

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on June 13, 2017 at 7:30pm with the following present:

Mayor: Jannis White
Town Manager: Tim Taylor
Town Clerk: Connie Allen
Council Members: Vickie England, Rick Wood, Larry Johnson, Doug Ratliff
Council Members Absent: Mary Ann Strong, Rod Cury
Town Attorney: Brad Ratliff

Mayor White opened the meeting.

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? I have added Ernest Edgell. Please add Aaron McGlothlin and Ricky Barton.

Mayor White - Do we have any other additions/deletions to the agenda?

Mayor White - Please delete Megan Brown from "Scheduled Public Comments".

Mayor White - Any other additions or deletions to the agenda? If not, do we have a motion to approve the agenda as amended? Rick made the motion; Larry seconded the motion.

Mayor White - We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Mayor White - We have two (2) sets of minutes, Public Hearing on May 9 and our Regular Monthly Meeting on May 9.

Mayor White - Are there any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes?

Mayor White - Do I have a motion to approve the two (2) sets of the minutes as presented?

Rick made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Vickie seconded the motion.

Mayor White - We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Mayor White - "Scheduled Public Comments" – Reminder - There is a "Five Minute Maximum". Steven McDaniel, 219 Floyd Avenue will speak first.

Steven McDaniel – The issue is my house is slowly being destroyed by water. I just recently moved into the home and did not realize the problem with the water. There is a drain coming off the alley behind my house, one side has 10" pipe and the other side has 8" pipe all going into a 6" pipe. The solution was to put (2) two 4" pipes coming out of the side of it; it dumps in my back yard. The siding on my house is being destroyed, my yard is a swamp and I can't mow and I have mosquitoes. I came to the Town Hall to see if someone could come and look at the issue, I have not heard anything back. I ask Council Member, Rick Wood, to come over and look at the issue; he said it was just the way it ran.

George West - I have looked at the issue, I don't think that is where it is coming from.

Tim - Is the box in your backyard?

Steven McDaniel – It is between my yard and the adjoining yard. I am in the process of purchasing the property. Dennis White is the actual home owner. He lives in Wydner.

Tim - Have you contacted him about the issue?

Steven McDaniel - Yes, I have, he said that he tried to get something done about it last year but nothing was resolved.

Rick - All the water comes to his side off the street. We need to take another look at the issue.

Tim - I think that is why the box is in the yard, we dealt with this before. We will look at it again.

Mayor White - We will get the Street Department to look at the issue.

Tim - We can contact Mr. White by phone.

Jan Hylton was not present for the meeting to speak.

Garmon Lester – 107 Ridge Avenue, Lake Park - I also have a water problem. Ever since I purchased the property, once or twice a year, the water coming down from Ridge Avenue and out of Center Street back toward Mulco Apartments, comes down in the intersection/center of Ridge Avenue. The pipes to take water away are not big enough to back it. They cut the storm pipe last year when they put in the gas lines. They need to put in a bigger pipe to help take the water out. This problem washes the gavels off my driveway and gets water in my yard. I cannot continue to clean up the mess. Drain line runs across my property and needs to be run differently.

Mayor White - Ask the Street Department to look at the property to see if anything can be done.

Mayor White - “Unscheduled Public Comments” – Ernest Edgell

Ernest Edgell – 206 Terry Drive - The speeders have slowed down some, but there is a van that continues to speed, license plate number MFS3. The neighbors said the stop sign means to speed up for this person. There is a junk yard beside the old bowling alley where trees are growing out of an old piece of equipment.

Larry - The Police Department is aware of that area.

Ernest Edgell - I was walking down the sidewalk at Farm Bureau the other day and there were dog droppings around the building. I thought this was against the ordinance. (Handed out information on Cigarette Litter Pollution) The gutters are full of cigarette butts at the red light where you turn at 460. The monitor that you put up tells when people are speeding.

Frank - Average speed is 26 mph.

Ernest Edgell –That is the average speed, what about people going 30 to 40 mph? To change things there needs to be a little bit of punishment. I appreciate the Police Department responding quickly the other day, when a man was riding motor cycle without helmet.

Frank - There have been punishment and tickets have been written.

