheerleaders who are also important. Those young ladies come out in freezing cold weather and support the kids and also girls volleyball had a great year so just proud of Richland's High School. Now we have girls and boys basketball to look forward to. I think the boys open up tomorrow night. We will have a good winter watching our young men and ladies on the basketball court.

Rod- I will add to that MaryAnn because I think that is a great thing and I have really gotten into it. I appreciate all that you do Fred and the coaches for the boys on the team and the girls basketball. Right behind that is soccer and then we have wrestling and heaven knows what else they have, plus softball.

Mayor-Do we need to go into closed session?

Doug-How long ago did we meet with the gas company, do we have any updates? I want to know the progress that they have made. With new council coming in, we have got to make some decisions on whether we control the gas or they do.

Mayor-They were supposed to get back with us in November.

Tim-They sent an email. Everybody has been hooked up right? I hope I am correct and they actually submitted that they had given us the results of their surveys. I have those and actually who they are; who signed up for it. I can send those to you. How many people were interested and where they were located. That was part of their mission. I think they were supposed to get back with you in ninety days on maybe a go forward type of look.

Doug-So I guess my concern is like Mantis. They were going to charge two hundred and some thousand to lay the pipe and they expected someone else to pick up the bill.

Tim- I think that is all new territory and I think that they have discussed that.

Doug-Has that changed, I thought that was the proposal?

Tim-No, not from the gas company.

Doug-I guess what I am thinking if companies and the town are going to have to come up with the money to run those pipe lines, then why do we need them? They get the profit and if they are not going to provide gas where we need it then the town needs to take a hard look at this.

Tim- I think it is time for them to come back and refresh us and especially have a meeting with the folks at Mantis.

Doug-Mantis still wants it right?

Tim-Yes as far as I know. My feeling on the meeting is that they were going to try to provide to all the businesses. Whether the gas company was part of it or not. That was just me. I may have taken it wrong. It takes things that were said from that more than anything. They were going to canvas the interest levels of everyone; they got that done. At least part of it and I can give you what I have.

Doug-They made a deal that they would partner with us. That seems like they are no longer talking; that they are going to do it all. The town is left out again.

Tim-No I think we just need to meet with them. I think they will do what they said they would do. That was in August.

Doug-I think we need a meeting and I think that council needs to be briefed and the challenge that we have had with the gas company.

Tim-I will find out when they can meet. Do you want me to try to set the meeting with them and come back and talk with council?

Doug-Yes.

Maryann- I know the mayor and I went to Mantis Cranes and they had a celebration a couple of months ago. They are a very positive business. We don't have many that are expanding but they are. So if we can be of assistance especially with gas, we are going to need to do our best.

Tim-Okay I will make some phone calls.

Mayor-Their main guy from Japan was there that day. He was very impressive wasn't he?

Maryann-Yes he was. Very much so.

Mayor-Do we have anything else? If not I want to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will entertain a motion to adjourn.

Frances-I'll make that motion. Joe seconded the motion.

Mayor-All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 6/0.

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Jannis White, Mayor

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Adrienne Cordle, Acting Clerk