

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on January 14, 2020 at 7:30pm with the following present:

Mayor: Paul Crawford
Town Manager: Tim Taylor
Town Clerk: Connie Allen
Council Members: Richard Brown, Vickie England, Rod Cury, Mary Ann Strong,
Rick Wood
Council Members Absent: Doug Ratliff
Town Attorney : Shannon Cooke

Mayor Crawford opened the meeting.

Mary Ann Strong gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Crawford – Do we have any additions/deletions/corrections to the agenda?

Shannon – In the Attorney’s comment section the ordinance concerning cruising, we can dispense with the second reading tonight and go ahead and approve the ordinance. We want to change from 2nd reading to possible vote for approval. I would also like to add to “Executive Session” under 2.23711 (A1) Personnel.

Mayor Crawford – Do we have a motion to approve the agenda as amended? Vickie made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, Rick seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries – 5/0.

Mayor Crawford – We have two (2) sets of minutes, Regular Council Meeting and Public Hearing. Are there any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes?

Mayor Crawford - Do I have a motion to approve the minutes as presented?

Mary Ann- I make a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Rick seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 5/0.

Mayor Crawford – Corbin Stone-Robinson, Farmer Cox Associates, Review FY2019 Audit

Corbin - I am here to present the Town’s audit for 2019. I have given each of you a handout on the audit. The audit is approximately 86 pages. First of all, you done very well on the audit, if we ask for anything it was provided as needed. We did not have any issues with the Town staff. We found the books to be in very good order. We only had a few recommendations after the audit. (Went over the Audit Presentation). Total Cash and Investments \$6,246,614, debt not as high as in most towns. Tax Assessments- Annualized Growth Rates- Real Estate 0.961%, PSC Tax 5.070%, total of 1.187%. Audit Recommendations are on pages 3-4. There is nothing major, I think the Town has already made the adjustments. We have a few pages on your Retirement System; we have to make sure you are sending in the correct amount of contributions. The only problem is your system will not print out some of the reports that we would like to see. We were able to validate, and we know what you sent to the IRS is the correct amount. On page 7, this is a required letter, it we had issue it would have to be documented in this letter. We had no issues with the Town Staff. On pages 14- 20 are new standards that are coming out in the next couple of years. Just wanted to keep you updated. We are very pleased with the Town. We would like to see the General Fund balance a little bit higher. Do you have any questions?

Mayor Crawford - You must have done a good job, no questions.

Corbin - If you need to contact me; my information is on the front of the Audit Presentation.

Mayor Crawford - Recreation Commission – Present plaque to Mr. Larry Meadows recognizing his service as an outstanding volunteer.

Tony Cordle - I have been on the Rec Commission for approximately 8-10 years. I want to present the 2nd Annual Outstanding Volunteer Award. I want to thank the Council for their dedication of work with the Rec and Town. I would also like to thank the Richlands Rec Committee for their dedication, working hard to make a difference in our community. I would like for Mr. Larry Meadows to come up front. We are going to honor Mr. Meadows with the "2019 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award" for our community. Mr. Meadows started his volunteer services in 1975, this is 45 years of volunteer service. The volunteer services include the following, Midget League Football Coach, Basketball Coach, Baseball Coach, referee in all sports, continuous work on baseball fields. He is always mentoring kids. He would always help the kids if they needed a ride home, needed a glove or whatever, he was there for them. He continues to coach baseball and loves what he does. I worked with him at Keen Mountain Correctional Center, you couldn't talk to him without him bringing up his love for coaching. He is always sharing memories about the kids. A few comments I want to share with you that I have heard him say, (1) These kids are our future, I want to make sure they get a fair opportunity regardless of their talent. (2) What makes it worth it is when the kids get older and they come to you to ask for advice or give you a big hug. (3) I love seeing the smiles on their faces when they accomplished something, they didn't think was possible. Quick story, eleven or twelve years ago maybe a little bit longer, Mr. Meadows said this group of kids is 9 years old when they finish up at 12 years old, I may hang it up. He keeps saying the same thing about each group, but he is still doing what he loves. It is easy when you get paid to be a volunteer, but Mr. Meadows don't get paid he is a true volunteer. Quotes: " I am a coach because – of the kids and the passion I have for the game and the sports itself. There is not a better feeling than teaching a child the importance of discipline, hard work and team effort, dedication, and determination and the heart it takes to win not only in sports but in life. A coach will impact more young people in one year than an average person will in a lifetime. A good coach can change a game, a great coach can change a life." On behalf of the Richlands Rec Commission I am proud to present to you the "Outstanding Volunteer Award", congratulations.

