

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on November 10, 2020, at 6:00 PM, with the following individuals present:

Mayor: Paul Crawford

Town Manager: Tim Taylor

Town Clerk: Christina Brown

Council Members: Jeff Hurst, Rick Wood, Doug Ratliff, Mary Ann Strong, Rod Cury

Town Attorney: Kenneth Wayne McClanahan II

Mayor Crawford called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, one of the first things we have to do is adjourn the meeting that we had scheduled for the 13th, uh, the recessed meeting. So, we need to adjourn that before we go forward with this meeting. I will entertain a motion to do so.

Mr. Wood: I'll make the motion to adjourn.

Mayor Crawford: Do I have a second?

Mr. Ratliff: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: Any discussion?

Mr. Hurst: Are we going to be rescheduling the meeting?

Mayor Crawford: We'll have to look at that once we get into our meeting. Okay, I have a motion and a second to adjourn the October 13 meeting, which we weren't allowed to have, uh, due to unforeseen circumstances, so, uh, I'll do a roll call vote.

Clerk: Do I need to include Mr. Cury?

Numerous voices: No.

Clerk: Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes.

Mayor Crawford: Motion carries. Frank, is there any way we could move this table a little bit to one side where I could see Rod? Thank you.

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

Mr. Hurst: Mayor, too, I think we need to keep the family of Gordon Russ in our thoughts and prayers as we do in the invocation.

Mayor Crawford: Absolutely. Absolutely. They lost their daughter.

Mr. Hurst: Yes, they did so be praying for them.

Mr. Ratliff: Who?

Mr. Wood: Gordon Russ.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, you have the agenda before you. Any additions or deletions to the agenda?

Mr. McClanahan: Mr. Mayor, we do need to add that, uh COVID emergency ordinance if the council would wish to take that up tonight.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, and we should do that now? Before we do the minutes, right?

Mr. McClanahan: Yes.

Mayor Crawford: Let me right that down. Okay. Any others? Okay, I will entertain a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Mrs. Strong: I'll make the motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Mr. Hurst: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second to approve the agenda as amended. Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

And you have the minutes before you. Has everyone had an opportunity to look over the minutes? Any additions or deletions on the minutes.

Mrs. Strong: I'll make a motion that we approve the minutes as presented.

Mayor Crawford: Do I have a second?

Mr. Hurst: I'll second that.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second to approve the minutes as presented. Roll call vote, please. Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries. Minutes are approved.

We want to at this time look at the ordinance, uh, which allows us under emergency measures to have folks participate in the meeting with council members, participate in the meeting via moby or, uh, other media, such as, how Rod is here now. Uh, if we, uh, if we approve this, Rod will be able to participate in the meeting as if he were here. Do I have a motion to that effect?

Mr. Wood: I'll make that motion.

Mr. Hurst: I'll second that motion.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Roll call vote: Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Rod, you are now part of the meeting.

Mr. Cury: Thank you very much.

Mayor Crawford: You are welcome.

Uh, Lori Stacy from the Tazewell County Chamber.

Mrs. Stacy: I hope you all will bear with me just a couple of minutes because I do have some extra things that actually wasn't on the agenda for tonight, but, um, the first thing that I wanted to get to—so, after a conversation with Blake Ray, uh, the owner of Coaltown Taps, he actually invited the chamber to partner with him and also, um, think about putting together a music festival. So, of course, everybody thinks about the closest one near us, and that's Rhythm and Roots, and I know that might take us a little while to get to that capacity, but, uh, baby steps. So, one of the things we were looking at doing for May 1, 2021, of course, and it would be an all-day event, would be to do a music festival. Have regional and local bands to come and perform, but we would like to shut down the street. We would like to have vendors come as far as craft vendors, beer vendors, and yes, we would like to sell alcohol. Um, so, um, this is one of the things that we were, you know, hoping that we could be able to get off the ground and to grow. Looking at some of the stats from the Rhythm and Roots festival, it can bring in 50 to 60,000 people to Bristol, and uh, probably generate about twenty million dollars for the entire weekend. Now, that's um, you know, maybe a lot for now, but it's something that possibly we could grow to. So, I would just like to know if you all have any comments, if you all see any issues with that, or if, uh, something that you can see happening in the spring.

Mayor Crawford: Do you want this as a voice approval? I am very much in support of it.

Mrs. Stacy: Yes, I would love to have your support and know that we would have the town on board for, for this event.

Mayor Crawford: Well, why don't we put that in the form of a motion to support the music festival for May 1?

Mr. Wood: I'll make the motion that Richlands Town Council supports the music, whatever y'all called it.

Mrs. Stacy: Music festival for now.

Mr. Ratliff: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second for the council to support, uh, the music festival for May 1, 2021. Roll call vote, please: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Mrs. Stacy: Thank you very much. Okay. So, I would also like to say thank you very much for your \$5,000 contribution that you made to the community investment partnership. So, the chamber was able to collect a total of \$27,720, and, uh, we were very happy to be able to distribute that money. Those checks are being processed, and you do have a list of the businesses that those are going to help. Um, there are four that are highlighted, and actually there, there's one more that will be, uh, a benefit to Richlands, and that's Julene Dunford's Sugarfoot Bakery, and that's number eleven. So, a total of over

\$11,300 of the \$27,000, uh, will be invested back into Richlands. Um, but, uh, Sugarfoot Bakery—that was under the condition that she would reopen, and that's gonna happen at the community central location on Front Street. So, I just wanted to say thank you very much for that opportunity for, um, you know, for that contribution and letting us be able to distribute that money. Hopefully, those checks will be processed and distributed this week. Uh, also, moving on to the gift certificate program. I'm not aware if you all are aware of our program. You, um, see a voided gift certificate there. So, we were fortunate enough with the Thompson Charitable Foundation to receive a \$5,000 grant, and with that we developed this gift certificate program so consumers could purchase fifty dollars or a hundred dollars' worth of gift certificates for fifty dollars. And I know one of the, uh, benefical or benefits or businesses that benefited from it was Giovanni's, for sure. I've made lots of reimbursements to them because they were used at their restaurant. So, um, it was so successful that the Thompson Charitable Foundation would like to do this again for the holidays. But, Jeff Mansour, um, our contact person for Tazewell County, did put one restriction on us this time, and he would like to see some contribution. So, um, I am asking if you all would consider donating to or contributing to the gift certificate program to do this for the holidays. If y'all have any questions about how it works, it's actually very simple. Um, they're given out in twenty-five-dollar increments, so when I take it to, say, Giovanni's, and even if my bill is twenty-four dollars, it's okay to give a dollar back in change. And then the entire amount of the gift certificate is reimbursed to Giovanni's. It's very simple; it's not convoluted at all, and our businesses are very happy and, of course, it's a big savings for our consumers.

Mrs. Strong: I guess, would it be appropriate to ask Adrienne: Do you know how much money we might approximately have when we had the funds set up when we had that flood? I know we have already given—we gave money out of that.

Mrs. Cordle: I think there's about ten thousand, but I'd have to check that to be sure that it's what's left of that money.

Mrs. Strong: That's probably close enough to make a decision.

Mayor Crawford: DO you have a, would you have a number in mind for it?

Mrs. Stacy: Well, I will say that, you know, we have a five, five-thousand-dollar grant that if we can get the matching funds that he's willing to give us again for this program. So, a thousand, two thousand, um, I think would be great, especially since I am going to go to the other towns and also our IDA and request that they contribute as well.

Mr. Ratliff: What about fifteen hundred?

Mrs. Stacy: That would be wonderful.

Mrs. Strong: I had the same figure in mind.

Mrs. Stacy: Well, that's the magic number.

Mayor Crawford: Do you want to make that into a motion?

Mr. Ratliff: Yeah, I'll make a motion that we, um, give the grant of \$1,500 to the chamber.

Mrs. Stacy: Thank you.

Mr. Hurst: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Crawford: A motion and a second. Any further discussion?

Mrs. Strong: Should we stipulate that the funds come from the fund...what did we call that fund, Adrienne?

Mrs. Cordle: That's the Flood Relief Fund.

Mr. Ratliff: Yeah, from the Flood Relief Fund.

Mrs. Stacy: The one thing that I can also do, too, is I can even set aside a particular amount of gift certificates if you would like for me to do this. And instead of the last time, when we reserved them, I did that on Facebook, and, um, they went very fast. I mean they were gone in a little over twenty-four hours. But, if you all would like, maybe an actual location and for me to come to Richlands and say this is your day to purchase these for the town of Richlands, I'd be more than willing to do that. So, if you all feel that that's necessary or important, I can do that.

Mrs. Strong: I think that's a great idea. Probably at the Community Center, Connie's office. Would that be okay with you, Connie?

Mrs. Allen: Yes.

Mrs. Strong: It's central and easy to find, and the parking is easy.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. We have a motion and a second. Discussion finished. Roll call vote, please: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Mrs. Stacy: Thank you all very much.

Mayor Crawford: You are welcome. I did not ask for unscheduled comments if anyone wanted to speak that wasn't on the agenda. Is there anyone present that wanted to address council? Connie.

Mrs. Allen: I'm trying to get this clean.

Mayor Crawford: Yeah, you are having to do it all tonight, aren't you?

Mrs. Allen: Yeah, that's okay. I do have a couple of questions before I start on mine. Uh, I asked Lori to...last month we agreed as a council that anybody that was having an event in the town had to fill out this event permit application, and I gave each one of you a copy of that. That has to be approved from Jerry to close the street, town manager, and council. So, we agreed. I mean, you approved the event tonight, which I'm a supporter of the event, but the process I'm not for sure I quite understand. Would we not have had to ask Jerry and then review to have everybody to sign before we actually approve that event?

Mr. Hurst: I think the motion is just to support the event at this point.

Mrs. Allen: Yeah, that's what I'm asking.

Mr. Hurst: So maybe they would come back and visit it; I guess consult with Jerry.

Mrs. Allen: Yes. I just want to make sure that Lori understand and I understand.

Mr. Wood: Well, let's make this easy. Let's go ahead and approve this with council tonight and then turn it over the Jerry and Tim.

Mrs. Allen: Yeah. I sent Jerry a copy. I sent Tim a copy. I give each appointed of you a copy. So, we had to have. The simplest way to keep everything, uh, whatever support, like Coaltown Taps or Lori or any other person that hasn't been in the town of Richlands. We want to make sure if they need services from the town of Richlands that we approve it and say yes, we will support you. We will close the road. Or, uh, if they don't need the road closed, I mean, they could need other services from the town, so once they fill the application out, I think town council, uh, would have to approve it. Jerry, you know, everybody—have everybody's approval on it is what I'm trying to say. So, tonight, that was just for the approval.

Mr. Cury: Connie, I seem to think that we're all on the right path. I appreciate you bringing it up, and Lori, thank you for coming to the council. You're bringing a lot of energy to Richlands, and that means a lot. Thank you. Um, I, I think I'm with Jeff. The motion was for support. It didn't specify details, and Rick, I think you're right. We do need to go ahead and pass this, uh, application process, and then, uh, once things are in motion, uh, we can have, uh, our, uh, manager, and our, uh, Chief of Police review the various requests and, uh, we'll look at those as they come to the council's attention.

Mr. Wood: I'll make the motion to pass the event permit application that was submitted by the Chamber of Commerce tonight.

Mayor Crawford: Do I have a second?

Mr. Ratliff: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second to approve the event permit application by the Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce. Any further discussion?

Mrs. Strong: I have a question just because this is our first time, Lori, going through this process, so it's a learning process for all of us. And I voted yes, and I'm in total support of it, but because this is our first time. For example, if we've voted as council to approve it, what happens if our Chief of Police doesn't or our Town Manager doesn't or our Chief of Police says we can't close the whole road. I guess I'm just

asking if you have one of the three parties' approval, how, how does the rest of the process move forward?

Mr. Wood: Well, the Town Manager's got the final say so, really. I mean, we were approving it and it would go to Jerry and then to Tim, you know. But really, it's the Town Manager who gives the final approval on it. Technically, that's.

Mr. Taylor: I think the intent of the, of the, of the process is so that we can go through a vetting process of what would work, so, you know, so you don't support a project and not have all the actions of the chamber. You know, because they need to know what their limitations are and what their needs are, so sometimes that would avoid embarrassment with everybody if you get off too fast. If you let us look at it as staff, you know, like you are talking about, Mrs. Strong, let us work out all the details and we adjust the program to meet the code and also meet the logistics of whatever it is, then the council pretty much gives the final okay if they want to do it at that point. I guess what it prematurely kind of does gives a little bit of worry because there might be something there that we don't know about that might give us some pain. I guess we could always go back and revisit it though. I mean, you've got plenty of time for this to work out details. And we can revisit it; it just depends on what y'all want to do.

Mr. Ratliff: I guess what you're saying is maybe put in an application, let them sort it out first.

Mrs. Allen: No, this one's a little short notice.

Mr. Wood: Yeah, this one's come to us a little backwards. A little backwards. We need to come the other way.

Multiple people talking.

Mr. Ratliff: I suggest making the application that the Town Manager and Jerry.

Mrs. Strong: She has.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay. But we didn't have enough time to do that.

Mr. Wood: Yeah, it's our first shot at it.

