

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on October 13, 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, Richard Brown, Rod Cury
Town Attorney: Kenneth Wayne McClanahan II

Mayor Crawford opened the meeting.

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

Mayor Crawford: Are there any additions or deletions to the agenda?

Mr. Taylor: I have a couple, if you will. In the closed session, we need to add a section for personnel. I forgot to add that. It is specifically for the town manager. I would also like to add a couple of things to mine under miscellaneous. Procurement for bridge inspection required by VDOT needs to be added. Telecom update and grant writer position—we need to discuss that. And a possible memorandum of understanding for flood study potentially. I am sorry I didn't get that in the regular agenda. I was just late getting that in.

Mayor Crawford: Any others? Any other additions or deletions? I would like to have a motion to approve the agenda.

Mr. Cury: I will make a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Mayor Crawford: Do we have a second?

Mrs. Strong: I will second it.

Mayor Crawford: Motion and seconded. Any further discussion? Roll call vote: Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes.

Mayor Crawford: Motion carries. You have the minutes before you or in your packet. Any additions or deletions to the minutes?

Mr. Cury: Are we looking at all sets, Paul? Are we doing all sets?

Mayor Crawford: Yes. Any changes to any of it? Hearing no concerns, I will entertain a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Mr. Wood: I'll make the motion to approve the minutes.

Mayor Crawford: Do I have a second?

Hurst: I'll second it.

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

We have a, uh, well let me go down to the unscheduled public comments. I know Ginger, you've got a bit. Any others?

Mr. McCracken: Yes

Mayor Crawford: Joe. Any others? Okay. Francis Dupree. Would you come to the podium, please? Thank you.

Mr. Dupree: Thank you. We're trying to get, uh, the Appalachian Agency is donating my mother a trailer and a motor home. Uh, we are filing another zoning order for her to have it pulled in. There was one there initially, and it's been pulled out and cleaned up. I was hoping you could get it for me.

Mayor Crawford: And this is on Ellen Street, right? Yeah. Any questions or comments or discussion about this?

Mr. Brown: I've got a letter here from Mrs. Dupree. She is asking that Daniel, her son, speak on her behalf regarding this. We discussed this a couple of months ago. He has done what he was required to do, quicker than he was required to do it, actually, as far as the timeline we gave him to tear down the

other mobile home. This is something we've already discussed. I think we just need to go through the motions as far as granting the conditional use permit for the mobile home.

Mr. Taylor: It actually allows another mobile home to be placed there, correct? I just want to make sure that it's another one, a second one.

Mr. Dupree: Yes.

Mr. Taylor: I can speak to the zoning requirements. Uh, we have looked at the lot, and there's enough room to accommodate the square footage, and you can see on the map that there's enough accommodations for side yards, back yards, and so forth in that space. And, uh, I got a call from Appalachian Agency who was going to be here, but they couldn't make it because of an illness, I think. You may be aware of that, but they just wanted to make sure that we know that this was a mobile home donated for this particular purpose from this particular bid.

Mr. Brown: I'll make a motion to grant the conditional use permit to Mrs. Dupree.

Mrs. Strong: I'll second the motion.

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

Mr. Dupree: Thank you guys.

Mayor Crawford: Uh, Innovated Worship Center youth directors.

Mr. Humphries: Uh, basically what we're asking is to allow access to Norfolk Street. It's right beside our church. We're wanting to shut it down, um, probably from around 5:00 PM until 10:00 PM. We're going to be doing a Hallelujah Night. It's going to consist of games and basically just an outreach for the community through our church. Um, let kids come trick or treat there and we'll follow, you know, all the guidelines we have to follow. Everybody will be what they need to be, and that's what we're asking for the 30th.

Mayor Crawford: What date is that, sir?

Mr. Humphries: October 30.

Mr. Wood: Have you talked to Jerry or anything? The police chief at all?

Mr. Humphries: No.

Mrs. Allen: I did.

Mr. Wood: You did, Connie?

Mrs. Allen: Yeah, he said it wouldn't be no problem.

Mr. Wood: Okay. I'll make the motion to do that.

Mr. Ratliff: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second, uh, to uh, close down Norfolk Street on October 30 from 6:30 til 9:30.

Mr. Humphries: Can we do it from...because we've got to set up. There are twelve games that we are going to have to set up, so we're going to need it from 5:00 til 10:00.

Mayor Crawford: Oh, okay, from 5:00 til 10:00. Anything further discussion?

Mr. Cury: I respect what you are doing very much. My big, big, biggest concern is that we have had other organizations ask us to close down a whole street, including private businesses, and pretty much, we've always said no. When it comes to the town of Richlands sponsoring an event we have because it's a town event. I think it's good. I'm just dubious: not of your mission or your event, but it's just a private concern. Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Further discussion? Roll call vote: Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-no; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.
Okay, as soon as we get the podium cleared there, Ginger.

Mrs. Branton: Thank you, Mayor Crawford. I am Ginger Branton. Do I have to give my address and everything? Okay. Um, as most of y'all know, CART is celebrating their 40th anniversary with this year's season. Out of that forty years, the town of Richlands has continued the funding for part for thirty-one of those. And today, I'm here to present a plaque to the Town Council, and I'd like the Mayor to accept it on the Town Council's behalf for that. So, can you do that?

Mayor Crawford: I can do that.

Mrs. Branton: All right. While Paul is coming up, um, I would also like to thank the Town Council for giving, not only CART, but the County Chamber, the Lion's Club, the Women's Club, the opportunity to be able to have the candidates forum on Thursday. It was very well received, and I respect all of the people that showed up for that. I appreciate it very much, and I hope that this will be one of many that we will continue to do. So, thank you.

Mayor Crawford accepted the plaque at this time. Pictures were taken for the paper.

Mr. Hurst: Ginger, I remember forty years ago in elementary school, look at the logo that's on your mask.

Mrs. Branton: Oh, yes. Connie's sister made this for me.

Mr. Hurst: You know, Mrs. Elmes, Ellen Elmes, we did a silk-screen t-shirt. That's the first time I had ever seen a screen kit. That was our project when we were in elementary school when CART first started, and I remember seeing the community in the zebra.

Mrs. Branton: Yeah. Thank you, Jeff, for bringing up fond memories.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, Joe.

Mr. McCracken: Council members, I'm Joe McCracken. I live here in town-been here fifty years. I've lived in this town fifty years. I, uh, as of yet, nothing has been done in the area where I live. Uh, there's several people that is, uh, involved in this. Uh, forty to fifty people, five businesses, uh, over where I live. I would appreciate if the Town Council could get something going over there because, me myself, I'm almost seventy-years-old. I can't do this again. Uh, and I'm sure there's others that feel the same way. We need to get something started. Uh, and I suggest we do it in phases. Uh, phase one would be raising the road, uh, on the street headed that way. That would cut off one end of the water flow instead of having two. Uh, water flow backing up through the drain and coming across the road. To raise the road, you could stop one end of the water flow. Uh, that would buy a little bit more time. And phase two, uh, in my opinion, would be the best thing is to cut a drain around Travis Hackworth's property, which he has agreed to, going straight to the river to handle the excess water backing up through the drain. Phase three would be replacing some smaller pipe running into a bigger pipe. And the drain that would be cut would take care of the overflow backing up through the pipe going through Mr. Hackworth's surrounding bottom over there going back to the river. And I would just like to, uh, ask the Town Council to, if we could get started on this plan. Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Thank you, Joe.

Mr. Ratliff: Uh, can I make a motion?

Mayor Crawford: Yes.

Mr. Ratliff: Um, that's three phases that, uh, Mr. McCracken suggested. We estimate them costing around \$25,000: \$10,000 for the road, uh, the pipe, and digging the ditch. That's just an estimate, so I make a motion that the town, uh, direct Mr. Taylor to do those three phases with a cost around \$25,000 to the town because there's what? Seventy people over there?

Mr. McCracken: Yes, sir.

Mr. Ratliff: And this has been going on for years. And I make that motion.

Mr. McCracken: Thank you. The thing about it is, too, uh, it will help the whole community, which will help the town. Uh, that's why you all are here is to help the citizens of the town. And, uh, we've been battling this, and, uh, it would be greatly appreciated if y'all could get started on something over there.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, we have a motion. Do we have a second?

Mr. Wood: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: Motion and a second. Further discussion?

Mrs. Strong: Yes, I was asked after last Council's meeting, the next morning, uh, Rick, and did you all meet over there at the place with the Tazewell County engineer?

Mr. Wood: That's exactly what they recommended.

Mrs. Strong: This recommendation came from them?

Mr. Wood: Travis went with us, and he said we could clean out the ditch that is already there between the railroad and his property and that will open up the pipe and let the water pass on through.

Mr. McCracken: And might I also add, Tazewell County was there. Tazewell County also offered that if we had a plan that they could help contribute to that project.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, so do we have an engineering drawing of what we are going to do, uh, approved by an engineer?

Mr. Wood: We had, uh, I had an engineer over there-the county engineer.

Mayor Crawford: Did he...

Mr. Wood: All we are talking about is raising the road and cleaning the ditch out.

Mayor Crawford: You're talking about putting the line into the river, too.

Mr. Wood: No. It's already there. The ditch is already there; it's just filled up, which is backing up the pipe over here and won't let the water flow back.

Mayor Crawford: Okay.

Mr. Ratliff: All they're doing is enlarging the pipe also from sixteen to twenty inches.

Mr. Wood: No. No pipe. The railroad's going to take care of the pipe.

Mrs. Strong: I thought Joe had mentioned a pipe. And that's not what the town's engineer said?

Mr. Wood: No pipe. The railroad is going to take care of the pipe.

Mr. McCracken: That would be my third step, but I didn't know the railroad was going to take care of the pipe, so there's really just two steps: raising the road where it drops down below the drain, which is coming across the road. And we're getting it from both ends now with the water backing up through the drain and across the road. If we can stop one of those, we'll be much better off. Uh, due to the flooding over there, we're...

Mr. Hurst: Will raising the road throw the water anywhere else?

Mr. McCracken: It should send it right back down to the ditch. The road comes around and goes down. That's where it needs to be raised. On the other end of the road going out farther, the road picks up and goes back uphill.

Mayor Crawford: Tim, we have to have a what?

Mr. Taylor: Let me speak to that as part of my report, but I'll move it up there. After the last meeting, of course, I didn't meet with the group, but I took notice of where it is at and what needed to be done. But, uh, the flood ordinance is pretty good and pretty rigid about any type of work that's been done in the flooded areas, which this is one of them. Any type of work has to be approved and has to be performed by a licensed professional engineer and has to be approved by the governing body with plans and specs and so forth. I went ahead and, um, with our retainer agreement with Thompson and Litton, I got the engineers to come in and do a scope of work to look at that area. I explained to them exactly what we're looking at, and they devised, as well as the drainage area at the school bus that drains off the school complex onto Route 460. They would bring in their licensed professional engineers that deal with floodway issues. That's what their expertise is. So, we've got a gentleman coming out of Christiansburg to see this, and he developed a scope of work to do exactly the best to look at what you're doing. The scope of work will be to conduct site visits to evaluate the stormwater infrastructure and have a better understanding of these specific stormwater issues, which would be also, I am sure, to interview you gentlemen and your effective plan numbers. Uh, reviewing data available and the topography mapping, soil mapping, and standard flood maps, and stream staff reports and previous evaluations to assist in the determination of peak discharges involved in the storm water and delineation the stormwater areas

for each particular problem that might be before that. Perform real stormwater calculations to determine peak discharges for a 2, 10, and 24-degree storm and then identify the potential storm drainage improvements and prepare a rough order of magnitude estimates for potential stormwater improvements. Prepare a letter describing the potential grants improvements to benefit the existing stormwater issues. And then they would have an extra meeting to present these findings to the council or the staff or whoever that would include not only that particular part of it but would also include looking at what we've already given them on the, uh, potentials for the stormwater improvements that could be made up at the school. All of that particular work, it would be for a lump sum fee of \$18,220. So, if you want to get a product, uh, you know, from an engineering firm that does this and evaluates the needs of flood events that is what our particular engineering firm is hired to do.

Mr. McCracken: Can I say something, Tim?

Mr. Taylor: I suppose.

Mr. McCracken: You said there can't be anything filled or raised or anything. It's happening every day over there. Filling is going on in the bottom over there every day. Has been for years. Do they have the proper permitting to fill that without notifying anybody else?

Mr. Taylor: The property, I guess you are talking about the (25:27) property. There is a limited amount of filling in the floodway fringe. The floodway fringe.

Mr. McCracken: That's what this is—is a limited amount.

Mr. Taylor: There is some provisions in the ordinance that allows for that. I don't know if they've broken the ordinance or not. I have no clue on that. There is some filling, so you don't have to have a professional engineer to have the leveled lots and to do things like that, but if you're going in and you are going to raise roads and you want to develop areas that will pump water in different directions, it's going to affect a lot of different, it could affect a lot of different, but it may not. It may help.

Numerous people speaking at one time. Inaudible.

Mayor Crawford: Joe, it is not an argument, so.

Mr. Taylor: I am just stating what to do in order to follow the ordinance.

Mr. Ratliff: I mean, there was a whole development built over there, and there was not a word said. And, uh, just building up a road and digging a ditch, if we wait on Thompson and Litton, we're going to be months and years again. So, this is a quick fix to help seventy people over there, and why can't we do it now? That's not going to affect, that's not going to affect anyone to raise a road—we do that every day and we dig a ditch every day. Uh, there was a whole development, like I said, built over there. McClure is always doing something. I mean, we had engineers over there and met with us from the county, uh, the whole crowd met over there and that was their suggestion. Okay, we pay \$18,000 to Thompson and Litton, and we still haven't done anything. Why don't we pay \$25,000, and get it done and over with? We have a motion on the floor, so let's vote on it.

Mayor Crawford: I'll run the meeting.

Mr. Ratliff: I wasn't trying to run the meeting, but okay.

Mayor Crawford: I'll call for a vote. Do we have any other discussion?

Mr. Taylor: I have something just to make sure that council knows there is a risk. The code says a licensed engineer set of drawings, so the county can provide us with those, then we would be able to look at them.

Mr. Brown: If the county or you all would provide these services and you would amend your motion to say up to \$25,000, I will vote for the motion.

Mr. Ratliff: How many times do we build up a road? I mean, it's a big deal to put, what would it take? Six inches on that road. Uh, it's going to cost \$10,000. How many (Inaudible: 27:56)

Mr. Wood: I don't know. I need my sheet.

