

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on October 9, 2018 at 7:30pm with the following present:

Mayor:	Jannis White
Town Manager:	Tim Taylor
Town Clerk:	Connie Allen
Council Members:	Doug Ratliff, Larry Johnson, Vickie England, Rod Cury
Council Members:	Mary Ann Strong, Rick Wood – (Late Arrival)
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 any additions/deletions/corrections to the agenda?

Brad –Legal should be 2.2-3711 a (7).

Mayor White - Do we have anyone who would like to speak that is not on the agenda?

Mayor White – Please add Ernest Edgell to “Unscheduled Public Comments”.

Mayor White – Do we have a motion to approve the agenda as amended? Larry made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, Rod 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. (Mary Ann Strong, Rick Wood- late arrival)

Mayor White – We have one (1) set of minutes for September 11. Are there any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes?

Mayor White - Do I have a motion to approve the minutes?

Vickie- I make a motion to approve the minutes as presented. 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. (Mary Ann Strong, Rick Wood- late arrival)

Mayor White - Chief Jerry Gilbert – Introduction of Personnel Adjustments to the Richlands Police Department

Jerry – We had a promotion panel and had several officers apply and were interviewed. I would like to introduce the new management of the Police Department, Gregory Reynolds – Lieutenant of Patrol Division, Paul Little –Lieutenant Investigation Division, Matt Whited- Sargent Patrol Division, Dink McGhee – Sargent Patrol Division. We appreciate these gentlemen, they have been with us a long time and they do a great job and I am sure they will do a great job in the future. I would also like to introduce Matthew Puckett. We hired him this week as a Police Officer. Matthew came from the Lebanon Police Department. He has ten years’ experience and came highly recommended. I am very pleased to have him on the staff. Sargent Crystal Stanley is doing grant work for us. One of the grants was for a new School Resource Officer. We were awarded \$51,638 for this position. The grant was written for Richlands High School. This will put two (2) officers in the school.

Mayor White - Thank you and congratulations to all of you.

Mayor White - We do not have any “Scheduled Public Comments”.

Mayor White – “Unscheduled Public Comment” – Ernest Edgell

Ernest Edgell – 206 Terry Drive - It is hard to hear what you are saying on TV, are the mics working? What is the status on the Ordinance we talked about for clean-up and trash?

Brad - We are not finished yet. I have started working on it and worked with Tim on several other different issues.

Ernest - I guess everyone in Hidden Valley knows there are speed bumps in front of my house. A lot of people think I ask for the speed bumps to be put there. I didn’t ask for them but I am glad they are there. I still think people are speeding over the speed bumps. It has slowed the majority of the people down but some are still speeding and don’t stop at the stop sign. We need some retraining for those people. The only thing that retrained me forty some years ago were speeding tickets. The \$10 fee for vehicles, does that cover us from the County too?

Tim - The County instituted a fee for \$20.00, ours is still \$10.00 by Ordinance. I noticed on the tax ticket I was charged the \$20.00 fee. Not sure if that is acceptable in the code, we need to look into it.

Brad - If you pay one (1) for the Town you should not have to pay one (1) for the County but I will verify.

Ernest - If we pay the Town then we don’t have to pay the County?

Tim - That is the way it used to be in the past but not sure if the code has changed. That is why I ask Brad to look into it. We need to find out for our citizens.

Ernest - Will it come out in the paper, how will we know?

Tim - We will have to talk to the Treasurer first to find out the situation.

Brad – If a tax is issued and is a duplicate in the municipal within the County, you should not have to pay both. I don't have the authority to tell you that you don't have to pay. We will have to check on it.

Ernest – I have been hearing rumors that Mr. Doug Ratliff does not live here.

Doug - I do live here and I am home almost every night. I am having a party Friday night if you would like to come. I am having my class reunion. I usually get home around 10pm or 11pm at night and leave around 6:00am. I do live in Richlands.

Ernest - I just wanted to set the record straight

Doug - You are welcome to my house at any time after 10:00pm.

Ernest –You did hire someone to go and watch the Rec Park, correct?