Mayor White – Aaron McGlothlin

Aaron McGlothlin, 1157 Limestone Road - I have created a Kayak Club called Clinch River Kayak Club. We did a fundraiser this past Sunday; we raised \$1008 to help with the projects on the Clinch River. I would like to present Larry with the \$1008 to help build some of the projects. We had a good turnout, approximately 35 people from ages 10 to 58. We are doing this again on the June 25th and hope you can join us. York Lindsey allowed us to park in his field to start at the lower part of the bridge. We stopped at different places down the river. It is hard to get out of some places because we don't have access.

Mayor White - We appreciate your efforts. Larry please accept the \$1008 from Mr. McGlothlin.

Mayor White – Ricky Barton

Ricky Barton, Drews Lane – We are doing a lot of things in Tazewell County. We are going to need a hiking destination. We are working with Dave Woodard, other people and foundations. In the Richlands area, the river is a large opportunity that we are missing, we can pull everyone together. There is a possible trail system in Doran. Talked to York Lindsey on ATV trail system and he is going to come and look at it. If we can open it would be around 300 miles of trail system, this would be huge for Doran. Access point is going great here and we are working with Cedar Bluff for (2) two more, they are pretty much donating them. This is a great opportunity for recreation. Working with Brad Kreps, he has 800 acres in Cedar Bluff, would like to get permission to put some more hiking destination in that area. I would also like to talk to the people that own the old race track area and try to do something with that as well.

Vickie - I have some contacts for you on the race track. Where is the 300 acres in Doran?

Ricky Barton – The 300 miles of trail belongs to Consol. It would be the head of the trail. Trail will tie into the Buchanan Trail System and Pocahontas Trail System.

Mayor White – Council Member Report – Vickie England

Vickie - Ramona ask me about the old Hill Top. Are there any concerns from Town Council regarding the Hill Top? I have not heard anything since it was put up for sale.

Tim - I have not had any calls.

Rick - I have not had any calls either.

Vickie - Receive text message/email from Mary Ann and we don't have handicap signs at the end of our streets. Matthew Horn had a lady trying to get into his restaurant in a wheel chair, she could not find access. The access is toward the brown building next to where J. Walters used to be located, but there is not a sign stating access. Is adding handicap signage something we could consider? We need to look thru the town and have some signage that states handicap on different ends of the streets.

Tim - Every site on public property has a sign. If you are talking about the corners, we don't use signs there.

Vickie - The lady was complaining that she didn't have access to get into the restaurant.

Tim - That is not parking and getting out of the vehicle, it is pedestrian cross walk. We don't put signs at the corner. The State controls where the signs go, we can't put signs where we want to.

Vickie- I did drive thru the Town to make sure we had handicap access and we do. The people were looking for signs.

Mayor White – Council Member Report - Rick Wood

Rick – Corner of Hope Avenue and 6th Street – There are issues with the grass and the whole building.

Tim - Does Mr. Shaw still own the building? We need to send him a notice of the weeds.

Mayor White - Council Member Report – Doug Ratliff

Doug – Electrical Meeting, do we need to look at the electrical?

Tim – No they are OK, there are no surprises.

Doug - We had talked about having a Strategic Planning Meeting, are we still going forward with the meeting?

Tim – We need to get a meeting scheduled, maybe mid-July, close to the Council Meeting.

Tim – Brad, have you had any more conversations with the Ingersoll Rand people about the property? We need to schedule a conference call with them, can you schedule one?

Brad - No, I have not. Yes, I will.

Mayor White – Council Member Report - Larry Johnson

Larry – First I would like to thank Clinch River Kayak Club for their donation. I was surprised of the people from different locations coming to attend the event. I would also like to thank Hobert and Sam for coming out real early one morning to help me out on a situation.

Doug - I'd like to thank Hobert too, he helped me also.

Larry – The house on Charles Street at the end of the road behind Valero on Kent's Ridge Road has a van with no doors on it with weeds growing thru it. I have already spoken to Chief Dorton about the issue.

Ernest - What is the ordinance about vehicles you are referring to?

Larry - Unless it is a garage or junk yard, they have to be covered and out of public view.

Ernest Edgell - There is another vehicle on Cresswood Drive that appears not to have an up-to-date license plate.