Mrs. Allen: Yeah, we woulda, probably like, everything was short notice. This was the first round, so we had to use you as a guinea pig. (Laughter) Like the next round, like we had a meeting next month and somebody had put an application in. Well, I would go ahead and forward you a copy of it, but I also get Tim and Jerry so they could be working out the details so like when we come to the meeting tonight, you would be able to vote on it one hundred percent and say yeah. And they know I am for events. They're not against them, but if Jerry comes up and says no., you're not shutting the road down or there's some reason we can't do this or that. I mean, that's out of, well, it's definitely out of my control or whatever.

Mrs. Stacy: Uh, but if it settles your alls mind, the way I feel about tonight is this is step one, and then we'll continue with step two and the rest of the process when you know it'll work from Jerry.

Mrs. Allen: Well, if we wait till the next, like the next council meeting, we could get back a hundred percent approval—the council approved it, Jerry approved it, uh, Tim approved it. We're good to go, and then we have a final vote saying yes, you're good to go with all that we talked about within the application. Or if they don't, then

Mr. Curry: I have a question. I am sorry, Paul. Isn't the motion again to...do you mind to review that motion just so I could understand the motion.

Mayor Crawford: Could you read that motion?

Clerk: Mr. Curry, it was to approve the event permit application submitted by the Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce. It was just to approve the application.

Mr. Curry: Okay, do I have that in my packet? I don't know.

Mrs. Allen: No. I don't think.

Mr. Hurst: I think they were laying on the table, Rod, when we got here.

Mr. Curry: Okay. Well, I can't see it, and so, I mean, uh, Lori, my only question is, are there details in there or is it just a general, I don't know, application.

Mr. Wood: It's pretty detailed, Rod.

Mrs. Allen: She's put all the details in it, so it's good.

Mrs. Strong: I appreciate that.

Mrs. Stacy: Thank you.

Mr. Cury: Well, I would suggest. I don't, I don't recall, and please not, uh, I too, I support the events in Richlands, all of them. But I would suggest that we might want to reconsider this motion and maybe, uh, table it until we, uh, have a chance to review the details. Uh, and also that the manager and the, uh, Chief of Police have a chance to review them, and uh, give their, uh, take on it to the council. Does that seem reasonable?

Mayor Crawford: Well, let me. Uh, Jerry are you hearing all this.

Chief Gilbert: Yes, sir.

Mayor Crawford: Are you aware of the application?

Chief Gilbert: Uh, I was probably aware of it a little bit earlier this afternoon. Uh, there will be some processes we'll have to go through with VDOT. And there's some, look at some different things there.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. You need more time for that?

Chief Gilbert: Yes, sir. We have to get approval by VDOT to shut that road down.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Then, then what I would like to do though, if I may, is ask you to withdraw the motion.

Mr. Wood: It was my motion.

Laughter.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Withdraw the motion and we'll revisit it next month. That's not going to affect your timing?

Mrs. Stacy: No.

Mr. Wood: No, there's plenty of time.

Mayor Crawford: Yeah, let's do that. Okay?

Mr. Wood: I withdraw my motion of all the permits until we get it straightened out.

Mayor Crawford: Okay.

Mr. Ratliff: So all we're gonna do is support it right now?

Mayor Crawford: We're supporting it, and uh, next month, uh Jerry and Tim will, uh, tell us if they have supported it.

Mr. Hurst: Inaudible (25:32-25:38)

Mayor Crawford: Okay.

Mrs. Allen: Sorry about that. I just wanted to make sure we get it straight the first time around.

Mr. Wood: Connie, we needed to know that.

Mr. Hurst: That's what we needed to do.

Mrs. Allen: I mean, it helps me, too, because if we, like. It's like I told Lori today. If she has an event on May 1, and we have one on May 1, if we don't know anything about it, how can we partner? How can we coordinate? I mean, it's impossible. So this just streamlines everything. And then that way, if somebody needs extra services, we're there to help them.

Mr. Ratliff: Should we set a time, like two months before?

Mrs. Allen: Well, I did notice on the application (inaudible 26:13-26:15) timeline because the festival we are working on, I know it's gonna take time to get that lined up. So, I probably need to go back and put another line in here like we have a time limit. We cannot drag it out.

Mr. Ratliff: Well, I mean, uh, say two months before the event occurs so that Jerry and the town manager would have a chance to study it and then council would have a chance to vote. If we have a sixty-day notice before an event. An application, make it sixty days before the event.

Mrs. Allen: Sixty days? Yeah, because this one is not going to be until May, but I'm sure they want an answer soon so you can get started.

Mr. Ratliff: I mean, yeah, any event.

Mrs. Allen: Sixty days. I can add that on.

Mayor Crawford: I would also suggest a sign-off line for both Tim and Jerry.

Mrs. Allen: Just a sign off for them. I can add that to the bottom. And then, we probably could, too, put a sign-off line for Town Council members to sign off on it because it does release us from being responsible.

Mr. Wood: It would be the mayor, and...

Mayor Crawford: I sign for all the actions we take anyway, so you might as well just put my name on it.

Mrs. Allen: So I can just put the mayor's?

Mr. Ratliff: Yeah, that would save anyone from coming in thirty days before an event and wanting something.

Mrs. Allen: Yeah, this is our first round, but I think it will be a plus for the town in the future.

Mr. Ratliff: You straightened us out, so that's good.

Mrs. Allen: Huh?

Mr. Ratliff: You straightened us out. That's good.

Mrs. Allen: Well, I have to tell them. You know how it is. I'll be the one suffering if I don't. The second thing. The \$1,500—will that stay in the town of Richlands?

Mrs. Stacy: It can. It can.

Mrs. Allen: I mean, is that an option.

Mrs. Stacy: These gift certificates can be used anywhere in Tazewell County.

Mrs. Allen: In Tazewell County?

Mrs. Stacy: Yes, anywhere in Tazewell County, so you know, one of the points to, you know, hopefully get more of those to be received and used, purchased and spent, here in Richlands is for me to be here and sell them, you know, directly to the town of Richlands—to the people who are here.

Mrs. Allen: I'd like to help out our small businesses (Inaudible 28:27-28:33)

Mr. Ratliff: I think it should. And you are going to Cedar Bluff and Tazewell to get...

Mrs. Stacy: And Bluefield, Virginia.

Mrs. Allen: I don't care to keep the certificates at the office, you know, and sell them there. Okay, sorry.

Clerk: Connle, will you bring the microphone closer?

Mrs. Allen: Yes, I know how that is. Okay, we did receive a \$25,000 grant from Thompson Foundation to the library, so that's a plus. They, uh, I sent them an email Monday, uh, yeah, yesterday, and they will be sending us a check confirming that we did get \$25,000. And I did talk to Travis, and he's very positive that he can also give us additional money for the library. He wasn't in the office today, so I couldn't confirm the amount, but as soon as I can confirm that, you know, I can email all of you. And I talked to Rick, too. I'm gonna go in December to the Shott Foundation. You have to meet with a board person in person to see how much additional money that we will need to repair the outside of the library and see if maybe we can get some more money that way. So, all that's positive. We are definitely getting the \$25,000 plus the money from Travis. Uh, for the CARES Act funding for the additional money for the businesses, uh, the Board of Supervisors has to vote on that tonight. I think IDA made them release annual recommendations, so we should know more about that by about Thursday, which businesses in the town of Richlands received additional money. I've contacted FEMA, which they had sent me an

email. We can apply for additional, uh, PPE items. Like, if we don't have enough money for masks or different things like that, we can send them the receipts and they will reimburse us for those. So, I did confirm with them today that we can get additional help that way through FEMA. So that was a positive. The Virginia Outdoors Foundation—I think the mayor sent me this email. I have looked into that, and which I've got to go more in depth into that. We may be able to get some money there, I'm not for sure exactly what yet. So, I've just got to get more details on that one to see how we could use it or what we could apply for. It would be something for outdoors, maybe like a trail or something, so that I will do a little bit more research on that, but I'm looking into that. We did sell seventy-seven veteran's banners, and they are all hung as of today, so that was a positive. We still had, I took the very last one, the last eight up today.

Mr. Hurst: They look nice.

Mrs. Allen: But next year we will put the same seventy-seven up and we'll just keep adding to it. The people were very happy that, uh, we could do that. And our program, I think, was very successful even though we had to do it outside. It was a little different, but it was still very emotional, and I think everybody enjoyed it. Okay, the tree lighting ceremony is November 27 at 6:00 PM at the Greenway. Both trees will be lit at the same time.

Mr. Wood: Thank you, Connie.

Mrs. Allen: Oh, that's Rick's. He always brings that up, so this year, they are. That is going to happen. The Christmas parade is scheduled for December 3 at 6:00 PM, starting at the Richlands Police Department. The theme is Candyland Christmas. And they did inform us the high school, the band, the choir, they cannot participate in the tree lighting or in the Christmas parade because of COVID. They have to stand at least ten foot apart even if they could, but she is not allowing them to do anything. So, we'll just have to come up with new ideas for (inaudible 32:27-32:29). And we are having a window decorating contest for storefronts, and I've asked everybody to have their windows decorated by November 27. And I've already had several calls on that, so I think the businesses are going to improve since we have had to think outside the box and that type of thing. So, I think we'll have a lot of participants from that. I think that's it. Any questions?

Mr. Cury: Uh, Connie. Uh, thank you for all those updates. I really appreciate it and all that you're doing. Uh, I do have a suggestion/request. It's pretty simple. Uh, I don't know who, uh, Frank, are you managing our Facebook page? I'm not really sure.

Frank Dorton: Yes.

Mr. Cury: The town's?

Mr. Dorton: Yes.

Mr. Cury: Okay. Is it possible that we could write or just print just in very simple letters posted, 11-11-11, and then underneath that, We remember.

Mr. Dorton: Sure.

Mr. Cury: I appreciate that very much. It's, it's, but it's really the beginning of Veteran's Day, which we once called Armistice Day. Thank you very much.

Mrs. Allen: Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Council members' reports. Rod.

Mr. Cury: Uh, thank you, Mayor. Uh, I do have here, I'm on the agenda, uh, for a recommendation of the planning commission and, uh, I don't know. Does everyone have the recommendation in their packets?

Multiple people: Yes.

Mr. Cury: Okay, yes. I'll read this. This is from the planning commission. And then we'll take it up if that's okay. Mr. Cury read the recommendation (attached).

So, um, I would like, uh, let's see. Wayne, can I make the motion to adopt this?

Mr. McClanahan: Are you, uh, making a reference to the ordinance, Rod?

Mr. Cury: I'm sorry. I couldn't hear you.

Mr. McClanahan: Are you making a reference to the ordinance? Whether now is the appropriate time to, uh, to do that?

Mr. Cury: Yeah. I just need your guidance.

Mr. McClanahan: Sure. I just need to see. I just need to, uh, read the ordinance for a second reading and then council members can vote to approve. I can do that now or whenever.

Mr. Cury: Okay, Wayne. Do we need an approval of this recommendation or just, it is a recommendation?

Mr. McClanahan: The recommendation can just be submitted to council. Uh, that doesn't require any, uh, formal approval. It's just the ordinance that needs read again.

Mr. Cury: Okay. Thank you. Well, I respectfully submit the recommendation of the planning commission to the council. Thank you.

Uh, as far as any other business. Uh, we are. I wanted to report about the Section House. The Section House board is meeting regularly via zoom, and we just, uh, because of COVID, we've not been able to hold, uh, the events that we had planned—the numerous ones planned. I felt compelled to tell the council of where we stand on that. But we will be decorating the house for Christmas, uh, and we'll hopefully have the trees up on the Section House property to coincide with the tree lighting, Connie, for the town, uh, in general to make it as nice as we can and promote the spirit of Christmas and spirit of love for everyone. So, um I just felt like I should tell you about those things, and, uh, we hope to have more events really soon, as soon as, um, we hope and pray that COVID subsides so that we can all operate in a more restful environment. So, I want to let you know that. I haven't really had too many complaints about anything. Um, usually if I do, if it's streets or something, unless someone asks me to bring them to council, I forward those to the manager, uh, to try to save some time and maybe get it rolling, but I haven't had those things that I can remember. Uh, I do have, uh, one thing to tell you. Uh, the Health Council, uh Virginia Hart, who has served the Planning Commission town expertly and I cannot praise her enough, um, has unfortunately had to resign from the Planning Commission for health reasons, and she submitted that to the Commission. And she also will not be able to serve on the Flood Task Force. And I just want to publicly, uh, acknowledge you Virginia for your service to this town. It was, uh, the very finest. And that being said, um, there have been two vacancies—one for the Planning Commission, and I have a recommendation to present to the council and Mary Ann, I believe that, and Paul, I believe you guys have mentioned about the, uh, the Richlands IDA. I do not have a recommendation for that, uh, but I do have, and I've tried, but I have not been successful. But, um, that doesn't mean all the resources are exhausted. They certainly are not. There's so many people here who want to serve, and so, uh, in that vein of service and people who have indicated a desire to serve, I would like to put forth the name of Elliott Joyce to replace Virginia Hart for her unexpired term on the Planning Commission. I will put that in the form of a motion, uh, to appoint Elliott, uh, Joyce to the Planning Commission and hope there's a second.

Mrs. Strong: I will second the motion.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second to appoint Elliott Joyce to serve the expired, uh, the unexpired term of, uh, Virginia Hart. Any discussion? Roll call vote, please? Mr. Cury—yes; Mr. Hurst—yes; Mr. Ratliff—yes; Mrs. Strong—yes; Mr. Wood—yes. Motion carries.