Mr. McCracken: Yeah. Well the problem arises from the property owner across the road building his property up higher than the road, which causes the water backup flooding across the road. It never used

to do that until he built his property up above the road. Now that his property is higher than the road, it travels down the shortest path which is across the road.

Mr. Hurst: So, if you built the road up, where would the water go?

Mr. McCracken: It'd go down the ditch. Down the ditch, come back up the drain and go around the Hackworth's property back to the river.

Mr. Cury: I have a question. You were asking him to amend his motion. To amend the motion: would you like to state again what you would like for him to do? I didn't hear all of that.

Mr. Brown: That we dedicate up to \$25,000 for that project itself, instead of combining with the stormwater at the Pizza Hut pushing down 460. And if the engineering service that Mr. McCracken said with the county, it may not cost them anything if the engineer is willing to do it for free, which it sounds like he is already willing to do it. If we could get a licensed engineer on board to make the plan, I don't have a problem with it.

Mr. Ratliff: I can't see a reason to do that. They've already suggested.

Mr. Wood: We've got to get a set of drawings, Doug. We are going to have to have a set of plans, it sounds like.

Mr. Hurst: That's the town law. That is what he just said.

Mr. Brown: That is all I am asking.

Mr. Hurst: We have to see some drawings.

Mr. McCracken: They said, they said if we come up with a plan that they would be on board with it. So, we have derived that plan, and so did Mr. Taylor say that, uh, when the council gave the approval that we could do something, so.

Mr. Cury: I understand what you are saying. My understanding of what Richard's asking Doug to amend is simply having a set of plans in front of us to follow that are drawn by an engineer. I understand what you're saying, and I get it, but we need it on paper. Is that what you were saying?

Mr. Brown: Yea, it takes the liability off us.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay, could we narrow it down to those three phases for Thompson and Litton and give them a time period? We don't want to take two or three months though. Give it two weeks; give them two weeks to come up with a set of plans to do those three phases. Would you be satisfied with that?

Mayor Crawford: Would the county not do it for us as a service to us?

Mr. Ratliff: Probably, but I'm not sure. I would like an answer tonight so these seventy people don't have to wait like they have waited for years. Mr. Taylor's already said \$18,000. Well, if they'll look at those three phases in a short time period of two weeks, I think that's a great compromise.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. They have said within forty-five days.

Mr. Wood: Mr. Taylor was that both projects for the \$18,000.

Mr. Taylor: No, that isn't. I could get them to go back and separate those, but they didn't do that. I probably should have gotten them to do it that way.

Mr. Ratliff: Could you have a time period? I'm worried if it rains or if there's a flood. I don't want it on my hands if Mr. McCracken and his neighbors have another catastrophe of a flood. So, if we have it. That's what happens to the town. We kick the can down the road for many months. Why can't we have a time period? If they can get over there, I mean, in two weeks for those three phases, give the okay and let's move on.

Mr. Taylor: I can certainly. We can have a recessed meeting tonight, and we'll take it up next week. I can get this broken out within that time, and Mr. Chitwood will be here, so he can respond.

Mr. Ratliff: But that's losing a week. Can't they move in two weeks?

Mr. Taylor: It's up to council. But I don't have that figure of what that would cost.

Mr. Ratliff: Well, I am sure it's going to cost a lot less than \$18,000.

Mr. Cury: So, we're having a recessed meeting next week?

Mr. Ratliff: Could I make a motion that we amend it and put within a two-week period we have a plan? Let's put some pressure on some people and get this done. Is that too much to ask for those seventy people in town? I mean, Mr. McCracken, how long have you put up with this?

Mr. McCracken: It's been over twenty years we've kicked this same can. Over twenty years, uh, and I just think it's time for council to take a step forward and and do something. Uh, it's not like it's the first time Mr. Taylor's heard this, uh, problem over there. Like I said, the can's been kicked for twenty years, and I would just like to have something, uh.

Mayor Crawford: I think you were a kicker several of those years, Joe, when you were on the council, you were one of the kickers.

Mr. McCracken: No. No, sir. I would not bring this up because I was on the council, which would look like a conflict of interest.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, Joe. If we amended for two weeks, then what happens at the end of the two weeks?

Mr. Ratliff: They have a plan for those three phases, and let's move on. And, if you will give me Mr. Chitwood's number, I'll call him personally and get him on it.

Mayor Crawford: I don't have it.

Mr. Taylor: I can give you his number. That's normally what I do, but if someone on council wants to do that.

Mr. Ratliff: Give me his number and I'll change my motion and we'll have it in two weeks—a plan from an engineer, hopefully.

Mayor Crawford: Why don't we... We've got a motion on the floor right now. Why don't we vote on that and vote that motion down, and then we'll start over? Okay?

Mr. Ratliff: You don't want me to amend it?

Mr. Brown: You just need to withdraw that motion.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay. I withdraw that motion. I make this motion that we direct Mr. Taylor to talk to Thompson and Litton. If they would have a plan within two weeks of those three phases of impact to protect the town, and to have a plan to do those three phases, and put it in motion and have it down in thirty days. That's my motion.

Mr. Wood: I don't know if we will get it done in thirty days because the asphalt place is going to close.

Mr. Ratliff: How soon? How long are they open?

Mr. Wood: Not much longer.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay, so how much? Two weeks?

Mayor Crawford: Well, the thirty-degree night we've got coming up will probably do it.

Mr. Wood: So, I mean, we're... But, if we get the ditch open, that's going to eliminate the water. Do you agree, Joe?

Mr. McCracken: If we can take care of one problem or the other, either coming across the road first or second. It does not matter—or the ditch first or second to catch the run over, it really doesn't matter to me.

Mr. Ratliff: I have a suggestion. I mean, at the most we are going to raise that road, and the plant is going to close in a week or two. Why can't we raise that road? That's not going to be the end of the world. We've raised roads many, many times with asphalt. Raising the road is not going to have that big an impact. Why don't we do that, and then we can do the ditch and stuff. We'll have time for that. I don't, I mean, it's kind of ridiculous to me if we're worried about adding six inches to a road that the whole end of the world is going to come if we do that.

Mr. Wood: What I am saying is if we just do the ditch. If we get it to where we can do the ditch, we can relieve enough water off it so it won't flood—cause that'll open it up to let it come on back.

Mr. Ratliff: But if we don't do the road and they close, we've lost the whole year.

Mr. Wood: Yeah, but...

Mr. Ratliff: Do you think it's going to have that big an impact to raise the road six inches? I mean.

MR. Cury: I have a question. Tim, you've been over there. I've been over there, not recently, but when talking about the road, do you know what he's talking about?

Mr. Taylor: Yeah, I understand what he's saying about the flood issues.

Mr. Cury: What do you think about it? I need to hear what you think.

Mr. Taylor: The problem, again, with doing anything is you have to go by code. The impact of it requires you to have studies done because the impacts could jeopardize the flood insurance that everyone in the town of Richlands has because you have to go by the flood plain ordinances. And, if the county's agreed to do that, why wouldn't they just put it on paper and sign it and then we can move on that quick? We wouldn't have to do a study. If that's what y'all said they've done. Now, if they didn't, then we should probably back up and try to get some professional advice because hastily doing something might cause problems and additional lawsuits. I know that any type of development just would require a plan of action in the second district; that's what the code says. And those plans have to be by a person that's qualified and has the ability to do that be the professional engineer's seal. I could read the code to you.

Mr. Ratliff: What changes took place over there in the last few years, Mr. McCracken? What changed everything over there?

Mr. McCracken: Uh, the filling in of the company, which is the concrete company. The filling in of his property has raised his property above the street, the road. His property is now up here; the street is now down here. So, when the water runs and comes, it's coming to the lower part, which is the street. Does he have permission to do that, to direct the flood waters on somebody else? I don't know. Does he, does he, is he abiding by this code that you're talking about, Mr. Taylor? I don't know. Uh, can I fill in and flood the neighbors? I could. Would I get sued? Probably. But he shouldn't be able to flood a town street either and cost the town monies and problems. Uh, that's my opinion.

Mr. Taylor: A lot of that storm water in that street area comes from the drains that come off the post office and comes through that same discharge area. Some of that does that. It would actually make the egress to, the, you know, all that area better for everybody if we do that. As long as it didn't show an impact to hurt somebody else. But you're saying the county engineer said that that would make sense to them?

Mr. McCracken: The county engineer said that sounds like y'all have a plan. Implement the plan, and we will help.

Mr. Taylor: Get them to put it in writing so we are clear.

Mr. Cury: Would they be willing to come to the recessed meeting next week? Is that appropriate? For them to come and just tell us as the engineer, Joe. If we hear it from them as well, I'm just saying. I believe you; it's not that. I understand what you have heard from the engineer.

Mr. McCracken: I'm not on that committee. I'm not privileged to that, to being on that committee. Uh, I know what we need to do something over there.

Mr. Cury: I don't disagree.

Mr. McCracken: Uh.

Mr. Ratliff: I mean, I'm sure the concrete plant, they didn't mean to do anything.

Mr. McCracken: And that's his property.

Mr. Ratliff: Exactly. Okay, this is a simple fix, but it all gets political, and everybody has to put their two cents worth in and stall and make smoke and mirrors and make excuses why we can't do anything. This is so simple, is to put asphalt on a road, and we do it every day, and dig a ditch. And some engineers have looked at it and said okay. But yet Mr. Taylor comes up with Thompson and Litton to stall for months, or, uh, an engineer. I mean, there's no use in this. For one time, let the town do what's right and protect its citizens and do the single thing without costing an arm and a leg. And we've been at this four or five years, and all we're asking is for a ditch and to raise the road. Nobody cared anything before

anybody said anything about filling in, and we were going to try to help someone. But now everybody's got to put something in and stall, and we end up doing nothing, as usual. I have a motion on the floor, and if you'll run the meeting, let's vote on it.

Mayor Crawford: Well, you retracted one motion.

Mr. Ratliff: I made another one. I made a motion.

Mayor Crawford: Can I hear it again?

Mr. Ratliff: Uh. I made the motion that Mr. Taylor, since he's already talked to Thompson and Litton, to come up with an okay or look at the plan of three phases, have an answer in two weeks because this is very important. If we don't have another flood or rain, that we get this done. And when they give their blessing that we can, heaven forbid, raise the road six inches, and dig a ditch that we have their okay and we protect those seventy citizens over on Iron Street. That's my motion.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. There were several points in that. Does anybody want to second it?

Mr. Wood: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Does anybody else want to discuss it?

Mr. Cury: Can we have the clerk read the motion?

Mayor Crawford: Mary Ann.

Mr. Hurst: Which one? I got lost about three motions ago.

Mr. Ratliff: I was speaking real loud.

Mr. Cury: I know. I just need a clear understanding of the motion.

Mr. Hurst: But, from what I understand, and if I listen to everything. I'm new here, so I'm just trying to take this in. From what I understand, we have to protect ourselves as a town as well. Is that right? I mean, Mr. Taylor...

Mr. Taylor: Actually, the ordinance is in place to protect everyone who lives in the flood plains. That's what it's for. And all I'm trying to say is not to get in the way or trying to be an obstacle or to keep progress from going on. I'd certainly like to see this go away as much as you all. A more comprehensive approach would be someone that does that, who does hydraulic analysis and knows the programs that they use. Make sure FEMA is involved, and that we don't compromise the flood insurance that people have in the area. That's all. That's all I'm saying.

Mr. Hurst: That would be my biggest concern is that we jeopardize somebody else—not doing it intentionally, but that we jeopardize ourselves as a council and as a town.

Mr. Ratliff: Jeff, when the engineers were over there, all the water was going down the ditch the way it should with this plan. And, uh, as I said before, the concrete plant has every right to do what they want to with their property, and that's fine. But no one was over there screaming when they were doing this and dumping and raising. And, uh, they're not getting sued, but they went ahead and did it. More power to them. But it caused a problem, and now we just want to fix the problem with a simple fix. And, if the water was going on other people, I understand, but it's going to go on down the ditch where the engineers stated it would.

Mr. Hurst: Well, if we want to keep the community and that little development thriving for the next, well, thirty or forty years or fifty years, I think we would need to do something. Do it right the first time if we're going to do it. Let's don't put a band-aid on an open wound. I mean, I'm just sort of new to this, but I would want to make sure it is fixed and done properly then just put a band-aid.

Mr. McCracken: That's all well and good, but if it's gonna take twenty more years, Jeff, I think I'll be gone by then. I'm seventy years old now.

Mayor Crawford: Okay.

Mr. Hurst: I know that that's the problem. That's where I'm at because...

Mr. Ratliff: With that motion we have Thompson and Litton. We give them, we ask them in two weeks to have a plan.

Mayor Crawford: Mary Ann.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay, I'm sorry.

Mrs. Strong: I have a question for Rick because I respect your knowledge of roads and streets. Did I understand you to say that for now it would be a huge benefit if we cleaned out the ditch and then we could wait on raising the road because we probably couldn't get the asphalt.

Mr. Wood: Yes. That's what I'm saying. That's what I'm saying.

Mr. McCracken: The ditch being on Travis Hackworth's property. That's the ditch. And that's running from the drain to the river.

Mr. Wood: What happens, Mary Ann.

Mrs. Strong: I mean, I am trying to figure out.

Mr. Wood: The water comes out...This is the pipe. The water comes out and it has to go uphill to go down, and that causes a backup on the other side of the railroad. If that was cleaned out where it should be when the pipe was put in, the water would flow on to the river. We're not doing nothing different. All we're doing is cleaning out the ditch

Mr. McCracken: We want to cut a ditch around that bank to catch the overflow.

Mrs. Strong: And do we eventually need to add six inches to the asphalt?

Mr. Wood: Eventually, yes, but we won't be able to this time of year. I mean, if we've got approval tomorrow and Tim agrees with it, if you can't get the asphalt, you can't raise the road.

Mrs. Strong: I am trying to clarify what our plan is as soon as possible and then when would, I mean, are we going to raise the road six inches?

Mr. Hurst: I guess this would be part of the big plan if you put it together, right? I mean, we can put it together in a couple of weeks to look at this plan.

Mrs. Strong: Do you, again, deferring to your knowledge. I don't have any about streets and roads. Do you believe we do need to add the six inches?

Mr. Wood: I think we do, yes. And Tim actually said that earlier in the game. It was actually his idea to raise the road to start with, but it's uh, you know. We went the wrong way to get to it. And I'm not saying nothing against Tim.