Mr. Meadows - There was probably more people deserving than I am, I have been fortunate to be around for a while. In 1975, second week of April, Dad comes home one day said I am on night shift and I need some help at the ballfield. I did it because he was my dad. I helped him for several years. Ten years ago, I had just gotten over third back surgery I said I was going to do something I was feeling pretty good. Fred Phillips ask me to help him coach and two (2) years later they ask me to manage a team. This is my last go around and it has been great. I have taken five (5) teams to state tournaments. The best thing is the kids.

Mayor Crawford - Consideration of Conditional Use Permit Request at 420 Purcell Road from Glen Harold Roberts. Each of you have a copy of the permit application. Mr. Roberts is here if you have any questions on the application.

Vickie - Are you going to live in the trailer?

Harold Roberts - My great grandson is going to live in the trailer.

Vickie - What is on the property at the present time?

Harold Roberts – Nothing, it's empty at this time. I am going to give the property to my great grandson. He is 20 years old and he needs a start.

Richard - Where is it in relation to the pump station?

Tim - It is in front of it or little bit below it. The properties may touch but no right-a-way.

Richard - Does that hurt the access to the pump station?

Tim - No

Rod - What is the code about additions to mobile homes?

Tim - Any single wide mobile home on an individual lot, must meet the zoning requirements, no variances allowed on this particular application. We have reviewed the application; it is eligible for Council to give a Conditional Use Permit.

Rod - Conditional Use is operative word.

Tim - If he qualifies based on eligibility not requiring a variance, it becomes the decision of Council not the Zoning Administrator.

Vickie - I have been viewing a lot of properties, neglected and abandoned mobile home properties. Harold I am sorry, but I won't approve the application. I personally feel that the restrictions that we had on putting single-wide trailers in the Town of Richlands needs to stand. We have abandoned trailers in town limits, it is heart breaking to see the lack of caring for the Town of Richlands.

Mary Ann - Are there any other mobile homes around this particular one?

Tim - Not sure if anyone is close, there is some double-wides.

Harold Roberts - There is no single-wides but there is some double-wides.

Mary Ann - What is the condition? Is it a full-blown Mobile Home Park?

Tim - This is a single lot, the setbacks can be met. He has enough property to get off the road and have plenty of back yard and side yard. I could issue permit on a double-wide trailer but not on a single-wide trailer. Council has to give authorization. You don't have to act on it tonight you can go by and look at where he is wanting to put the mobile home.

Rick - I am concerned about other property owners. If I lived across the road, I would not want to see someone put in a mobile home in front of me. That is the only concern that I have with it.

Rod - This is not a Mobile Home Park, correct? Just a lot where he is wanting to put a single-wide trailer.

Tim - That is correct; it is not a Mobile Home Park.

Rod - Has there been a mobile home on the property before?

Tim - Yes, prior to the annex and boundary adjustment. Harold, did you own the trailer or do someone else.

Harold Roberts - Someone else owned the trailer.

Richard - When we did the boundary adjustment, we promised the people the majority of the pieces they were used to in living in the county, which still falls under the zoning ordinance. We need some guidance. We went from moratorium and not allowing mobile home to Council making a decision. I am not comfortable in allowing one trailer and not allowing another if asked by someone else. We need some guidance.

Rod - Before we make a decision, we need to make a decision on how we are going to go forward and not make preferential treatment. We need to delay until we can talk about it.

Mary Ann - I agree with Rod, Richard and the statements made. I do admire your desire to help your grandson, it is very admirable. If you can be patient and give us some time. I went with Vickie to look at some of the properties. I am sure yours would be very neat and nice.

Glen Roberts - It is a real nice trailer.

Mary Ann - The trailer is not on the property yet, correct?

Glen Roberts - No, it is a nice trailer. I have had the property for 10-15 years. I give the Town permission to put their sewage across the property to help the Town.

Rod - Do you know the model of the trailer?

Glen Roberts - It is a 1992, it looks like a brand-new trailer.

Richard - Do we have something in writing that states if you had a trailer prior to, you could replace with another trailer.

Tim - Non-confirming Use, if it is a mobile home parks it was OK.

Richard - I know if there had been a mobile home there before, you could replace.

Tim - There has been a lot of discussion on the subject.

Rod - I make a motion that we take this under advisement and give you an answer back within 60 days.

Mayor Crawford - Is that acceptable to you Mr. Roberts?

Glen Roberts - Yes

Rod - I make a motion to delay and we give Mr. Roberts an answer in our March Council Meeting. Vickie seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford - We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 5/0.

