

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council chambers on September 8, 2020, at 7:30 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

Mayor Crawford opened the meeting.

Mrs. Strong asked for a moment of silence in honor of Dr. Joe Adair and Mr. J.W. McClintock. She then gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Crawford: Do we have any additions or deletions to the agenda?

Mr. Taylor: I just have one under my report. There is a memorandum of understanding with the engineering firm of Thompson and Litton that I would like to brief council on concerning the Greenway Pavilion project.

Mayor Crawford: Do you want to do that under your report?

Mr. Taylor: Yes, sir.

Mayor Crawford: Any others? I would like to add under number eight, make it number eight A, I suppose, a Rec Park report for council. And, also, under scheduled public comments, uh, Raymond Arnold, Bower Avenue, who had asked to be on the agenda, uh, will not be able to be here. And, uh, I'll talk a little bit about what his concerns were under my comments, if that's okay. Any others? Okay, you have the minutes before you. Look over the minutes, and I will entertain a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Clerk: We need to approve the agenda, Mayor.

Mayor Crawford: The agenda?

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

Mayor Crawford: Thank you.

Mr. Hurst: I'll second that motion.

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

Thank you, Chris. I thought I was rolling along too easy.

Now let's look at the minutes. Any changes to be made to the minutes?

Mrs. Strong and Ms. Allen made corrections to the minutes.

Mayor Crawford: Anyone else?

Mrs. Strong: I make a motion that we approve these minutes as amended.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion Do we have a second?

Mr. Hurst: I'll second this motion.

Mayor Crawford: Motion and a second to approve the minutes with the changes. Roll call vote: Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries. Regina Sayers-

Mr. Cury: Mayor? Sorry to interrupt you, Regina. Did we include the emergency meeting minutes in that motion? I don't think it did.

Mayor Crawford: Do we need another motion? I didn't even have it on the agenda.

Mr. Cury: I think that, yes.

Mayor Crawford: Has everyone had time to look over those minutes? Any changes to be made? If not, I will receive a motion to approve those minutes as presented.

Mr. Cury: I'll make a motion to approve the meeting of council on September 3, which was an emergency meeting, to approve these minutes as presented.

Mr. Wood: 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. Thank you. Motion carries.
Regina.

Ms. Regina Sayers: Mr. Mayor. Council members. I am Regina Sayers, executive director with Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens, and I am also the chair of the Tazewell County, the newly formed Tazewell County Chamber. We have been in operation since May of last year, and this is our executive director, Mrs. Lori Stacy. Um, when Covid came to visit us in March, actually it was earlier back in January, but many of our businesses had to close their doors due to the pandemic. Uh, Lori and I began to think of ways that we could support our small businesses. As we all know, the small businesses are the background, uh, the backbone of our community. Um, without the small businesses we really wouldn't have a community. They're the first ones to step up to the plate. Mr. Cury, I know many times you have supported little league teams. You have supported the cheerleaders, the ball players. Mrs. Strong, the same with you, um, as well. And if it weren't for these businesses, they are the first ones to stand up and cheer your little league team on, and not only sponsor it, but they will show up for your child's game. So, without them, our community fails. And, so, we came up with a program, The Community Investment Partnership. And, I'm going to let Lori tell you a little bit more about that. But we did bring this to the attention of the county, Tazewell County IDA, and the other town councils, and we've had several fund raisers. But I'll let Lori finish telling about Community Investment Partnership. If you have any questions for us, please, please ask. I can't see or hear with a mask, but anyway. I read lips.

Mrs. Lori Stacy: Well, first of all, I think I've met almost everybody in the room. Um, but I've certainly enjoyed the time that I've been able to share here in Richlands, and I do look forward to being able to help as much as we can. And on behalf of the Chamber, we are very excited to be able to put this program together. Um, but we have been able to get donations from, um, some of the different areas of our county, as well as our IDA. And we are asking the same of you all today; to do a contribution so we can distribute to those that have applied. We do have our application on our website, and we've received nineteen applications. And, I think Connie can vouch for us to say that it's been very hard to let our businesses realize that this is not a loan. This is grant money. This is money that they are not going to be able to pay back, or they are not going to have to pay back. So, this is something that makes them a little bit nervous. But we were happy to say that we do have nineteen businesses that need our help. And, so, we are coming to you all and hoping that you will make a contribution to our Community Investment Partnership. The more we raise, the more we are going to be able to help, that they are not going to have to pay back.

Ms. Sayers: And this is for, uh, for businesses that did not receive Family's First or Cares Act funding-that they were not, uh, for the employee injury bbi deal disaster loan. Many of them felt like they could not take on a loan because where would this money be to pay that back. Many of them were not eligible for the PPP, Personal Payroll Protection plan, uh, because they weren't a large business, or they were too small a business, or they were proprietary sole proprietors. Uh, so many of them weren't eligible for anything but what is coming from potentially, um, there's some funding through the county, now available through the state. But also, they just, there wasn't any funding for them. Um, Mr. Taylor and I did talk, um, at length, about the, uh, when this first happened, that there were over sixty businesses that had not renewed their business license in Richlands alone. Let alone the entire county. So, we have asked, uh, uh, uh, Lori has said, we've had about nineteen applications, but they come from all four of the jurisdictions, or five of the jurisdictions, uh, within the county. So, we've had applications from everywhere. The IDA did, uh, uh, afford some funding, the Town Council of Bluefield afforded funding, as did the Tazewell Town Council, as well, in the amount of \$5,000. We did have funding from the Thompson Charitable Foundation, as well. We raised \$10,000 through them. So, we haven't just relied on the local government. So, there are other businesses that have made donations and private individuals. So, it's not just our town councils or our local government. But we always know that we look to our local government when we help our local businesses. That's the first place that we look. So, we would certainly appreciate you all's opportunity to, uh, consider this, and as soon as you can make a decision, we will be able to, to get the review committee. There is a review committee that is not just chamber members. We have businesses, uh, business owners. We have educators, uh, several other individuals that are on this, and a couple of them that are on the IDA, are on this review committee. It

was a very intense application process that we had. As a matter of fact, the county thought it was too intense. But it did answer a lot of questions that we had, such as did they have, uh, were they receiving other funding. Because those are not the ones we want to be able to help—they have access to funding, not the ones we want to be able to help. Any questions?

Mr. Cury: Uh, the money that you have available, do you know when you will be distributing that money?

Ms. Sayers: As soon as we are, uh, this is our last process. As soon as this process is finished, and we have a yes, no, or how much money, yes, we hope it is a yes, and how much we would have, then we would bring, we will convene the review committee and have them to review that. There are a few of those that since they applied they have received funding from other sources. Um, so we would not consider those, so that does make the pool a little less, and that will give us more money to distribute to the ones that are still standing, I guess. The ones who are remaining.

Mrs. Strong: Regina and Lori, how much? Do you know approximately how much money you have at the present time?

Ms. Sayers: Close to \$23,000, I think is what we have right now. We don't have an exact figure because some of it is still coming in because we had a virtual benefit concert and some of the funds from that are still coming in from that as well. So, close to about \$23,000. And then, like I said, we appealed to the town council, the Richlands Town Council, the Tazewell Town Council. Bluefield and Tazewell both gave \$5,000. And we are asking for \$5,000 from you all, or whatever funding that you can. We'll accept anything. We will not be too picky. But, these funds will be disbursed. Some individuals have asked for only \$500 for their sanitization and PPE, and things like that. Some of them have asked for some ongoing funds to help them recoup from their losses. Some of them are just asking for their inventory.

Mrs. Stacy: And while our application, it was, I don't want to say criticized, but it was considered a little complicated. It was very easy to, uh, locate injury. And, we do have a couple of different businesses that really need some support, and if we can possibly allow for a little more money to go to that particular business, um, then we would like to be able to do that. Just, you know, assess the injury, and help as much as we can.