Mr. Cury: Uh, Mayor, thank you very much. I will inform Elliot, uh, that the council has approved his, uh, appointment to the Planning Commission, and uh, uh, I will also inform him of our next meeting, which we anticipate will be the first Tuesday in December, and Chairman Richard Smith will, uh, get with us all so we can formally post that and inform anyone that needs to know. Well, everyone needs to know, so we'll take care of that. And, uh, I'll ask that we do this. And, also, uh, Tim is it possible to get the various, uh, zoning ordinances and things that Elliot will need so he can be studying and understand the role of the commission.

Mr. Taylor: Yes, we have a welcome package that we send to all new appointees, so we'll get that out to him. I do have a question, if you don't care, as far as clarity. Now, uh, Mr. Joyce is going to fill the unexpired term of Virginia Hart, and she also was on the Flood Task Force and she always was on the zoning appeals board. Does he recognize that if he does that that probably would fill all three of those voids?

Mr. Cury: No, I did not mention that because I thought that perhaps we need to revisit the, uh, the member of the commission that goes to the zoning appeals board. Uh, I don't think he necessarily is, uh,

wanting that. I'm gonna have to ask him. I thought we would just take it one step at a time and not go too fast, but I'll be glad to do whatever you or council would like me to do.

Mr. Taylor: Rod, just so we clear up the record and council can be trying to get other people for it, for, uh, the zoning appeals board. It should come from that group, you know.

Mr. Cury: Um, Tim, I couldn't hear you. I'm sorry.

Mr. Taylor: I'm sorry. Just so we get the record so that council can understand that they need to pick someone else off the planning commission to sit on the Board of Zoning Appeals. That would have to be done.

Mr. Cury: Yes. Is it okay with the council that I make a recommendation based on the planning commissions' recommendation? I'll recommend to the council at the next meeting someone to fill that vacancy of a member of the planning commission to sit on the Board of Zoning appeals. Mayor, I'll ask you to entertain that for me, please.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, uh, we put it in the form of a motion, or I think we can just direct Tim to put it on the agenda coming up next meeting.

Mr. Cury: Yes, I think a consensus would do this one.

Mr. Taylor: You'll have time before the December planning commission meeting to discuss that and make sure there's clarity with those folks, right?

Mr. Cury: Yes. Thank you very much. That concludes what I can think of right now. Uh, I'm just going to tell you, um, I am well. Thank you very much for your thoughts. I've had several people who texted me. I am well. I'm just quarantining to be on the safe side, and that is at the direction of the Virginia Department of Health. Thank you very much, everyone. I appreciate your support very much. Thank you.

Mr. Ratliff: Who is on the zoning appeals board?

Mayor Crawford: I understood that Mrs. Hart was.

Mr. Ratliff: Yeah, she is. Mrs. Hart. But who are the other ones?

Mr. Taylor: From memory, it would be Gene Hurst is on there, uh, George Brown, I think he's on there. Uh.

Mr. Wood: Mr. Patton.

Mr. Taylor: Uh, Bill Patton, and, of course, Virginia Carol. The, the cut, the reasons for Virginia Carol—one board member has to be from the planning commission. That person has to be from that group. There's one other person, I think.

Mr. Cury: I am trying to think, too, Tim. Doug, I'm trying to remember.

Mr. Taylor: It's on our website.

Mr. Cury: I am sure that could be provided pretty quickly. Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Mary Ann.

Mrs. Strong: I had reported last month, excuse me, at the rec commission we had, had representatives from the Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens, specifically Regina Sayers, the director, and Rusty Hess, and a lot of other citizens were there. This was at the September meeting to discuss a possible handicap playground. So, at our meeting in October, that committee that had been formed had actually visited our parks in our area. And the original site that they had thought about the handicap playground wasn't approved yet, but after visiting the parks, their recommendations to the recreation commission is that the park be built at the Lake Park location, which is the WW Fields, um, Park, the JA Robinson Field. It's honoring those two well-deserved citizens. Jeff, did you get a chance yet to talk to the Robinson family?

Mr. Hurst: Uh uh.

Mrs. Strong: Okay, I think Joe McCall was going to do that, my correction. But I really don't think either family would object. In fact, I think they would be honored because it will be a huge improvement to the park. And the playground will not be just handicap accessible—it will be a mixture of both—and they chose or recommended Lake Park because number one, it doesn't flood, and number two, parking

would be much better at Lake Park. But I would like to make the recommendation that we allow the committee to move forward with studying the potential of building this playground at the Lake Park location.

Mayor Crawford: Do we need a motion for that?

Mrs. Strong: I think I did. Did I make that in the form of a motion? I think I did, but I can rephrase it.

Clerk: You said you were making a recommendation.

Mrs. Strong: Okay. I make the motion based on the recommendation of the recreation commission that we allow the committee that's been formed to build a playground for all children with extra playground equipment for handicapped children at the Lake Park recreation department location.

Mr. Cury: I'll second that motion gladly.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Roll call vote: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Mrs. Strong: Thank you, and it's going to be really exciting. If any of you know Regina Sayers, you know that she does things with lots of attention to detail, enthusiasm, and it will be an exceptional addition to the town. And lots of monies are planned to be donated. I would really like, I know he doesn't want to be recognized, but to specifically recognize Rusty and Teresa Hess because this was their dream, and they were the first person to come up with the idea. So, also, the recreation commission will meet as scheduled on Monday the sixteenth upstairs in the meeting room in the recreation department at 7:30. And I would also like to thank Connie, and Ginger Branton for, and Chief Jerry Gilbert, and everyone. I hate to mention names because I always leave somebody out. So please know that's, that's not in my heart, that's my head. But those people that I mentioned specifically I know spent a lot of time, and it was really special, as Connie said. It was emotional. It was beautiful outside, and everybody that had a part deserves appreciation. And I might need your help Connie, but I was pleasantly surprised that there was also food to be handed out to go by orders to stay in compliance with COVID regulations. And I believe, and you add to this list, but I think the following businesses need to be recognized for donating the food: Clinch Valley Medical Center, Food City, and The Lunchbox, and there were more...and the Huddle House, exactly.

Chief Gilbert: Flower's Bakery.

Mrs. Strong: Flower's Bakery.

Chief Gilbert: And then there was one other. I can't remember. I wish I could remember the name.

Mrs. Strong: But it was really a very special evening, and the veterans certainly deserved it. And I think the flags are awesome through town, and like you said, we can grow on it. You may run out of flags next year or places to hang those. And I've also been asking several different individuals to consider the IDA vacancy, but at this time I have not been successful, but I've not exhausted my efforts, but I would ask anyone that's watching, if you have an interest in serving on the IDA, please get in touch with any of the council members or the mayor.

Mayor Crawford: If I could find the message I got, there is someone interested in it.

Mrs. Strong: And they have decided, um, because I know this has been a factor in several people that I've discussed this with is when they're going to meet. It's my understanding they're going to meet the same, the second Tuesday of every month at 8:00 AM here at the town hall. So, the same meeting day that council meets but at 8:00 AM in the morning. Um, so, just in my final comments, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving, even in our world today that's very uncertain with so many unknowns, especially here in Southwest Virginia, we have so much to be thankful for. And I would like to say, Rod, I'm thankful that you're doing well and I want to wish Richard a speedy recovery as well as Bill Patton, who serves in the rescue services. We are glad to have the mayor back and as Jeff mentioned, please remember the Gordon Russ family. And again, I probably missed the name of someone that's related to the town, and I apologize if I did, but I just wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving—a time to remember all the reasons we have to be thankful. Thank you.

Mr. Cury: Mary Ann. Mayor. May I make a comment, please?

Mayor Crawford: Yes.

Mr. Cury: Mary Ann. Thank you very much for, uh, your contribution tonight. I appreciate it, and I just wanted to ask you. I probably, I'm sure you have photographs of the dedication at the Lake Park Playground. Uh, and uh, but Carolyn and Sid had sent—I was in high school with those people—they had sent to me photographs, personal ones, so I'll try to share that with you and with the town. It's part of our history. And you're in there, and Vicki, and other people, especially the Robinsons and, uh, others, so I just want to mention that I'll try to get that to you and also to Gaynelle Thompson, the town historian. And one more thing. I want to thank you, too, for mentioning Thanksgiving. Sometimes, you know, uh, we're getting in a big hurry for Christmas, and it's one of my favorite times of the year, but Thanksgiving is so important, especially right now. I'm glad you said that. It's very important for us to give thanks for all that we do, and I'm very appreciative. And in regards, I had someone text me just now asking why I asked for 11-11-11, so for anyone who doesn't know. Um, we celebrate Veteran's Day on the 11th of November because the armistice for World War I was decided to be signed and the armistice means a ceasefire. It was agreed that on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, the armistice will be signed, and for many years it was known as Armistice Day, but it is now Veteran's Day. That's why it's always celebrated on the 11th, so anyone else out there—I had three texts, so I wanted to clarify that. Uh, it has real meaning to all of us. We remember. Thank you.

Mr. Hurst: Thanks, Rod.

Mayor Crawford: Uh, if I may, before we go on. Uh, Missy McClanahan Joyce is, uh, has expressed a desire and willingness to serve in the IDA position. Uh, unless somebody's got someone else in mind, I'd like the council to consider her.

Mr. Ratliff: I've got someone in mind also if I could bring that name. It's Gary Jackson.

Mayor Crawford: Derick?

Mr. Ratliff: Gary. Gary Jackson.

Mayor Crawford: How do we decide? We've got two names.

Mr. Hurst: Are there two spots open?

Mayor Crawford: There's only one spot open the way I understand it.

Mrs. Strong: Correct. Gary Jackson the building inspector?

Mr. Ratliff: Yes. I think he would fit. Uh, I think Elliot's, uh, we just named Elliot to one, and I think, is Missy...

Mayor Crawford: His significant other. Yes.

Mr. Ratliff: So, I think we should spread it around a little bit.

Mayor Crawford: I don't have a problem with that. It just sounded to me like we weren't going to have anybody interested.

Mr. Ratliff: Yeah. Yeah. So. I think Gary would be a good fit because he's on the, uh, county, and the IDA—they can work together.

Mrs. Strong: He would do a good job, I am sure, and the meeting time would not be a problem.

Mayor Crawford: Right. Okay, so what's your pleasure? You want to chew on it a while? You want to put one of these names forward?

Mr. Ratliff: I'll put Gary's name forward.

Mayor Crawford: As a motion?

Mr. Ratliff nodded yes.

Mayor Crawford: Is there a second?

Mr. Wood: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: A motion and a second to put Gary Jackson on the, uh, vacant position for the IDA. Any discussion? Roll call vote, please. Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries. I assume he is willing to—he said he's willing to serve?

Mr. Ratliff: Yes.

Mayor Crawford: (To Mr. Taylor) So, if you would get with him and get that packet to him. Thank you. Okay.

Mrs. Strong: That is all I have. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Crawford: Doug.

Mr. Ratliff: I don't have anything tonight.

Mayor Crawford: Rick.

Mr. Wood: I don't have nothing either. I just want to wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Crawford: Thank you. You, too. Jeff.

Mr. Hurst: I often think of when Rod was talking about and Mary Ann was talking about Thanksgiving and Rick did, I remember our minister one time said why do we pause one day to give thanks? We should give thanks every day. And you know that's why I'm all, I always get sort of bittersweet on that day, like why would we pick out one day? We should be thankful every day. I never heard it said like that until I heard it that day in church. I've always thought of that when I hear Thanksgiving. I'm thankful. But just a couple things. Uh, first off, I wanted to, uh, you know, of course, we had an election here in town. I wanted to congratulate all the winners and you know, I really thought it was, uh, something, I don't know if you want to say special or just interesting that we had so many candidates this year, uh, that ran for the election, and uh, you know, first I'd like to thank them for their time, their efforts, and campaigning. And what that means to the town moving forward is, you know, there's definitely interest in, in town, town government, and the viability of our town is definitely reflected in the fact that we had so many, so many willing to run for the election for council and for mayor. Also, you know, keep in mind and we stress this, too, about just the presence of COVID-19 in our area and how it's hit and, um, it's, it's, uh, you know, when you see Rod there quarantining. I know you are in the public school system. You don't know what is going to happen from day to day and my wife works there, too. And even in our industry, in the funeral industry, it's hitting pretty close to home and, you know, we need to maintain, you know, remember all of our social distancing guidelines, and you know, exercising personal hygiene, and you know, washing the hands and then keeping our space. You know, I think that's a big thing right now, so the prayers for everybody to stay safe. The only other thing that, you know, like I said, we love the veteran's flags. I think they look great downtown. We've got a couple there in front of the funeral home and they look nice. Uh, I'm excited about that, so I see a good crowd at the veteran's celebration that night. We had a little busy work, so I'm sorry I couldn't attend. But, uh, I was also encouraged at the rec committee, uh, or the rec commission meeting last, uh, a few weeks ago about the, uh, about moving forward on the project for the, uh, with Virginia Sayers and Appalachian Agency. I spoke with her today for a little bit. You know, you know, she was wanting to try not to label it so much as handicapped accessible because she wants this project to be, you know, something that's used by everyone. And you know that they don't really are, you know, just because you're using it, you have a handicap and, and then, you know, we, we never really understand until we get in and, you know, get involved with it. And from that standpoint, I, I thought that was just a great point because sometimes we don't, we sort of lose sight of it, and, uh, like I said, from her plans and the way they're talking, I think it's really going to make a big addition to, uh, the park in Lake Park, so I'm excited about that. The only other thing I want to share is, uh, you know, a couple things. I spoke to a couple of members of council, and I spoke with Mr. Taylor over the last few weeks, too, uh, in reference to our, uh, the cancellation of our work session that was supposed to be on October 20. And you know, we were talking a little bit, and not much going into big details. I think everything just has moved on. I was a bit, uh, you know, new to the process, and I had some questions, you know, regarding, uh, the cancellation slash postponement. I'm not sure what it is because we haven't really talked about it if we want to make it up or not. But I just, uh, I was, uh, you know, sort of upset, just, just disappointed in the, you know, I guess the way we were informed and the way, uh, we really had as council members no knowledge, you know, of decision or, you know, sort of input on what we should do. And you know, I talked to several people about it, and I think as a council and, you know, for this town to, you know, establish credibility, to establish integrity and what we need to stand for for this town and community moving forward is that, you know, we really need to get the process correct. And, you know, if the process was wrong, that's fine; if it was right and you know, like I said, I'm, I'm cool with it, but like I said, I just had no input on it so I didn't know, you know, how every other council member felt, and I know my wife's probably sitting there saying she has to listen to it again. But uh, uh, at the same time, you know, like I said, if we can sort of shore up the procedure, you know, in the future and just make sure we follow protocols and you

know, make sure that we are who we want to be and, and then make sure this is where we're going that's all good.