Glen Roberts - It was an honor to be here, and hope God blesses each of you. Do the best you can, and I appreciate it.

Mayor Crawford - Ginger Branton - Richlands Area Citizens for the Arts (CART), funding request for Creative Communities Partnership Grant (Local Government Challenge Grant).

Ginger - It is that time of year when we start applying for grants again. I am requesting that the Town of Richlands apply for the Creative Communities Partnership Grant formally known as the Government Challenge Grant. When we have administration change, we have a grant name change. The Town of Richlands has consecutively been a supporter ever since the original grant was done thru the state. CART honored the Town of Richlands a few years ago and you are looking at another anniversary. I have told Adrienne I would assist her in filling out the grant. The request is for a matching grant of \$5000, which the Town of Richlands supported the \$10,000 last year.

Rod - It is a worthy cause; it is not only a tradition of supporting but helps the community in so many ways.

Rod - I make a motion to authorize the support of this grant for \$5000, Vickie seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 5/0.

Ginger - I want to remind you that the Town of Richlands is a sponsor of the Tamburitzans, part of the Winter Honey Festival. John Willis has some flyers made up; I will give you a copy. We expect you to be there and welcome our audience, which is a custom that we ask everyone to do. I hope the Town Council will also support the Winter Honey Festival. John has done a very good job in getting everything organized. We all should be appreciative of his efforts. Connie, AJ and myself will be meeting with John on Thursday. It is a great event and getting larger every year. It is a good thing for the Town of Richlands. I am disappointed that the proclamation that John wanted to do is not happening due to lack of information. I hope the Town of Richlands can designate Winter Honey for the month of February.

Mayor Crawford - We would have been glad to do it if we had everything together.

Ginger - Thank you very much and I do appreciate all the support that the Town of Richlands gives to CART. We will be celebrating 40 years next year. It did originate here. I would also like to add CART is the strongest ARTS organizations in the Commonwealth.

Mayor Crawford - Jarrell D. Lily – 212 Ratliff Street, Utility deposit policy issue – Not Present

Mayor Crawford - Downtown Events – Connie Allen

Connie – I forgot to mention at our last meeting, Earl & Millie Keen donated the tree for the tree lighting ceremony, their names will be placed on a plaque in the greenway. Each year we will continue to add names of people who either donate a tree in memory of someone or just donate the tree. I am working on the schedule for 2020 events, I will have completed by the end of the month. I do have a question about the Summer Fest, are we going to try and get Fire Works this year for the July 11 Summer Fest? I think Richard mentioned last year about trying to get the fireworks back into the Town of Richlands. If we include, we will have to come up with the funds to buy the fireworks.

Rod - How much will the fireworks cost?

Connie – In the past it has been \$5000, it could be a little more now.

Tim – You will need to sign up early if you want to get the fireworks, I think you could expect from \$5000 to \$7000 for the same type show we have had before.

Connie - We had mentioned doing it at the end of Summer Fest instead of July 4. I can check on pricing.

Rick - May be easier on July 11, not a demand time, would be harder to get on July 4.

Vickie - I think if there is any way we can work it out thru donations or within our budget. I think the citizens enjoy coming into Town to see the fireworks. I am sure the restaurants would like to see people coming in Town. I think it is positive and we need to try to do if possible.

Connie – I will check out pricing and report back next month.

Connie - The Event Collaboration meeting is scheduled for January 30 at 12:00noon here at the Town Hall if anyone would like to attend.

Rick - What time?

Connie - January 30 at 12:00noon, anyone is welcome to speak to the community about events or anything that you have going on.

Connie – CPROP - The play station is ordered (train) to be delivered in April. If we need them to ship earlier, they can. Boy Scout, Troop 701 built two (2) of the Tiny Little Libraries which one (1) will be placed in the greenway and the other one (1) will be at Critterville.

Connie - MLP Grant – We should know by February 22 if we will receive any money from the grant.

Connie - DHCD – Planning Grant - Already met with Jim Baldwin on the Planning Grant, extension was granted and now working on the requirements of the grant. Adrienne and I will meet with DHCD during our trip to Richmond.

Connie - I did meet with Sylvia Matney this past Thursday, she is very passionate about her idea on getting a bust made of Gene Hearl and placing in the greenway for his public service to the community. I have given each of you a list of some of the things he has accomplished for the community. She is asking that the Town pay for the granite pedestal (\$3800 and bronze plaque \$1400 total cost of \$5200). She is taking care of getting the actual bust. She requested if Council was not willing to pay the \$5200 what amount would you pay toward the expense. She also wants permission to put the bust in the greenway for display. The questions that I have for you tonight - (1) She is asking that the Town pay for the granite pedestal and bronze plaque total cost of \$5200 (2) She requested if Council was not willing to pay the \$5200 what amount would you pay toward the expense. (3) She wants permission to place the bust in the greenway for display. (4) Does the Council allow for bust of people to be placed on Town Property?