Mr. Taylor: The ditch...if this is an existing ditch, we don't need engineers to do a plan. If it's an existing ditch with no different point of discharge into the Clinch, we can clean it. That's maintenance, and they will do that. It's when we put a new ditch that discharges to a different drainage area, that's where we get in trouble. So, if this is an existing ditch, we can clean that out—no problem.

Mr. Wood: It's an existing ditch. It runs right with the bottom of the railroad around and it just turns off.

Mr. Taylor: That's fine. We can do that.

Mr. Cury: Is it the ditch we looked at, Joe, when we were over there a few months ago?

Mr. McCracken: Rod, you know where the drainpipe was when we went down to the railroad? Tim knows, he went down there, too. Okay, the drainpipe that runs under Mr. Hackworth's property.

Mr. Cury: Yes.

Mr. McCracken: The big one? That's the ditch right there. We're gonna want to cut a ditch in front of that pipe, down to that pipe, around Mr. Hackworth's field over to the river to catch the backup that backs up through the pipe. You see, Richard? You see what I'm talking about, Richard?

Mr. Brown: I know exactly what you're talking about.

Mr. McCracken: And that does not involve getting in the river. It, uh, all it involves is cutting a ditch around the perimeter of Mr. Hackworth's property over to the river to catch the backup coming back through that pipe.

Mr. Wood: It ain't new. It is already there.

Mr. Cury: Well, how I feel about this, with what limited knowledge I have just looking. I don't have Rick's knowledge of roads and highways like that at all. Uh, I am absolutely for helping you, you know that, and everybody over here knows it, and the appearance of no dragging the feet. It would seem that way from this council. Uh, Doug is trying his best to get you some help, and I'm fine with that. Um, I'm thinking, I don't really know, and Doug if you don't want to repeat it, I'm okay. I'm okay, but I'm not sure I understand the motion. I kind of got lost, okay? That being said, if we could simplify this thing so we can do some cleaning of ditches and then get Thompson and Litton on board to help us, and or the county, have a long-term plan—not long time, but have something that has a permanent fix and not just a quick fix, no disrespect meant. I think it would be better for you. That's my thinking.

Mr. McCracken: Excuse me, Rod.

Mr. Cury: I just want to share how I feel.

Mr. McCracken: If we could talk to Mr. Hackworth again, to reassure our idea, which he was at the meeting where we were, and he's the one suggested that we come in front of the pipe that runs under his field. To cut a ditch around his property perimeter to catch the backup from the river. That's one fix right there. That's already one fix. And if we raise the road to whatever it needs to be, at least level with the other property across the road, whichever—six or eight inches, whatever it is, uh, then that would pretty well fix it. That's only two things. That's only two things.

Mr. Ratliff: What about the railroad? When are we going to do that?

Mr. Wood: They're coming. I can't tell you when. This is all in my report, but we got to it before I did my report.

Mr. McCracken: But if we could talk to Mr. Hackworth about making sure that that's still the plan.

Mr. Wood: That's still the plan.

Mr. McCracken: Uh, well, he suggested it. The property owner suggested it, that we go down and cut a drain around his property perimeter over to the river and catch the back up through the pipe. And it wouldn't back up this way. We'd still have it coming across the road, but we would eliminate one, one drain.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay, so we all agree it's an existing ditch, so with Mr. Hackworth's okay, we cut the ditch as soon as possible. Uh, we ask Thompson and Litton or the county to see what great affect raising a six-inch road would cause any damage or not. That's my motion.

Clerk: Can you withdraw your previous motion now that you've changed it please?

Mr. Ratliff: Okay. I withdraw my previous motion and I add that motion, okay?

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Do we have a second?

Mr. Wood: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second.

Mr. Brown: I just have one quick question. Is the addition to the ditch that Rick is talking about, Mr. McCracken...?

Mr. Ratliff: Don't say addition, please. (Laughter)

Mr. Brown: Well, the diversion of the water. It's the same water, right?

Mr. McCracken: It's the same water, yes.

Mr. Taylor: I'm not sure.

Mr. Brown: That's the only question I have.

Mr. Ratliff and Mr. Wood: It's the same water.

Mr. Wood: It's the same water. All these little trees have grown out of it.

Mr. Brown: I just need to make sure that we are dealing with the same water and not an additional issue. Okay. I'm good.

Mr. Hurst: Okay, will we dig the other ditch?

Mr. Wood: We're not digging a ditch. We're cleaning out a ditch. The ditch is already there.

Mr. Hurst: I just heard digging a ditch, I swear.

Mr. Ratliff: Please just say existing ditch.

Mr. Cury: Just forget that you heard what you heard. Uh, I have a question. I hate to prevail upon the clerk, but we have had several motions obviously. There is one now on the floor. Is it possible for you to gather your wits, take your time, and read the motion? I need a clear understanding of what I am voting on. Thank you. Let's give her a minute.

Clerk: The motion as of now is to go ahead and clean out the existing ditch as soon as possible and the ask either Thompson and Litton or the county if there will be any damage if we add six inches to the road and then continue from there.

Mr. Ratliff: Great job.

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

Mr. McCracken: Thank you. Thank you for your help and your consideration. Maybe we can grab that can now.

Mayor Crawford: Have you cleaned off the podium? Connie.

Multiple conversations.

Ms. Allen: I have a lot in my head now about the drain and the water. Okay. I'm sorry. I have several things. The first thing: the veteran's program will be on November 5 at 6:00 PM. We're going to have an outside ceremony since we can't have anything inside the gym at the pd. Jim Ray is going to be our guest speaker, and we're going to have a singing with the Jubilaires. There is going to be singing instead of the dinner. So, we are going to have...why'd you look at me like that Jeff?

Mr. Hurst: You are like replacing dinner with a singing. I mean, that's like, I don't know. I am hungry now. I guess I was thinking about dinner when you said that.

Laughter

Mr. Cury: I am sorry to interrupt you, Connie, but what was the date?

Ms. Allen: November 5. Well, we couldn't figure out how to have a dinner with everybody together, and then we thought, well, we could put it in a takeout tray. So, we may come up with something between now and November 5 so we can have singing and a dinner. But, right now, we haven't, we don't have all those details yet. Okay. The veteran's banners: we have actually sold thirty-three so far, and I've had several people call. I'm hoping to get at least around fifty of the banners to put through town. Uh, we'll be hanging those on November 2, and the deadline for the banners is October 23. Okay, the Christmas parade: they are planning on having it on December 3 at 6:00 PM, and the theme is going to be Candyland Christmas. Uh, the tree lighting ceremony: we've decided, which I've thought about this a lot, to have it on November 27 because that's when they actually light the tree up on the hill. I know Rick has mentioned that for a couple of years. We'll do the tree up on the hill and the main Christmas tree in town at the Greenway will be lit on the same day. So, we're gonna have that on Friday at 7:00 PM. Okay, uh, the ribbon. We did have a ribbon cutting today at a retail store on 105 Suffolk Avenue, which was called Bleach a Mama. That looks nice. Okay. The question I have for council. Uh, the revitalization planning grant—we did receive an extension to December 31. This would be the second phase, so I need to know if council wants to go forward with that plan. We have the planning grant, so we need to have several meetings with citizens, business owners, and Tim can speak more on that.

Mr. Taylor: The planning grant is a prelude to a block grant development, probably having to develop for block grant to do phase two of the downtown revitalization program. So, the purpose of the planning grant is to, uh, get interaction with the community, especially the affected area, of what possible participation from the landowners and business owners. So, there needs to be, uh, a number of people to participate because that's an element that would be required in order to qualify for this block grant. And we can be eligible to receive \$700,000 that will be toward street scape type of improvements that we did previously in the streetlamps if that's what we need to do. Façade improvement grants for business owners that would like to improve the front of their businesses and those types of activities. Uh, we would have to match that with certain things. Oftentimes we would match that with in kind

labor for street improvements like sidewalks, the electrical lines to be buried, new waterlines and reservoirs and so forth. It's kind of a commitment going forward, that you know, if you don't take a plan, they really don't want you to do it unless you have the intention of applying for the \$400,000, uh, the \$700,000 grant. So that's the purpose of it.

Mr. Cury: So, do you need a motion? What do you want?

Ms. Allen: I would like to have a motion to go forward with it.

Mr. Cury: If you would say it again, I'll make the motion. What do you want?

Ms. Allen: I need a motion for the town to go forward with the revitalization planning grant.

Mr. Cury: Is this for the West end of town?

Mr. Taylor: Yes. From the bridge west.

Mr. Cury: I'll make the motion as you stated.

Mr. Hurst: I'll second the motion.

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

Ms. Allen: Okay, uh, Larry Johnson, I think I did. Let's see, where he would ask about the Christmas dinner. He was going to provide the dinner, but I'm not for sure if they are going to have a dinner at all because I know that Jerry does not want anything in the, uh, pd. He wants to protect his people. He wants to know if you want to go forward with it.

Numerous people talking.

Mr. Cury: I think we need to be very cautious with public safety and the safety of our police force and other town employees-that's paramount.

Mr. Wood: It's the chief's place down there, so if he's not all for it, I don't think we should do it.

Ms. Allen: He doesn't want any activities.

Mr. Cury: Do you want a motion to that effect?

Mr. Hurst: Is there some kind of alternative? Like you were talking about takeout. Or furnishing a dinner or something. I don't know. Could they pick that up?

Mr. Cury: Like takeout?

Mr. Hurst: Could you do that? Or not.

Mr. Brown: You are just wanting to eat, Jeff.

Ms. Allen: I know.

Laughter

Mr. Hurst: Well, I can't sing. (Followed by more laughter.) But, I mean, that could be a possibility, couldn't it? I guess, I mean, you mentioned it.

Ms. Allen: I can talk to Larry because he agreed to pay for it.

Mr. Cury: I think maybe, I think Jeff is on to something. I have a suggestion. Talk to Larry and see, since he's the donor, and see how he feels about it. And you can come back at the next town council meeting. What do you think?

Mayor Crawford: Yeah, well, it's also for the employees. A suggestion may be to ask Larry if he would be willing to buy like a gift certificate for the employees to eat at establishments somewhere in town.

Ms. Allen: Yeah, that would be good. And I thought to that he could buy maybe lunch during office hours. I can talk to Larry and see what he thinks. But I think having a big dinner with everybody together is not going to happen right now.

Mayor Crawford: No. If the chief says now, it's no.

Ms. Allen: So, I can talk to Larry and give a report from that. And one last thing. I did give you a copy of an event permit application for the town of Richlands. I looked at other towns just to see what they was doing, uh, for this type of thing. Uh, so I did type up something for you to look at. The only thing this is, like, if somebody is having an event in town, you know. Not as the town of Richlands. They can fill this permit out, bring it to us to make sure that we don't miss anything, like if they need assistance from the police department or like previously, if somebody wants to shut a road down. They'd have to get permission, but if they would fill this application out, we can get the proper signatures and ask permission from everybody involved at that time. So, I just think it would be a good way to keep up with everything, and that way we don't miss anything that's going on in town, you know? Like, this would be for parades, uh, events, 5k's, that type thing. Just fill it out, and if they need our help or assistance, we can, uh, just give them permission through this application. I think it would be an easier way to keep up with it.

Mrs. Strong: We've needed something like this for a long time.

Ms. Allen: Yeah. And other towns do it because I did do a little bit of research on it.

Mr. Wood: Are there any costs for the permit?

Ms. Allen: There aren't any costs, but if somebody is asking permission, like today. The church could have just filled this out, and then we could ask Tim, you know, the town manager, talk to Jerry, you know, if you need to close the road, and everything be in writing. But then again, like when there are events, when they do have different things that town's not liable for.

Mr. Ratliff: But it would still come before the council?

Ms. Allen: Yes. I mean with major events. I know all the events don't come, but you would at least have this application showing if the council didn't approve it. But at least we'd have pre-approval from Jerry or whoever is the main thing.

Mr. Taylor: In response to Mr. Ratliff, it definitely needs to be a council decision. Code has some language in it about doing that. What that means is it transfers some of the liability of the event toward the town, so we have to have council approval.

Ms. Allen: Yes, and I also thought, Tim, that we could attach the code to the back of this application, so you know these are the codes. These are the guidelines to the application.

Mr. Wood: I have a question. So, if somebody wants to have a car show on private property, does it still have to go here?

Mr. Taylor: Private's okay. The only thing you'd have to adhere to that, and it's a good thing to do that so that you can get, uh, interaction with, like, noise ordinances and things like that, or the fact that the police might be the onboard controller because of traffic issues. It's more for just providing services for that. We don't have to be involved with all the private events. Just so we can try to...

Mr. Wood: I understand. I was just wondering because that would make me feel like we was telling people that they can't do what they want to do.

Mr. Taylor: Absolutely not.

Ms. Allen: A lot of them need our assistance. You know, especially the police department, you know, at that time. Like the last 5k run, you know. We need to fill all this out so Jerry can go down there and say yeah, we can do this, or we can't do this. That type of thing. It's not like they can't have it happen. And we don't want to be involved in every event either, but we want to help wherever we can.

Mayor Crawford: Sounds like council says go ahead with it.

Ms. Allen: I just need to make sure council is okay with doing this, you know, having an event plan.

Multiple people talking.

Mrs. Strong: Do you need a motion? I'll make a motion that we'll use the event permit application that Connie has presented.

Mr. Hurst: I'll second it.

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

Ms. Allen: And one other thing. Uh, Tim, are you going to cover the Greenway?

Mr. Taylor: Uh, do you have the copies?

Ms. Allen: I did give everybody a copy of the Greenway drawing to make the stage.

Mr. Taylor: I can speak to that. We actually got permission to use some of the monies from the grant program to get a design because the stage, once we determine how big it needed to be based on the needs of our community, it triggers something. We need a professional engineer to seal the structural integrity of it. So, that, that is a preliminary design for it. That was generated, basically not from the town. The concept came from staff, and they just put the bones together. It's a little small. If you want a bigger set, you just let us know and we'll get you a bigger set. But they haven't finished all the, uh, all the actual specs on it yet. Once we get this, we'll have a good set of specs that we can get quotes on to build this on behalf of the town through the contractors.

Ms. Allen: So, I guess the next step we have to get a quote on getting somebody to build it outside of the town, correct?

Mr. Taylor: Yeah. We are bidding on (inaudible 1:06:23) to build it.

Mayor Crawford: What do you mean outside of town?

Ms. Allen: I mean...

Mayor Crawford: You can't have a contractor in town?