Mr. Ratliff: I think also, I think each council member should have been called, and you know, after, you know, if we had to we had to, but I think council should have an input. But I agree with you, Jeff.

Mayor Crawford: Well, I think it's not answering the fact that that wasn't done properly, but the fact that we've implemented this, this, uh, emergency ordinance. If we'd had that in place where we would have had to meet on mobi, then, then we would have been able to possibly go ahead with the meeting or even get council together to get their feelings about it. So, I don't know what. I don't know what determines when that ends once we put it in place.

Mr. McClanahan: Sixty days. That will be in effect for sixty days and at that point it has to be re-adopted or it will automatically expire. And it can't be in effect for longer than six months right now unless the governor, you know, by another executive order modifies that.

Mayor Crawford: I think we out to look at it and if this thing's still raging and nowhere near what it is to just renew it. And, uh, I mean, it was a new situation for me. Uh, I wasn't sure what to do. Being quarantined, I couldn't have been here, but uh, that's neither here nor there. You know, the meeting could go on, but I think if we keep this emergency thing in place. And I apologize to you for that. You know, that we should have, should have done something more professional than the way we did. So.

Mr. Taylor: You know, I will take the blame for that. I just didn't get it done. I apologize to council. There was no...it doesn't happen very often so you kinda gotta struggle and figure out how to do it. What we should have done was hand deliver notes to everybody and try to follow up with a phone call if we can. Sometimes we can't, but, I, it doesn't happen very often. It's a short time, and I just apologize to council. That's mostly my fault on that one. The COVID issue will help that if it were to happen again. I apologize for that though.

Mr. Ratliff: I think...

Mr. Cury: Mayor, I have something to add to that, if I may.

Mayor Crawford: Go ahead.

Mr. Cury: Okay. I, I do understand, uh, the distress of not being able to meet and the unknown factor, uh, and I would suggest that maybe we could turn to our town attorney for other help with protocol on that. Uh, here is just general suggestions. I, I talked with Jeff and I agree with him. It's not to anyone's detriment—it's just an improvement in the way that we communicate as a council with one another, with administration, everyone. Um, I would just suggest that uh, our, that we're informed of these things, uh, by email, and or, uh, hand delivered, uh, messages, which Tim said. You know, I appreciate that, and I also suggest that, um, maybe prior to canceling, uh, a meeting which really, uh, has an odd flavor to it, so to speak. There is this subtle difference but important difference between canceling and postponing. Um, I think we need to clarify those things, and I really think it's imprudent that we at least have some communication with council in the way of a consensus. And if it's personal, and in this case, it could have been, I don't know. We need to observe those, those things with people but to give some idea to the members of council, uh, a reason in general that is, that is why we're having to postpone a meeting and or cancel. So, Wayne, is it too much to ask you to develop a protocol for us the next time so that we can, uh, have something more formal to talk about in this arena?

Mr. McClanahan: Sure. Absolutely, um, and I'll just briefly, um, add to that. I did have a conversation with Mr. Hurst. When the situation happened, you know, and I'll shoulder some of the blame that Tim took on that. My head didn't even go to whether that particular procedure was followed. You know, I guess the first place my head went was the more human aspect of that, and I apologize for not going down that path because that's why I am here for is to go down that path. But when Mr. Hurst contacted me, um, I said, well, I don't know; I'll look into that. And when I did, I did not find anything in the town's charter or a cursory review of Robert's Rules of Order. I did not find any sort of stated procedure for the cancellation or postponement of a meeting. Um, anytime a situation like that, uh, comes up, it's always my default position that, you know, that's within the purvey of the mayor's discretion as the leader, if you will, of the meeting. So I don't think anything was done necessarily inappropriately from a strict standpoint, um, however, though if the council so directs me I would definitely be able to, uh, get in, I think we need it to be in the form of an ordinance. Maybe to, um, line out a procedure on that, so Mr. Taylor or I can develop an adequate means of notice or procedure.

Mr. Ratliff: With that sixty day, uh, ordinance, that should eliminate a lot of the problem because, uh, if it goes into an emergency, we'll be ready resume or what we have to do so that should eliminate a lot of it.

Mr. McClanahan: Yeah, and to briefly follow up on that. That emergency ordinance, you know, it does not mandate any particular course of proceeding. It just allows us a safety net, if you will, if we have on a short notice. Uh, you know, it's legitimate concern that Mr. Taylor and I had leading up to today whether we were going to have a quorum present and, you know, be able to have a meeting at all. So that ordinance, um, will provide it, and, again, I would default to the mayor having the discretion and authority to dictate that, whether the meeting is open to the public, and if it's not, Mr. Taylor and I had some previous measures in place to make sure that we were compliant with the modification of the fola, uh, open meeting requirements make sure people have ample opportunities to comment and be as active as possible, but, yes, it should, uh, line everything out moving forward.

Mayor Crawford: Uh, let's kind of put it to bed. Uh, the reason we, uh, needed to meet was there were a couple of actions that council needed to take in order to ensure that something would happen for the town. Uh, we actually got an extension on those, so we weren't up against that deadline anymore. So we didn't communicate with everybody well enough, seems like, so I think if we get communication in place and going forward we'll try to do better.

Mr. Hurst: Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Is that it for you, Jeff?

Mr. Hurst: Yes, sir. Thank you.

Mr. Ratliff: Uh, Oh, I'm sorry. At some time, we're gonna go into closed session about, I don't know how to...what numbers, uh, maybe contracts with the county?

Mr. McClanahan: Sure. Okay. I'll have that ready when we get to that point.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay. I'm sorry, Mayor.

Mrs. Strong: Mayor. One thing I forgot, and I would like to thank Larry Johnson for bringing this to my attention. And he deserves the credit as well. The Tazewell County Tourism Department has decided to give the town \$500 for the kiosk at the swinging bridge access point, so we really have a lot of appreciation for Tazewell County Tourism Department. And Larry mentioned that, Tim, we need to reach out to him so we can receive the \$500.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. It's through AJ's department, isn't it?

Mrs. Strong: Yes. So, again, thank you to Larry Johnson. Larry doesn't give up on the access point. He's instrumental with each and every one of them. Thank you.

Mr. Wood: Connie's got something.

Mrs. Allen: Yeah. I reached out to her today. She's going to send me the information we need to get the \$500. I'm talking about AJ, so.

Mrs. Strong: Perfect. Thank you, Connie.

Mrs. Allen: You are welcome.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. On my concerns that I have. I have consider issuing a proclamation recognizing January 24-30 as School Choice Week in Richlands. Uh, could somebody give me some foundation for that. I don't know what it's about.

Mr. Taylor: I really don't either. I'm sorry.

Mr. McClanahan: Um, I was forwarded this through email on that and I've prepared the proclamation citing the organization.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, uh.

Mr. McClanahan: If you choose, the school week organization, I think it's just an independent organization that has requested that, uh, the town make a formal proclamation that the particular dates cited was the choose school week. I apologize; I don't know much as to what that entails, but, uh.

Mayor Crawford: So, the school choice week mean mainly we recognize the ability of parents to choose whether their children are out of school? I don't understand it.

Mr. McClanahan: Yeah. I'm not saying anything, Mr. Mayor. I just, I just drafted the proclamation based on the information I had available. I assumed other parties had a little bit more in-depth explanation.

Mr. Ratliff: What's the, uh, the?

Mayor Crawford: They're asking that we issue a proclamation, and I don't know who is even asking, recognizing January 24 through the 30th as School Choice Week. I'm not, I'm not for sure what that means.

Mr. Taylor: I don't know. Does anybody else? I think you ought to give us maybe a chance to research that. And you can do it at the December meeting. Why don't we just table that?

Mayor Crawford: I would rather have more information.

Mr. Taylor: Okay.

Mr. Ratliff: It sounds like college.

Mayor Crawford: It just came up on my concerns. But anyway. One of the things that I talked about in our big candidate forum and I want to bring up now. Uh, and I've talked to our House of Delegates representative, Mr. Morefield, about this is, and this will not change my term coming up. But going forward after my term coming up to have, uh, the mayor's term in office be four years instead of two. Um, we could put that in the form of a motion and if I have support from council, we could talk about it. Uh, we could do whatever. Rod.

Mr. Cury: Uh, yes sir. Paul, I remember you saying that, uh, at the candidates' forum, and I want to share some thinking on that. I remember when Jan was mayor. She wanted the same thing. And I understand how stressful that must be for any mayor to have to run every two years, and I can't imagine it. That being said, here's something I think we need to consider perhaps before we put that in the form of a motion. Uh, I think it can be done, but if we do that, I think we need to reconsider how the council is elected. And the reason for that is, um, the way our council is set up for the charter, and I think other towns do it or can do it differently I was told. I have not researched it. The way our council is set up, we have three members who are elected every four years and three members who are elected every four years. And, uh, in the meantime, the mayor is elected every two years. And I think what that ultimately does, the way we're currently set up, it leaves ultimate power in the hands of the people. So that, let's just suppose that I'll just give a scenario. Maybe, uh, people perceive that a mayor, any mayor, could be you, could be any mayor, is always siding with one group. And we don't want to have that perception because it really is not always true. But that being said, it leaves power in the hands of the people. Uh, if we can rearrange the way the council's elected so that if people perceive that they can change the makeup of the council in coordination with the mayor. Uh, I hope you'll consider that before we put that in the form of a motion. I think it would be better served to research that, personally. That's not against what you're saying, but it's a supplement to. Let's, let's find out how this really works and why we have the charter we have and why the mayor is or was intended to be elected every two years. Again, in your, uh, support, and I remember Jan when she was mayor, she also wanted the same thing. But I stand on what I feel. I think we need to be really cautious about it. We ultimately need people. The power needs to be with the people. So, I just say we'll consider that, Paul, before you put that in the form of a motion. Thank you.

Mr. Ratliff: I agree with Rod. If we go, uh, if we do change the election of the council, that would go into a charter, and that would be a big deal. Uh, and it would take, what is it? Five for the, to change the charter.

Mr. McClanahan: Just knee-jerk, that is my understanding, but again, something of that magnitude, I would like a chance to be able to present the council...

Mr. Ratliff: At least five.

Mr. Taylor: I think that. I didn't mean to interrupt you. I'm sorry. What you'll have to do though since we've done this before, uh, change the charter. The charter requires the General Assembly action. And what you'll have to do, that's why you have to get your representative to support the legislative, you know, action. But what happens before that even gets to a vote of the General Assembly, it'll have to go to the Department of Legislative Services, and they'll look at that and examine what you're asking—make sure it doesn't conflict with the state constitutions. So there's a lot of homework, and if you're

going to go there, you probably could ask the Cooper Center of Public Service to give you their view on that because of the nature of whether that's a council manager. It may be, it may be perfectly fine. I don't know. But if you're going to, before I asked after the legislative act, I think I would get some type of opinion to the folks on that. Because what will happen, you might do a lot of work on it and find it's got a fatal flaw. So, if you go to legislative services, they just say you can't do that, you know, so. That's how it works.

Mr. Ratliff: I think it almost would take an act of congress. And I agree with Rod. Uh, the people need a voice and the mayor is our leader, uh, as far as council and the town, and if they want to midstream, if things aren't going wrong, I mean, they don't agree with policies at all, that's the only choice they have is the mayor every two years to voice their opinion along with those three other council. And I agree about, you know, the council members, you know, you know, over four years. So, I think we've got a great process as far as, I mean. I wouldn't want to change it and let it, you know, over two years because I think, uh, that gives the people a voice, as Rod said. I agree with him.

Mr. Cury: Uh, I appreciate that, Doug. And, Paul, I appreciate what you said, and I remember Jan had asked the same thing, so I'm not arguing against anyone. I'm just trying to leave the power in the hands of the people. That being said, uh, maybe, uh, I'll prevail upon Wayne again. Wayne, in your spare time...in your spare time (laughter).

Mr. McClanahan: Do you happen to know when that is, Mr. Cury?

Multiple people talking.