Rod - Connie, I want to apologize that I could not make the meeting. I am glad that Sylvia came to our meeting last month to ask for Gene Hearl to be honored. I can't think of anyone more deserving although there are many. She mentioned a few of the things he had done at the last meeting; Gene has done so many things. I have known him a long time. Most of the work he has done is visible and much of his nature of him, quiet and reserved. I think that is how he has preferred most of his work to be. He is very deserving. In keeping with the nature of the man I know; he does deserve an honor. I would say in place of this for the time being, I think we should consider a Resolution to honor him for all the good things he has done for the community, for all the visible things and for all the things he has kept quiet. I would like to put in the form of a motion. That is my consideration. I know personally of things he has done to help people very quietly.

Rod - I make a motion to honor Mr. Gene Hearl in the form of a Resolution, Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 5/0.

Shannon – Is Council directing that a Resolution be prepared?

Rod – Yes

Shannon - If you could get up with me next week and give me a few ideas.

Rod - Yes and the Town Manager can be of help. He probably knows more than I do.

Connie - I need to get back with Sylvia, Council is saying they will not pay for the pedestal or plaque but instead want to do a Resolution to honor Mr. Hearl.

Vickie - There is so many deserving people that need to be honored, maybe somewhere on our grounds or in the building we might have a plaque where names can be added of people. We need to discuss and possible proceed not only with a Resolution but create a "Wall of Fame".

Mayor Crawford – "Council Member Reports" – Rod Cury

Rod – The Planning Commission delayed the meeting and will be meeting on January 21 here at the Town Hall at 7:30pm. Chairman Randy Smith will prepare an agenda. We will talk about finishing rezoning of the Birmingham area. Thank you to the Manager and the Chief of Police for responding to a citizen request that I had to provide the ordinance on fireworks, he was very appreciative. Regarding the Winter Honey Festival, this is a wonderful event, so many things going on this year. I cannot go to everything; time does not allow. The Town is supporting in many ways. On February 3, the Section House our 2nd Annual Tea and Honey Event. It is a fund raiser for us but even greater than that it is an opportunity for people to socialize and be in a corporate atmosphere where people are together. To learn more about bees. Emerson Kirby will be speaking again this year. He has really researched his information. The topic is not only the benefits of bees but how important they are to us. It is going to be exciting, Appalachian traditions and honey. These are truths & lores that surrounds us and is part of our community and region which is making us rather famous. We need to be proud in all the conditions that surround us and he is going to emphasize those on how it surrounds us with honey and bees. We would like for you to pay in advance so we will know how many people to expect. We welcome everyone. I have been asked by Elliot Joyce for an update about his request for help in front of his house.

Tim – We do have a design, but it is going to have to wait for a little warmer weather in the Springtime. There is two (2) ways to approach but we will decide how to approach it, once we do a little more research. We would like to discuss with him.

Rod - I will let him know. Adrienne thank you for sending me a copy of the ordinance, the citizen appreciated it. I know a few years ago we employed a company to codify our ordinances and get them ready, how we doing on that?

Shannon - Before the holidays I worked on the ordinances except for the zoning. I sent thirty some pages of suggestions to Tim and Frank Dorton to look at. They need to review to see what we need to update, consolidate, delete, add, that type of thing.

Rod - Thank you very much, can't imagine doing that type of thing, you deserve more than a pat on the back for doing that.

Shannon - Wait until they are finished.

Richard - Did you say you had to change new codification?

Shannon - Update on what has been added to the ordinances and changes since the previous codification. It is also to clean up some things that were done last time it was codified. I have gone thru and consolidated a lot since we adopted state code, partially ones with traffic and criminal matters, we can dispense with those and appeal the ones we have in place.

Richard - I had a copy emailed to me a couple of years ago and I noticed a lot of the traffic pieces could have been done differently.

Rod - We need to get a picture of the presentation of Larry's Plaque.

Mayor Crawford – “Council Member Reports” – Vickie England

Vickie - I have several things that I need to discuss. I received a text message asking about the Lake Park Bridge, the side fell off going up toward the playground.

Tim - We just have to repair it; will put back like it was before. It is historic, we would like to keep it like that.