Ms. Allen: That's not what I meant. I meant our staff. (Laughter) Our town staff, those that work on the roads and sidewalks.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. I got you.

Ms. Allen: I think that's it. Oh, one other thing. I had a lot on my agenda. We should know Friday if Thompson, uh, Foundation will be giving us any, or bringing us any, money for the library. So, once I receive that word, or Tim, let me just email you and let you know. We're hoping to get some grant money to try to help fix the library. That's it.

Mayor Crawford: Thank you, Connie.

Ms. Allen: You're welcome.

Ms. Mollo: Mayor Crawford, you never called my name to speak from the public comments. You never called my name to speak on the public comments.

Mayor Crawford: You weren't on the agenda.

Ms. Mollo: I had called town hall.

Mrs. Cordle: Yeah, we told you that, um, we had already sent the agendas out and when he asked for unscheduled public comment, I think Amanda told you you'd have to raise your hand and say I would like to speak.

Ms. Mollo: No. She actually told me she would pass it along.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Come on.

Ms. Mollo: That's aggravating, just so you know. I think what you guys did with the flooding; you took a long way around, but I think it was just the most progress I've seen both sides of this council work together. It was hopeful, but I mean, even stuff like this. This is, um, aggravating to citizens that have to work this hard to get you guys' attention on stuff, um, and probably no shock what I'm about to talk about. But I got a letter I want to read to you guys from the Tazewell County Emergency Services. It's actually written by Barry Brooks. He's the director of fire and EMS operations for the entire county. I'm going to read it word for word for you guys. I can provide a copy.

Ms. Mollo read the letter. (Attached)

And this is what I believe has taken so long for progress here is that we're playing a game of telephone. I've heard over the past, maybe, two or three weeks that people are saying, Oh, Richlands can become its own 9-1-1 center. That was actually one of my very first questions when I started this with you guys back in May. Why can't we just become our own 9-1-1 center, and I found out it is against, it's not legal in Virginia. We legally cannot do it. There's no hybrid system. There's not half and half. We cannot

become a 9-1-1 center. Our population doesn't, it doesn't even allow for it. However, right now, the state of Virginia has passed a law that by 2023, every town has to be on an E-9-1-1 system, which is a next gen 9-1-1. And right now, the state of Virginia has started on the east coast, and by the end of next year, they will have worked their way to our area, and they are offering us grants to update our services, update our system, update our radios, if we will consolidate with the Tazewell County 9-1-1 system. This conversation has never been able to take place with you guys. We have, I've got the printed minutes from, I believe they are from March, where we have a standing council member who said in those minutes, "I am not interested in what Sheriff Hiatt has to say. If you put them together, they better buckle up because someone's feelings are going to get hurt." To me, as a council, you guys owe it to us to do your due diligence, have the sheriff come in, have the 9-1-1 administrator come in, and let's have this conversation. And that way we're not playing telephone. That way you don't have me up here giving you information or anyone else talking about stuff that may or may not be possible. Let's get it straight from the source and straight with you guys.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, Laura. Your time's up.

Ms. Mollo: Thank you very much.

Mayor Crawford: Council member reports. Rod.

Mr. Cury: Uh, my report tonight is, uh, that at our last planning commission meeting, we set a date for the Flood Task Force to meet. The Flood Task Force will meet on October 22, at 5:00 PM, and, uh, the next meeting of the planning commission will be tentatively on the 3rd of November, which I believe is Election Day. I'm saying that, so we'll see it's scheduled, but if we need to change it because it is on Election Day, we can change it, uh, in accordance with the law a few times. So, that is a few dates to keep in mind for the planning commission. And, uh, I have had, uh, several compliments, uh, recently on the town of Richlands. Just general things about improvements and, there's no reason to enumerate those, but it makes you feel good.

Mayor Crawford: Richard.

Mr. Brown: Uh, I had spoken to Mr. Taylor earlier in reference to the fire and rescue contract (inaudible 1:13:38-1:13:43) and we'll discuss some numbers later on about that as far as how we are going to renew the contract. Also, I think we need to set some guidelines or recommendations for Halloween. Um, I want to suggest in the form of a motion that we recognize Halloween on Halloween, October 31, with the hours of 5 PM to 8 PM, uh, with the understanding that because of Covid, if you do not want to participate in it, it would basically put it back on the citizens of the town to decide. You know, they could put a note on their door to say they're not because of Covid, or the parents cannot take their kids out because of Covid.

Mr. Wood: Why don't you, like, turn on the porch light or something?

Mr. Brown: Whatever, just put it back on the citizens if they want to.

Mayor Crawford: Do we need the code of information you have about how long?

Mr. Brown: I did. I did, and I checked with other jurisdictions as well, like Tazewell. Cedar Bluff is actually waiting on what we do tonight before they decide. And Tazewell, uh, basically has put it back on their citizens with the guideline or the recommendation of 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Mayor Crawford: So, that's door-to-door, from 5:00 to 8:00 if you want to participate.

Mr. Brown: Yes. That is correct.

Mayor Crawford: And I'll just point out, if I read it right, that's the most, uh, exposure in that that's their choice, right?

Mr. Brown: That's the reason it is back on the citizens.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Do you want to put that in the form of a motion?

Mr. Brown: Yes, sir. We recognize Halloween as, uh, on October 31, with the hours of 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM for door-to-door trick or treating if the citizens want to participate.

Mr. Wood: I'll second that.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second. I would like to add if you don't mind, if not to the motion, but I'd like to add that that if any of the citizens wants to set up a table in their driveway and have the food there for the children or whomever to come and get, it may be a little less exposure. If they want to participate and not be exposed by coming to the door.

Mr. Brown: Whatever they want.

Mr. Wood: And if they don't want to participate, cut the light off and the kids trick or treating, and the parents need to know if the porch light ain't on, don't go to the door.

Mayor Crawford: Okay.

Mr. Hurst: Is there any way we can convey that? You know, I was reading some of those guidelines as well. Any way to convey that to our citizens or whatever? You know, I was thinking about that, you know. If somebody wanted to know how to participate in trick or treating, which is the right way to do it, as far as setting up the tables, you know. How do they know?

Mayor Crawford: We have the town channel.

Mr. Taylor: We have the, we can put or develop a notice and put it on Facebook, and we can also put it on our website.

Mr. Hurst: I thought that might be informative for some people who may have some questions or concerns about it.

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

Mr. Brown: That's all.

Mayor Crawford: Mary Ann.

Mrs. Strong: I passed out a handout from Jessica Reynolds-Lawrence, the interim rec director. She could not be here tonight due to a family conflict, so I just wanted to see if you have any questions on the report and to give you a few other updates.

Mayor Crawford: The one question I have, Mary Ann, it has at the bottom the buying price that appears in this column that the buying price per unit for each item. But there's nothing in there. I understand that may not be possible for some of the, uh, I don't know, weight lifting things, but for the slushies and anything we buy and resell, wouldn't it make sense to have it in there?

Mrs. Strong: Adrienne, can you address that question?

Ms. Cordle: The only thing I would know on the slushies is that maybe that they haven't broken it down. Like they'll buy a large container of the syrup and the ice that they just pour in. So, um, I don't know if they know how much the machine produces and they can provide those supplies for that dollar amount and put it into the unit, but they would have to do some calculations, too.

Mayor Crawford: There's no real need to get real technical about it.

Ms. Cordle: If you look at them.

Mayor Crawford: I don't know how to figure the profit margin if they don't know.

Ms. Cordle: It probably just says it's one hundred percent profit because there's no unit cost, I would guess. I haven't seen; I don't know.

Mr. Ratliff: If you look at the profit margin versus, uh, revenue, it will show you the profits.

Ms. Cordle: Right; but what he's saying is there's no unit cost for the slushie, and it's probably because the slushie is basically a content of syrup that you pour into a slushie machine. It's not like buying a bottle of pop for fifty cents and selling it for \$1.50. You're buying a jug of syrup for whatever, so you would probably need to do a little bit of calculation to come up with that.

Mr. Ratliff: But it looks like you're making a hundred percent profit, which is good.

Mayor Crawford: Yeah, that's what it's saying. And that's good, but that's impossible.

Ms. Cordle: No. If you look at your general ledger, you would see concessions expense and concessions revenue, which will kind of tell you what that is.

Mr. Wood: It used to be \$.07 a cup.

Mrs. Strong: It can't be much.

Mr. Ratliff: If you sell your drinks for \$6.35, and you brought in a profit margin of \$3.16, so you're doubling, which is respectable.

Mayor Crawford: Yeah. Okay, continue. I just had that comment.

Mrs. Strong: No, that's a good question. A few comments that Jessica wanted me to mention is that she did have a meeting with Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens about the handicap playground, and the committee was formed. And there will be the first meeting with the committee tomorrow evening at 5:00 PM at the rec park. So, I'm excited that the handicap playground is moving forward. And she's also, um, they're discussing forming a relationship with Appalachian Agency of Senior Citizens to have our senior citizens in the scheduled programs at the rec department. I bet you're happy about that, Ginger. You've been saying that for how many years?

Mrs. Branton: Too many to count.

Mrs. Strong: Those really were the highlights. Um, the adopt a child program is still going really well. Um, lots, you know, there were 198 children in the adopt a child program in the month of September that used the department. So, again, I would like to thank everyone. I think most everyone, a lot of people in this room have sponsored children. The rec commission did meet in September. We had a pretty good, large attendance. We had some baseball, some softball representation there. It was a productive meeting. We worked with both sides and came up with an agreement. And, on next Monday, the 19th at 7:30 will be the regularly scheduled meeting upstairs at the rec park. I would like to make a motion that on Election Day, November 3, like we've done in prior years, that, um, the town offices would be closed, and it would be an additional paid holiday.

Mayor Crawford: Do you want to put it in the form of a motion?

Mrs. Strong: I did. I think I said I would like to make a motion.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. I'm sorry.

Mrs. Strong: That's okay.

Mayor Crawford: Do we have a second?

Mr. Cury: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: Any discussion? Roll call vote. Mr. Brown-I'll abstain; Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. Ratliff: That was an exception for the police force, right?

Mrs. Strong: Yes.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay.

Multiple people talking.

Mrs. Strong: Okay. A few more things. Um, Tim, you may be planning to cover this in your report, but, again, I said last month out of respect to Dr. Addair, where are we at on the fluoride?

Mr. Taylor: We have got, like I said, the last piece of the equipment in. We've had lots of time to get on the concrete, so we're trying to take advantage of the weather. The same people that does the concrete will change that door or the wall, but we had some complicated equipment to find, so I think we're ready to go when the weather starts turning to rain, we'll go. I don't mean to reply. It wasn't my project; it was Kevin's, and I can't tell you how hard it will be to do that, but we're going to use the town staff to save money. So, uh, hopefully, uh, once they get engaged. Part of it has been done. The water plant personnel have done some of their part, and uh, the line crew has located their lines. I know that's been done. But we can't get the equipment in there without taking the wall out because of the size. So, once the wall comes out, it'll go. I'm sorry for the delay, but we're just trying to maximize the time and weather.

Mrs. Strong: I am sure while you've got good weather you need to do the outdoor projects. And I don't know if any of the other council members have received calls. I have, actually, quite some time, but more recently, so I said I would ask the question. The condition at the Clinch Valley Cemetery is not good. It's really, in my opinion, deplorable. So, the citizens had asked me to ask is there anything that the town can do? For example, someone thought, Tim, that you may could make a phone call to put some pressure on the owners of the cemetery.

Mr. Taylor: I could do that, certainly, on behalf of council, especially. Or I could write them a letter, too. I'm not sure who owns it, if it's a local company or somebody. Do you have information on it, Jeff?

Mr. Hurst: Well, I mean, just get in line. We've had several complaints from property owners and people who have loved one buried at Clinch Valley. It, it's gotten pretty, it's gotten in pretty rough shape, and we've had several funerals down there. It's, uh, it's a little bit of a management problem, I think, from what we understand. We've given people the number of the parent company at both cemeteries, and it doesn't seem to be helping any. And, you know, like I said, we run into, uh, I think, American Carpet Care was actually supposed to be, you know, they were doing one of their cemeteries, but it was in Castlewood. And they were just sending two people or two of their own people or employees to do Clinch Valley work. You know, American Carpet Care, they practically got it looking a lot better, but they still didn't send anyone down there to clean it up. So, believe me, we are dealing with this every, it's every few weeks we get a phone call on it.

Mayor Crawford: Just, uh, just so you know, uh, I actually talked to the owners of the cemetery. They are in Pennsylvania now, and, uh, asked them to do something about it. They said they would, and they haven't. Uh, I think it would be good to follow up with a letter.

Mr. Taylor: Okay.

Mr. Wood: I was down there the other day because somebody had told me that we had a hole in the street down there in the cemetery. It was a big hole in the middle of the road.

Mayor Crawford: Yeah, it's terrible. (inaudible 1:26:06-1:26:09) looks like they're taking an in loader back in there to dig with. There's big ruts.

Mr. Hurst: Well, I understand, you know, like I said, normal, normal stuff that happens in a cemetery. You're not going to board, you know, if it's raining there at the grave. That's just what you do. Like I said, there's just so many little things down there. There's a branch next to the road that's been there pretty much all year.

Mayor Crawford: How long have those trash cans been full? It's bad.

Mr. Hurst: It's awful.

Mr. Taylor: Okay, we'll do that if you can give me the contact information.

Mayor Crawford: I'll have to get it again for sure.

Mr. Brown: If I'm not mistaken, there's a state code that requires upkeep on cemeteries.

Mr. McClanahan: I'm not certain, um, in particular on it, but it does sound somewhat familiar, so I can definitely get with Tim.

Mr. Brown: And just attach it to the letter for the keep up.

Mayor Crawford: Well, they have given their trust. I mean, they have an obligation under that trust to keep up the cemetery.

Mr. Hurst: And believe me, it's not just this cemetery. Yeah, uh, some of their other cemeteries. It's some others. I've been to like two or three of them and I'm just like why can't they? I mean, I know it's rained a lot, and, you know, just a little bit of everything else.

Mr. McClanahan: Oh, yes, Mr. Mayor, if I may. Tim might have some additional options with that with some of the nuisance, um, related code provisions that we have, so we might be able to. I'll get with Tim, and we'll start looking at that.

Mayor Crawford: That may push them along.

Mrs. Strong: I think the strongest letter we can send to get their attention would be best. I have two quick things. Uh, this last one, um, I hate to bring up the cat problem again, but I was asked by a citizen.