Mr. Cury: Could you see how other towns of our nature do the council manager system and, uh, maybe there are managers who are the, managers, uh, mayors who are elected for four-year terms—to see how the council members are elected in order to achieve a balance of power, so to speak. So, uh, so ultimately power's in the hands of the people. If you have, and I think Tim had a suggestion, uh, that would be also prudent and that would be to consult with the, uh, Cooper Center. Paul, how do you feel about these suggestions?

Mayor Crawford: Well, I think we ought to follow out all the suggestions. Uh, Bluefield is a town in our county that has a four-year mayor. So, we might get some ideas from those folks. Uh, right, for me, I don't...

Mr. Wood: Cedar Bluff has a four-year mayor.

Mayor Crawford: Cedar Bluff does? So, it's not, it's not an unusual thing, but I agree. We need to look at all the angles that we can. And uh, I'm not, I'm not doing this as a self-serving thing for me. And as I said in the meeting, had Jan won the election, I would still be making this proposal right now in this meeting. All right, because it's ridiculous, uh, well, I shouldn't have said ridiculous. Well, it puts you in a position of continually, uh, politicking for an election almost.

Mr. Cury: Political (1:18:37) is terrible. It really is for everyone, for every single one. So, I appreciate it. Thank you.

Mr. Ratliff: One other thing if you think about it though. If the mayor runs every two years and we change it to four, then he's going to be running with the same three over the same.

Mayor Crawford: That's a good point.

Mr. Ratliff: You know. So, it would sort of cement, you know. I like it where he has to play both sides, should I say. So, the people would have a voice. I mean that's my way, that's my major concern.

Mayor Crawford: Well, let's keep thinking about it, and, uh, research it some. I'm not gonna let it go this easily. Uh, I'll be bringing it up again, so uh, keep thinking about it and we'll see where it goes.

Mr. Ratliff: Anyway, if you research it, I think it takes five, and that would be very hard to do.

Mr. McClanahan: I'm completely unfamiliar with the process, I'll have to admit.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay. Do you remember, Mr. Taylor? Is it five that is required?

Mr. Taylor: I think, uh, you'll have to do an ordinance to uh, uh, and then it has to be directed toward the General Assembly, and then you'll want that, to take that through the Department of Legislative Services. It's a big ordeal.

Mr. Ratliff: I mean as far as council goes.

Mr. Taylor: Uh, I think it's just an ordinance. I'm not sure. I'm really not.

Mr. Ratliff: How many does it take for an ordinance.

Mr. Taylor: Four, I believe, but I'm not sure.

Mr. Ratliff: Again, I might research it.

Mr. Taylor: I'm not sure.

Mr. Ratliff: There ain't nothing wrong with five.

Mayor Crawford: Well, whatever we can find out about it at all. Kind of keep us informed. Like I said, I'm not going to let it go this easily. Okay. Attorney comments.

Mr. McClanahan: Uh, thank you, Mr. Mayor. Um, we have on the agenda tonight for the first reading of a local hospital provider assessment. Um, I can go ahead and get through this first reading. Um, it's my understanding thereafter, I believe, Mrs. Strong is going to be making a motion to council to waive the second reading of the council to consider that tonight. I think, just practically, I can read it, and if Mrs. Strong doesn't want to make that motion, we can just. I can provide any feedback answering any questions that anybody wants, um, uh, from me.

Mr. McClanahan read Ordinance 0-2020-11-01.

That's probably clear as mud. I can give a, uh, a condensed version of that.

Multiple people talking.

Mr. McClanahan: I'm sorry. I was trying to read as fast as I could on that. So, uh, this is a project that Mrs. Strong brought to my attention in coordination with Mr. Mulkey, uh, Clinch Valley Medical. Uh, essentially what this is, um, anytime a local hospital accepts a Medicare/Medicaid patient, they, they are not paid one-to-one dollars on that. I think seventy-seven cents, seventy-two cents maybe. So, um, there's a considerable bit of money that is just written off, that FEMA asked Virginia Department of Medical Assistance Services. Basically, it says, you know, thanks for your service to these folks, but we are not paying you for that. Obviously, that is a large burden on, on any hospital, especially in rural Virginia. So, um, Mr. Mulkey brought all this to my attention and got me in touch with their legal advisors. Um, what this assessment is, assessment in this context, is just a fancy word for a tax. Stick with me because this is a little bit counter intuitive. Um, the stated purpose of this whole thing is to try to get the hospital to recoup the money that they otherwise just have to write off as bad debt that Medicaid and Medicare do not pay for. So, it's a little counter intuitive that the town will effectively be taxing the hospital, but the way this system works, as a provision of Obama Care, there is effectively kind of what I've been referring to as a risk sharing, um, uh program that goes on at both the state and federal levels. So, what will happen effectively is the town will be responsible for providing this assessment of the monies that are written off by, this only applies to (1:26:40). The town will conduct this assessment and then the hospital will actually pay the amount that they have previously written off to the town. Now, this assessment strictly provides that we can't use that money for absolutely anything other than taking that money and providing it to the state government, which will in turn forward it to the federal government. And through this risk sharing program, um, Mr. Mulkey and several other establishments or municipalities in the commonwealth have found that their net gain on this puts them in the black. So, again, it's a little bit counter intuitive, but again, anytime you're dealing with Medicare, Medicaid, and federal government, you know, at times it does get a little convoluted. But, effectively, it goes from the town determines how much money is written off in Medicaid losses. The hospital then pays the town that money. The town will then forward that to the appropriate administrative agencies in, uh, Virginia, and then as part of the nationwide division of Obama Care, these monies are trickled back down in different forms of payments to the local healthcare providers. Now, I can answer some questions about the specifics of that process. Once the money leaves the town, you know, I'm, I'm ill-equipped to give everybody a recitation about, uh, Medicare/Medicaid funding on that, but, uh, I was able to reach out to some folks through the LGA in particular, an individual that works for Sans Anderson in Richmond, uh, who was extraordinarily helpful in the drafting of this ordinance. There are several municipalities in the state that have adopted this, and they have been chugging right along with it. The most local being in the town of Norton. Um, through the contact I've made, she got me in touch with some other folks. Some because there's going to be a practical implementation of this from Mr. Taylor's standpoint. Um, got us in touch with some more contacts that can actually put the rubber to the road on this, if you will, to help Tim and his office be able to develop a plan to actually do this. Um, the ordinance, it will be some work and expense to the town, uh, just in, um, we didn't talk about anything specifically, but in the conversation with Mr. Mulkey, he did say that the hospital was more than willing

to pay for this so the town will not be out on anything, and as drafted, this ordinance does address that—that we can charge them effectively for this process because I imagine it is going to be pretty labor intensive. So that's the, I know I may not have made that mud any more clear, but.

Mrs. Strong: I would like to thank you, Wayne. You did an outstanding job explaining this. He did. And if council will remember, Peter Mulkey did come several months ago and did a presentation to us about this. I can't remember when.

Mr. McClanahan: That was slightly before me, and the council did, I think, in the form of a resolution basically just express an interest in exploring this. That, that was kind of non-technical outside of that.

Mrs. Strong: It's basically as, as Peter Mulkey explained like a pass-through tax. And he did say, as Wayne stated, the hospitals, they are willing to cover the expense. Tim, do you have anything to elaborate?

Mr. Taylor: Just assurances that, you know, that we can get it implemented because we will be audited on it. So that's more stress on the staff, but we have some sister communities that you've talked about, and we can get with those that are already doing it and they've learned from their limitations to do it. Also, we ought to run it by our auditors, too. We need to make sure we adhere to all the GASB, and you know, all the types of regulations that you have. But I don't see any downside to it other than just, uh, they have, if they have the abilities to elect monies to offset our labor for it, and if it shores up our business with the hospital. They're very important role, they play a very important business role for the community, obviously, as well as.

Mr. McClanahan: Yeah, the ordinance also, um, provides if for whatever unforeseen reason, you know, this process doesn't work that you know, we don't just keep this money. We just refund it straight back to, to, to the local hospital.

Mr. Ratliff: But it's just a pass-through for us?

Mr. McClanahan: Correct. Yeah, the, those, the term is not used in the legislature on that, but, yeah, effectively it is just pass-through.

Mr. Ratliff: And this is Obama Care?

Mr. McClanahan: Uh, there is a report that this risk-sharing, um, program in total, it's my understanding, it is part of the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay. Just one question. This probably is not going to happen, but what is the implications if they strike it down because it's in the Supreme Court now. It probably won't happen, but there's possibilities. If they strike down the Affordable Care Act.

Mr. McClanahan: Well then, we're just going to give that money back.

Multiple people talking.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay.

Mr. McClanahan: It's been, um, lingering for a while. I think there was some, some hesitation by certain municipalities when Obama Care first was enacted just through the controversial nature of it and all the litigation that, that ensued as whether to jump into this or not, and now that, you know, so many years have passed on this, I, I don't think the large structure is going anywhere anytime soon. So, I think that's why you're seeing these different municipalities across the state are finally taking steps to dive in.

Mr. Wood: So, the way I'm look at this is we've actually got to figure out what it's going to cost us before we...

Mr. Taylor: We hope that the sister community we are talking to has some type of methodology on that, based on just a percentage fee. That's usually what it'll be probably, the percentage fee of the tax.

Mr. McClanahan: Sure, and it's actually based off the numbers, uh, the ordinance, I'm not quite, I'm about halfway through reading that, but over on page three of that it does provide that the first year of this is just based off of the broad accounting Medicare/Medicaid numbers for inpatient/outpatient stuff. So, there is a little bit of guidance in that and just based off of their reported figures.

Mr. Taylor: We won't really know how much it'll be until we talk to somebody who's doing it, I suppose.

Mr. Wood: So, what do you all have? What do we need to do? Put it off until the next meeting?

Mr. Taylor: Just whatever you are comfortable with.

Mr. Wood: I don't want to sign something that will cost us money.

Mr. McClanahan: Well, just procedurally, um, again, this was just on the agenda for a first reading. Uh, again, it's my understanding that Mrs. Strong was going to make that motion. If you still plan on doing that, it's, you know, it's two options. It's already been read for the first time, so it will be put on the agenda for a second reading next time or if that motion is brought before council then (1:33:29-1:33:30).

Mr. Wood: Let's put it on the agenda for a second reading. Do you care, Mary Ann?

Mrs. Strong: I do respectfully disagree with you, Rick, because when Mr. Mulkey came, we did pass a resolution that we would look into it. I just hate...it's one of the things I hate about government. Things seem to take a long time, but due to the fact that as Tim mentioned, the hospital is a critical component of our town, I don't think we can find a better partner. So, I'm going to make a motion.

Mr. Ratliff: From that, I have one more question. How does it help the hospital? I'm wondering that. They...

Mr. Wood: That's my problem, Doug. I don't understand that.

Mr. Ratliff: They write it off, okay. It just stays there. Okay, but what they are wanting to do is pass it through us and then to the state and then the state trickles it down to...which would offset some expense for the hospital. Is that what we're saying?

Mr. Taylor: I think it offsets their losses; I think. We had a meeting a year or so ago on this. The reason that they didn't do this until lately is because the state didn't participate in Obama Care. You know, they didn't have the avenue to do it, 'til just recently. I can't give you the exact dates, but when that became eligible to recover these losses; otherwise, they wouldn't even have the avenue. In other words, they need to take the federal funds into the state level because the state legislature didn't even know who they're responsible for being accepted. So that's why it's kind of late coming. But I understand there is no risk to the town at all. I mean, but again, I didn't do the research on what you did. I just am going on what Mr., uh, Dr. Mulkey said.

Mr. Wood: So, no risk to the town?

Mrs. Strong: That's exactly right.

Mr. Taylor: That is what he said.

Mr. McCracken: Procedurally we just need a motion to waive the second reading and then if that happens, we can entertain a motion to pass the ordinance as it is presented.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay. One more question. I'm, I'm with you, okay. Uh, you're saying if they do strike it down, it just dies, or?

Mr. McClanahan: Effectively, yes. The, uh, the ordinance has language on page three that we, there are only certain enumerated things that we could spend this money on and refund it for whatever reason we couldn't make that what it reverses in intergovernmental transfer. We can't do that; we just got to give the money back. We can't put that just in the general pot, and we can't keep that money.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay. Can we withdraw if there's a problem?

Mr. Taylor: You can unordain. You can do another ordinance to...

Mr. Ratliff: So, we can get out at any time?

Mrs. Strong: I think that is why there really isn't a risk. We can get out of it.

Mr. Wood: Nobody said there wasn't a risk.

Mrs. Strong: Right. It's so complicated. That's why I complimented Wayne. He did an outstanding job trying to put it in layman's terms. But as you all know, our hospital, a huge majority of patients are on Medicaid and Medicare. We lose a lot of money, like what he said, like I think it's like seventy-two cents is all that we recoup on the dollar. So, it's a way that we can help a very strong partner in our community with just a pass through and no risk.

Mr. Ratliff: If it'll help the hospital, I have no problem with it.

Mayor Crawford: Why don't you put it in the form of a motion?

Mrs. Strong: I'll first make the motion to waive the second reading of ordinance 0-2020-11-01, local hospital provider assessment.

Mayor Crawford: Do I have a second?

Mr. Ratliff: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Roll call vote: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries. Thank you.

Mrs. Strong: I would like now to make the motion that we adopt ordinance 0-2020-11-01, local hospital provider assessment.

Mr. Wood: I'll second that.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Any further discussion? Rod.