Vickie – Did it just fall off?

Tim – The fire truck hit the bridge.

Vickie - Regarding trash sitting on the side of the street. Right in front of the Methodist Church there is a mattress laying on the side of the road. It needs to be picked up. In front of that apartment complex there is a box spring and what is left of a mattress and a set of chester drawers. In riding around I have seen more living room suits, couches, chairs, nightstands and whatever. I know we can call Susan and she can add to the pick-up list, but no one knows our alleys better than the trash pick-up guys. If they could make a list on a daily basis stating, there is a mattress or other things parked on Grayson Avenue that needs picked up. Is there something we can do to report back where someone can pick those items up?

Tim - The problem we have is we don't have enough folks to write up and then pick up on a daily basis. What needs to happen, it needs to be scheduled. We need a specific day of the month dedicate to pick up items like that.

Vickie - That leaves the couch sitting.

Tim – People are putting out on the curb, then they call. They may put out on Monday and we don't pick up until Friday. We don't charge to pick up. If we had a revenue stream that we could charge we could do a better job of picking up sooner. If they schedule a pick-up; it ties their hands when they need to be doing something else that day. We could take a couple days a month to pick it all up. It takes a lot of time for the whole Town.

Vickie - It is all over Town.

Tim - You would be surprised how many people sit something on the curb and you assume it is to be picked up, we pick up and someone calls and said that someone took whatever it was, then we have an insurance claim on it. We have had people get out of their car and sit their golf clubs on the trash cans and we pick up and threw in the trash. We have a lot of issues if we pick up things that we are not told to pick up. If we have a dedicated day and time to pick up and it is on the curb it is free game.

Vickie - It makes the Town look terrible when you see all this laying around Town. Could we put something on public access regarding this?

Tim – I would like to discuss getting a schedule.

Vickie - People have to get over the mentally about sitting things in the street. It is very embarrassing for the church and other people traveling the road.

Tim - If we charge someone for it, we need to discuss about a plan.

Vickie – We need to do something.

Tim - We just don't have the people to pick up every day.

Mary Ann – If someone puts a couch at the dumpster, it should be picked up but sometimes the property owner does not call. If the trash pick-up guys could make a note at the end of the day or week and state the address of the dumpster of where things need to be picked up. Most property owners don't drive around their property every week like I do. It will sit there until someone calls.

Tim - If you are not careful people will use the apartment dumpster as a dumping station. If you go by Food Lion you will have five (5) couches at the dumpster. It gets complicated. Our normal garbage truck run can't get it.

Mary Ann - When the truck runs, they will know what items to pick up at different locations.

Tim - They can let us know but we need to get a schedule to pick up. We need to start talking to the landowners. They are responsible for everything outside of the containers. You will have a complex that only has four (4) containers but need eight (8) containers and they start piling up around it. I would like to have a discussion about this.

Mary Ann - I told George last month how much I appreciate what our crew does compared to neighboring towns. We have far better service.

Rick - What size container do I need behind Food Lion?

George - One of my guys was there yesterday, they picked up a container full and another container full off the ground.

Tim - It was probably not generated by Food Lion.

Rick - This is the Town dumpster.

George - Food Lion pays for the dumpster.

Rick - We need to stop people from putting trash there.

Mary Ann – How do you do that?

George - If you put a fence up, they will put the trash around it.

Vickie - Can we get a groundhog camera to take some pictures of people?

Rick - From Saturday evening to Sunday that is when it happened.

George - During the holidays the crew picked up that day and it was full again that afternoon.

Jerry - I have some cameras if we could find a place that we can put them.

Tim - Maybe we should do that.

Rick - I am sure that is not all Town trash.

Tim - I don't know of us having a Town dumpster, maybe a couple places with special conditions. Most business have their own containers and they pay for them.

Vickie - The task I took on looking for abandoned properties and burned properties, I ran across some mobile home parks. I didn't realize we had so many mobile home parks in our Town. There are 42 mobile home parks in the Town limits of Richlands. I am going to say 75% of the mobile home parks are horrible. Mary Ann and I drove around and looked at them today. One of them has a goat running around on their property. I supplied everyone a copy of the ordinances and I have a list of mobile home parks, we can discuss at the meeting we will be having on the 28th. I would like to request that a letter be written to the owners of the mobile home parks and send them a copy of these ordinance. We want to let them know that Richlands is going to get some teeth and they are going to have to clean up their properties. I think it is an important issue that needs to be address before I go into the abandoned properties. Shannon can work with Adrienne on the letter. I challenge you to go ride and look at the properties. There are four (4) or five (5) burned properties, grass and curtains hanging out of windows and broken windows. You have no idea how aggravated I am to see the deterioration around the Town makes me very angry. I think we need a time frame we can discuss more on the 28th.