Doug - We wanted to know how many citizens in the community used the Rec Park from 8am to 4pm. It would be good information and maybe we could change the hours. If no one goes to the Rec Park from 8am to 4pm why should we keep it opened? We found at that time only four (4) or five (5) people daily used the Rec Park during that time. I did bring to the attention of Mr. Taylor that we may need to change the hours. I did pay \$300 of my own money. I thought it was my civic duty to let the Rec Park run as best it could. If there is no participation would you want it open?

Ernest – Not really, Thank you.

Mayor White - "Council Member Reports" – Rod Cury

Rod – I talked earlier this month with Mr. Taylor about citizens' concerns that I had. I talked to him today and he is addressing issues for Ms. Arrington. I appreciate you following up. The Planning Commission met last Tuesday. Two (2) of the things that we discussed were the Rally grant and its impact on the Town. Not only the immediate impact but the long term impact this group could have in a citizens' role for Richlands in a positive way. We wanted the Planning Commission to be aware of what was going on. Our job as the Commission is to understand where the Town is going with its planning and what we have in mind for future development as well as economic and where things are located. Mr. Taylor wanted us to be aware of the Tourism aspect of Richlands and how it is growing; we talked about two (2) areas, Outdoor Adventure Tourism which is very positive growth for Richlands. It involves a lot of people in an active capacity, mental and spiritually. The law of nature guides us, an opportunity to participate with our surroundings which are nature inheritances that we have and the other part is Culture Heritage Tourism. He wanted us to be aware of all the aspects that can take place with Culture Heritage Tourism which is the culture of who we are and how we have developed as a community. Where do we take this and how do we use it as a draw for people. Not that people will

come particularly for that but when they get here it is something additional to do. People who have an opportunity to move to Richlands know that it all counts. Everything that we do is positive and it makes a difference. I want to thank the members of the Planning Commission for coming and Mr. Taylor for providing information. The 2017 Comprehensive Plan from the Cumberland Planning Plateau District, we reviewed parts of the plan but some of the plan needs update, we were made aware of that. We are very much in tune with what the region is doing. Sometimes I think we are falling behind but we are not falling behind in every area. We need to do our own thing. The only thing you can do to be successful is be yourself. That is what Richlands is doing. Just a reminder, the dedication for the Section House is Oct. 13. The festivities will begin at 9:30am. We will have tours of the house, Richlands High School Marching Band and Choir will be there. Ellen Elmes will have a program on the mural; it is called the "Mural Speaks". It is a lot of opportunities for the Town to enjoy with the improvements to the Town. Every single person is invited and hope you will come. I want to thank the members of the committee for their hard work, Council for their support and on behalf of the Committee I want to thank everyone here. I want to thank the Town workers; they did a splendid job on making the grounds so pretty.

Mayor White – "Council Member Reports" – Vickie England

Vickie – The dedication for the playground in Lake Park is Tuesday Nov. 13. Mary Ann and I will come up with a final draft on the equipment there. I would like to thank the Fire and Rescue Department and Police Department for going to the Richlands High School football field for the Kiwanis special field day. The kids like to be around Fire/Rescue and Police. It was a good day, I thank you all.

Mayor White – "Council Member Reports" – Rick Wood

Rick – I would like to apologize for being late. In the morning at 7:00am Food Lion is having their grand re-opening. If anyone could attend please do so. We are getting a little negativity from different places on the Spearhead Trails. The last thing I heard that Richlands is not supporting it. I want to make a motion tonight that the Town Council and Richlands support the Spearhead Trails.

Rick - I make a motion tonight that the Town Council and Richlands support the Spearhead Trail. Larry seconded the motion.

Mayor White - Would it be better to do a Resolution?

Rick - I think we need to make the motion that we support the Spearhead Trails. This goes along with Rod's projects.

Brad - I could prepare a Resolution and adopt to support our Trail Systems. We can give Spearhead Trails something to hang in their office showing the support of the community.

Tim – We probably need to do a letter too. If we have to wait until next month we will have some time issues. We can get a letter and follow up with a Resolution that would be my suggestion.

Mayor White - We have Rick's motion on the floor.

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 - 6/0.

Mayor White - We will not only do the Resolution but a letter in support of the Spearhead Trails.

Rick - I will ask Shawn to come and talk to us. You can ask him anything that you want. Nobody knows how it is going to turn out but we are moving forward. We need to bring people in so we can move forward. They have some really good ideas that will help our community.