Mr. Cury: Mayor, I have one quick question. Uh, Wayne, I'm fine with all this but I think it's, just for the record because it is an ordinance, clarify something for me on page three. On my copy it says three of two.

Mr. McClanahan: Yeah, Rod, I caught that. We're going to get that corrected. The header is just messed up. It is four pages.

Mr. Cury: So, it's three of four and the next page is four of four?

Mr. McCracken: Yes, sir.

Mr. Cury: Just for the future records. They might appear that a page is missing and something weird is going on, and we don't want that. Thank you.

Mr. McClanahan: I've already picked up on that and we'll get that taken care of if the town decides to adopt that.

Mr. Taylor: One other thing just for clarity since you are doing it tonight. Item two on the first page—it's probably a typo from "counsel" to "council," I suppose, at the end of that. "Town Council" means the Richlands Town Council. Uh, under section, it says in section two, line item two. And this section, excuse me, it's just a typo. Town council should not be counseling—the attorney counsel but the member council.

Mr. Cury: Okay. I am following.

Mayor Crawford: All right. We have a motion and a second. Roll call vote: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. McClanahan: Mr. Mayor, one more thing, briefly. Uh, if you would entertain a motion if council will desire for this to take effect immediately? That will require another motion, as such.

Mr. Ratliff: I'll make that motion.

Mayor Crawford: Okay.

Mr. Wood: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: All right. We have a motion and a second for it to take place immediately. Roll call vote: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries. Okay.

Mr. McClanahan: The next ordinance that was on the agenda for tonight for the second reading of ordinance, uh, 0-2020-11-02. Uh, this is the zoning, um, issue that Mr. Cury spoke about earlier. I'll make the second reading now.

Mr. McClanahan read the ordinance at this time.

Mr. Cury: Uh, Wayne. That's one small typo and see, since these are ordinances, I think, uh, if we see them, we need to correct them and it's, uh, under the third whereas, you probably see it. Uh, says, um, and the Richland Code of Ordinances. Let's put an -s on there, okay?

Mr. McClanahan: And that was, um, I normally leave the, uh, some of the dates blank just because I'm not necessarily in that process of different things, but, uh, do all those dates check out to you? You're more familiar with it.

Mr. Cury: I think they do.

Mr. McClanahan: Okay.

Mr. Hurst: On the fifth whereas, Wayne, there was—you said a different date. You said November.

Mr. McClanahan: Yes, uh, it was recorded today. Again, I leave those blank, and the Town Hall staff help fill those in. And, again, a bunch of moving parts on that, but we will make sure that is correct because it was recorded tonight.

Mr. Hurst: I gotcha.

Mr. Cury: Sorry about that.

Mayor Crawford: Do I have a motion to, uh, adopt this ordinance?

Mr. Ratliff: Yeah, I make a motion.

Mr. Wood: I'll second that.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Roll call vote. Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. McClanahan: And again, if council would like to have this become effective immediately, um, versus the thirty-day period, that's not in the charter. It'll take another quick motion.

Mrs. Strong: I'll make the motion that it is effective immediately.

Mr. Hurst: I'll second the motion, uh, the motion. I'll second the motion.

Laughter.

Mayor Crawford: A motion and a second. Any further discussion? Roll call vote: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. McClanahan: I have nothing further, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Crawford: Tim.

Mr. Taylor: Okay, if you would, uh, take a moment to look at the check register for first of the month bills from October 14 to the 5th of November and also the checks that are current today on the 10th. Some questions on any of those, I'll try to answer them. Some of them get more self-explanatory. Turning on the descriptions helps a lot. And giving it in your packet, we think that will help a lot, too.

Mayor Crawford: On, uh, check number 9015, 9016. It's to Jerry's Auto Service and Kidd Tire—rescue rear brake pads, brake pin, and labor to install.

Mr. Taylor: Yes.

Mayor Crawford: Did we pay Jerry's Auto Service to do that work?

Mr. Taylor: Yes.

Mayor Crawford: We don't have people capable of doing that work?

Mr. Taylor: We do. Uh, sometimes they're overloaded. Sometimes they have something in the stall and rescue vehicles can't wait oftentimes, so we do refer those. That's at the discretion of the department, but we try to emphasize for them to use our garage if we have it. Oftentimes emergency vehicles can't wait, so we have to do more than they can do commercially. So, it's not a good practice. We try to use our own folks.

Mayor Crawford: Um, check number 9036, \$1,287 for Farm Bureau. And it says WWTP-ticket box. I don't know what that is.

Mr. Taylor: It's Wastewater Treatment Plant. Uh, I don't know. Adrienne, do you know that one? I don't have enough notes on that one myself. I would have to check. It's Wastewater Treatment Plant, so I'll have to find that out.

Mayor Crawford: Uh, ticket box. You don't know that, Adrienne?

Ms. Cordle: Uh-uh, I'll have to check on that.

Mayor Crawford: Special Effects, 9039. Four hundred sixty-one dollars for, uh, Special Effects PD hats embroidery.

Mr. Taylor: Uh, Jerry, that would be you.

Chief Gilbert: Yes, sir. That's where we're wearing BDU type uniforms now. The, uh, class A hat for the special, uh, dress uniform, so we, uh, purchased hats which matches the uniforms for that, sir.

Mayor Crawford: So, this was for embroidery on those hats?

Chief Gilbert: No, sir. It was for the entire hat and embroidery. That's for the whole outfit.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. All right. Thank you. That's all I have.

Mr. Taylor: One I would like you to notice, just so you know the impact of check number 9034. This is one we haven't had in a lot of, just recently a few years. But the railroad management fee, uh, \$18,855. That fee used to be just a couple, yeah, just hundreds of dollars. But that is a reassessment that the railroad did a couple of years ago that they found that they weren't getting paid enough money for all the railroad crossings, the rail crossings that were, uh. Anytime we do a wire under the railroad, every time we put a wire across the river, they get a fee for that. So, that, that is an annual fee that we have to pay every year just to allow our pipes and our wires to move over and under railroad. We're tried to fight it, but it's a, it was a nationwide event, so everybody has to pay it. But kind of hard. It was pretty aggressive to our budget at that time, but it's something you just need to know about. That's a big problem.

Mrs. Strong: You said in the past it used to be like \$300?

Mr. Taylor: It was several hundred dollars, but not thousands of dollars. So, it's a pretty big hit on us especially when we first started it. And it's...the railroad is hard to lobby that. You know, I don't know that it will be a success since it's a federal type of issue, but, uh, I'm sure bigger places than us have tried, uh, tried to do something with that. That's just something that you need to be aware of and what it is.

Mr. Ratliff: Is it proportional to the size of the town?

Mr. Taylor: No. It's just for per unit, so if it is a six-inch waterline it's a certain fee. If it's a three-phase powerline it's a certain fee. If it's, uh, two-inch waterline, or you know, three quarter, it's different. Their methodology, I know, I kind of understand a little bit because if we have, uh, conflicts, it costs them more money to maintain. I understand that, especially with ground overhead. I don't have a problem with. But, if you put a wire across a railroad today, it automatically triggers an engineering study with a fee to Atlanta. Uh, that's several thousands of dollars before they'll even look at it. It takes you multiple months to get that. Now the railroad has been a pretty good partner with the town of Richlands on lots of things, so I'm not trying to, to, to criticize the local folks but this is a corporate decision that's out of their hands. But you gotta know where the money goes. That's just another burden on the town, but it's something you have to pay.

Mr. Ratliff: Two questions. What are there any way you can reroute some of those if you had to?

Mr. Taylor: Not, not the way these rails are in town. You know, there's just no way.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay, the other question is, um, there's possibilities that we're going to lose a lot of the trains because we're taking it down toward the Big Walker and across Big Creek. Will that lessen that burden?

Mr. Taylor: They'll still probably pay that as long as that's an active rail, but now, that's, that's a discussion for another day. If they decommission a rail and they want to abandon it, the town should be very active at that point in time to try and get that. They have one big difference (1:49:44) but oftentimes the railroad is very generous to communities. But there have been times like in Hill Creek—they did not give that to the town. That trail that was made down there—they sold it to people. So, if you get really, if we know that's going to happen, I would really recommend the council getting, uh, the phone calls, the letters asking for the properties because if you don't, they will be, we will miss out on an opportunity. And, I don't think it would make the feels go away unless they decommission the rails.

Mr. Ratliff: I know like the Creeper Trail. That was.

Mr. Taylor: Do you have any other questions on any of that?

Mayor Crawford: I'll entertain a motion to pay the bills.

Mr. Wood: I make a motion to pay the bills.

Mr. Cury: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second. Roll call vote: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries. Tim.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. Uh, Item B is, uh, I'll try to give you a little bit of a heads up so you can study it, but, uh, I gave you an executive summary on this Hazardous Mitigation Plan for Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission. But basically, it's part of a regional plan that was paid for, I'm sure, with some grant money and we're still part of that. It's been in place for several years, but it has to be updated every so often. And this particular plan has been updated by Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission, but the council must officially accept the, uh, the report. It is online on the Cumberland Plateau Planning district's litigation, uh, website, so you can review it. The copy, we do have a copy in the town hall that's in a binder, but it's only going to reference it in the, in the resolution. Uh, do we need to read that resolution? Is it, uh, has anyone had a chance to read it? Or do we need to read it? Okay. It's something that needs to be done, otherwise, as the summary says, we would possibly lose grants and other sorts of funds for flood mitigation and or storm mitigation and or like storm events, like, uh, you know, tornadoes and things like that. So, it's, it's detrimental that the council adopt this so we can get it submitted so that we can submit it to the state. So, I recommend council adopt that if they would.

Mr. Wood: I make a motion to adopt.

Mrs. Strong: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Roll call vote: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. Taylor: Item C, uh, authorization for the line of credit drawdown number six from the National Bank. This is for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project. The cost for this particular one of the billing is \$9,231,41. Basically that was some subsurface drilling that they accomplished around and, uh, it's part of the, uh, it's within the contract for, uh, Thompson and Litton. So, we need to get an approval to, uh, drawdown that amount of money from National Bank on our finances.

Mr. Cury: I'll make a motion to authorize a line of credit, uh, drawdown number 06 from National Bank for Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project.

Mr. Hurst: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Roll call vote: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. Taylor: Thank you. Uh, item d—consideration for the town manager to sign a contract for the Water Treatment Plant Final Design of Distribution System Disinfection Byproducts Evaluation slash Improvements with Thompson and Litton Engineering Services. That's a real long name for that project, and I'm not sure how that happened, but basically the executive summary you had provided—it's basically the upgrade. It's a real rehabilitation upgrade for the water treatment plant as well as some of the distribution items that were identified in the, in the summary. We did put an RFQ out, as I said, uh, to get qualifications for, uh, engineering services. Thompson and Litton, uh, that was on retainer actually did the, uh, preliminary engineering report that allowed us to get our cross figures. But the cross figures does only give you the ability to go to the final design. And you use the preliminary engineering report, or the PDR, to get you to a final design. The final design then becomes the product that we have to bid to contractors, and, uh, the process that we need to do... We could not use Thompson and Litton for that, even though they were on retainage, because the fees is over the cost limitation for that type of service that we have to get a procurement. We did not receive but one submittal, and that's not uncommon because normally the engineering firm that does the PDR oftentimes will want the final design work, too. Not always but sometimes. Uh, with that being said, I have, uh, talked to the funding agency and also, I gave, uh, the town attorney the procurement process, uh, documents that we have sent have been satisfied, I think. Is that correct, uh, Mr. McClanahan? Are you satisfied?

Mr. McClanahan: Yes.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. So what I'm asking for tonight is, uh, is authorization to, to, to go into a contractual arrangement with Thompson and Litton based on their review of the, of the contract.