They have a problem with, as we do in many places, with cats. If they trap the cats, is there, do you know? I don't think Chief is here. If they trap a cat, is there anywhere they can take the cats to safely let them out?

Mr. Taylor: Not to let them out, no. I think part of the plan was to capture them and neuter them and try to get a home for them. I don't know exactly. At least that is what I think it was. (Inaudible 1:28:24-1:28:28).

Mrs. Strong: I thought I would start here, but I'll contact Paige Johnson at the Humane Society. The last thing, on a very positive note. Everybody loves positive success stories, right? But I finally made the time to visit Connie and Ginger's office, which is the CART office and Connie's office for community development and the Tazewell County Chamber office. It is exceptionally nice. The town crew deserves a lot of credit, a lot of applause. (Clapping) But I encourage you, if you haven't dropped by there, you really need to. It's really something to be proud of, and next, we'll get to work on getting the library to look as good beside of you. That's all I had. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Crawford: Doug.

Mr. Ratliff: I have two or three things. On the, Connie, on the, will there be anymore, what is it? PP money given out? To help our small businesses.

Ms. Allen: Uh, the IDA, the Tazewell County IDA, are giving more money out to businesses. Uh, the application ended, well actually, uh, today at 12:00. I did visit probably, visit, email, called one hundred ten businesses in our own Richlands area. I did as many as I could that I thought they could apply for the grant. So, several of them did come by. I scanned it for them, but it did end today, and I did try to let everybody know about it.

Mr. Ratliff: Uh. We had a few businesses that were unlucky enough to be on the line between Cedar Bluff and Richlands, and some of them had to go with Cedar Bluff. But, if they had a business license in both towns, could they not apply to both towns for help?

Mr. Wood: I think they applied for Cedar Bluff.

Mr. Ratliff: Uh, they did. Cedar Bluff didn't get as much money, and they, those businesses didn't get nearly the money that, uh, some of the businesses in Richlands did.

Mayor Crawford: Doug, I really dug into this a lot, and V&V was the restaurant that I worked with. I don't know if that's who you are talking about, but V&V actually got more by applying to Cedar Bluff than they did applying to Richlands. There was just not a lot of money given to restaurants. Cedar Bluff had zero restaurants, and Richlands had seven. Had V&V applied to Richlands, that total would have been divided by eight instead of by seven. So, when they went with Cedar Bluff, they actually got more than they would have in Richlands. Did I explain it correctly?

Ms. Allen: Yeah. The thing was, when they divided the money, when Tazewell sent us the money, they divided the money out. So, the businesses that's located between Cedar Bluff and Richlands, they didn't realize that. Uh, I think AJ called V&V restaurant. When they divided it out, they actually included those in Cedar Bluff. And that's how they divided the money up. If they had give it to Richlands, the same amount of money they give to John would have come to Richlands and not John. And then it would just be, you know, divided out equally. So.

Mr. Ratliff: A couple of restaurants, if I'm not mistaken, they got about \$4,500 in Richlands.

Ms. Allen: None of them got \$3,500, I mean \$4,500.

Mr. Ratliff: What was the highest that they got.

Ms. Allen: \$3,500. All of them got \$3,500, except for one, and it was for \$2,000, but that's all they requested. That's all they needed, so.

Mr. Allen: Okay. I know that V&V didn't get that.

Ms. Allen: They got \$3,000.

Mr. Ratliff: Yeah, they didn't get \$3,500, so it looks like they would have been better by coming with us.

Ms. Allen: Well, if they would have come with us, we would have divided it by eight, so they would have got around \$3,000 or less. So, they're really...

Mr. Ratliff: The reason I brought it up. You guys done a fantastic job, I'm sure. I just wondered if there were any more. I didn't want them to get caught, not V&V, but anyone get caught in the middle.

Ms. Allen: I think there was a misunderstanding in the very beginning when they asked for the business license. They assumed because they had a Cedar Bluff address that they went to Cedar Bluff when they actually paid them both. So, but the one for the IDA, Richlands, Cedar Bluff, everybody went to the county. Not Richlands or Cedar Bluff. That way it wouldn't be any...

Mr. Ratliff: So, they would...

Ms. Allen: Everybody goes to the same pile, but it's like \$250,000 more to be given to the businesses.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay. You guys done a fantastic job, it's just all of this.

Ms. Allen: Oh yeah.

Mr. Ratliff: Snafus. Okay, and, uh, as far as the, uh, the parking lot, uh, on V&V. That's patrolled by us or Cedar Bluff? I mean, it's in Richlands.

Mr. Taylor: The, uh, the actual building, most of the entire building, almost all of V&V is in the actual corporate limits of Cedar Bluff. The parking lot, almost all of it, not quite all of it, it's in Richlands. So, we usually respond to calls that are dealing with the parking lot. And if it's got to do with inside the building, like breaking and entering, things like that, that's Cedar Bluff's responsibility. So, that's how it's done. Of course, we assist each other.

Mr. Ratliff: Just so it's cleared up. The last incident they had, um, it was on the parking lot and our dispatchers sent Cedar Bluff instead of our officers.

Mr. Taylor: It was just a mistake, I'm sure. I don't know.

Mr. Ratliff: I just want to make sure that, you know, if something does happen up there, you know, dispatch is aware and will send them.

Mr. Taylor: Yeah, often times, if they don't have anybody on duty, Jerry will send someone anyway. But they're real careful about what to do in a different jurisdiction because they can get slapped pretty hard by the courts.

Mr. Ratliff: But it was on the parking lot and should have been us.

Mr. Taylor: Not unless it is in the very back of the parking lot.

Mr. Ratliff: This was in the parking lot and dispatch sent Cedar Bluff instead of Richlands. I just want to make sure if something else happens that we know what's going on. Uh, the next thing is, um, I'm getting a lot of complaints on, uh, on Pennsylvania. From Pennsylvania to like, Second Street. It's got a drainpipe collide, uh, collapsing. Uh, there's all kinds of potholes and all. Could we take a look at that?

Mr. Taylor: It's where?

Mr. Ratliff: It's, uh, Pennsylvania to Second Street. And, uh, uh, they say it is pretty bad.

Mr. Taylor: And you said a drainpipe is collapsing?

Mr. Ratliff: Yeah, it's collapsing, and there's potholes all over. And, since the asphalt is closing, maybe we'll get on that. Uh, the next thing is, uh, I'm not sure what street Raymond Arnold lives on.

Mrs. Strong: Bower.

Mr. Ratliff: I think it's, uh...Bower. They've got a ditch line, and it's above your property. And the water is overflowing that ditch line. I think we went and dug it some, but it's overflowing their property and going all down that street. And, I was wondering, uh, uh, the town, if they could go up there and dig that a little deeper, and it goes around your property. It wouldn't hit your property. It goes on the other side. It wouldn't affect your property at all, but it would help them a lot if we dug that ditch a little deeper, so the water wouldn't overflow and go down that street and hit all those. There's probably about fifty houses that's flooding down through there. But, uh, I think you guys were up there a few months ago, and that probably needs to be a bit deeper and done downhill. And I'm sure Raymond Arnold would be glad to show you that ditch. Could we take a look at that?

Mr. Taylor: We'll put it on a work order.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay. That's all I've got.

Mayor Crawford: Rick.

Mr. Wood: Well, I had over on Iron Street, but that got solved before we got to me. And Halloween, I was going to ask about that, but that's been solved. Um, how about the streetlights on Birmingham?

Mr. Taylor: Really, the streetlights, uh, that was another project Kevin has, and he has numbers. He gave those to me. Um, they, they were high. They were too high because they actually (inaudible: 1:37:13-1:37:19) that we were already doing for everybody else. Uh, so, there is light standards for that, but you don't really need to follow them for certain areas. So, he went back to get them to reevaluate that, and it will cost us. I don't have that figure in front of me or I would read that to you. But that comes out of the general fund if it is something and you want to do that. It is an investment cost up front plus a monthly charge per light to APCO because it's not in our jurisdiction. And they had to design their own, and that's why it has taken so long. I'll have to revisit that.

Mr. Wood: Is there any way we can do that, or is it just a problem?

Mr. Taylor: No. We can, actually. We have the authority to light our own streets. You notice we do on 609. We've got those LED lights that are ours. Those nice big, tall, you know, lights that run that way. They were actually, excuse me, they were funded by us. They were put there, and we use our electricity. We can light the streets even (inaudible: 1:38:15-1:38:16) territory, as long as, you know, that's all we do—we don't pick up customers. The problem over there is that so much conflict with their lines already there. It's, it's really hard, and the road widths are so close. We tried to look at a plan and it just costs way more than (inaudible: 1:38:34-1:38:36). We kind of didn't think they would charge us a monthly fee, or uh, a build-up fee. We thought since it would be a long term, that they would, uh, they would just charge, uh, start charging us like a rental light. If it's got to be built up, they'll have to charge us.

Mr. Wood: What about the poles that's over there?

Mr. Taylor: You could put a few on the intersections on the poles now. We can do those and get by.

Mr. Wood: I just want to do something because we've been asked that a whole lot, for a long time. Uh, but I understand the money, too.

Mr. Taylor: It's a money problem right now. I don't have those figures, but it was somewhere like twenty some thousand dollars upfront now and then so many dollars per month for upkeep.

Mr. Wood: Can we check on that?

Mr. Taylor: Yeah. I'll check on that.

Mr. Wood: Okay. And this was something I found walking the other day across from where my place is in Richlands. There, uh, there's a manhole, and there's a piece of asphalt laying on top of it on Bill Henry's side of the street.

Mayor Crawford: Which street?

Mr. Wood: On Main Street. There's a hole underneath that.

Mr. Taylor: Where is it at? Excuse me?

Mr. Wood: On this end of the bowling alley. Right, I mean, it's out in the street. It's a huge hole. You can see down to the ground.

Mr. Taylor: It's on Fairfax? Or the one on?

Mr. Wood: No. It's on Front Street.

Mr. Taylor: It's on Front Street: Oh, okay.

Mr. Wood: I meant to call and tell you about it, but I just forgot about it until just a few minutes ago.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. I'll check it.

Mr. Wood: I think it's the only manhole down there because they start going the other way. I think it's the last manhole on that line.

Mr. Taylor: We'll check into it.

Mr. Wood: That's all I have.

Mayor Crawford: Jeff.

Mr. Hurst: Thank you. Uh, a couple things. We were excited last Friday night. We had a 5k race here in town, and through the cooperation of my wife, Charity. She did a great job organizing the event. And the Richlands Police Department and the Richlands Rescue Squad. They helped out immensely during the race. It started at 6:00, and I knew there was concern that Jerry had at the last meeting. But, uh, Jerry and I rode around a couple of times and found us a good course, and we had fifty-five runners that night. I saw Mary Ann. She was running. And, uh, it was a great event. I thought it was good for downtown. A lot of traffic that night, so all the runners stayed safe and that was primarily a result of marking the course with the, uh, the town employees and Chico and his crew helped with the pile-ons and (Inaudible 1:41:12) and everyone stayed safe, so I thought that was a great night for a town and a great event for our local establishment there. A couple things. Uh, you've been staying with the Richlands Police Department, and they've helped a little bit with the dumpster and the trash issue behind Food Lion. Uh, they've, uh, upped their surveillance, and I appreciate that, so dumpsters beware if they're dumping back there. They have some, uh, they may have a surprise for you. But, uh, they've really been cooperative as far as getting all that monitored a little more closely. So, I appreciate that. The other thing I had, I was going to bring up, too. Dr. Brian Looney has a optometrist office right there on Suffolk. I just need to know. He had, he had reached out to me about the possibility, and I talked to George West a little bit about this too. I don't know if he mentioned anything to you, Tim. Maybe not now, but, uh, when he mentioned that, he was asking. He's got four or five, I guess it's clients, that are wheelchair or stretcher. The only way they can get to the office via accessibility, uh, stretcher or wheelchair. I went down there and looked at it. The handicap spot is on the very end of the street, and it's a pretty inconvenient, sort of, yet, for somebody to park there and have to wheel it. He was asking what the possibility or maybe looking at the possibility of moving, like, a handicap entrance, maybe into the middle of the sidewalk in the middle of the street. How many parking spots that would, you know, eliminate, if we made the end ones a regular parking spot, could you put it in the middle, maybe with a ramp?

Mr. Taylor: You would probably, I mean we could do a design on that, but you would probably lose at least three spots. And that's so, it's so busy there, that I don't know if that would be something. I didn't get a chance to talk to Dr. Looney, but is there a possibility that we might could, uh, if we could improve the alleyway? And they could do a parking lot on the back side. They could do their own, and then they could just drive to the back one. I don't know that that building accommodates that, but that would be something that would be. And we could probably put the signage up about handicap parking in the rear or something. I don't know. Okay, but if you want to do that, there are other folks, probably businesses that you would have to reach out to and advise them that it will switch spots. The council probably should, if you want to supply that, we should probably get a design and look at it, if the council wants. Because that's a, it's one of those that it would help one, but it hurts another. So, but I do understand his problem. We've been trying to figure out something for him. George's really wracked his brain. We could do something (Inaudible: 1:44:06) maybe, but I don't know.

Mr. Hurst: Yeah, like I said, I thought the danger, you know, especially when it's on that end. You know, the wheelchair is getting really close to Front Street right there. It is dangerous, you know.

Mr. Taylor: I can tell you, when we painted that and put it on your sign, just so everybody could see it, we had people complaining about the signs. So, you will get other merchants interacting with you. I just want you to know that.

Mr. Hurst: That would solve, when we saw that customer that had the stretcher, and they had to block the street. You know, there's no real place for them to park. So, they had to block the street and let them go around. So, it is, I understand his frustration.

Mr. Taylor: You know, the curb cuts, so you can't have such an angle on them because people who walk up it could fall and krill and ankle, so you have to slope it way back. So, it is a pretty big ordeal, but we'll uh, I'll get George to design and element and look at it. If it's just two parking places, it might be conducive to that. I can bring that back to the council or to you, whomever we want to look at it.

Mr. Hurst: The other thing I had, too. Connie—you mentioned about the veteran banners. What, if, I know when we put them up, I don't know, I'm sure you thought about this. Will people be able to buy them after they put them up? Because, I know, like usually when you put something up like that,

everybody will go, well, I didn't know anything about it. I mean, you know how that goes. But I didn't know if maybe that's a possibility, too, or if you need to know that.

Ms. Allen: What do you mean buy them afterwards? Additional?