Larry - We already passed a motion to start developing the ATV Route within Town.

Rick - Thanks Larry that helped.

Mayor White - I have a question, is the Food Lion grand opening at 7:00am or 7:45am.

Rick - They told me 7:00am.

Jim - The information I had come directly from Tazewell Chamber. They are doing the same at the Tazewell store at 7:45am.

Rick - I am sure it is 7:45am then.

Mayor White - The Manager called me a month ago and I had wrote down 7:45am.

Mayor White - "Council Member Reports" - Doug Ratliff

Doug - In a few weeks we are having the election; I want to wish my best to all the candidates. When the election is over the Council can come together and work for the betterment of the Town as a unit and help each other. I know we have all made mistakes in the past but we are trying to do better each time. I am sure when the new Council is elected and we come together we are going to work diligently for the Town. I have a lot of projects that I would like to propose at the first of the year and work with the Council. I would like to commend Chief Gilbert; I have heard a lot of good things about the police force. You are doing a great job just keep it up.

Mayor White - "Council Member Reports" - Larry Johnson

Larry - We have been having a lot of rain, everybody needs to take advantage of it and go kayaking. I would like to ask Rod if Rick Barton and I could have a meeting with the Planning Commission.

Rod - I would be glad to do that, you had mentioned earlier. I spoke with Tim and we will find a special time to meet with you and Rick Barton about the trails.

Larry – I would like to thank the Town crew and Staff. I was at the Section House today it looks awesome. It is definitely an improvement for the Town. People will start noticing when they start parking there.

Mayor White – “Council Member Reports” – Mary Ann Strong

Mary Ann – Like several members of the Council I want to thank Chief Gilbert for the tremendous job at the Police Department. I appreciate coming in the mornings and finding a card in the door. Again congratulations to the new Lieutenants and Sergeants. The Rec Commission met on Sept. 17. We will be selling ceramic tiles with your signature on it for the Rec Park. This was done many years ago when the building was open. We didn't want to conflict with the Section House selling brick so we waited until that was complete. When we meet on October 15 we should have the final prices and design of the new tiles. It will be a way to bring in some income to help with all the improvements. I am excited to go to the Rec Park; Fred, I was told today that you got half of the weight equipment in. The equipment came from the Skewes Foundation grant. It is nice to see the Police Department and the Rec Department working together on October 27. The Police Department is doing the “Trunk or Treat” from 5pm-7pm. The “Haunted Trail” will be at Critterville from 7pm-11pm. It will be a fun day for children to celebrate Halloween. It will be a much safer way to celebrate Halloween. I encourage families to bring their kids out. Rod already mentioned the big day for the Town of Richlands. I can't thank Rod Cury, Lana Mitchell and the committee enough; they have persevered in having the Section House dedication. I think the whole day is going to be big in our Town. The grand opening of Tazewell County Mercantile will be at 3:30pm. The owner is my daughter-in-law Bond and my son Reece Strong. They had a soft opening today and it is my understanding they got off to a great start. They have a nice video on Facebook; you can get a taste on what the store is going to be like. I would like to thank the Town for the nice job they did on the sidewalks in front of the old Richlands News Press. I was hesitate to bring anything up about the election. I appreciate Doug's encouragement. I appreciate the Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce; they will be hosting a forum here at the Council Chambers this Thursday 7:00pm. It will be televised.

Mayor White – “Department Head Reports” – Does anyone have anything else to add?

Jerry - If anyone is interested in participating in the Trunk or Treat at the Police Department just give us a call. Sargent Stanley is in charge of the event. She will log them in and assign a space.

Rod - Some of the Clubs at the High School have asked about the Trunk or Treat. Is it from 5pm-7pm at the Police Department? Clubs that want to participate, would the Police Department be the easiest place for them to set up?

Jerry - Yes, would like to have everybody set up between 4pm and 4:30pm. The event will start at 5pm.

Rod – I will pass along to the people at the High School.

Mayor White – There is a big walnut tree at Westfork, people are afraid the tree is going to fall on the power lines. It is on the creek bank. The electric pole has been eaten out by something.

Tim - That is APCO's Pole, I mentioned it last month. That is the pole that is in conflict and has been brought to their attention. Mr. Blankenship has met with them. They are going to replace the pole.