Ms. Sayers: Because they have no revenue coming in. So, they're, some of them are not even going to be able to, um. I'll give you, for instance, it's a restaurant. They may not even be able to afford the inventory to bring back on their supplies: food, raw consumables, uh, their food, to reopen their doors. And we have one that is right here in Richlands that I hope they will be. Um, our agency has also tried to give them a home right now, um, so that they can move forward once they do have the funding to open their doors.

Mrs. Strong: Tim, do we have funds for that from the Flood Disaster Relief? A lot of people just gave financially to.

Mr. Taylor: Actually, we checked on that. There are still people going down from that. I was in error on that. I don't know how much that is still, unless Adrienne does. I'm not sure.

Mrs. Cordle: When we checked the last time, it was still a little over \$20,000, but I don't know what it is current.

Mr. Cury: Is there some money we could use and tap into that money to help businesses?

Mr. Taylor: We certainly can ask. I don't think, or I don't know the exact amount today, but we can check on that to see. I would imagine if there was \$20,000 the last time we checked, then there should be ample funds to match this for sure.

Mr. Cury: I'll make a motion that we use some of those funds that are available to be in support to local businesses for \$5,000.

Mrs. Strong: I'll second the motion.

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

Mr. Taylor: The only thing I would like to add to the record is that we got Doug Sheets to actually handle that money. That's why I don't know the figures from the agencies, but I am sure we could draw monies in any fashion if you all would like to. Just to clarify that.

Ms. Sayers: As Mr. Taylor says, we are not a 501C3, so we could not, the chamber could not accept the funds. So, we partnered with a 501C3, and Clinch Valley Community Action is our partner. So, all the funds to individuals, of course, is charitable tax donation. But, um, but they are just a pass through. They are not charging any administrative fee. Everything, you know, all the money goes directly, there is nothing to be kept at the Chamber. All the money goes directly to these businesses. And, actually, Connie is on our review committee.

Mr. Cury: So, no administrative fees?

Ms. Sayers: Right. And she knows the businesses in the community as well, so we wanted to make sure that we had a good, uh, plethora, a nice arrangement of individuals from all of the communities that are on this review committee.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Any further discussion? We have a motion and a second to get funds from the, what do we call that?

Mr. Taylor: Flood Relief Fund

Mayor Crawford: Flood Relief Fund to donate to the Chamber for small businesses. Any further discussion? Roll call vote, Chris: Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-yes; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Ms. Sayers and Mrs. Stacy: Thank you. Thank you all very much.

Ms. Sayers: We will make sure your businesses are well taken care of.

Mayor Crawford: Public comments. Uh, Mr. Arnold was the only one we had there, and I'll discuss that during my comment period. Any unscheduled public comments? Having heard none, number eight A, I guess we'll call it, is a report from the recreation department.

Mrs. Strong: Jessica is out there. I'm just going to pass these out.

Mayor Crawford: Jessica, hold on just a second and let them wipe that. Thank you.

Jessica Reynolds-Lawrence: Do you have questions for me, sir, or do you just want a report?

Mayor Crawford: Just give us a report if you will. And if anyone has questions, they will ask you then.

Mrs. Reynolds-Lawrence: Okay. Um, we closed the rec park pool yesterday with an awesome day. I think we had fifty people at the pool, which was a great crowd for us on the last day. We were busy throughout the day, and it was nice to see a lot of people there. Um, we did have a great pool season as you will see on the report. Um, the Adopt a Child program is still doing great. I think we are at about \$8,400 right now worth of donations from the community, and a lot of those children are showing up daily. I checked the report today, and we have had 438 check-ins since we started the program. Those are your children that you are sponsoring; 438 times they have checked in at the rec park since we started in July. So, that's great. Uh, we work, of course, on the reduced schedule right now. We are on the school schedule, as we like to call it. We are open 1-9 through the week, 9-9 on Saturday, and 1-9 is regular on Sundays.

Mayor Crawford: I know you mentioned the check-ins. Have you met your goal with the Adopt a Child program?

Mrs. Reynolds-Lawrence: Yes. Yes, sir, we have. And, we are still accepting, I think we have about twelve more spots available, so we are still accepting about twelve more children. Those, and they just, the community has been great so those are still coming in. So, as we get them, I just keep announcing that we have room for another child. If you know anybody, we are still accepting those children.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Any questions for Jessica?

Mrs. Strong: I just want to say I was there late yesterday evening, and there were so many, and they were spaced out, but families. And Jessica and I were talking, and she said it was kind of unusual this pool season. Usually you would just see a lot of kids coming, but this pool season there are a lot of families. I think that says a lot, and we made the right decision to open the pool because we talked a lot about families not being able to travel and go on vacation. So, they were able to use our pool.

Mrs. Reynolds-Lawrence: Yes, it is—it's a different crowd. I don't know how to explain it. But, um, usually you have a lot of single children there. Not young children but middle school and high schoolers,

and they just kind of hang out together. But yesterday, I just kept walking the pool and talking to my lifeguards. You know, and my question is are there any issues? Are there any non-swimmers? Anybody that's having trouble? Anybody they have to watch a little extra? They just kept saying no, there's all kinds of moms here. And that was so nice because, normally, we have single children. But yesterday there was not one child there without a family. And we even had teenagers there, too, but they were there—two teenage girls with their mom. And it's just nice to see that family atmosphere back at the pool. So, it was good.

Mayor Crawford: I really liked the pavement art, too, whoever did that.

Mrs. Reynolds-Lawrence: Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: It was really nice.

Mrs. Reynolds-Lawrence: Thank you.

Mrs. Strong: One other thing. Um, there is a new sport that is really drawing a lot of attention, called pickle ball. And, uh,

Mrs. Reynolds-Lawrence: Mary Ann has the bug.

Mrs. Strong: Uh, yeah. And, you know, some people call it the senior citizen's sport. We are getting some older adults now coming to the park that didn't frequent the park previously.

Mr. Hurst: Is there an age limit on that older comment?

Mrs. Strong: No, ah, I'm staying away from that. (Laughter) Because I am playing.

Mrs. Reynolds-Lawrence: She says that is just a rumor; it's not true. It's just a rumor.

Mr. Hurst: Because I was down there for a while.

Mrs. Reynolds-Lawrence: But we do encourage you guys to come play pickle ball as well. It is for all ages. So, anybody who wants to come, we encourage you to come. For other reasons as well.

Mayor Crawford: Thank you, Jessica.

Mrs. Reynolds-Lawrence: You're welcome. Thank you all.

Mayor Crawford: The Director of Community Development Report—Connie.

Mrs. Allen: Just a couple of things tonight.

Mayor Crawford: Connie, will you bring that mic down a little bit?

Mrs. Allen: I better speak into the mic. Sorry, Chris. I know how that is. Uh, the CARES Act funding, we did distribute \$52,000 for local businesses on August 25, and we received forty-four applications. Like Regina was talking before, I went to visit several of the businesses that didn't fill out an application, and they didn't quite understand it. It was very simple, but they thought they either had to pay it back or they didn't qualify. I guess it was too simple, but I actually did help a few of them fill them out. So, if we get another round of money, we may just have to go door to door. But we did end up with forty-four, which was great we could help that many businesses. The second thing, the town did receive \$68,000 on August 12. That was the phase 2 of the CARES Act funding. We are in the process of purchasing all those items for the different departments. Uh, we've already received a lot of the items that was on the list that we requested, but it will probably take a couple more weeks to finish that up. That was a good thing. And one other thing. The Veteran's celebration. We are selling banners for \$50 each. We are going to display the veterans through town on the flag poles starting the first week of November through Veteran's Day. And I talked to Jerry today. We do plan on having a Veteran's Day celebration. We don't know exactly what yet because we have to wait to see what the Covid details are, but we are going to do something. So, maybe we can do something outside, with the stage, and kind of do, uh, like we did with the movie, with the big movie screen and display the program there. But we are working out all the details on that, but we are going to do the flags through town. And if we get enough, we'll just go on up through towards the high school, like put one picture then a flag and a picture and a flag. So, if you know anybody who wants to purchase one of those, that would be good. That's all I have. Thank you.