Frank - Where exactly is the vehicle?

Ernest Edgell - Above Gene Hearl's house, turn corner on left.

Frank - Both of those vehicles have tags and he complies. Notices have been sent to the owners for the vehicles Larry is referring too.

Larry - Had a meeting with Robyn Lee and Mayor Debra Horn about the possibility of Richlands designated as Hometown Clinch Community. We went thru the process to see what it would take to get qualified. Because of the Comprehension Plan already in place it will only take two to three months to qualify. It normally takes 6 to 18 months. We only need to do a few extra things that are not in the Comprehension Plan. The plan covered just about everything needed to qualify. There are a few classes we must take. I am starting a class this Thursday. Hopefully by mid-July or toward the end of July, we will be eligible. Various other programs will come along if we keep moving forward. Scenic River designation, something that started in 2014 but fell to wayside. You should have a copy of the resolution and a handout that explains the Scenic River designation. This is a marketable designation. Industry will not hinder us in any way; if something was to come up we can drop the designation. I would like for us to consider the resolution.

Mayor White – Asks Larry to read the Clinch River Scenic River Resolution R-2017-06-01.

Larry - We are coordinating with Cedar Bluff. They are excited and have already started on the launches. With their length of river and ours we have enough for designation should the county decide not to participate.

Mayor White – Does anyone have any questions? Do we have a motion to approve the resolution?
Doug made the motion, Rick seconded the motion.

Mayor White – We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Rick - I would like to thank you for what you have done this year, you have worked hard.

Vickie - Larry, is that going to be like a cleanup?

Larry – Yes and the Kayak Club is also going to participate. That will give us more manpower. We have already picked the spots that we will start with.

Doug - Can you give us an update on the carport in the Valley?

Tim - The gentlemen applied for a zoning permit, redesigned to make the carport to be part of the house. The permit has been denied and Mr. Reynolds has asked for a variance. The meeting with the Zoning Appeals Board will be advertised in the paper, each adjoining land owner will be notified or anyone that it affects. Notice must be run two weeks; normally takes 30 to 45 days.

Doug - Can we set a time limit for him to get the letter in?

Tim - He already has verbally stated. We will talk with him tomorrow.

Brad – There are (2) two levels of appeals, Zoning Appeals Board and the Circuit Court.

Rick - We need to congratulate the Girls Softball Team and Girls Soccer Team. They ask me to tell the Fire Department and the Police Department, “Thank You” for supporting them.

Mayor - Any questions on Department Head Reports?

Mayor White - We have some appointments that are expiring on the IDA- Travis Hackworth and Barry Elswick. Does anyone have any thoughts or would like to make a motion to reappoint them?

Vickie - I would like to make a motion to reappoint Travis Hackworth and Barry Elswick. We need to get someone to take my place. We will need to fill three positions. Rick seconded the motion.

Mayor White - We will go ahead and vote on the first two positions and vote on the third position next month.

Mayor White – We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Mayor White - Zoning Appeals Board – Chad Ashby’s term has expired. Does anyone want to make a motion to reappoint Chad Ashby?

Doug – Made the motion to reappoint Chad Ashby. Rick seconded the motion.

Mayor White – We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Vickie - I would like to be the liaison for the Council with the IDA. Is this a possibility?

Mayor White - Yes

Mayor White - Received a thank you from the Richlands High School for the contribution for Project Graduation. I would also like to thank the Garden Club for the new signs; they are nice and add to our Town. If we can get the grant, we can add more signs to the Town.

Mayor White - Brad please go over the Consideration of Ordinances.

Brad - We have four (4) ordinances. Annual ordinances passed by the Council on an annual basis. They are aligned with the Code of Virginia and to adopt the Budget and Real Estate Tax.

Brad - #O-2017-06-01 Adoption of State Law Section 1-6 - Read Ordinance

Mayor White – We need motion to dispense with the second reading. Larry made the motion; Doug seconded the motion.

Mayor White – We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Mayor White - We need a motion to adopt Ordinance #O-2017-06-01. Doug made the motion; Larry second the motion.

Mayor White – We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Brad - #O-2017-06-02 – Adoption of State Law Article X, Section 11-112 – Read Ordinance

Mayor White – We need a motion to dispense with the second reading of the ordinance. Larry made the motion; Vickie seconded the motion.