Mayor White - I also have an email from Army Corp Manager I will forward on to you. I spoke with the lady she is going to forward me some information. I will forward to you. Her information is on the email if you want to contact her.

Tim - Is that Hillcreek?

Mayor White - Yes

Tim - We have already started the process, if you will forward the email that would be good.

Mayor White - "Attorney Comments" – Brad Ratliff

Brad - I don't have anything tonight, Thank you.

Mayor White – "Manager's Report" – Tim Taylor

Tim – You have a copy of the check register in your packet. Please take a moment to review and let me know if you have any questions. Check number 58816 National Meter and Automation \$37,152.00 that is for 144 water meters that we purchased. It will get most of our water meters up to date. Most of the other bills are routine bills. Check number 58782 to Biological Monitoring, Inc. for \$1800 for sensitive monitoring we do at the Waste Water Plant. I am proud; the plant had 100% results on that.

Mayor White - Does anyone else have question on the bills? If not, do I hear a motion to allow Mr. Taylor to pay the bills?

Rick - I make a motion to allow Mr. Taylor to pay the bills. Rod 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 - 6/0.

Tim - The monthly power cost report for August. The projected budget was \$5.51/MWh which was lower than budget, produced a cost rate of \$89.00/MWh however we sold 3.6 less than what we expected to sell, had an impact on the budget. Everything else was pretty much in line. Resource

generation, natural gas, hydro plants performed fairly well. Some of the assets we have are starting to perform better. The impact on the budget has been favorable. There is a concern I discussed with the staff today. Toward the end of the year if we don't peak in the summer we will probably experience a high transmission rate in January. We did budget for it. It is always a risk and you cannot control it.

Doug - What are our reserves?

Tim - I don't know, we are probably around our lower level. Any other questions on the report?

Tim – Adrienne is that safe to say?

Doug – About two (2)?

Adrienne - Probably but I will check.

Rick – Have you heard anything about the generator at the Water Plant?

Tim – The generator with the increase in capacity cost and increase in the transmission fees has become a fairly usable resource. I have Kevin engaged with the engineers. We got a report from GES. City of Danville has offered their help.

Rick - If it is cold this winter I just want us to be prepared to help ourselves.

Doug – What about changing those over to gas?

Tim - We have researched and talked to manufacture the generator, it will not start with natural gas even with retro fittings. It is not built for it. I think we can do a Hybrid that can start a diesel and run on natural gas. Gas pipeline is a little way off.

Doug - We need to talk to them.

Tim - We talked to them a long time ago, they are very interested in providing gas to it; don't know if we can promise to use it. If we do it would certainly be good thing to look at, if enough money to use it would be feasible, it would be great. We did get the conversion first. Kevin did they give any indication when we might get that?

Kevin - He basically said he was looking into it.

Tim - I think we had a deadline, maybe November. At the end of the year they were to give us a report.

Doug - Is the gas company keeping up with what they promised the County? I heard they were having problems too?



Tim - I don't know the status with the County.

Doug - We are having problems with them and the County is having problems with them maybe we could coordinate.

Tim - Certainly, if they are having problems too, I don't mind talking to them.

Tim - We are working with different Council members on different projects. One is the Clinch River west end access point. We met with TVA and it was a great meeting. The TVA group was very helpful. The organization has the funding. Mr. Johnson has been able to get us some money from the organization. They came to inspect the site to make sure it was something they could support. Nature Conservation is the one going thru. We are in the process of permitting and Kevin is working with the Nature Conservation now to get permits from Army Corp and the other five (5) agencies. They were very excited about it. If we can get it permitted we can finish up some of these other projects. We should be able to complete by Spring. It won't be very expensive. There may be some opportunities with TVA. We may be able to go back and look at the swinging bridge, not many left in the Country, would be nice to either replace or restore back.

Tim - We have continued to look at the Real Estate Tax Ordinance. We looked at Tazewell County Ordinances which we tried to follow, some are very complicated. It may be best to mirror somewhat, hope to get finished and get back to you soon.

Tim – We will have a meeting next week with Lucie Law, Permit Coordinator on the steam bank erosion project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife has been very good in trying to help us. They are going to identify non- public lands they are going to deal with the land owners. They are going to talk to them to let them know the importance. If the Council needs to get involved at that point and time we will.