Mr. Cury: I have a question, Connie. Is there a time, uh, do you have a time we need to turn in if we want to buy a banner?

Mrs. Allen: Uh, yes, we're taking them all the way up through probably the last week of October. I talked to Ryan. As I get, maybe, like twenty, he's going to go ahead and accept those and go ahead and run them. So, he will take the last minute one, but I'd like to get them in as soon as possible.

Mr. Cury: So, through the last week of October?

Mrs. Allen: Yes. And, also, if you know of anyone that's passed away that no family's here, if you could let us know that also, we will try to get those veterans up as well. Thank you.

Mr. Brown: Connie? While you are up here. I think Mr. Taylor is going to talk about the Greenway, but I want to ask you a question.

Mrs. Allen: On the Greenway? Okay.

Mr. Brown: In the design piece of it, the stage and all that. We had discussed restrooms prior, and I don't see any restrooms on this proposal plan for that.

Mrs. Allen: Uh, we are not going to have no restrooms at the Greenway. We've never actually had that. We're going to use the restrooms, I guess, at the Section House. I think that was the original plan, right?

Mr. Taylor: There wasn't any room to really put those types of structures there, so the initial plan was to hopefully, in major events to use the Section House. Otherwise, we would have the ability to possibly use Connie's office depending on what is going on. If it is a big event, we are hoping that the Section House would be opened up and we could use those. The Section House can be closed, but the restrooms can be open, and they can use them. That's what we were going to do.

Mrs. Allen: Yeah, because there's not enough room really in that area. Once we put the stage and then the little play area for the kids, it's going to take a lot of room.

Mr. Brown: The biggest complaint that I had while the events that were there was no access to the restrooms. That is the reason I asked.

Mr. Taylor: The Section House is open now, so we have that. And, there is always Port-A-Potties if we have to. The only way you can get a bathroom in that area would be to sacrifice that parking and that street in the back, which seemed to be the wrong thing at the time when we were looking at it.

Mrs. Allen: Any more questions? We hope to have this done by, hoping by Christmas.

Mayor Crawford: Thank you, Connie. Council members reports: Rod.

Mr. Cury: Okay, uh. Thank you, Connie. Uh, the first thing on my list is to consider Doug and Connie Allen's request to rezone property located at 430 Virginia Avenue from an existing R-2 (General Residential) classification to a B2/R-2 (General Business/General Residential) Classification for the purpose of new business (copy enclosed). And you have this; I think we all have this is our council packet. It's a letter from Connie, signed by Connie. It is from Connie and Doug.

Mr. Cury read the letter. (Enclosed)

And the zoning permit is on the back with a copy of it right here. She did present this to the planning commission, and it is the planning commission's request to the council to hold a, we have to have a public hearing, uh, to hold a joint public hearing with council at our October meeting. So, I would propose, uh, in the form of a motion that we hold a joint public hearing, uh, meaning the planning commission with the council at our October meeting.

Mrs. Strong: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second to have a joint public hearing at our October meeting. 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. Thank you.

Mr. Cury: The next item under my council member reports is item ten, A2: Consider Letter of Intent to the Corps of Engineers' Floodplain Management Services (FPMS) Program (copy enclosed). I can read this if you want me to, but does everybody have this copy?

Mayor Crawford: Yes, it is in our packet. Make sure you have it.

Mr. Cury: All right. This is a letter to the Corps of Engineers regarding floodplain management services, uh, asking for us to be a participant in this, uh, in this program. So, if you would like me to read it, I would love to, Mayor Crawford, or I would accept the fact that maybe people have read it.

Mayor Crawford: Let's accept it as presented.

Mr. Cury: All right. So, I'll make a motion, uh, that we, uh, authorize the manager to send this letter of intent.

Mayor Crawford: Do we have a second?

Mr. Brown: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Any discussion? I have one question, Rod. Is this in conjunction with our, uh, flood committee?

Mr. Cury: It's a different committee. It could be. I'm going to report on that, too, for the task force.

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

Mr. Cury: Okay. And the, uh, the next part of my report is to report on the task force that we formed, uh, by the planning commission at the direction of council. And the task force consists of the following members: Shea Cook, Travis Hackworth, John Absher, Virginia Hart, and me representing council and commission, and Nathan Keen who is a member of our staff for the town. So, that's who is on this, uh, task force. And, I know that Shea is already beginning some work on that, and he would probably have a report at the next planning commission meeting, and I will carry that toward the council. Any questions about that? I would be glad to try to answer them.

Mayor Crawford: Questions?

Mr. Cury: And the last thing I have. I'm so pleased. I want to thank Mary Ann for asking for a moment of silence for two citizens who are, uh, who've given so much of their time, talent, and resources to the town. Dr. Addair and John McClintock, uh, have both done so much for the community, and we will miss them, as we do all the people who pass on. One more person I would like to mention. He wasn't a citizen of Richlands, but I call him a citizen of the community, and that is Dr. Abernathy. Uh, Dr. R.A. Abernathy passed away. His work for the community was, uh, uh. He had a quiet nature, but he got so many things done and supported the arts and athletics and everything. I just wanted to mention him too and hope that you'll keep his family close to your heart. Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Thank you, Rod.

Mr. Cury: You are welcome.

Mayor Crawford: Could I get somebody to get a bottle of water? I am getting dry. All right. Richard.

Mr. Brown: I just had some questions regarding the 460-corridor study, and I'll just wait until Mr. Taylor presents.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Mary Ann.

Mrs. Strong: I wanted to ask Mr. Taylor, and this is something that I guess I'll be very persistent on, and I know we're working on it. But, with Joe Addair's passing, it reminded me of his passion to get fluoride back in our water. Just an update of where we are with that project.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. I can give it to you right now if you want. Um, we have the last piece of equipment, actually, I think, arrived last week. Uh, some of the work, initially, that was started was limited by access to material, basically because of Covid. I think the last piece is in. The, uh, waterlines have been relocated by the water department, so that part's done. The, uh, actual building itself has to be demolished a little bit with the street crew. Inaudible 40:15-40:21) I know it's all there, so we are working on that as we speak. We actually got the line moved, I think, last Thursday, so, (40:28-40:31) So, that's where we are at, so we are (40:34) it down.

Mrs. Strong: Does that look like weeks, months?

Mr. Taylor: Uh, the way we have to share resources in order for us not to have to bid it out and save some money, we're doing the work. So, I, probably, I don't know if it will be within thirty days, but I'll try to see if we can get that done as soon as possible.

Mrs. Strong: Thank you. And, several citizens have brought this to my attention, and I've noticed it for years, too. The sidewalk in front of Pizza Hut—when it rains, it's very slick. Even when it doesn't rain, I mean, there's lots of walkers and lots of runners. We're really going to be facing a lawsuit. Somebody's

going to trip and fall. I just wondered what action can be taken. You probably have that in the plans, Tim, but I think it ought to be expedited.