Mr. Hurst: Yes. Because I know that happened in another community where they put the banners up, and a lot of people saw them and were like, Ah, I wish we had gotten one.

Ms. Allen: Yes, we can, we can add them. They just won't be up the same length of time, but I don't see.

Mr. Hurst: Right. I thought about that when you were saying that because that is going to happen as soon as you put them up.

Ms. Allen: Yes, it will. We won't turn anybody down.

Mr. Hurst: Yeah, people are gonna be like, I didn't know you could do that. Uh, the other thing, I guess, and I didn't know if we were going to talk about it. I know I appreciate Adrienne doing all the financial reports for the council packet. But, you know, I was talking to a couple of people, too. Is there, I guess, are we going to do a work session or is that part of yours, Tim?

Mr. Taylor: Yes. I can mention it since you brought it up. Part of the plans are, we have, we are. We have a lot of financial issues we'd like to talk about because we know during the legislative process, we may need to try to get council involved as often as possible as quickly as we could. Uh, quarterly, this will be the first quarter, and we've got a lot of, uh, information about last year and you've got a preliminary, uh, year-end report that Ms. Cordle will provide for you. And, she'll be going over that, and she'll give an update on how we, uh, the effects of Covid was on the end of last fiscal year and what it's done to us so far this budgetary cycle. Also, we're addressing EMS so we can get that to the county also. That's part of it, as well as some of the other things and issues that you should have in my report. So, we just couldn't do that tonight. You'd be tired, so we'll just dedicate it to financials next month, or next week, hopefully.

Mrs. Strong: Mayor, could I add one thing? Please, just quickly? Jeff is modest about all his wife, Charity's, hard work. I have ran, not a lot, but several 5ks, and that one was extremely organized, and that's thanks to Charity and he already gave credit to the town employees and the police and fire and rescue. And, also, just to mention Coal Town. Um, I think that was there maybe the idea in connection with Charity. And, then the next day, the rain didn't, the rain prevented the outdoor women's health day sponsored by Clinch Valley Health at Coal Town. That is rescheduled for October 24, weather permitting. But, Coal Town did allow four or five vendors to set up that Saturday inside the restaurant, and it's my understanding that approximately \$5,000 has been raised that will stay local in Tazewell County to help women with breast cancer. A big shout out, I think, also, to Coal Town Taps for another big event to help our community.

Mr. Hurst: And Rusty and his crew, I don't know if I mentioned them, but they. I did call him that week, and they, they went around and weedeatted, trimmed, cleaned the whole course, made sure the shoulders were safe, and picked up the trash, and uh, had it looking great. It really, I don't know if it was the most scenic run you could have, but it looked great when the final product came up with everything, so we appreciate them helping out.

Mr. Cury: Mayor, I have one more thing to add if I may. I forgot to mention that Robin McGlothlin had sent a picture to me of, of, of East Second Street with nine years and counting. I'll share that with you, Tim, so you can have people take a look at it, please.

Mr. Ratliff: Uh, I got that same picture.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. It's my turn. Uh, first, some of this you guys already covered, so I'll just touch on it. But one thing. We've had protestors in locations in town. Down by Coal Town Taps one day and down by King Kone one day. Uh, I don't know who these people were, but they were, uh, calling people names, uh, profane names. Folks going in Coal Town Taps were accosted by verbal abuse. Do we have an ordinance to prevent that?

Mr. Taylor: Peaceful protests, uh, and we might get some extra (Inaudible 1:50:07-1:50:13). Our biggest chore that we try to deal with, with the police officers is to make sure they don't impede traffic and don't get in the streets to cause harm that way. Uh, verbal type abuse is tough, I know, because of free speech and so forth. Uh, I don't, I'm not educated enough on the law enforcement side to know that, but I know most of our, uh, issues are if they become a nuisance in that particular part of it. If they are a public nuisance based on being too loud or encumbering people from going into the buildings, then that,

they can't do. But, just peacefully standing by, it's (Inaudible 1:50:57) or whatever you want to say. Uh, that's a little tough. I'll let you, I'll turn that over to Wayne to discuss, if you don't mind.

Mr. Ratliff: What are they protesting?

Mayor Crawford: Uh, I really don't know. It was, uh, it was kind of a moral thing, supposedly. And I'll tell you, if I'm going into a restaurant and someone calls my wife a whore, it's ain't going to be peaceful. And that's what they did.

Mr. Hurst: Mayor. Mayor, we got takeout. We got takeout on Friday, and when I pulled up, I said, Coop, get out there and go get our food. He walked out there, and I saw the protestors. They yelled at him.

Mr. Cury: Was that Friday?

Mr. Hurst: Yes. It was the Friday before last, sorry. Last Friday was the race, so it was the Friday before last.

Mr. Ratliff: What was it? Is it religious?

Mr. Hurst: Yeah, they were, they were holding up the religious signs with a couple of Bible scriptures on them. And then I saw them the next day over there.

Mr. Ratliff: They were religious and called someone that?

Mrs. Strong: And to pick on a young man.

Mr. Hurst: Yeah, I didn't ask Coop what he yelled back, so.

Laughter

Mr. Hurst: He was a little nervous, so I said get in there and get our food.

Mayor Crawford: Well, we need to look into it.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. We'll make sure, well, I'm sure Jerry is aware of it. We'll see if he will respond to it. Nuisance issues are what we can.

Mr. Brown: If I'm not mistaken, I think we have the capability, uh, even with a peaceful protest, to require a permit.

Mr. Taylor: Yes. We do.

Mr. McClanahan: Yes, so yeah, I've actually had a couple of, um, conversations with, uh, Captain Gilbert on this. He's called me a handful of times just with some specific questions about, you know, interpretation of different pieces of Virginia law—not necessarily a Richlands ordinance. Obviously, the town council cannot do anything to stifle free speech or any of the first amendment, um, liberties that we have. However, we do have more discretion and freedom than what maybe you realize to, um, shape where that occurs, how it occurs, and when it occurs, and, and also require a permitting process. That's something we need to look at with great care because, again, you know, being a person in consideration, you know, you don't want to trifle upon that. You know, in the event that we overstep our boundaries, but, uh, certainly I can get with Captain Gilbert and, uh, with Tim and begin to put together some proposals for, um, potential permitting application processes and at least be able to provide the council with a memo about what is within our discretion so then and how so.

Mayor Crawford: So, if I understand what you're saying, they can yell and call us any name they want to as long as they do it from a specific place.

Mr. McClanahan: I am not one hundred percent certain about, you know, without having a chance to look into it, but I believe that maybe Richard, um Councilman Brown, I'm sorry, can uh, uh, lean on him just a little bit on this. I believe that the Virginia code section for public intoxication also has some additional language that encompasses profanity. Uh, typically my experience with that in terms of doing criminal defense is on the (Inaudible 1:35:58) side of it. Uh, I'm not certain, but I believe there is.

Mr. Brown: Actually, they did remove that language July 1st, for that, but, uh, there's always, uh, recourse, with the victim, or what you would call the victim as going in front of the magistrate to obtain their own warrant for curse and abuse because it would be a misdemeanor within the current officer's presence. That officer could charge it, but there's no reason why, if someone got called a name that they couldn't go in front of a magistrate and get a warrant for curse and abuse.

Mr. McClanahan: And I'll check into the, um, the capability of council, if council wanted to consider an ordinance, you know, in addition to the Virginia law that might make that, uh, behavior unlawful.

Mayor Crawford: Well, I think we absolutely ought to do something to control that because it was out of control if they were yelling at a teenager or whatever.

Mr. McClanahan: I know when I spoke with Jerry, you know, we had some conversations about, uh, there is some very serious offenses out there about inciting a riot, you know, and that line is obviously gray and fact-specific, but, uh, I can definitely follow back up with him.

Mayor Crawford: If you would, I would appreciate it. I have a letter here from Ronnie Cordle. Uh, he lives in Richlands town limits. Uh, he's interested in purchasing or leasing a small piece of property owned by the town of Richlands, uh, probably located on Front Street, tax map number and all of that stuff, in town where the Dairy Queen used to be, down there beside the Free Press. That corner in there. Uh, it's at 1249 Front Street. Uh, the property measures approximately eighty feet by a hundred feet. It has been vacant for many years. Mayor Crawford read the letter at this time. (He gave the letter to Mr. Taylor.) What he's got in mind is he's converting an airstream camper into a food truck and wants to set up a food truck down there.

Mr. Ratliff: Where's it located?

Mayor Crawford: Down by the Free Press where the Dairy Queen used to be. That may be before your time. I don't know, but anyway. Uh, how can I explain it to you?

Mr. Wood: Front Street, right past Shrader's and all that.

Mr. Cury: Do you remember the (Inaudible 1:56:42-1:56:46). Right after that.

Multiple people trying to describe the location.

Mr. Wood: I think we need to do something. If he's wanting to put a business in our town.

Mayor Crawford: I think so. Okay. Can we get in touch with him and ask the specifics?

Mr. Taylor: Yes. We will have to do a little research on what we can do in leasing and how long and so forth and/or sell it.

Mr. Ratliff: Do we have to make it available?

Mr. Taylor: There is laws on it.

Mayor Crawford: Uh, I'm going to steal a little of Tim's thunder now. (Laughter.)

Mr. Ratliff: Somebody said it was a poker house. (More laughter.)

Mayor Crawford: We've talked about a grant writer. Tim has actually interviewed at least one person. And I got him to do some figures for me. We could hire a grant writer part-time at \$15.00 an hour. I plan on working 10,000 or 1,040 hours a year. That's half-time. And, uh, the salary would be \$15,600; with the social security benefits and all that, it would be \$18,000 per year. I would like to entertain a motion.

Mr. Ratliff: Could, uh, could I say something?

Mayor Crawford: Sure.

Mr. Ratliff: Um, I talked to the town attorney, and he's researching something about a grant writer. If it would be, uh, you didn't see anything illegal about it, or have you?

Mr. McClanahan: I didn't see anything that would permit it either. Uh, what Councilman Ratliff is referring to is he had asked me whether it was permissible to seek a grant writer and base their compensation off of a portion of the obtained funds. Um, I, I don't know what my knee-jerk reaction is to that. Um, you know, the town obviously you know, putting myself on obviously a contingency basis, which is kind of what that would be. However, the flip side of that is, you know, we're procuring public funds, and I don't know if there are certain strings attached with how those funds are dispersed—if that can be used for that. So, I have, uh, made some, uh, put some feelers out with some folks on LGA and just started looking into this yesterday. Now, I've yet to be able to find anything on that particularly.

Mr. Ratliff: In other words, instead of having another person on payroll, is if we acquire a grant writer and based her salary on, like, if she got a, a, uh, \$500,000 grant, give her two percent of it. And, if, as the town attorney said, we probably couldn't pay it out of that \$500,000, but if you got a \$500,000 grant,

you could compensate her out of the budget or something. That way you wouldn't have a town, another salary to pay, and with her, with someone like that having skin in the game, I'm sure she's going to come, or he. Uh, he or she, uh, they would work a lot harder if they know that they would get a certain percentage of that, uh, grant. I'm sure that we would get a lot more grants that way than having someone sit around and look for grants for a \$15,000 salary. I mean, that's that was just my suggestion.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Uh, and you're right about most times, the majority of times based on what we deal with will not allow you to pay administrative costs, such as paying a grant writer out of the funds. You could take it out of the budget, possibly.

Mr. Ratliff: I mean, if you got 500,000, who wouldn't, why wouldn't the town pay her two percent?

Mayor Crawford: I don't know how you would arrange that. Uh, I think if we could. Here's my opinion, and I can't make a motion, so I'm putting it out to you guys. Uh, we could hire this person at \$15.00 an hour, half-time, and really base her performance on whether she stays on the payroll or not. I mean, we're not obligated to keep anyone. Uh but, uh, working on this basis. But, in order to do it, we have to advertise the job. We can do that for a week, I think you said.

Mr. Taylor: Yes. A week would be sufficient time.

Mayor Crawford: I think we need to move forward with this. The IDA is wanting a grant writer to work with them. Because, in order to do that, we need a grant writer for several things. We've actually had some grants pass us up, simply because, uh, Connie and the folks here that are trying to do it don't have the time to, uh, to put into it. One of the, one of the, I mean, I took a couple of grant writing classes, and one of the biggest things you have to do as the grant writer is you have to spend about a third of your time searching for the people that are offering grants. You know? And not waiting for it to come up on paper or somewhere in conversation. You have to dig for it. I would, I would like to ask that somebody make a motion that we do this.

Mr. Ratliff: Before we do this, can I say one more thing? I think, if we went the other route and offered compensation, you would get a much more, uh, pro, or someone that could get a grant if they've got skin in the game. Most people, \$15.00 an hour, what kind, I mean, there's great people out there—I'm not saying that. But, you're not going to get the caliber, a caliber of person for \$15.00 an hour that's going to find you in grants like you would if you had someone that was used to doing grants, and they knew that they will get a part of that grant, like a two percent. They would work much harder, and you get a much more, uh, a much more caliber person that could find those grants. Then you can pay someone \$15.00 an hour to look for one. That's my only concern.

Mr. Cury: I will express my opinion on that. I don't think professional grant writers work on commission.

Mr. Ratliff: I've talked to several that will.

Mayor Crawford: How about, how about, Doug. Does anyone want to make the motion for us?

Mr. Cury: Are we going to advertise the position? Is that it?

Mayor Crawford: Yes.

Mr. Cury: I am fine with that. I'll make the motion.

Mayor Crawford: Do we have a second?

Mrs. Strong: I'll second it.

Multiple people talking.

Mayor Crawford: We can discuss it some more if you want.

Mr. Ratliff: I'm just saying for \$15.00 an hour, you're not going to get the type of person that can really find you the grants you need. You're going to fall short, and it'll be just another person sitting around, and they'll have other chores that you'll give them, and they really won't be doing the job that you want them to do. But that's all I'm saying.

Mrs. Strong: Is there any possibility, uh, an hourly rate with a percentage if they get the grant?