And those are the high points of the contract. If you look at those that are identified in the appendix three, you can see that I just summarized those in the summary, but basically, that gives you the full effect of all of it. Basic services will get you through the design process, get you through the bidding and advertising, and also get you through the award of contract as well as assign the construction administration contract to the engineer, and they will provide resident project inspections. So there'll be, any work that is done will have to be an inspector on the, uh, on the job to approve any type of payment, any type of work performed. This is not uncommon on those engineering fees because if we don't provide this level of payments and this level of need, you will not get funded from the funding agencies, plus it is a requirement of the Virginia Department of Health to have someone sign off on not only the design but also the construction. That'll have to be done by a professional engineer. Additional services are as needed and were only needed based on whatever is uncovered during the process of the final design and prior to, normally prior to, actually (1:57:10) the contract. You'll need to do that so...some surveying sometimes but sometimes you might not have to do until then, but those are all on an added basis. They're basically based on hourly fees that we've negotiated out with Thompson and Litton. We were successful in getting a twenty-thousand-dollar reduction on the funding assistance off that, too, so to bring the cost down by twenty-thousand-dollars. Uh, now, if you approve this tonight, what that allows us to do is we don't really have the ability to pay for these fees yet. So, we're not obligating ourselves through the contractual arrangement to actually start paying anything. There's not going to be any checks written or any drawdowns or anything administered or even brought to council until we do, a, uh, uh, a arrangement to get that done. So, we are still talking about funding. We're still going to talk about interim funding things, and we've got to get there. The problem we've had in the past that will not get this done is most new projects, you're going to need good funding, have to be ready to go, especially if we have an infrastructure of, uh, if our new president or a new congress, congress would kind of stimulate to come up with any type of infrastructure funding. The folks in the communities and you know, the authorities or whoever has things on the shelf ready to go will get the money first. We proved that when we did the Birmingham sewer project. We were able to get stimulus money for that, to do that. So, that gets that that past us, but we won't even do that until we get some kind of direction to council of the obligations of some of the monies. So, tonight we can enter into this agreement, and that does give validity so that, uh, the staff of Thompson and Litton can continue to try to get these funding packages. We don't have to pay anything because we've got that marked out of, uh, out of the contract. So basically, we're gonna get some services from them to help us continue on to try to get the best deal for the rate payers. So, that's why we really need that done. Also, it is important—it's in accordance to this offer that we got through the Drinking Water funds that are available through the Department of Health. And it's the 2021 Drinking Water Construction Financial Assistance offer that they gave us. We, we apply and get a application for funding based on the PDR to the Department of Health's (1:59:39) fund. This is the offer that they gave us back. This was the offer that we had earlier that was supposed to be done by the end of the month, but we got an extension to the 20th of November. So that letter shows you that we have an extension, uh, to that. The letter doesn't reflect it, excuse me, but my email does. I'm sorry. This letter has October 30 on it, so don't let that bother you. We do have an extension. But if you've read that, this funding, uh, package is for the PDR identified the names, and I think you have it in your handouts that's been distributed prior to this meeting. Three point eight million dollars, or \$3,889,000. The, uh, the offer was for twenty years, and the interest rate on this loan, they said at one percent below the twenty-year AA municipal bond rate at the time of the loan closing. Recently the triple bond rating was varying from two and a half to three and a half percent. Uh, you also get a, uh, one percent interest rate reduction if you act within a time or point two percent, uh, interest rate reduction if you, if we can do it, uh qualify under an expedited closing program. (Inaudible 2:00:49-2:00:51) which is twelve months from the date of the letter. So, there's a lot of moving parts on this, but we have to go ahead and either accept that particular offer and what we'll continue to do is we're trying to chase some grant monies within the program. And we think we have, maybe we'll be able to do that. It's a little bit lengthy in discussion, and I'd like to have our consultants here to be able to explain that to you at that meeting that we need to have next, and I'll talk about (Inaudible 2:01:21-2:01:23). Both projects go hand in hand together because they were built together and their debt, you know, came off together, and they're basically learning how to take almost the same rate. So, if you're going to borrow money for one, you're going to borrow money for the other in the same two or three year pattern. You're going to have to decide on the funding package together if

you use these programs because they all have the same loan, uh, uh, authority that, that handles the money and the covenants for the bonds, which is Virginia Resources Authority.

Mayor Crawford: So, you're doing both d and e? Do you need separate actions on d?

Mr. Taylor: Yes, yes, I am. It does tie in hand-to-hand. We need to get first of all, to be able to move on is to get the contracts signed. So, that's the first thing that we're going to do, that I would like you to get done.

Mr. Wood: So that's d? So, you need a motion for that, Tim?

Mr. Taylor: Yes. Yes, we have to have a motion for that.

Mr. Wood: I'll make a motion to get the contracts signed.

Mr. Ratliff: I just wanted to ask one question. We had a problem with Virginia Resource, um, that it was going to tie up a loan.

Mr. Taylor: We're working on that, and that's part of this next meeting we've got.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay.

Mr. Taylor: I think we've got something.

Mr. Ratliff: So, this doesn't obligate us in any way?

Mr. Taylor: No. No, this one doesn't. No, as a matter of fact, if you don't borrow a dime, you won't pay anything back. Until we give the engineers notice to proceed and then, but the lender is another animal. You'll have to be able to...if we sign accepting that letter, all that does is just let them process what they want us to do in more detail. And, then we will get a chance during that process to maybe reduce or get a better rate.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay, both projects, uh, I'm guessing it's at twelve million?

Mr. Taylor: Uh, we've got about 11.8 for the Wastewater, but we're getting 2.7 in grants, and, uh, this one would be, uh, 3.8. We're hoping to get maybe \$400,000, so if you add those together, you're looking at, uh, ones at a different length and ones at a half percent for twenty years. And this one could be one, one and a half to two, maybe—we don't know. So, the final will be whatever it costs to do it, clearly, maybe this could be cheaper.

Mr. Ratliff: So, you are saying the total is about fifteen?

Mr. Taylor: Yeah. Somewhere close to or around \$11,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

Mr. Ratliff: Depending on the bids we get.

Mr. Taylor: If we need to get.

Mr. Ratliff: Can we. Oh, I'm sorry. Can we get any help with either project? Will the county help us in any way with this?

Mr. Taylor: The counties are partners, and we've, we've kept them involved. The Tazewell County Public Service Authority is a partner. The town of Cedar Bluff is a partner. We have engaged with them all along with the finance divisions because they own different percentages of the debt, and, uh, they'll have to pay those. We've got to actually talk. That will be one of the bond covenants we're probably going to have to entertain new municipal agreements for before we (Inaudible 2:04:23-2:04:26). So, it's a, it's a, it's a pretty lengthy process for both projects. We won't be burdened with the entire monies, and we've got a rate analysis or cost of service study done about the third iteration, which is the following. I gave you all a copy of that, but we've actually got a final one now that we would like to present at that meeting, and we'd like to Zoom in the Mr., uh, Brown to do that.

Mr. Ratliff: One other question. Uh, if we get a project outside the town limits and the county needs a lot of water, uh, or is that any caveat to help this project?

Mr. Taylor: Can. Yeah, it can. Uh, it can help us financially. I don't think it has anything to do with the monies other than change the debt limit. Uh, the debt limit could change because we'd want them to buy capacity. It's not our, it's not in our jurisdiction, so if it is, if it should be about a big company and our partners—they need our water, then we would have to sell it to them.

Mr. Ratliff: Is that the only caveat? Would they help us with the money?

Mr. Taylor: Sure, absolutely. Absolutely. I would recommend you wouldn't give it to them, you have to sell it to them. We do need the contract signed tonight.

Mr. Wood: I made a motion for the contract to be signed.

Mayor Crawford: And we need a second.

Mrs. Strong: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second to authorize the town manager to sign the contract for the Water Treatment Plant Final Design of Distribution System Disinfection Byproducts Evaluation Improvements with Thompson and Litton Engineering Services. Roll call vote: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Mrs. Strong: Tim, can I ask one question.

Mr. Taylor: Yes, ma'am. It's not about the water treatment, but where are we, uh, on the fluoride? I know the weather has been good, so probably our crew has been outside working.

Mr. Taylor: They have, but we've had rainy days, and they've started working on the door. We've been getting the equipment in, so we're doing a little bit at a time. As the weather, I'm sure we're going to have some success in that before the end of the year, I hope. But we've had good weather, so that's a good thing to do the concrete. So.

Mrs. Strong: Thank you.

Mr. Ratliff: I would ask, I'd ask that before they add fluoride, the community gets advance notice. Could we have that? Because some people are allergic.

Mr. Taylor: Sure.

Mr. Ratliff: I'm not, uh, I mean. I don't like to drink it, but we've got certain members in the community that need to know because it is a health hazard for them. So, if you could give maybe a thirty-day notice to the community so they can get a plan.

Mr. Taylor: I'll do that if that's what council wishes. Uh, now we need a motion for you to accept the terms of the letter from the Department of Health dated September 28, 2020, for the system upgrades to the water treatment plant.

Mr. Hurst: I make a motion for the town manager to execute the letter accepting the terms of the document for the Virginia Department of Health 3030 Drinking Water Construction/Financial Assistance DWSRF Initial offer for distribution system disinfection byproducts evaluation and improvement water treatment plant upgrades.

Mr. Cury: I'll second that.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Roll call vote: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. Taylor: Thank you. Uh, the next, uh, item is F. Um, I'm trying to not get too wordy with that executive summary, but I think you got a chance to read that and just to paraphrase it. Basically, we have a, a important presence for that was established by the Bristol Virginia Utilities—the BV optinet, basically—that we've been dealing with for many, many, many years. And basically, it was a trade-off that they could have space in our PD, where we have our own equipment to actually, uh, be able to have their service for their community come into that point and be redistributed to customers. It's a great relationship. At the time, we had a twenty-five megabit per second symmetrical requirement and they've always provided that. Obviously, BVU optinet, this was, uh, sold to another firm and another firm has bought that since then. The important, you know, excuse me, the ISP, the internet service provider is, uh, Point Broadband. Uh, they've been patient with me to try and get this co-location agreement, which is not a big deal. I just got to it, but the, uh, it's basically their improvement. They would like to have an agreement not (2:09:23) The BVU optinet is a different type of agreement because they aren't a government. They're an actual business, but I would recommend it based on the reference you see in my executive summary that you would allow me to sign, uh, a co-location agreement with Point Broadband for the terms as identified in that, and you can see those were basically use of some of our fiber, a, uh, a, uh, actual point of presence room that exists as it is today. And they want you to waive the attachment fees which we're not going to charge them for anyway, so. That's a great deal instead of twenty-five megabits per second it'll be a hundred megabits per second. And that doesn't

sound like a whole lot until you tag symmetrical, uh asynchronous and synchronous type of broadband—enough to where you can download at that hundred megabits. That's enough for us to do what we need to do today, especially since we have a redundant fee with, uh, Segra, I think is the

Mr. Dorton: Segra.

Mr. Taylor: Segra, excuse me, which is the old Lumines outfit. So, we have that already in place, and one, when we have some extra time to kind of get a technology meeting, we'll get some updates on that. But I would recommend for us to go ahead to council, uh, Wayne, can you come out with an agreement? You are good with it, I guess.

Mr. McClanahan: Yeah. I have not had the time to review it, but I did not see anything glaring to me, you know, from a legal context.

Mr. Taylor: So if you don't have any trouble with the recommendation, uh, if we could get that signed, I think it will open up, too, if we sign this now, it might open up some type of discussion about some expansion for, uh, the broadband, maybe as a pilot program with them or something possibly. But this would be the first step.

Mr. Hurst: I'll make the motion that we authorize the town manager to sign the co-location agreement with Point Broadband.

Mayor Crawford: Do I have a second?

Mr. Wood: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Further discussion? Roll call vote: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. Taylor: There's a handout in your, um, and I guess that's basically a, that's a product from, uh, director of finance, uh, but if I read that correct, uh, we, uh, we have \$15,036, if that is correct. Do you know if that is correct, Adrienne?

Mrs. Cordle: I think it is the \$10,936.

Mr. Taylor: Okay, the \$10,936. It does recognize the five thousand that's already been paid, I think, so.

Mr. Ratliff: And then you take another 1,500.

Mr. Taylor: And you just got 1,500 more on that. If you have any questions, you might want to call Adrienne on that.

Mrs. Cordle: Yeah, I don't think that was in their packet.

Mr. Taylor: Oh, wasn't it? I'm sorry.

Mrs. Cordle: You were just going to go over the amount. So, we didn't put it in there. It just has the balance.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. I apologize. I'm sorry. Ten thousand nine hundred and thirty-six dollars and five cents, then, is what the balance is. Minus fifteen hundred. The, uh, this is where we like, and I know, maybe with the emergency, uh, uh, ordinance made, it will give us some relief possibly. But we do need to consider a work session based on your, your, uh, you had a lot of questions tonight. Some of you did about these things that we're participating in with the utilities, especially the, uh, water and sewer improvements and the cost of joint analysis and some of the award letters that we've got. Uh, we'd like to schedule that if there's a possible way to do that. It doesn't have to take any council action as far as voting, so it can be in a work-session type of environment if you wish. I know the holidays are coming, so we're not in a terrible rush, but, um, really, we're in the ninety-percent final design on the Wastewater Treatment plant. If we go according to the schedule, which is kind of important because, uh, that, uh, we're supposed to pre, uh, screen construction bidders in January, and we may be a little bit off from that, but Mr. Chitwood can answer all those questions about the scheduling and what they use. So, the sooner we do it the better. It would be great if we could. Uh, and also, we'd like to, you know, invite the new council members that are taking, you know, the seat in January also to that meeting. So, if you could, uh, if you could answer that tonight, that would be great. If you can't, just drop me an email or something. Uh, I just want to have a discussion about it if you wish.

Mr. Ratliff: If we could consider any day but Tuesday. That would be fine with me. If that's possible.

Mr. Taylor: Are there any suggestions?

Mayor Crawford: Looking at the days I've got, how about next Wednesday, the eighteenth?

Mr. Taylor: Does that work for everybody?

Mayor Crawford: Rod?

Mr. Cury: That's good.

Mayor Crawford: Mary Ann?

Mr. Cury: What time?

Mayor Crawford: Uh, 6:00. Okay? Wednesday, the eighteenth, at 6:00. Okay, and we'll have mobi set up. We'll have mobi set up for whoever can't be here.

Mr. Cury: Yes. I will still be in quarantine at that time. Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Okay.

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Brown will be, uh, Carl Brown, the consultant for the rate analysis will be available by Zoom or by remote then, too.

Mr. Wood: Do you think Richard could join that way, too? Or are we too soon?

Mayor Crawford: Possibly. Possibly. You know, I guess not, but to be sure, maybe we can look at the 25th. Then you're getting into Thanksgiving business and all that stuff. I think Richard will...

Mr. Wood: I mean, I just, you know.

Mayor Crawford: And I appreciate that, uh, if I'm not mistaken, they told him that if he can go three days without a fever or temperature that, uh, he's free to go. So, uh, and, at least I think he'll be home where he can mobi. I feel pretty confident.