Mr. Taylor: That is an old problem that's been around for years. It's kind of gotten worse and worse as time goes on. That has existed, uh, I'm saying at least twenty years. Whenever the football field was put in and they moved that soil over to the new band area. It's not what caused the problem, but that's about the same timeframe. The pipe has collapsed, uh, basically a little bit East of Pizza Hut under the highway. Uh, it was a drainage area down through the part of Cedar Bluff, uh, behind the Medicine Shoppe and behind Taco Bell area, that's collapsed. We've made numerous attempts at the town to do something with that, but we've also had meetings with VDOT. Uh, at the time, we had meetings with the Board of Supervisors. We had meetings with the school board because it's a lot of their drainage. Uh, a number of individuals. The county even provided a study, which I have an engineering study that I think was performed by Anderson Associates that talks about the problem. We made an attempt even before that school complex became part of our town. We made an attempt to get that cleared up. Even in Cedar Bluff we got permission to go on that side. It's just been unsuccessful. It's a huge drainage area behind the school, and what complicates it even more is the fact that the school's, the middle school as I understand it, has a water problem in the back under certain times of the year. So, they have to pump out of their own well that used to feed that water system. They've got nowhere to put that water except in the storm drains, and they can't cut the pumps off so that pumps another amount of water down that same drainage area. It's a complicated issue that if we could have fixed it, we would have. It requires a lot of money, too. So, uh, I've talked to some of the county folks again about it. Uh, one of two things that probably needs to be done since it continues to get worse because it started out being kind of a nuisance, but now it is a real problem that is compound. I think that is a big project we need to get with VDOT as a special project to help us figure that out because the pipe that's collapsed is actually in Cedar Bluff. Uh, the water that runs down from that part of the road in front of Pizza Hut is complicated because that's road water. It's in VDOT right of way in Cedar Bluff. So, we've got multiple jurisdictions, and then we've got multiple problems. It's going to take several dollars to pay for that, so we really need to get involved with that as maybe a VDOT-generated project, I think. So, I think we should go ahead and contact them and try to get something started again on that and use whatever information we have today to make that particular project at least move forward in some form or fashion. It's going to take a road bore or it's going to take some installation of some several feet of fairly large drainpipe. With a new permit from stormwater management people also, so it's a pretty big problem. It's, it's very complicated. That's a long-well, it's kind of a short version. It's been around for several years, but it doesn't make it any better. It's just gotten worse, I think, with the amount of rains we've had. So, you know, I'll do that if council... that's what I plan to do or if council has any other ideas. I'd be more than happy to try it but that's probably the best solution—to make everybody aware of it and try to generate some more folks involved other than us.

Mrs. Strong: And the problem is that the public sees it as our sidewalk. They don't understand that it's a drain in Cedar Bluff and somewhat connected to the school. They see it as Richlands, and they see us repairing other sidewalks that need to be repaired, but nowhere as dangerous as this one. There are a lot of runners, a lot of people that walk. In fact, the message I got last week was from someone who walked.

Mr. Wood: Is the sidewalk bad? Or is it?

Mr. Taylor: No. It's the drain. It's the drain.

Mrs. Strong: But the sidewalk is not good either. You can trip on that super easily. I mean, most of our sidewalks we could trip on.

Mr. Taylor: Yeah, at Pizza Hut, there is some deterioration of the sidewalk, but the big trouble is the drainage. We have another sidewalk on that, you remember, that we've got some repair work that we're doing now on that corridor that we're scheduled to go to next. But, uh, that part of it, the water is really the slick water and the algae that grows at certain times. It's a really bad situation. It really is. I understand. Uh, to fix that though, it's kind of like, we've got multiple parties that have to do it because if it is a road bore, we'll have to engage Cedar Bluff because it will actually be in their town. That's where it was normally at. So, if we reestablish that, we'll have to do that. Part of the road is a VDOT-maintained road and not really Cedar Bluff's because they don't maintain the roads, so we'll have to engage in that. That's the solution for that. Either way, I think, it's going to take engagements with VDOT. It really is.

Mr. Hurst: Who is in charge of the sidewalk? Who would be in charge of the sidewalk?

Mr. Taylor: The sidewalk is in our issue. If there's any flaws on that sidewalk, we'll try to repair those, as far as that goes. I thought you were talking about the drainage.

Mrs. Strong: Both.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. On the sidewalk, we can fix. I can look at it as far as.

Mrs. Strong: But the bigger problem is the water.

Mr. Taylor: The water is the major problem, for sure. We've got some worse sidewalk down closer to Elizabeth Manor than what we have up at Pizza Hut. But that is scheduled to try to be repaired next this fall on that area, so we'll try to look at that for you. But the water is a huge problem.

Mrs. Strong: So, you can contact VDOT right away?

Mr. Taylor: I think that would be the best thing, and we could include that report that the county did, too, to help things and solidify our problems. We can take some pictures and voice the concerns of council, and maybe I can get it. I'll mention that it was discussed at the council meeting so they will understand the severity of it. I'll do it as a directive if that is okay with council.

Mrs. Strong: Yes, please, because it is a really old problem, like you said, but to the public we are not doing anything about it.

Mr. Hurst: I saw, like he was talking about, what was with the rocks? You know, they had a little...where you are talking about at Elizabeth Manor. What happened?

Mr. Taylor: The, uh, drainage behind those homes behind there, it failed some way. We can't or we don't really know why because that is what the mountain's starting to slip. In that house, which we're going to go out and look at, they've actually put roof bolting-type of anchors to it just to keep the walls from breaking down. We weren't aware of it, but instead of letting the road cave in or the wall cave in on the road, we secured it. And, we might have to do some more work there. That hasn't moved since we've done the work, but, uh, it's kind of ugly. We'll try maybe to do a little bit better job on fabrication of grout after that. We're still pretty sure it's not going to move anymore, but that's what happened there. There's a lot of water in that area.

Mr. Hurst: [to Mrs. Strong] Sorry.

Mrs. Strong: No, that's okay. Um, in Hidden Valley, Tim, I spoke to you about a call I received from Mike Horn. He's called again. He lives on 178 Plantation Drive, and the neighbor behind him, Peggy Barber at 472 Terry Drive—they're asking that we take a look at...we spoke about it. Uh, if there is anything, you can do some clean up there with some brush. They've complained. I see it when I run—the trash gets in there. I think all they want is, like we've done in some other areas coming into Hidden Valley. Like, Doug, when you top the hill and you're going right onto Cresswood, how nice all that is to the right. I think, Tim, that's what they want. Do you think that Rusty could make, or you could direct him or you to do something? Or maybe you could delegate it to someone to speak to them?

Mr. Taylor: We've been looking at that. It's a little bit, when you get that far, at least, the right-of-way—it's about a fifty-foot right-of-way, and we could get up there some. But, a lot of that would be private property that we normally don't get on. We're not on private property coming into Hidden Valley. That street's bigger than some of the others. So, we'll do what we can, but I'd rather not clean up private property, if we can.

Mrs. Strong: No, and I think, they would just like somebody to talk to them and tell them what we can and what we can't do. And, what we can't do, they'll probably take it upon themselves.

Mr. Taylor: Okay, just see some action. I will put that one down. And that was Michael Horn, was that correct?

Mrs. Strong: Yes, Mike and Pam Horn, and Peggy Barber.

So, I'll move on to some more positive news instead of all the questions. At the Rec. Commission meeting, Regina Sayers from Appalachian Agency was there, and Rusty and Teresa Hess actually spearheaded this idea. Rusty was there, but Appalachian Agency is getting involved, and, um, working really hard for a handicapped type playground at Critterville. So, a committee has been designated. Jeff, you were at the meeting if you want to add anything.

Mr. Hurst: Well, I have some pictures if anybody wanted to look at some of the ideas they had. I'll pass it around or something. Regina had, as far as handicap-accessible playground equipment or just anything that they needed for their, um, for their people to enjoy Critterville. It was really tough on them to be able to take them anywhere and make any trips. Um, Cindy spoke to that as well. An excellent idea was some of the vision that they had, and I know Rusty was pretty, uh, pretty, uh, you know passionate about it. So, I think they have a little bit of support, and they're supposed to be starting a committee, I guess.

Mrs. Strong: I think they are going to meet very soon. So, it's very positive, and it shouldn't cost us much money at all, unless we have to do, obviously, some labor. But it was very impressive because Regina was there with three or four people from Appalachian Agency, and these are people that make things happen. They weren't there just to talk about an idea; they were ready to take action steps.

Mr. Hurst: We talked a little about a location; whereabouts over there would be a good spot for it, which would be easy for the vans and public access and handicap access to and from. So, there's a lot of positives.