Mayor White – We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Mayor White - We need a motion to adopt State Law, Article X. Section 11-112 Ordinance #O-2017-06-02. Larry made the motion; Rick seconded the motion.

Mayor White – We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Brad – Read Ordinance #O-2017-06-03 – Adoption of Real Estate Tax - A Public Hearing in May.

Mayor White – We need a motion to dispense with the second reading of the ordinance. Larry made the motion; Rick seconded the motion.

Mayor White – We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Mayor White - We need a motion to adopt Ordinance #O-2017-06-03 regarding Real Estate Taxes. Larry made the motion; Vickie seconded the motion.

Mayor White – We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Brad – Ordinance #O-2017-06-04 Adoption of 2017-2018 Budget– Read the Ordinance

Mayor White - We need a motion to dispense with the second reading. Doug made the motion; Larry seconded the motion.

Mayor White – We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Mayor White - We need a motion to adopt Ordinance #O-2017-06-04. Vickie made the motion, Larry seconded the motion.

Mayor White – We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Mayor White - I want to thank the Supervisors in our area, John Absher and Travis Hackworth for their contribution to the Freedom Festival. We appreciate their financial contribution from their board funds. It helps us to get the Festival going.

Mayor White - Manager's Report - Tim

Tim - Please review the Check Register that was distributed earlier. I will answer any questions concerning the Check Register.

Larry - Check 56001 Chattachem for \$4,148.80.

Tim - Supplies and Materials.

Mayor White - Do I have a motion for Mr. Taylor to pay the bills as presented? Rick made the motion; Larry seconded the motion.

Mayor White – We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Tim - Consideration for Adopting Rate Schedules and Riders - Copy has been provided to each Council Member – With the adoption of the budget this document is valid. The rate increase for electric must go in effect in 30 days from today to incorporate. Rates for electric department for the billing will be effective July 17. You need to vote to adopt the schedules and riders.

Mayor White – Do we have a motion to Adopt the Rate Schedules and Riders? Larry made the motion; Vickie seconded the motion.

Mayor White – We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Tim - Section House Project Update - We are on our way with the construction activity, very interesting to see. The contractor has completed some work and is eligible for pay. Pay Request #1 to Twin Enterprises is for \$23,759.83. I am asking Council to accept and allow me to pay the bill to Twin Enterprises.

Rick - Made the motion to pay the request; Larry seconded the motion.

Mayor White – We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Tim - We continue to work on the Water Asset Management Project; we are running a bit behind due to other activities. We are in the later stages of the project along with the Sewer Asset Management Project.

Tim - West Fork Sewer Project - Customers on West Fork became part of the Town in 2006, some experiencing septic tank issues. The project is designed and has a draft permit; we did have a little bit of interest. There are a lot of permits processing. We have a construction fund application made to

address the cost of the project. Cost of project is based on estimates \$277,299.00. We don't have enough money in the budget. I would like for Council to authorize me to request funding from Southwest Virginia Regional West Water Construction Fund thru Cumberland Plateau Planning Commission. We are going to meet tomorrow and I will explain to Jim Baldwin - Executive Director, what needs to be done and get with the board.

Mayor White - Do I have a motion to allow Tim to request funding? Rick made the motion; Doug seconded the motion.

Mayor White – We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Tim - Will keep you updated on the outcome of the request.

Rick - Is that a big enough line for the future.

Tim – Yes, it must be.

Tim - I will notify everyone on dates of the Strategic Planning Meeting. Radon Public Hearing will be June 20th, at 6:00 pm

Mayor White - Is it just informational?

Tim - Yes, as far as I know.

Mayor White - James H. Drew is in town this week and Freedom Festival is June 30 and July 1. We also have one of our police officers retiring at the end of the month.

Tim - We plan to have something for all the retirees at one time.

Mayor White - Do we need to go into Closed Session?

Mayor White - Do we have a motion to adjourn?

Larry – I make the motion to adjourn; Rick seconded the motion.

Mayor White - We have a motion and a second, all those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 4/0.

Jannis White, Mayor

Connie Allen, Clerk