Mary Ann - I appreciate Vickie a lot, she did not mention this, but she spent over \$100 taking pictures and developing them of the places that she had been. Tim, it has been a few years ago Councilmember McCracken and I rode around some different places. Vickie took me back to some of the same places, they were bad then but now are far beyond that. I could not get over what I saw. I love Richlands and plan to be here the rest of my life. We need to do something. I applaud Vickie for taking this task and we need to support her efforts. I am shock what I saw.

Mayor Crawford – “Council Member Reports” – Rick Wood

Rick - I had a few things but already address with Jerry, Tim and George. I would like to congratulate the Richlands Wrestling Team. They have done really well this year, from the little guys to the big guys.

Rod - Can I add one thing, they have done well. I have had quite a few of the students they are not only excellent athletics but scholar athletes.

Mayor Crawford - Both of my great grandsons placed 1st place in wrestling at the Rec. Park. Rick did a tremendous job helping us get everything set up. Thank you for that.

Rick - High School - Wise tournament we had one (1) win 1st Place, Grundy Tournament one (1) won 1st Place and one place 1st at Virginia High.

Mayor Crawford - They are doing really well; they have really got their organization together.

Mayor Crawford – “Council Member Reports” – Richard Brown

Richard – I will save some for the 28th. On the mobile home park issue, most people take pride in their property, mobile homes are not helping our taxes any. We have a \$20 sticker fee. I am against property tax like anyone else but until you do something to make people have pride in their property and want to keep them clean, they are a drain on the services, police department, etc. I did not disagree with you earlier on not allowing Mr. Roberts request I just want something more permanent that we can sit down and say “yes” or “no” we are not allowing. I don’t want to fight every month when someone comes in then we have to pick and choice who gets to bring a mobile home in. SANTEC who operates the land fill now I have received word they were thinking about moving the dumpsters at the transfer station at Cedar Bluff. I don’t know if it would be permissible or not for the Council to send to the Board of Supervisors to ask for SANTEC not to move the dumpsters especially the recycling dumpsters. That is the only one we have around here now. I don’t think it will be an issue with the Town but outside the Town. Is that appropriate?

Tim – Absolutely, you need to make a motion to direct us.

Richard - I make a motion for Council to direct Mr. Taylor to send a letter to Board of Supervisors requesting that SANTEC not to remove the dumpsters from the transfer station. Rick seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 5/0.

Richard - I had discussed the issue couple of months ago over at Big Lots with the Mantis Cranes making the turn, I have some pictures and I know it is going to be weather dependent. If someone from the Town could approach Mantis to show them this and to see if they would be willing to help us with supplies, labor or whatever to get this fixed.

Tim- I am sure they will do that. The problem is after I researched, I don’t think we own that property. I need to do some more research legally.

Rick - The property line is right off the sidewalk.

Tim - Do you have something you can show me?

Rick - I got it from the County.

Tim - Is it their maps or court map?

Richard - You just need to cut that out, will help the truck driver.

Tim - Rick if you will get a letter of support to allow us to do that. It is not a lot of money, why should Mantis pay for it you have other trucks down thru there.

Richard - Is that something we could do in the Spring?

Tim - Yes

Mayor Crawford - "Council Member Reports" - Mary Ann Strong

Mary Ann - I would like to thank Chief Gilbert for the White Christmas for the kids this year as always it was the highlight of my Christmas, a lot of volunteers. I am sure it was the highlight of the kids Christmas too. Thank you to Jerry and your department, and for all the people in the community that donated. It makes a lot of kids happy at Christmas. It has already been mentioned that they have supported wrestling this year. Lisa Cordle took it upon herself to start a Volleyball League, she needs to be commended. She raised the money and purchased the equipment. It has been very successful. Richlands Basketball League in full force, if you go to the Rec Park on one of those nights you would have a hard time finding a place to park. The park is being very well utilized. It has been kept up and is clean. Mr. Cury had asked me about the Annual Richlands Road Race. It will be the 3rd Saturday in June. Rod wanted to plan an event on the same day. Would be good to have a lot of things going on that day. It will always be the 3rd Saturday in June. Rec Commission will meet on January 20 at 7:00pm at the Rec Park.

Mayor Crawford - "Mayor's Comments"

Mayor Crawford - Comments I had I have already shared with Tim on a couple of things that we needed to get done.