Mrs. Strong: And then also, another positive. Mr. George Brown was there, and he talked to us about some property that he has. He asked the Rec. Commission to be thinking about some ideas to use that. His family is strongly considering donating that for \$1.00 a year lease to the town. So, we had a large room full of guests, and they all had good, positive ideas to better recreation in our town. The Rec. Commission will meet again next Monday, September 14, at 7:30, upstairs at the Rec. Park. I imagine some of these ideas will continue to be discussed.

So, the last question I had is a couple of the job postings, Tim, that we talked about last Thursday. I had a couple people ask that haven't seen those posted on our website yet.

Mr. Taylor: We tried to post them all at the same time. I gave a directive to Heather last Friday, so they should be getting on there. I think she was supposed to off, but we'll get those on. Uh, I gave a copy to you of what we've used in the past, and they'll have that on. I think it goes to the paper. If it didn't meet the deadline, it'll be in the next week's paper. But we'll get it posted on our Facebook page and also on the Rec's Facebook page as well as the website first. I think it is scheduled to go out this Wednesday, I believe.

Mrs. Strong: Okay. I just had numerous people ask when it would be posted because they are interested.

Mr. Taylor: Wednesday, I think. That's tomorrow.

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

Mayor Crawford: Doug

Mr. Ratliff: All I have is, uh, we instructed Mr. Taylor to have a plan for those people on Iron Street, I believe, for the flooding.

Mr. Taylor: I've been depending on the task force group to entertain that. I think that's part of, maybe that particular part of it. I didn't pursue the engineering, other than was able to get, uh, Thompson and Litton has agreed to help the task force to do some of the HEC, maybe some of the HEC 2 analysis, which would include that. I would encourage the task force to go in that area first because that would give them some professional assistance as quick as possible. Uh, we didn't talk about the details, but anytime you change the storm drainage in any area to the Clinch, if we do an outfall anywhere with a pipe, it would have to be approved by various agencies, including ones you've already heard about: DEQ, and the Inland Fisheries, Virginia (Inaudible 54:57) Resources, uh, Army Corps. But what complicates it is that a lot of it has changed not too long ago, is storm water permitting. We have to get the developers, whether it be a private job or a public entity, municipal or a county either one, will have to get a stormwater permit. We don't have anybody on staff that's qualified, and the county has not, uh, provided that certification either. So, all those storm drain permits have to go to the state of Virginia DEQ. So, it's quite a bit involved to do any type of engineering and storm drain analysis. So, I think the best bet is to let the task force look at that area first. That's what my recommendation is. I'm not on the task force right now. Mr. Keen is, but he represents the town, but obviously I can help that. But that's where we are at, Doug.

Mr. Ratliff: I mean, the task force will take a long time, and I mean, to me, that's a simple problem. We've got people over there flooding. It happened in two months, and I think, uh, Mr. Wood talked to the county engineer, and he's going to take a look at it. Is that right?

Mr. Wood: He is.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay. Uh, I think once he looks at it and makes a recommendation. I mean, it would take probably less than \$25,000 to fix that problem—even building up the road and putting a new drainpipe in. And, if we wait for the task force, we're talking a year or two. And, if it rains and, uh, floods them again, I don't want, I don't want a disaster over there and be responsible for it. So, I think it's time we stop putting it off. And, uh, when's he coming down? Next week?

Mr. Wood: Tomorrow.

Mr. Ratliff: Okay. The county engineer is coming down tomorrow, and hopefully he'll make them some recommendations, and we'll have them for you next council meeting.

Mayor Crawford: He'll make those recommendations to?

Mr. Ratliff: To Mr. Wood and myself. Is that okay?

Mayor Crawford: Yeah, that's fine. Okay.

Mr. Ratliff: That's all I have.

Mayor Crawford: Rick.

Mr. Wood: The only thing I have is some streets lights on 2nd Street. People keeps telling me they're out. I don't know if it is just that they are not on when they see them or what. But, Tim, will you look at that?

Mr. Taylor: Do you know who called the town or anything?

Mr. Wood: I don't know.

Mr. Taylor: Do you have names, places? I'll just check the whole street. I'll check the whole street.

Mr. Wood: Okay.

Mr. Taylor: That's East 2nd?

Mr. Wood: It's around Hardees and uh.

Mr. Taylor: Oh, the main drag down there. Okay. Okay. Business 2nd Street. Okay.

Mayor Crawford: Is that it, Rick?

Mr. Wood: That's all I have.

Mayor Crawford: Jeff.

Mr. Hurst: Yes, uh, thank you. I want to echo a little bit of what Mary Ann was talking about as far as the sidewalks are concerned. I've slipped right there, too. When it is pretty dry everywhere, and then you step on that thinking the water was not frozen. So, it is pretty dangerous. And you know, I guess as a runner myself, the sidewalks are pretty pretty dangerous, and I tend to try to run in the road but you know sometimes how dangerous that can be as well. So, it's sort of six one way and half a dozen the other. But, you know, talking about even flood control, maybe, you know, something we can look at as far as improving the sidewalks and curbs and gutters, you know, in this town as well. I was looking through the report on the 460, and the improvements to the US 460, but, you know, we might want to start looking at some sidewalk improvement here as well. I think that's a good issue. And, uh, I was speaking with Rick a little bit before the meeting started about the trash problem over at the Food Lion. I appreciate Rick helping me out. He picked it up on Thursday night, and me and my grandson got out there on Friday night with a rake and broom. We've got it looking pretty good until someone else does it.

Mr. Wood: (To Mr. Hurst) I just got a picture.

Mr. Hurst: (To Mr. Wood: Did you? Okay.) Uh, but it is definitely a problem, if you see somebody over there. I've been taking pictures. So, but, anyway, like I said, I don't mind if they put it in the dumpster,

but, you know, when they just take it out and throw it on the ground, then I think we've got a problem. There is a nice grill over there, too. But, uh, anyway, that's about all I have.

Mayor Crawford: Uh, for my comments, uh, Mr. Raymond Arnold on Bower Avenue was going to speak tonight about the concerns he has up there. It's up on the hill, Tim, over there in Lake Park.

Mr. Taylor: Yes, sir.

Mayor Crawford: On that steep hill. He said that the town had come and actually cleaned out some drains and things there before, but with these heavy rains and all this, I'm sure that, uh, that they have a drainage problem. He also is, uh, tormented by bears and coyotes. And, it's dumpsters, I think dumpsters may be tied in with your property some way. But, uh, that's probably (Inaudible due to coughing 1:00:25-1:00:28). Anyway, he's got a challenge. He's very worried about it. If we could have someone, maybe from the streets, check on the drainage deal.

Mr. Taylor: I spoke with him quite at length, and we have looked at the drains.

Mr. Crawford: Okay.

Mr. Ratliff: He spoke to me also. He was talking about a top drain, up on the main top that was filled in. Could you guys check on that? It's the main one.

Mr. Taylor: I didn't understand that when we talked.

Mr. Ratliff: It's the main top drain, and he said it's been filled up. Uh, if you guys could at least clean it out.

Mr. Taylor: I think George has taken care of that because we had already discussed it. I hope he has, anyway. I am pretty sure he has.

Mr. Ratliff: He hadn't as of today because, uh, I talked to him today. So, I would check with him again. And, uh, he said his kids couldn't play because of the bears and coyotes, so. I think everybody in town has that problem.

Mr. Crawford: It's getting that way, isn't it? For sure. Okay, uh, attorney comments. Tim, are you going to take care of that?