Tim - We have met several times. We have opportunities with the trails, tourism and community development. The team which Adrienne Cordle is part of in the County, we have met with them. We have been engaged with the County numerous times at the Rally and our office. There are opportunities not only from the aspects of the trails but economic development. The doors have been opening up and they have been very receptive to ideas from Richlands and they want to work with us. We have engaged the Planning Commission, Recreation Commission and the Council. I look forward to working on those projects.

Rod - Tim, I just want to say thank you very much about talking about the walking trail potential as well as the possible restoration of the swinging bridge. That is the best example I could possibly think of the harmonization marriage of Adventure Tourism and Culture Heritage Tourism its preservation makes it useful and it something the people have come to the Council to talk about. At one time we said it was not useful, all things change and evolve and I am pleased to hear that it is a possibility.

Tim - The TVA will probably be talking preservation.

Rod - It's the marriage we talk about and all these things that tie together. We are all in this together.

Doug - What is the status on Iron Street, it is my understanding that if we could get that cleared up we could use that land?

Tim – The last conversation I had with the group handling the project, they were in hopes if they could not resolve the land problem with the people they may entertain to go ahead and clean up what they can and deal with that as a separate matter. I think Council should encourage. It would release the property that they have control over which has the contaminated areas. The Health Department and DEQ said they are safe as long as they don't get disturbed. It would be nice to get rid of and get them out of there. Once it becomes clean the Town can accept. When we get the certificate from the State the Council can either accept or work out some type of arrangement on the property. I think the intent all along is to give it to the Town. It may help to meet other objectives that you may have in going forward. I recommend that we try to see if they would entertain if Council doesn't have a problem with that.

Brad - I would be happy to write a letter, of course, DEQ has been involved with the property for the last 10 years. Once mediation is complete, DEQ will do a final certificate. This would be a good plan to clear out everything they are willing to clear out. If that is the Council's desire to communicate to Ingersoll-Rand.

Doug - I think that would be great.

Tim - I would recommend, the certificate would come from DEQ and that is your assurance it is clean. Does Council have a problem with doing that?

Rick - Do we need a motion or a consensus?

Brad - Consensus

Mayor White - We need a motion to go into "Closed Session" for 2.23711(a1) Personnel and 2.23711(a7) Legal and Prospective Business Development 2.2-3711(a5).

Larry - I make the motion to go into "Closed Session" for 2.23711(a1) Personnel and 2.23711(a7) Legal, Prospective Business Development 2.2-3711(a5), Rod 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- 6/0.

Mayor White - Do I have a motion to come back into "Open Session"?

Rod - I make the motion to come back into "Open Session". 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- 6/0.

Mayor White – Does all members agree the only business discussed in "Closed Session" was Personnel 2.23711(a1), Legal 2.23711(a7) and Prospective Business Development 2.2-3711(a5), Vickie – Yes, Doug- Yes, Mary Ann – Yes, Larry- Yes, Rod- Yes, Rick-Yes

Mayor White - Does anyone have anything else they would like to discuss?

Tim - I have the Certificate for Hydro Projects, I need permission to execute. (Read the Document)

Brad - It is the same as we have seen before.

Rod - I make the motion to allow Manager Tim Taylor to execute the document. 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- 6/0.

Mary Ann - Clinch Valley Medical Center will have an after business hours to meet the new physicians. Meeting will be held in the cafeteria from 5:30pm – 7:30pm.

Rick - I think Connie has an event she would like to discuss.

Connie - We have planned an event on December 1 called "Richlands, Small Town Christmas". We have several activities planned along with goodies for the children at the Civic Center adjacent to the Richlands Police Department. I plan to have Santa Claus, Ms. Claus, Elves, Mickey and Minnie Mouse and Elsa. I would like to incorporate the schools and our local businesses. Anyone willing to help would be greatly appreciated.

Rod - We need a Community calendar.

Mayor White – Does anyone have anything to add? If not, do I hear a motion to adjourn?

Vickie- I make the motion to adjourn, 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- 6/0.

Adjourned

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Jannis White, Mayor

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Connie Allen, Town Clerk