Mr. Taylor: Um, there's, there's merit to what Mr. Ratliff says, but there's problems in implementation because this grant writer really needs to be under scrutiny of the town's control because if they're just on the run, basically writing grants without any, do you see what I'm saying? If they're an employee,

they can be directed and they have control over what you can obligate them to do. I know you might get those controls in place. I'm not saying you can't, but it'll be more difficult to do. The way this would be structured would be the way that I think I heard council is you wanted it to be structured so it could be, uh, under a scrutiny. Like say, I would put it in Connie's department because that's what it is, and they could have monthly updates on their performance. That is an employee. It is a part-time employee, and that way you have control over hours, performance, scope of work. But you're just having trouble with trying to do something from a governmental perspective. Not you as a citizen, but on their own perspective. They're either a contractor or they're employed. So, if they're a contractor you're going to have to have some kind of contract in place, and that's where your, the difficulty is controlling that. That's just my opinion.

Mr. Ratliff: You can direct a grant writer and have controls on them, and if, what did you say the salary would be? \$15,000?

Mayor Crawford: Well, the total is \$18,000 for the year.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay. Okay, if you pay that \$18,000, say let's double it. You're going to have \$36,000 in an employee with benefits and same.

Mayor Crawford: No. This includes that. It includes benefits.

Mr. Ratliff: I still feel, I mean, we can get a much better product and grants, and we, with the right supervision, we can direct that grant writer and get much, many more grants and the grants that we need by having it outsourced. And just bringing another person into an office and sit them down, and it will turn out just like everything else—we're paying a salary, and I will not get, they won't bring very much product. That's my concern.

Mayor Crawford: I, I personally think if we had a grant writer come on board and get \$200,000 or \$300,000 plus grants, we'd look at paying them more. I think that could be a term of employment.

Mr. Wood: Could we set a bonus or something?

Mr. Ratliff: I mean, what kind of person, I mean. My car wash guys make more than \$15.00 an hour. And, uh, what kind of caliber of a person, I mean, they're great, but can you hire for \$15.00 that know how to write a grant and look for grants? You need an expert. You don't need someone off the street for fifteen dollars and expect them to come up with a three or four or five-hundred-dollar grant. \$500,000 payment.

Mayor Crawford: Any other discussion? We have a motion and a second. Roll call vote: Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-no; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries. So, if you will advertise that.

Mr. Taylor: Yes, I will do that.

Mayor Crawford: Is anybody aware of a, uh, vacancy on the IDA board?

Mrs. Strong: I had talked to several people, but to date, I have not been able to find someone to fill that seat.

Mayor Strong: Okay. This is the recent seat we are talking about?

Mrs. Strong: Yes.

Mr. Cury: So, we are searching for someone to fill a seat on the IDA? If I think of someone or have some suggestions, do you want me to pass that to you, Paul?

Mayor Crawford: Or bring it to the next council meeting.

Mr. Cury: I will try to find someone who would be qualified.

Mayor Crawford: Or if anybody else knows anyone that would be willing to serve on that. Just shoot me a text or call me with their name and phone number and I'll contact them. Uh, in your discussion, Mary Ann, I felt like you were saying that the rec department and the Richlands Athletic League got their heads together.

Mrs. Strong: Yes. We did reach an agreement, although the written agreement that we have between the town and the Richlands Athletic League ends this month. So, we will be beginning the discussion for a new agreement.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Is that the thing that, uh, that Mark is interested in?

Mrs. Strong nods.

Mayor Crawford: So, we're working on it.

Mrs. Strong: Yes. We'll meet, and we may leave the agreement as is, or we could make changes to it.

Mr. Brown: Is there an open spot on the Rec Commission?

Mrs. Strong: Not at this moment.

Mr. Brown: I had an email from Mark. I don't know if you got it, you know, requesting someone on the Little League.

Mayor Crawford: Same email I'm talking about.

Mrs. Strong: We don't have a vacancy, but, at the end of the year, there will be terms and people will be coming off.

Mayor Crawford: So, I, I think you'll. I think what he wants is for the athletic league to be represented on the rec board, which I think sounds like a good idea. So, if we just get in place, or one of those terms comes open.

Mrs. Strong: I agree. I think that's excellent.

Mayor Crawford: Uh, the money, uh, that we were going to request from Clinch Valley Community Action, uh, to go to the community investment partnership. Did that get done?

Ms. Cordle: Yes.

Mayor Crawford: Did it get done? How much?

Ms. Cordle: Five thousand.

Mr. Taylor: I think it was 5,000.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. I had a couple of other things, but I think you're going to cover them in yours. All right, attorney comments?

Mr. McClanahan: Uh, yes, Mr. Mayor. There are two ordinances out that are on the agenda. One for consideration for council to vote on. I apologize.

Mr. Hurst: Wayne, it's good to have you back, by the way. I'm glad you are feeling better.

Mr. McClanahan: Thank you. I was a little concerned there for a moment. Uh, but yes. Two ordinances on the agenda tonight. One for the consideration of council to vote on. One for a first reading. Um, I can do the second reading of the one that's on the agenda tonight for consideration.

Mr. McClanahan read ordinance number 2020-10-01 at this time.

Mr. Mayor, if you would entertain a motion to pass that ordinance at this time?

Mayor Crawford: I will entertain a motion to pass this ordinance.

Mr. Cury: I'll make a motion to pass the ordinance.

Mayor Crawford: Do I have a second?

Mr. Brown: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: Any discussions? Roll call vote: Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. McClanahan: Mr. Mayor, if you would, entertain an additional motion on that ordinance if council desires for that to become effective immediately as opposed to the 30-day waiting period.

Mr. Wood: I'll make that motion.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion.

Mrs. Strong: I'll second that motion.

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

Mr. McClanahan: All right, Mr. Mayor. The second ordinance, I believe it will be appropriate to spare everyone. It is identical in nature to the previous, uh, motion, except for a different property. That property is 430 Virginia Avenue, Richlands, VA 24641, Parcel number 105B-04-0001-0003. And that ordinance, uh, pertains to rezoning that current property from its current designation of R2 to R2/B2. And it is identical in nature to the previous ordinance.

Mayor Crawford: Do I have a motion?

Mr. McClanahan: That was just the first reading, Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Crawford: Oh, we don't need a motion. All right. Anything else?

Mr. McClanahan: No sir.

Mayor Crawford: Tim.

Mr. Taylor: Okay, if you would please, uh, look at the check registers that have been provided in your packets. If you have any questions on any of them, I'll be more than happy to try to answer those.

Mayor Crawford: I will say I really like getting this in my packet where I have time to sit down and read over it a little bit.

Mr. Taylor: We've adjusted some of our policies to try to get this agenda packet out quickly and get everything completed we can.

Mayor Crawford: I do have a few questions as a result of that.

Mr. Taylor: Okay.

Mayor Crawford: Uh, 8831, Badger Meter, \$11,925.00.

Mr. Taylor: Yes. Um, we have budgeted it over the last five years to implement these automatic media reading water meters into our system. We have presently did that for all of the residential meters. Now we're working on the larger business meters, and that is what that is. That's for that.

Mayor Crawford: That's the reason I asked because I know you'd said for all.

Mr. Taylor: Residential we have. We are working on businesses.

Mayor Crawford: Uh, 8850, Dell Marketing, \$17,524.

Mr. Taylor: Those, uh, that was a, uh, grant that the police department was very, uh, lucky to get through the CARES Act, and that replaced, uh, uh, thirteen laptops for the police department's patrol unit.

Mayor Crawford: So, we got the money in for the grant and then paid it out.

Mr. Taylor: Yes, sir.

Mayor Crawford: Uh, 8873, Mark E. Ison, \$1,500.

Mr. Taylor: Mark is our IT expert, uh, that we use for all of our Microsoft high end things. That is his retainer. Generally, he also designs or architects our structures for all that they do on the really high end. He's a part-time individual that's been with us for many years, and, uh, that's his retainer each month. You'll see that every month, basically.

Mayor Crawford: Uh, 8885, Priority Medical Claims, \$3,502.

Mr. Taylor: Those are, uh, collections. I'm probably, I'm not sure. Adrienne, that's probably.

Ms. Cordle: That's the commission. That's the commission that we pay to fire and medical claims for doing the billing for rescue. So, they, they actually collect seven percent based on, um, the collections that we receive on the EMS billing. So that's the billing cost.

Mr. Taylor: That's their share.

Mayor Crawford: Thirty-five hundred dollars is, what? Ballpark that we get?

Ms. Cordle: No. It's based on what we actually receive in payments. So, they, they do the billing for the rescue, the ambulance service. They don't get commission unless it's paid. So, their commission is based on what we get paid out of those billings, and it's seven percent of what they collect out of that.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, so this is the seven percent of the money we got.

Ms. Cordle: That's right.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. That is a pretty good chunk of change.

Mr. Taylor: It might represent multiple months because of the way they collect it, too. It's not just for that month. It is when we get the money, but it could represent the billing for prior months also.

Ms. Cordle: Right, it's the collection.

Mayor Crawford: Uh, the, Southwest Virginia Criminal Justice, uh, 8897, uh PD-J Brooks membership.

Mr. Taylor: That's probably the membership into the academy. That's the cost of the academy that we have to belong to. So, that's a new officer that we, that we have in that grant program. So, that's part of the obligations that we have to pay to get them to the academy.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, and 8899, Steven Gooch, attorney. Attorney fees.

Mr. Taylor: That's Mr. Wayne over there.

Laughter

Mr. McClanahan: My boss.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, then, dumb question. That's all I have.

Mr. Taylor: Anyone have anything else?

Mayor Crawford: I fibbed. I do have one more.

Mr. Taylor: Okay.

Mayor Crawford: 8783 to the Treasurer of Virginia, it says it is a grant refund for \$5,912.

Mr. Taylor: I am going to have to look at Adrienne to probably answer that.

Ms. Cordle: That was on the grant that we applied for the SRO officer. Like we applied for the \$47,254 based on a max number of hours. If they don't actually, you know, have to work those number of hours we don't pay the officers.

Mayor Crawford: So, we have to pay that back?

Ms. Cordle: Yeah, so if we requested more than what we paid, we give that back. So, it's not, we're not out any money. We just.

Mayor Crawford: That is all I have. Anyone else? I will entertain a motion to pay the bills.

Mr. Wood: I will make a motion that we pay the bills.

Mrs. Strong: I'll second the motion.

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

Mr. Taylor: Okay, item b in my report: consider adopting the resolution. This is the resolution R-2020-10-01. This resolution is required for projects that are, uh, administered by VDOT, Virginia Department of Transportation on behalf of the town of Richlands. This is for the Alleghany bridge that's currently being under the construction process. So, part of that money when they get through the program, uh, sometimes you can see in the particular resolution is preliminary engineering, the right-of-way costs, and construction as applicable for the project. Sometimes projects, uh, we have to make a percentage of costs—usually it's no more than two percent. Often times though, the smart scale is nothing, uh, it just depends on the type of program. But we are obligated to do that, and it also provides the means for, uh, for the program to be satisfied with VDOT. So, it is a required commitment from (Inaudible 2:21:28). So, do we need to read that?

Mr. McClanahan: It probably wouldn't hurt.

Mr. Taylor: I can read that. Mr. Taylor read the resolution at this time. (Attached.)

Mayor Crawford: Do we need a motion?

Mr. Taylor: Yes, we sure do.

Mayor Crawford: Do I have a motion?

Mr. Cury: I'll make the motion to adopt resolution R-2020-10-01.

Mayor Crawford: Do we have a second?

Mrs. Strong: I'll second the motion.

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

Mr. Brown: I do have a question. It is not related to the motion itself, but is the bridge going to be shut completely down?

Mr. Taylor: Yes. If you remember, we talked about being able to shut it down would expedite the construction, and we have to keep the route through the street department open for emergency response because the train will be on the track. We couldn't get to the folks, so that has to be part of the discussion we had prior to when we do this, and then they finalize construction. I don't remember, but I think it's six months or so. It's not a long project, but that bridge will have to be closed.

Mr. Brown: I was thinking more on the lines of flooding. You are taking one avenue out of there as far as.

Mr. Taylor: Floods: you'll have to go up through the tracks. That'll be the only way you can get out.

Mr. Wood: But they're not using the tracks now.

Mr. Taylor: Not hardly at all.

Mr. Wood: Because I did learn that they had declared that unsafe, so they don't use it no more. So, most likely we are not going to have a train.

Mr. Brown: Do we have a plan in place to keep that egress?

Mr. Taylor: Yes. Yes. When they actually have to close that, we will have. We talked a little bit about maybe trying to finalize it. We thought maybe, it would be nice to get a mechanized gate that the rescue squad can actually hit, and it will open up and let them go through. If we could get some CARES funding, trying to do that would be great. We talked about that. (Inaudible 2:24:32- 2:24:40)

Mayor Crawford: Roll call vote: Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. Thank you. The next item is a letter that you had a chance to look at from the Virginia Resources Authority. The funding for the wastewater treatment plant, uh, upgrade was a program administered in, by the Department of Environmental Quality; however, the agency that will handle all the, uh, funding arrangements and coverage for the bonds will be the bond agent, basically, as Virginia Resources Authority, or VRA. We've talked to council about this before, and this is one of the reasons we need to have this meeting next week is to go into a lot of detail. But, basically, they gave us a great rate. I mean two point seven million dollars' worth of, basically, free grant money, and the balance of the, uh, about close to ten million dollars or so and change for the rest of the funds at 0.5 percent for twenty-five years. You're not going to get a commercial bank, and they're not going to issue a bond, a municipal bond with that type of arrangements. So, in order to get that money, there are stipulations, and this, this particular document outlays what has to be done. Uh, the meat of the matter is, uh, basically, they're going to have to have a qualified independent consultant to examine the rate covenant that we have in place. It must meet and satisfy two complete fiscal years following the estimated project completion. So, you'll have to, have to have that in place. And we're currently talking to VML/VACo, which is a (inaudible 2:26:32) the Virginia Association of Counties. They have a business, uh, uh, the business side of them that has some experts and financial advisors that can do that. Uh, we're talking to them because they, that being part of the governmental type of function of those, they can provide, we hope, at a cheaper rate. But we will have to, uh, we'll try to get a quote from them. We may have it by next week. We may not. But, that'll be a requirement you'll have to have, so once the cost of service fee is in place, and I'll just brief you guys real quick because I'd like you to study the letter. Once that rate

covenant is in place, then this qualifying event consulting will basically make sure that matches what all the obligations you would have within the water and sewer funds. They also have did what they call a Double Barrel Bond requirement—that means water revenues, sewer revenues, and general automation revenues. So, if you have a, uh, if you, something happens to your water, the sewer funds they won't deliver the amount of money, uh, on an annual basis. You will be required to make adjustments to the general fund activity on those taxes. The one that gives me a lot of heartburn is, and what we really need to talk about is that they put into this a spring revenue pledge, and it's, it's going to be a spring lien, they call it. They're trying to capture some of the electrical revenues, and we had a talk with them earlier, a few months ago. Adrienne and I talked to them about how we feel like that is unjust—this subordinate lien, and we didn't know what it was called at that time. But this would really hamper our means of buying power on the market. It's really going to cause us some difficulties because that will be another issue that will lower our rating system on the power supplies side of it. So, we need to talk about strategies that would, uh, to lift that, uh, subordinate lien of revenues that would be part of our electric department. You know, we could always just say that you have to actually not meet the covenant for two consecutive years for that to spring into place, but once it springs into place, it goes for the remaining life of the loan. So, even the hint of that happening is going to hurt our revenue on power. So, let me talk about that in length next week. So that's, that's what we're faced with to deal with that term. All right, if you have any questions on it between now and hopefully whatever time we can meet next week, just call me or Adrienne and we can talk to you about that. And we will talk a little bit more about both projects in the wastewater.