Mr. Taylor: Yes, please. Uh, Mr. McClanahan called me earlier today. He couldn't be here tonight, so I think I can handle these, uh, these ordinances. The first one you have that's included in the corridor study, which was part of the STARS project. And, we use that acronym quite a bit, that the acronym STARS stands for Strategically Targeted Affordable Roadway Solutions. This was a study that was implemented in 2017. It is the handout that was given out to you. The importance of this particular set of documents, I want to just really read before we talk about the ordinance, if it's okay. The documents you're looking at in this study, uh, doesn't necessarily mean they're going to happen. Those are things that are identified by several individuals that were paid for through this program with VDOT. Some of them include the main 460 corridor, which is ultimately, uh, VDOT's responsibility for maintaining. We get no monies to maintain the Route 460 bypass. But we become part of the issues when it comes to making improvements to that area. Some of the crash studies, if you look at this very lengthy document which is about over 300 pages, (I will give you a website to look at if you're interested) would show a long-range type of concepts that could improve, uh, movement of traffic and a safer means. Even talking about hump crossings is a problem where the railroad tracks are (Inaudible 1:03:22-1:03:27) to get across them, especially low vehicles like trailers and so forth. They've had that issue for a number of years, and we've had them where they were being stopped on the tracks sometimes because of being the bottoms on the track in the rail. Those are concepts that are long range with cost estimates that are fairly amazing, but this is a work product that will be used for a comprehensive type approach. The thing about any of those projects is if they're not identified specifically in the comprehensive plan, which is obviously a product of the, uh, the planning commission, there is no, uh, there's no way we can fund it. That's an automatic thing, that uh, spits your application out. You won't get it. It's turned down immediately. Uh, and you, these, these, this smart scale program that was developed for the state of Virginia, it puts priorities more or less into areas of need, as well as areas of safety, and all kinds of other different factors that go into this. So, you're basically in a competitive nature. We have to get VDOT monies for these types of things. So, uh, you have to have everything just right in order to get that. So, it kind of removes some of the political pressure off some of our politicians, too, so it's actually being done by maybe some of the staff members to analyze this. But this particular ordinance needs to be adopted tonight in order for us to get that into our comprehensive plan. So, the ordinance isn't really an

amendment of the comprehensive plan to include this particular STARS project, which is the Route 460 corridor improvement study. And that will allow us to finalize our applications for this year, which is a biannual application for funding from VDOT. For just two of those projects that we talked about earlier—the lights on 460 in front of Clinch Valley Hospital area and Lake Park as well as the realignment of the 2nd Street and the Front Street at where the Huddle House is where they join down there. So, that's basically what those two are. But, going forward, if there is a need for these other projects to ever come to fruition, you'll already have that in the plan. So, that's basically what the purpose of the ordinance is. Uh, Mr. McClanahan said it could be adopted as an emergency measure, but he also would like for it to be read tonight. So, I could read it, Mayor, if you want me to.

Mr. Cury: I have a question. Would you like for me to read the formal recommendation of the planning commission? I waited until you talked about this.

Mr. Taylor: Actually, the ordinance makes reference to that, so it'd be appropriate if you do that prior to it, I believe, if you want to, if the Mayor so chooses.

Mr. Cury: I will do that. Uh, Mayor, this is based on our public hearing tonight. This is our recommendation from the planning commission.

Mr. Cury read the recommendation at this time. Copy enclosed.
So, that is our recommendation to the council.

Mayor Crawford: Thank you, Rod.

Mr. Cury: You're welcome.

Mr. Taylor: So, would you like for me to read this? Okay.

Mr. Taylor read Ordinance 0-2020-09-02. Copy enclosed.

Mr. Taylor paused for a motion to dispense of the second reading.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, I'll entertain a motion.

Mr. Cury: I'll make a motion to dispense with the second reading.

Mayor Crawford: Do I have a second?

Mr. Ratliff: I'll second it.

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

Mr. Taylor continued reading the Ordinance.

And then we need to adopt the ordinance as an emergency measure. That's what we need next, Mayor.

Mr. Cury: I'll make a motion to adopt this ordinance as an emergency measure.

Mayor Crawford: Do I have a second?

Mr. Hurst: I'll second the motion.

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

Mr. Brown: The question that I had that I was going to ask you. Were the Front Street and 2nd Street bridge identified in other projects? I noticed they weren't in this.

Mr. Taylor: The problem with that is that STARS program only covered the corridor of significance, which is only from a certain amount of length. Anything past that didn't qualify for under this program to be studied, so that's where they ended their study, right there at Rockbridge, basically. Anything else that is up through there like the bridges, the pavement—there's another pot of money that's competitive. It's called (Inaudible 1:11:11-1:11:13) and we've applied for that. And we actually have money to spend on the Front Street project once that gets totally approved. The next bridge that has to be done is the Alleghany bridge that touches, you know, 2nd Street. The third bridge is the 2nd Street bridge there at Hardee's. All three of those are in the queue for the study to get repaired. Uh, they're identified and already eligible for at least qualifications. The only one that's been fully funded today, at least Front Street and Alleghany. I think Front Street is still pending. But I think it's going to happen. The others will just have to wait for time, I guess, until the projects, until it ranks a little higher. Pavements in a different section, but we're on the list for 2nd Street, from the railroad tracks on 2nd Street going West to Huddle House, basically.

Mr. Brown: What'd they do? Cut it across the 4-lane? Because I noticed part of it is picked up, up there where you go from 55 to 35. That's part of this project.

Mr. Taylor: Because it's on that 460 corridor, basically. It's their road. That's the corridor they are talking about. Not the business so much. They did include that because of the distance proximity. That's the only reason that it got looked at in that program. You know, we can ask for money going in a different direction, but that STARS program gives it extra points in the, the uh.

Mr. Brown: I just wanted to make sure that the bridges were going to be worked on.

Mr. Taylor: Yes.

Mr. Cury: Yes, the bridges are in the comprehensive plan.

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

Mr. Taylor: Uh, the second one really just requires the first reading is all that means. If you've already read it, though I suppose Mr. McClanahan likes it read. So, I can read it, or the clerk can read it, whichever you want to do. But there is no action tonight on that. It will be next month for that because this is the first reading.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, why don't you read it for us?

Mr. Taylor: Okay. Mr. Taylor read Ordinance #0-2020-09-01. Copy enclosed. That's probably all you need to know in order to be able to vote on this next month.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. All right. Manager's reports and notes.

Mr. Taylor: Uh, I would like to have authorization to pay the bills. So, if you would take a moment to look at the check register, and we'll go over those. As Mrs. Allen spoke to you, there are in the first of the month bills, which is the, uh, check register from 8/13/2020 to 09/08/2020. There are payments for CARES Act, which is the monies for Covid, that are included in that particular part of it. And several first of the month bills based on time. As well as utility refund payments and so forth. The second check register is the normal monthly bills which carry some of the bigger items that we see. Uh, I'm trying to find some things that might be significant. Of course, we have the Thompson & Litton, uh, deal for the wastewater treatment plant upgrade monthly installment. That, and we'll have that as part of my next item on the drawdown. Any questions on any of the checks in that particular period?

Mrs. Strong: Tim.

Mr. Taylor: Yes, ma'am.

Mrs. Strong: Check number 8519 to American Carpet Care. It's \$650.00, and normally it's quite a bit larger than that.

Mayor Crawford There's another one on there, too.

Mrs. Strong: Ah, I missed it.

Mr. Taylor: Yeah, that's just the PD cleaning.

Mr. Wood: #8641

Mrs. Strong: Oh, okay. Sorry. My fault.

Mr. Taylor: That's the PD cleaning.

Mrs. Strong: I thought, Rusty is very generous, but I thought, wow. (Laughter) Sorry. I missed it on the next page. Gotcha.

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

Mr. Cury: I'll second that.

Mayor Crawford: We 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: Next item is to authorize a line of credit drawdown number 5 from National Bank for Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project cost for August billing for a total of \$73,940.78.

That's representing about, I think, sixty percent of the final design. We're going to meet on that this month to go over that, so that's about where we are with that particular project.

Mr. Cury: I'll make a motion to authorize the Town Manager to drawdown this line of credit for \$73,940.78.