Mayor Crawford - "Attorney Comments" - Shannon Cooke

Shannon - If you would like to vote on dispensing with the 2nd reading of Ordinance O-2020-01-01 to repeal the cursing ordinance and vote for the actual appeal of the cruising ordinance.

Rod - I make a motion to dispense with the 2nd reading of Ordinance O-2020-01-01, Rick seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 5/0.

Shannon - You can go ahead and vote to approve the appeal.

Rick - I make the motion to approve the repeal of the current cruising ordinance, Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 5/0.

Shannon - Mayor and Connie if you can get those signed, I can have them recorded shortly.

Mayor Crawford – “Manager’s Report” – Tim Taylor

Tim – You have a copy of two (2) check registers, please review and let me know if you have any questions. Paid Check report has various utility refunds, employee refunds on training expenses, etc. Some of the items had time constraints so we had to pay before first of the month . Check No. 7243 – John Jones Automotive - \$65,842.00 that is for two (2) police cruisers.

Jerry - Both of the cruisers are in, one (1) having striping and one (1) having equipment installed.

Tim - Check No. 7261 – National Auto Fleet Group - \$150,203.00 – New Trash Truck.

Richard - What about the Fire Truck?

Tim - I will mention later in my report.

Tim – Check 7347 – Thompson & Litton - \$54,710.08 - Engineering work authorized for final design work for WWTP.

Vickie - Have we already gotten the equipment for the fluoride?

Tim - We have approval, we have to do the work and then we will get reimbursed.

Kevin – We had to get in line to get a grant for the project, that was finalized in December. We are going step by step and helping the Health Department to progress us thru. We are at the point where we have been authorized to go ahead and start purchasing equipment. Should be finalized by June.

Tim - We should not be out a whole lot of money; the program will fund the equipment and we agreed to put in.

Vickie - So we buy the equipment and then they reimburse us?

Tim - Yes, we had to wait approx. a year but if we don’t have to put any money, remember it was approx. \$60,000.

Kevin - We were told to stay on schedule, if we missed the schedule in proceeding with this we would have to pay for it. We had to follow their schedule. I think they will pay \$40,000.

Richard - I understand the auditor’s report had some issues is that why we are splitting the report?

Tim – Yes and I have to sign checks now. I had it delegated but they thought that was not a good thing to do.

Richard - I make the motion to allow the Town Manager to pay the bills, Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 5/0.

Tim - You have a copy of the monthly power cost report. Do you need all the print outs for the monthly power cost? The first page gives you all the information that you need to know.

Mayor Crawford - The first page is all I need for information.

Rod - If we need more, we can let you know.

Tim – Actual sales came in 1% lower than budget, all-in wholesale power cost rate of \$84.04/MWh with the dollar cost of \$32,703 lower than the budget. Overall a good month for us. In January we expect increase in transmission cost.

Tim – Financial Review – (a) Non-Revolving Line of Credit RFP – Interim Financing (WWTP) Rehabilitation Project and (b) Term Loan RFP-Fire Chassis. We got three (3) responses in for the line of credit and only one (1) local for the truck. I talked to Keith, we are going to go back and have a discussion with the manufacturer of the truck. Keith will get current information. They said when we get ready to do the deal, they would give us finalization on it. It will be \$20,000 if we don't get it done. We need to figure out how to pay it back.

Rick - We have to make a decision by the end of the month, and we are not meeting until January 28.

Tim – We will have to negotiate; I don't think we can do any quicker.

Rick - We started out financing with the people building the truck. We don't have to pay anything until two(2) years. Within the two(2) years will give us time to get everything lined out and we go ahead and build the truck.

Tim - If you think it is important enough, I don't recommend at this meeting you don't adjourn but recess on the 28th. I can't write the check I don't have the means to pay for it. You can vote on it but until we figure out how we are going to pay for it, puts me in a hard place. I think you need to hear me out on the finances.

Rod - When we meet on the 28th we can focus on the other issues, line up a work session and deal with this on the first council meeting in February.

Tim - Keith, can you ask for extension for 30 days?

Keith – No, we can do a purchase order before end of the month.

Rick - When you talked about this in the beginning you talked about the financing .

Keith - We have \$100,000 - first year's payments.

Tim - If you vote you have to come to the conclusion that you have to raise taxes to pay for it. I want to be clearly understood.

Rick - Can we call?

Tim - We can give them the purchase order and work on the details later.

Keith - Have to have a contract signed or purchase order by the end of the month.

Mary Ann - Keith, you have to have one or the other not both, correct?

Keith – Correct

Rod - We have to sign contract before the end of the month.