The, uh, you did have a copy of the rehabilitation, uh, project update and a copy of the minutes, and the project is still in your packets, so you should have that.

The, uh, moving on to the wastewater, which was already a parallel project that we're working on, and we're aware of this because we had a meeting with the engineers a few weeks ago or last several months ago. I can't remember on that particular day, but we did get a, we applied for money through, uh, the assistance, uh, drinking water assistance, uh, construction financial assistance funds, and that's through the Department of Health, and we got a response back on the letter that you were provided in your packet, on September 28. Uh, that particular amount to borrow based on the PDR was \$3,889,000, so the offer is, for that particular loan, is \$3,889,000 for a term of twenty years. Well, uh, which is based on the life of the project. The reason in our, in your PDRs, if you remember, our financial, uh, analysis preliminarily was based on a twenty-five-year loan, I believe, or maybe even a thirty year. I'll have to go back and look, but I believe it was twenty-five. The reason we can't get the extended life term on what we are borrowing for the water plant is because it is mechanical equipment and that's what, it's the life of the mechanical equipment is not going to be thirty years—it'll be more like twenty years. They're not going to give you a loan on a product that's not going to work prior to the depreciated value or the depreciated life of that one. So, that's why we got it for twenty years. There's no, no, uh, grant money. No grant money on this one. It is a loan, and it's set to be indexed based on the initial bond rate at the time of closing, the one percent below the twenty-year no interest municipal bond rate. (2:31:24-2:31:26) So, if it's 2.5 then that would be 1.5, obviously. If, uh, we're eligible and we can get it done within the expedited closing program, then they'll knock off .2 percent of that loan. I asked again today, uh, when I talked to Rick Chitwood about it, and he can elaborate on this and the qualifying for the grants. And the problem is our rates are so low. Our rates are so low, and he's told you that before. We don't qualify for, for, uh, grant money with water fund. So, we'll need to talk about that in detail also. I just wanted to bring it to your attention so you can be looking at the letter. And if you have any type of questions, we can talk in depth about that together with that. It's part of the process with this water treatment plant final design. You notice it says disinfection or distribution system disinfection byproduct evaluation was part of that. That's got to do with our tanks. And we're going to get into the specifics of that later, but we're going to have to have our tanks cleaned and probably install some apparatus that will help get rid of some of these byproducts that fluorine has and some byproducts of disinfection that we have in our process. So, it's a, it's a design that helps (Inaudible 2:32:50-2:32:51) that helps get it done. Uh, we did have procurement for the final design and the rest of the basic engineering costs. Uh, we had a procurement and had bids offered. We only received one bid, and that was Thompson and Litton. We solicited throughout the areas and we put it on. Uh, and we also got extra, uh solicitation from MBE, Women's Business Enterprises and Minority Business Enterprises. We are required to do that. We sent the package to lots of engineering companies throughout the three states mostly. Actually, uh, four if you count West Virginia. That particular project only had one bidder, so, uh, that was Thompson and Litton. Uh, I'm not asking you to award a contract, but we do have to make a decision if you are going to take advantage of this particular water, uh, assistance, you have until the end of the month, basically to do that. So, that's why we have to have this meeting tomorrow, excuse me, next

week to talk about that. So, uh, Mr. (2:34:04) has the contract. He wasn't going to be able to give it to you tonight. We got the contract in place. I have started negotiating with them, and we were able to knock off \$20,000 at least, so far. So, we will talk to Mr. _____. He may be able to be in attendance if we can get this meeting in next week and try to talk about these matters if we could. And at that time, get it to the bidder, the most qualified, and the information on that. So, that would be the purpose also, of the recessed meeting next week, to do that also. And that will give you a chance to talk to Rick Chitwood in depth about any questions you might have about finance, and he's a pretty good expert because he's, he's been able to successfully get these types of programs into various authorities and throughout Southwest Virginia—very successful in that. So, it'll keep us moving along when we're trying to get everything in place to try to stay on schedule as much as possible. I will tell you that we have our challenges daily with the Wastewater Treatment Plant. We currently have a sludge pump down that's got everything stopped dealing with sludge. (Inaudible 2:35:17-2:35:19). And we lost a pump this weekend at Raven/Doran station, and that's a seventy-five-horsepower sludge equipment. It got pulled out, and it'll be wired, so we're losing stuff almost regularly down there. So, we lost two aerators that cost—just the replacement cost for one of the aerators is almost \$7,000. So, we'd like to have some of this free money to spend so we don't have to keep spending our own. So, you need to have a meeting as soon as possible. So, I know I was talking really fast, but I just wanted to let you know. We will revisit all of this next week. So, on those matters, can we talk about a date right now, Mayor, since that is important to us, uh, or should we wait until maybe the end?

Mayor Crawford: Uh, well, we can talk about it right now. We're talking about maybe, uh, Rick Chitwood can be here either Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. Uh, my thought is maybe we shouldn't have it on Wednesday because folks go to church on Wednesday night. And after I went home and checked, I'm actually tied up on Tuesday night, so the 12th is the only night that I can do it. Uh, but that's no reason not to have it if that's a problem for everyone else. (Inaudible 2:36:33-2:36:37).

Mr. Taylor: So, it'll be Thursday the 22nd?

Mr. Cury: I see. As far as I'm concerned, I can do that because we have a Flood Task Force meeting that afternoon at 5:00. So, if we could run it concurrent at 6:00 or 6:30 possibly.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Anybody else?

Mr. Wood: 6:30 would be better for me.

Mr. Taylor: So, Thursday at 6:30 it is. Thank you. Okay. The, um, again we talked about my g there. Bridge inspections is the next thing on there. Every three years we have to renew our contract with professional services for a qualified engineering firm that they're doing bridge inspections. I can't tell you how important—you see that all across America—how important it is to make sure that we have bridges that are well-maintained and pass inspection for liability purposes for us. We get, uh, maintenance money through VDOT to do these inspections, and they have to be done every year. Some bridges are more, uh, every year inspections—the ones that are in more poor shape. The other ones that we have are done, uh, every two years. So, we, really, I, I'd like to read this because we've always used this firm, and we've always, in my tenure, used a sole source determination. And I really believe we need to stay with the same folks that have given us advice for as many years as we've had to do this. So, uh, I'd like to read the statement and get it into the minutes and hope the council will agree with this.

Mr. Taylor read the statement at this time. (Attached)

Based on last year's contract, if we can get approval tonight, I was able to get the actual funds for the last three years, up to 2019, was, uh, for three years was \$33,720. We actually got a reduction to \$30,250. That's over three thousand dollars deduction from these folks. We do have to provide a little bit of traffic control and vegetation training, and washing the decks, and so forth. And they will have to provide a big truck that actually goes on a sleeper truck that follows to the side. So, so I can get this behind us and start the inspections in December, I would like you to authorize me to sign a contract with Swartz and Associates based on the determination.

Mr. Cury: I make the motion to authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract with Swartz.

Mr. Hurst: I second the motion.

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

Mr. Taylor: Uh, one more thing before you close session from me is the Telecom. We talked a little bit about that. We were talking about a signed contractor point broadband for co-location. We also have,

uh, I know a lot of you have been upset. I have had a lot of citizens call us, and the ladies have been working a lot of complaints about Spectrum and the level of service. And they've been promising us they would have digital, uh, soon. Well, we had a meeting with the governmental relations representative from Spectrum out of Greensboro last week. Unfortunately, I had to cancel. I actually had to cancel my meeting with them, but I asked Frank to sit in for me and they allowed him to sit it. So, instead of me trying to speak to what they told him, I'd like you to hear what the improvements are and when they'll go into effect because obviously this will provide. Everyone in the town of Richlands has the ability to get cable if they want it, and if they get cable, they don't have to get the TV, but they can get the broadband. The broadband now can be available at any place of business in town and in any residency as soon as they make the switch to, uh, various speed levels that Frank will talk to you about. So, if I could ask him to come up and relay what Spectrum told him. So, if everybody can hear that's interested in getting their services.

Mr. Dorton: Like Mr. Taylor said, I attended the meeting with the government rep from Spectrum, and when I left, I was probably more excited than he was. They're going completely digital for the town of Richlands on November 10—that'll be the cut over date. Uh, with that digital package, what it is, you're going to be seeing the same content that they provide to Charlotte and Raleigh. So, that's, they're adding about eighty-nine new standard channels, 197 HD channels, 67,000 on demand titles, so TV is going to be a whole lot different than what we see. The reason they want to meet with us is so we can let our citizens know they should be getting letters from Spectrum. Any Spectrum customer should get a letter sometime, uh, today, or sometime this week, about what this changeover is and what you're gonna have to do to make that happen. Uh, somebody, if you have a box, you might have to get a new box. I think he said eighty-five percent of the boxes in play right now are digital capable. Uh, every television will have to have a box, or you can use the Spectrum app. If you have a Samsung TV, you can download the Spectrum App. If you don't, then you'll have to use other devices like a Roku or some other Xbox or something to get the Spectrum app to watch on a television without a box. But what they are going to offer if you have basic TV without a box, they'll give you two boxes free for two years so you can still watch television. So, it's gonna be hundreds more channels than what we already have. The biggest thing is the channel lineup changes. Uh, what we got in the mail today is this. This is the new channel lineup, and you can see, that plus that and almost HDI all over the place, so TV is going to be a lot different from what we are used to seeing. The biggest thing is their standard internet package is going to be 100 meg down with ten meg up. That's probably why you got now, but you'll also be able to purchase a 200 meg down with a twenty meg up, a 400 meg down with a, I think it was, a twenty meg up, and you can get gig for the home or in the business with thirty-five meg up. So, a gig is what all big cities, 5G and all those things have that kind of speed, so you'll be able to get that. So, the biggest thing is the citizens when you get your letter, make sure that you open it and if you have questions, call them. So, when they switch over on November 10, if you haven't made arrangements to get a box or have your box upgraded, then you're not going to be able to see anything until that happens. I know we get a lot of junk mail, and usually if I get something from Spectrum, it goes in the trash and I never open it, but now if you get it you probably need to open it because there are things in there if you have questions. Like I said, I was more excited when I left than he was. Uh, we have a lot of Telecom in town. We now have three providers: Spectrum, Point Broadband, and Segra, which used to be (2:45:40). We have several. We have Point Broadband for the town through the isbs. So, there's three out there for our businesses to consider. The residential we are pretty much stuck with what Spectrum provides us unless you can get Verizon DSL, so it's a big plus for the citizens of Richlands in communication. Anyone have any questions?

Mr. Taylor: I'd like to add, too, that we were able to get, uh, one of the first ARC in the Appalachian regional commission Telecom grants about twenty years ago, and we have a fiber background that's going through our business district that we have dark fiber available. So, we are leasing some of that to Point Broadband. We are leasing some of that to Segra. We also have a joint project. We actually own twelve fibers all the way from Richlands over to the Wardell light, so we use that for Spectrum. And the timings of our pump stations all the way, so there's lots of opportunity, I think, that this is what we've done with the business community. The problem is then we lose those businesses sometimes because of challenges of getting it across properties and getting it buried, uh, oftentimes. But we have the ability to serve the business community if need be now. And, actually, the residents have that now which is pretty amazing. Or will have. I hope it works well. So, I just thought that was pretty good information. Unless council has any questions for me, I don't have anything else other than closed session.

Mr. Cury: May I request a five-minute recess, please?

Mayor Crawford: Sure.

Five-minute recess.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, at this time I will entertain a motion for the council to convene in an executive, closed session as permitted by the Code of Virginia section 2.2-3711A1. Legal counsel regarding the interpretation of presented code 154.070 and 154.110, also 2.2-3711 (7), legal counsel to discuss potential zoning litigation and 2.2-3711a1, personnel.

Mr. Cury: I make the motion to go into closed session for items thirteen, subsections a and b.

Mr. McClanahan: Mr. Mayor, if I could add to that briefly, an issue we talked about and touched on earlier, to discuss, pursuant to Virginia code 2.2 3711 A7, uh, potential litigation regarding graveyard that we previously discussed.

Mayor: Okay.

Mr. Cury: I'll add that to the motion.

Mayor Crawford: Do we have a second?

Mr. Hurst: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: Any discussion? Okay.

Mayor Crawford: I'll entertain a motion to reconvene in the open session and accept the certificate of the executive session certifying that the matters discussed while in executive session were both legally exempted from open meeting requirement and identified in the motion by which the closed session began.

Mr. Cury: So moved.

Mayor Crawford: Do I have a second?

Mr. Brown: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: Roll call vote: Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries. So, now I will entertain a motion to recess our meeting till 6:30 next Thursday the 22nd.

Mr. Wood: Wait just a minute. Go back. You are going too fast. She's got to have a roll call vote. We didn't make the motion to come back in. We left one motion out there.

Mayor Crawford: I thought I did both.

Mr. Brown: We have to certify.

Mr. Cury: I make the motion that we certify that nothing was discussed other than what we were supposed to talk about.

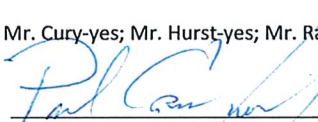
Mr. Wood: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: Roll call vote: Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Thank you. Now we are looking for a motion to recess until next Thursday evening at 6:30.

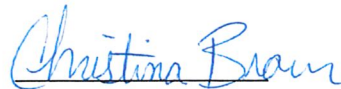
Mr. Cury: I'll make a motion to recess until next Thursday, October 22 at 6:30.

Mr. Wood: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: Roll call vote. Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes.



Paul Crawford, Mayor



Christina Brown, Clerk