Mr. Hurst: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Crawford: There's a motion and a second. Any further 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, the next item I've already gone over most of it. Uh, again, I would refer to you to look at, uh, on the website that's allowed for that document to see that. And now that it's part of our comprehensive plan, we'll try to publish that. I'm not sure if we'll get it done quickly, but we'll try to publish that so we can get that into our comprehensive plan as an official document, as far as that goes. These taking a second to just to add up, you can see costs that are attributed. There's lots of variations that could change over the next, uh, five years that the comprehensive plan basically covers. Realistically, when you look at \$10,000,000 bridges and things like that are very aggressive, but they were part of the study that was generated through that project. So, I think it's, some of it obviously is just a concept at the time. So, it is a planning document to be used for that source. The water and sewer rate analysis, I also included that. That's not anything for discussion right now other than the fact that we would like to have a meeting with the gentleman that prepared that report. It's a different approach once you get a chance to read it. It is fairly complex, but the report itself is, with the supporting documents, a lot bigger than this. So, uh, I would like for Mr. Brown to be able to meet with Council soon to talk about that. Uh, he's not going to be able to visit here because of Covid. He's in Missouri, I think, so Covid is not going to allow him to do that, but he said he could do it very effectively through a Zoom meeting with Council. So, I think that would be something we wouldn't want to do in our regular business meeting, but we want to have a work session type of arrangement. So, if, uh, just take that into consideration, and maybe we can poll Council about what would be good. You might want to do it tonight if you want to decide, but, it's something you'll have time to do. This particular, uh, I will mention that this particular study has been geared since Covid has just slowed things down tremendously for everybody. That analysis is geared toward looking at rate adjustments next July, not anytime during this fiscal year. But you will have to look at it. So that very well could be part of the next budgetary cycle, but the concept is pretty, uh, you know. It's a different approach, and I'd like you to look at that and become familiar with it so you can get prepared once you meet Mr. Brown.

Mayor Crawford: Where did this person come from who did this?

Mr. Taylor: Mr. Brown? He was represented to the Virginia Rural Water Association and a lot of folks all over the country use him through that organization that we, uh. It's a national, uh, the Virginia Water Association is, uh, is a state organization. And, actually he was in all the publications nationwide, so he's well-thought of. He's not a local gentleman, obviously, but he's well-thought of throughout the industry.

Mayor Crawford: Is he a young guy?

Mr. Taylor: No. He's probably close to my age, maybe. Maybe, I might be, uh.

Mayor Crawford: His terminology seems like a college kid or something.

Mr. Taylor: Well, he might. I'll let you form your opinions. But, he's a very nice gentleman to talk to, and he's very knowledgeable.

Mayor Crawford: I didn't mean that negatively.

Mr. Taylor: Oh, I know you didn't.

Mayor Crawford: I understood what he was saying, but it sounded like phrases that my grandchildren use.

Mr. Cury: Okay, do you want us to try to set a time to talk to him in person? What are you thinking?

Mr. Taylor: I would just like for us to be able to meet in a setting where we can do it in a night meeting. I know we've met a lot lately. It doesn't have to be this month; it can be sometime next month if you like. It is up to you.

Mayor Crawford: If I may suggest to Council that you all take time to go through this. It is, it is a little bit in-depth, but it seemed pretty understandable to me. So, uh, why don't you all try to put some time into that and then in October we'll set a work session to meet. If that's acceptable with everybody?

Mr. Taylor: Okay. The next thing that we added was the MOU, the memorandum of understanding between Thompson & Litton and the town of Richlands. We were able to, uh, Connie had mentioned to you before that we were able to get permission from the grant, uh, grantees Cumberland Mountain Planning Company to allow us to move some money to get some engineering done because our staff—we just don't have the staffing ability to do that right now with some of our guys leaving. And some of this is done by us, but the amount of building materials that we need to get a good bid on, uh, have to be produced by a different (Inaudible: 1:23:49). This is not a full set of specs that you would normally see for maybe building a building like a town hall or whatever, but it would be enough for a Class A contractor to be able to bid on this. We're doing this because we feel like we wanted us to try to stay in the streets and on the sidewalks like we had earlier to try to get more work done than that. Our carpenter has been focusing a lot on facility work, which is taking us off the streets. So, uh, we were able to get this under our retainer agreement. We didn't have to advertise this because we have the ability to use this engineering professional services for that. Uh, basically it's going to, it's going to give us a set of builder's construction documents, which include basically someone that a Class A contractor can read and give us a competitive bid, so we can have every contractor bid apples to apples so that we get the best, uh, price for that. Exclusions are limited because we're not doing an event for drilling and things like that. It's not necessary to this structure. The concept though, was part of the staff. The exhibit at the pavilion is a concept of the staff, based on Connie's and numerous people that's looked at that. So that was done by actually our engineering intern with help from us. The other concept for the layout of that was done a little bit before that for preparation for the grant. That tells you the layout, so you can see part of that layout and you can understand that it's the grass way or carpet on part of the green part. The part that's to the left, toward the post office, is the area for the playground for the, uh, the train playground. Concrete is the pink looking room with the stage in the middle. There's a firepit up on the upper end and the LOVE sign in the middle. So, that's basically the layout for that. We have monies to provide this for a price of \$4,950, so I'm looking for approval tonight to do that. They have executed or expedited this execution so we're able to do that to get that turn around within three weeks. So, I'm going to get started hopefully within the week. So, I'm looking for either a vote to do this or we'll try a different direction.

Mr. Wood: I'll make a motion to do this.

Mr. Cury: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Do I understand this money is coming out of the grant fund?

Mr. Taylor: Yes. Yes.

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.

We have no reason for closed session that I know of.

Mr. Taylor: I do not know of one either.

Mrs. Strong: I have a question. How did Friday's the Board of Zoning appeals go. How did that go?

Mr. Taylor: That's a mistake. It shouldn't have been in your packet. It has no bearing with council at all, so I apologize. Somehow it just got—it was part of those advertised pieces and somehow it got put in there. Uh, I didn't catch it. So, it's good to know, but it certainly has nothing to do with council.

Mrs. Strong: Okay. Someone who lives on that street asked me if that was what one of our public hearings was about tonight, and I said no.

Mr. Taylor: No, it wasn't. Actually, they have already met, and the board approved the variance. It happened last week.

Mrs. Strong: Thank you.

Mayor Crawford: Rick.

Multiple people: We've got one more thing.

Mr. Brown: Were you going to ask for guidance in reference to the request from Coaltown about the 5K?

Mr. Taylor: I kind of left that up to you because...

Mr. Brown: Left it up to me personally?

Mr. Taylor: Yeah. He did talk to you, but I can bring that up, but I was just waiting on you. I thought you chose not to do that, so I apologize. I can.

Mr. Brown: I would appreciate it. Yeah.

Mr. Taylor: Okay. Uh, Mr. Ray had, just a few moments before, he couldn't stay for council because he had another commitment, but he asked me to, uh, to look into this parade that is on the, Richard, can you help me? The 8th?

Mr. Brown: It's a 5K on the 10th of October, I believe.

Mr. Taylor: The 10th of October. Uh, most of those events are sanctioned by Council voting on them, at least permission to do those because they require, uh, activity from the town forces, especially the police department and sometimes the street department, depending on what it is. But, as I understand it, the length of the route and the timing of the route has given some concerns. Jerry's here and he might comment on it. I think he was here. I'm kind of talking just out of like a ten-minute discussion with Mr. Ray. I think part of the problem is the timing. It's on a Friday request, maybe, and the route does require you to go across railroad tracks multiple times.

Chief Gilbert: Yes, the proposed route is similar to the normal route that will be run during a 5K on a Saturday morning when the traffic volume is a whole lot less. Uh, the proposed time to run that is on a Friday afternoon at 5:30 or 6:00. In October, the lighting outside is getting dark a whole lot earlier. Uh, on a Friday afternoon, the town of Richlands is extremely busy at that time anyway with the evening traffic and everybody preparing for the weekend. As far as a safety aspect, uh, I think it's a little too dangerous to be able to guarantee safety for the runners on a Friday afternoon. We've offered to, uh, do it on a Saturday morning when the traffic volume is low. That's when we always have the extended runs to keep people safe, and, you, know, that's the business we're in is public safety. I just don't think on a Friday afternoon the proposed route of Veteran's Drive, around and down through Front Street and 2nd Street, during heavy traffic hours is—it's just not safe from a public safety view.