Keith - If we don't sign price goes up \$20,000.

Rick - Any money we save financing we will lost right there.

Mayor Crawford - A purchase order will satisfy them, that is a contract.

Tim - You can vote tonight.

Rod - Can you explain one more time about the financing, I want to be very clear.

Tim – You see the declining government fund, as of June 30, we have not talked about that. We do have financial problems on the governmental side. You have to be able to deal with it. We are telling you it is going to be hard to pay for under the current conditions without changing something or getting a revenue stream.

Rod - Council action was to get a truck.

Tim - You just didn't put a time frame on it. If you give purchase order and make the deal with the company Keith has recommended.

Rod - If we wait until after January it is not going to be the best financially.

Tim - The budget did not allow for that appropriation. You are appropriating the money for the truck tonight that means you have to do it, that is the legal part of it. You have \$100,000 to make the first years payment. It is going to be two (2) years out. It takes a year to build the truck.

Vickie – How much is the Fire Truck?

Keith - \$744,000

Tim - Keith has \$100,000 saved for the Fire Truck.

Mary Ann – What is the time limit for paying for the truck?

Tim - Five, seven or ten years, we don't want to go beyond that, I recommend seven or ten years, we do have some ideas.

Rick – I think we should leave the meeting open tonight and address on January 28th meeting.

Richard - I make a motion to authorize Town Manager to issue a purchase order for the Fire Truck, Rick seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 5/0.

Shannon - Are we not going to recess the meeting?

Mayor Crawford - It may be some tough decisions to pay for the truck down the road, we may all be gone by then.

Tim - We have a contract for a proposal from a group that will provide a Housing Market Study and information for working on with downtown rehabilitation. We have negotiated a contract with Bowen National Research Group; it does meet the criteria of the grant with the Housing Authority in Richmond. We established some study areas for housing which will focus on the downtown business area opportunities, demographic overview, economic overview of current year along with economic challenges and opportunities in our area. A rental supply overview which will supply a snapshot of the rural housing in the Town of Richlands. They will contact stakeholders in Town and will have conclusions and recommendations for the Town, will be used for the 2nd part of the grant architectural concept for the project downtown area. I need Council to authorize me to sign contract with Bowen National Research for \$10,000 which is funded by grant money.

Rod - I make a motion for Town Manager to sign contract with Bowen National Research, Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 5/0.

Tim - I given you a copy of the letter from Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, they have reviewed the engineering contract/procurement information and they find it meets the requirement of the Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund Program. They have already given us the offer I give you in December, basically ¼ percent for the limit of 10,000,000 project. This is one of the requirements that we have to have, another part of the project.

Tim - We did meet with Jim Baldwin and Debbie Milton on this particular project concerning Block Grant which is delicate because we have a Planning Grant that we are trying to land a Revitalization Grant, we can't do both grants in one year. Planning Grant is what Connie mentioned earlier, if we get the requirements for the Planning Grant complete in the next couple of months. We will be having a public hearing in February before Council and a 2nd meeting before March; will give us a scope of work. We will engage downtown people, stakeholders, business community. This will be the 2nd half of the Revitalization Phase.

Mayor Crawford – At this time I need a motion for the Mayor and Members of Council convene in executive closed session for the purpose of discussion of 2.2-3711(A)(1) Personnel, 2.2-3711(A)(29)Contract negotiations for Fire and EMS protection.

Rod - I make the motion to go into executive session, Vickie seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 5/0.

Mayor Crawford - I now entertain a motion that the Members of Council reconvene in open session and accept the CERTIFICATE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION certifying that the matters discussed while in executive session were those both lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements and identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened.

Rod - I make the motion for Council to return from "Closed Session", Vickie seconded the motion.

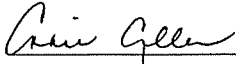
Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion?

Mayor Crawford – Roll Call Vote - Vickie-Yes, Rick-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Richard-Yes, and Rod-Yes - Motion carries - 5/0.

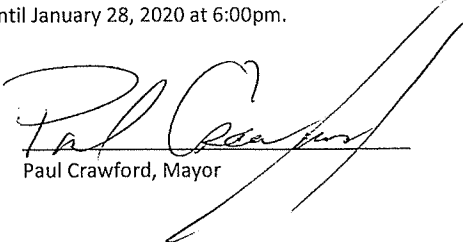
Rick - I make a motion to Recess until January 28, Rod seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 5/0.

Mayor Crawford- At this time we will recess until January 28, 2020 at 6:00pm.



Connie Allen, Town Clerk



Paul Crawford, Mayor