Mr. Wood: Okay. I'm good with it.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, when we go we will recess until then.

Mr. Cury: Paul, I have a question. Paul, I'm not sure. It's a work session, so will we recess or will we, uh, adjourn tonight?

Multiple people talking.

Mr. Wood: Because it's a work session.

Mayor Crawford: I mean.

Mr. Taylor: Unless you have a need to vote on something, if you want to keep that open you can recess. But, uh, it doesn't matter to me. I don't have anything today for council action.

Mr. Ratliff: I would keep all options open because we might have something that we might want to vote on.

Mr. Taylor: It's up to y'all.

Mayor Crawford: Why don't we recess? All right.

Mr. Taylor: I have one other item. And it's under miscellaneous. Uh, it's just something we'd like you to think about. The way we function, we've been doing it a long time with going to the doorbell and answering the doorbell out front for our folks. And we're trying to get online with a lot of stuff, which we're doing. Uh, next month or at least the next month after that, you're going to get a new mailer in your utility bill. It's going to be in an envelope type of arrangements because I'll have the ability to do some real stuffers. Uh, it's going to look different. It's going to have some history on it. I encourage everybody to sign up for the online services so you can get a text alert for your bill and it'll tell you how much it is. You can sign up for the different types of ways and methods of payment. It'll also give your history and you can look at all that, so it's a little bit more modern way of doing things. We also try to modernize that. Where we're really weak is, uh, having. We really need a drive through window on Town Hall. I know that's something that previous councils didn't want to do because of the aesthetics of it, and I guess they wanted to entertain the social environment of having our local folks come in and pay their bills like they've done for a hundred years or so. Uh, but in today's environment, it would be a lot

more for our citizens if we had a drive-through window. So we would, but we really didn't want to pursue trying to get any money through the CARES Act to do that unless council will endorse it and they wanted to do it. If you can't do it tonight, we might can get some type of rendering. Uh, again, we don't want to, we know what we kind of need, but it's basically a jut out on the, on the, uh, town hall's finance office area there where they can drive up next to the sidewalk. And then we could put a, uh, person in that little area there and then we can take care of that through that drive through window. We've got some cost estimates on it, and, uh, they've looked at all that. How much was it, Adrienne? Like thirty-eight?

Mrs. Cordle: Thirty-eight.

Mr. Taylor: Thirty-eight thousand dollars. And if we could get funding for that, we would try to pursue it, but I don't want to pursue funding if you don't want to do it.

Mr. Cury: Tim, I understand the need for that, and I have no objections. It would be nice to have a rendering.

Mr. Taylor: Okay.

Mr. Ratliff: I think so, too.

Mr. Wood: I'm for it.

Mr. Taylor: Okay, we'll try to get you some type of rendering that you know, may be a little crude because we aren't artists, or at least I'm not (2:19:22-2:19:25) do a little crude drawing so council can see.

Mayor Crawford: What council is saying is if we get the funds to do it.

Mr. Taylor: I'm sorry.

Mayor Crawford: Council is okay with it, correct?

Mr. Wood: That's what I understood him saying, that he didn't want to try to get funding for it if the council was not okay with it.

Mr. Taylor: I thought you meant the rendering for it.

Mayor Crawford: Yeah, I think, Rod, the council just said that everybody here, Mary Ann.

Mr. Cury: What I was saying was.

Mrs. Strong: I would like to see a rendering.

Mr. Cury: I think it would be nice to have a rendering, uh, because I'm not objecting to the idea at all. A rendering to go along with the price to kind of see what we are doing. So, we can literally see it.

Mr. Taylor: See how it attaches to the building is I guess what you are after. Correct? You want to see how it looks.

Mr. Cury: Yes.

Mr. Taylor: Okay, is that okay with everyone? I just want to make sure I am clear on it. We'll try to get that done as soon as possible.

Mr. Ratliff: And we can take that up on the 18th.

Mr. Taylor: I doubt we will have time, but we can try.

Mayor Crawford: Yeah, you'll have time. (Laughter)

Mrs. Strong: I have one question. It will probably be for you, Adrienne. How are we doing, you don't have to be specific, of course, with the delinquent utilities or the people that hadn't paid since the beginning of COVID. Are they making some efforts?

Mrs. Cordle: Yes, we do have people that are on the payment plans, that are making payments and doing their current. But there were some disconnects on those utilities. So, no reason they had about thirty-four or thirty-nine. I don't know how many of those have come in.

Mayor Crawford: Connie, did you get the Governor's response on that that I sent to you for delinquent utilities (Inaudible 2:21:10-2:21:13).

Mr. Taylor: I can. I don't mean to interrupt you, but I got an update that's just recent that Connle probably hasn't seen. The governor had amendments to the budget that will allow 60,000,000 to go to the IOUs. And sixty would be allocated to utilities, the water, sewer, electric. Uh, he announced that that's what he wanted to do, but he didn't get pretty much the take of the General Assembly and they rejected it.

Mayor Crawford: They didn't take it?

Mr. Taylor: They rejected it. Yeah, they rejected it. So, we are back to square one on that. The worst part about that is we can't get money to help our electric folks. We do have people in town that are on APCO that might get help from the CARES grant because they are on that. That's the sad part, but we can't help them.

Mr. Ratliff: I've got two things before we move on. Uh, number one. What, uh, how far along are we on Iron Street?

Mr. Taylor: As far as cleaning the ditch out, Doug, uh, I've, I've talked to Mr. Hackworth and we've got permission to do that. I haven't had a chance to speak to you on that. I know you have some ideas on it, but we're trying to stay on the concrete as long as we can because we can clean that out when it gets cold. So, we're going to try to get, to stay on that. It's not flooded. It's not going to flood for the time of year right now, so we'll get on that just as soon as we can—to clean out the ditch and everything.

Mr. Ratliff: What are we looking at? Thirty days?

Mr. Taylor: Yeah, I'd say we will be on it next month, for sure. And we'll try to get all that cleaned out and get that established (2:22:47) for you.

Mr. Ratliff: Yeah. Okay. Every time it rains, I have shudders.

Mr. Taylor: Yeah, we'll get to it.

Mr. Ratliff: Uh, the land on Iron Street. Can't we take steps, uh, I think only a small portion of it has to be, um, cleaned. Are there something? We could use that land for the town. Shouldn't we start?

Mr. Taylor: Are you talking about that property that would be sacrificed for the flood? Is that what you are talking about or what?

Mr. Ratliff: Uh.

Mr. Wood: The Simmons Rand.

Mr. Taylor: Oh, the Simmons Rand property?

Mr. Ratliff: I mean, yeah, they offered to give it to us if.

Mr. Taylor: Well, I would suggest—the problem's been that that one section, as a compromise, I think, I didn't mean to bring it up. I think it's clean enough to accept and maybe they would either do the parts that they have the right, you know, the rights to do it on. Uh, once they, once they remove those materials and they get that certificate from DEQ, Department of Environmental Quality, then it's. We don't have to do an environmental assessment. That basically gives us a clean bill of health. I would ask them to just go ahead and carve out that piece that's giving them conflict and just give us the rest of it. Officially ya'll would have to do that. I can't do it. You would have to.

Mr. Ratliff: Could we give, uh, would council give Tim the authority to pursue that so we can take that property?

Mayor Crawford: Put it in the form of a motion.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay. I make that motion that we give, uh, Mr. Taylor, um, the authority to pursue the land on Iron Street and see if they would, uh, convey that to the town.

Mr. Wood: I'll second that.

Mayor Crawford: Any discussion? Everybody knows where we're talking about? Okay. Roll call vote: Mr. Cury—yes; Mr. Hurst—yes; Mr. Ratliff—yes; Mrs. Strong—yes; Mr. Wood—yes. Motion carries.

Mr. Taylor: That's all I have other than the closed session.

Chief Gilbert: Tim, uh.

Mr. Taylor: Yes.

Chief Gilbert: I just want to make one announcement. The PD is partnered with, uh, Operation Gratitude to. The police department has partnered with Operation Gratitude, and they have sent us several care packages for the veterans tomorrow. Uh, Lieutenant Little will be set up at the Farmer's Market from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM tomorrow until they are given out. So, any veteran out there, please we encourage you to stop by the police department, just drive by the Farmer's Market and they'll be providing these care packages. A lot of great stuff in there, and we just feel privileged to be able to give them to a veteran. So, I do encourage all veterans out there, please, just stop by. Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Are they pretty confident they have, uh, packages for every veteran?

Chief Gilbert: Uh, yes, sir. They sent us five hundred, and we distributed them. We gave Tazewell a few. We gave Buchanan County a few. And we've still got a huge amount of them down there. I think about six or eight big boxes full of stuff.

Mayor Crawford: Okay.

Chief Gilbert: Some really nice stuff in there.

Mayor Crawford: Well, I asked, I'm a veteran, but I wouldn't want to get a package and somebody else not get one.

Chief Gilbert: Please stop by sir. There's plenty.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Will do. All right. (Inaudible: 2:26:40-2:6:43).

Mrs. Branton: Paul, can I make an announcement before you do that, please? I just came from the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors meeting, and they did read their resolution for Joe Addair's Road that's up in Claypool Hill. They haven't designated when that's going to be put up by VDOT, but I have a copy, I mean, I have the actual resolution, and I would like for it to be temporarily housed here at the town in the case so that if people want to come by and read it, you know, and take a look at it, they can. I want it back, you know, but, um, I would like for our community to have an opportunity to, uh, to, to read the resolution that the Board of Supervisors developed.

Mayor Crawford: Have at it.

Mrs. Branton: Thank you.

Mrs. Strong: Thank you, Ginger. That's a great idea.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, at this time I'll entertain a motion for the mayor and members of council to convene in executive closed session as permitted by the Code of Virginia, section 2.2-3711 A(1), personnel. I think you're going to have another.

Mr. McClanahan: Uh, entertain a motion to enter into closed session pursuant to Virginia code section 2.2-3711 A(29) to discuss the awarding of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, regarding a potential contract with Tazewell County. Additionally, I would like to add as well section 2.2-3711 A(7), the council pertaining to debt collection litigation.

Mayor Crawford: Do I have a motion for closed session?

Mr. Wood: I'll make the motion.

Mr. Hurst: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second to enter into closed session for all those numbers. Roll call vote: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries. We ask everybody to clear out, please.

The mayor and council entered closed session at this time.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, so I'll now entertain a motion that council reconvene in open session and accept the certificate of executive session certifying that the matters discussed while in executive session were those both lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements and identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened.

Mr. Wood: I'll make that motion.

Mayor Crawford: Second?

Mr. Hurst: I'll second the motion.

Mr. Ratliff: I made maybe two sentences that, uh, could be construed maybe not in accordance.

Mayor Crawford: But I called you down.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay, so we're okay? How can I answer it? Uh, Wayne, how can I answer that question? If I, I might have said two sentences without thinking, and, uh, it's hard to say yes. I don't want to lie.

Mr. McClanahan: We, although you might have been approaching the boundary, I think you were absolutely called down, and I do feel confident that the motion as entertained by the mayor is okay.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay, so I'd say yes.

Mayor Crawford: Roll call vote: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Okay. Now, what after that? The action from executive session. Were you going to say something, Jeff? The action from the executive session is we are going to ask the town manager to have JR Watson, Adrienne Cordle, Todd Day here next Monday evening starting at 6:00 for interviews.

Mr. Taylor: Okay.

Mayor Crawford: Rick.

Mr. Wood: I'll make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Multiple voices: Recess.

Mr. Wood: To recess the meeting.

Mr. Cury: I'll second that motion, Rick.

Mr. Wood: We are not adjourning it, Rod, we are recessing it.

Mr. Cury: I got it. Recessed.

Mayor Crawford: The motion is to recess the meeting until next Monday at 6:00.

Mr. Taylor: The 16th.

Mayor Crawford: The 16th, correct. Any discussion? Rod you seconded it.

Clerk: I thought we were doing it Monday.

Multiple people talking.

Mrs. Strong: But we had previously said we were meeting on Wednesday.

Clerk: So, we are not reconvening on Wednesday?

Multiple people: Yes, we are.

Mr. Wood: We are going Monday and Wednesday both.

Mayor Crawford: Another mayor texted me a minute ago and asked if our council members received a Christmas bonus. I guess the answer is no, right?

Mr. Taylor: It isn't in the budget.

Laughter.

Mrs. Strong: I received the same question.

Mayor Crawford: Probably from the same person.

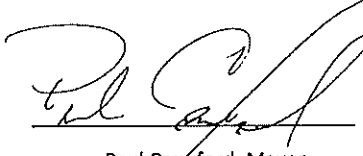
Mr. Ratliff: What now? I'm lost.

Mrs. Strong: If council members received a Christmas bonus.

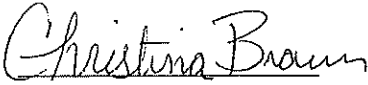
Mr. Wood: We have a motion on the floor.

Mr. Ratliff: I think, uh, yeah, I think one thing sometime that I'd like to bring up is all the retirees, we stopped that a long time ago. We need to bring that up and give them a little appreciation for if you put in thirty or forty years. Uh, I think we should bring that back.

Mayor Crawford: Motion to recess 'til Monday at 6:00. All in favor. Roll call vote: Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries. We are recessed. Thank you all.



Paul Crawford, Mayor



Christina Brown, Clerk