Mr. Taylor: And, I think he said he'd had some conversation with you, maybe on that, and that's some of your concerns. I just thought, it's kind of hard without council knowing exactly what Chief Gilbert says to give the authorization. I didn't know if there's any room for you guys to be able to, uh, to get some kind of, um. Have you exhausted all the possibilities? Did you have enough time to work it out, I guess, is what I'm asking.

Chief Gilbert: Well, we've, uh, I know Richard's worked with them, and we've come up with some alternate routes on Friday, which would take the runners to some of the back streets instead of out on the main flow of traffic. Um, that was not acceptable. Um, like I said, we're just trying to keep people safe, and Friday afternoon in the town there's just no way to adequately block everything off and keep the public safe, especially with the, uh, hours of daylight being diminished. It would take a good hour to run it. 6:00, if that's the start time, then we're looking at 7:00 and it's in October, around the first of October about 7:15 or 7:30 it's dark. So, you know, those are just some of my concerns. It's just trying to keep, not only the runners safe but the driving public safe—to keep these people from being run over. Like I said, we're more than willing to help them out on a Saturday morning or these alternate routes, which will take them away from the main flow of traffic if they would like to do that.

Mr. Brown: I think the issue with the alternate routes is putting them inside the residential areas. Mr. Hurst ran one the other day just to look at it, and I don't know that we need to shed a light to out of town people coming in of some of the residential issues we've had with places not have been cleaned up. So, we don't want that to be an image that we put out to the public, especially out of town. Uh, we have discussed multiple routes, but, uh, this is a three-day event that he's planning down there. The 5K is just one part of it. I really don't know any other option, but, personally, if Chief Gilbert says it's not safe then I don't know that we should approve it.

Mr. Hurst: I think part of the discussion was, you know, Mr. Ray was talking about they wanted to, as far as the race committee, they wanted to make it sort of unique in that it's a night race. And, maybe that would generate some interest for the town, uh, as far as bringing people to the community to our town.

It's more specifically, I guess, to Coaltown. They want to keep them there and eat, and you, know, keep them there and have some entertainment on a Friday evening as opposed to a Saturday morning, which is really not conducive to a band or, you, now, live entertainment or anything of that nature. So, that's, I think, what was Mr. Ray's concern as far as the event goes is they wanted something a little unique. And, I guess I was sort of interested in it because, you know, my wife was trying to help organize the race as far as the course goes, and we mapped out a few different possibilities, but, like what Richard said, it's just tough to weave in and out of some neighborhoods.

Mr. Wood: Let's just do it like this. Let's give Jerry permission what he thinks is safe, what he thinks is unsafe. Let him handle it. If it's not safe, we don't need to be doing it. I don't feel that he's going to do something that's not safe. So, I'll make that motion to do that.

Mrs. Strong: I will add, just the comment, that I love the idea of the night race.

Mayor Crawford: Let's get a second, and then we'll discuss it, okay? Do I have a second?

Mr. Cury: To what? I heard that we could leave it entirely in his hands.

Mr. Wood: I'm letting Jerry have permission to do whatever he feels, safety/non-safety, the time it can start at. I'm giving it to Jerry. I mean, I trust him with it.

Mr. Cury: I'll second that.

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

Mrs. Strong: And I know, Jerry, you'll do everything you can. I wish there could be an alternate route for Friday night because I think a night race, like Richard said, it will bring other people to town. They'll stay here and spend money here and a night race, I don't think we've had one. So, it would be something unique. I am confident that you and Blake can work something out, Jerry.

Chief Gilbert: If we could get an alternate route to keep folks from the main flow of traffic in Richlands—Veterans Drive, Kents Ridge Road. Those are just such high-volume areas on a Friday afternoon. It worries me.

Mr. Hurst: When I ran it Sunday, I went down, uh, Rockbridge all the way down behind the Tabernacle, back up to Cornerstone to the church, and made a left back down to Hardee's then to the Farmer's Market back in the Brooklyn section. And when I circled back to Coaltown, it was about two miles. So, we need another mile basically. That's what we were talking about before the meeting—where would be the safest route. You could come out of Brooklyn and come back up, you know, like Lee Street near the Presbyterian Church and then down 2nd Street.

Chief Gilbert: If we can keep most of the runners, or the runners either on...

Mr. Hurst: Because I only crossed two lanes of traffic one time, and I was coming out of Coaltown and making a left.

Chief Gilbert: And that's the biggest thing. If we can keep them out of main flow, uh, even if we can restrict even to the parking lanes, if we can do that, and the sidewalk, and keep them out of the main flow of traffic, then it's feasible. If we can work something out like that, but to put them in the main flow of traffic, especially Veterans Drive and Kents Ridge Road.

Mr. Hurst: We stayed away from that. It was just basically getting back to Coaltown to finish it.

Mr. Brown: The only main route was 2nd Street. Front Street is not affected at all, right?

Mr. Hurst: Yeah, we would just stay on 2nd Street. We wouldn't be on Front Street at all.

Chief Gilbert: If we can work a route to where we're not in the flow of traffic. If we can do the parking and block it off to where the parking area could be your run zones and your sidewalks would be safe to run. I understand that there's not going to be any walkers. Correct? I mean, if we could work something to where we could just keep people out of the main flow of traffic, I mean, we could make it happen. It's just keeping folks out of the main flow of traffic, like I said. I know Veterans Drive and Kents Ridge Road were in the plan, and, on a Friday afternoon at 5:30 or 6:00, I just, uh...

Mayor Crawford: I think the gist of it is probably that Council would really like to see this happen, if possible, to do it safely. And, this motion and second gives you, Jerry, the, uh, determination, or the power to make that determination yourself. And, we'll go along with whatever your decision is.

Chief Gilbert: I'll work with the group and see what we can come up with. It's not the fact that I object to the race, like I said. I'm tickled to death to give it to you on a Saturday morning or some alternate route. It's just the route it was proposed to me on a Friday afternoon is just not a safe route.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. We'll let you work that out. 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. Wood: I make a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Brown: Second.

Mayor Crawford: Discussion would be a point of order. We should have added that on the agenda.

Mr. Brown: What discussion?

Mayor Crawford: This discussion.

Mr. Brown: I had forgotten about it.

Mr. McCracken: I would just like to say one thing before we leave. Nobody said anything about the council meeting changing time. It was not on the access channel. It was not on any information.

Mrs. Cordle: It was on Facebook and the website.

Mr. McCracken: I don't do Facebook. A lot of people don't Facebook.

Mrs. Cordle: Our access channel, I apologize that our access channel is going to be out of service until about October.

Mr. McCracken: It's on. The access channel is on.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, Joe. We have a motion and a second. I will tell you that your cause was well represented by Doug.

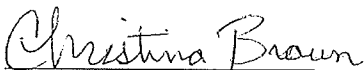
Mr. McCracken: I don't know. I mean, that's why I'm here.

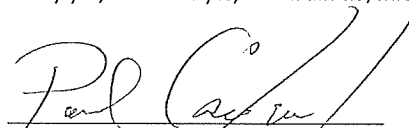
Mayor Crawford: Chris.

Mr. Ratliff: Can we let him, uh, speak since he's already here?

Mayor Crawford: Chris. Roll call vote: Mr. Brown-yes; Mr. Cury-yes; Mr. Hurst-yes; Mr. Ratliff-no; Mrs. Strong-yes; Mr. Wood-yes. Motion carries.

Adjourned.


Clerk, Christina Brown


Mayor, Paul Crawford