

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on March 10, 2020 at 7:30pm with the following present:

Mayor:	Paul Crawford
Town Manager:	Tim Taylor
Town Clerk:	Connie Allen
Council Members:	Richard Brown, Rod Cury, Mary Ann Strong, Rick Wood, Doug Ratliff
Town Attorney :	K.W. McClanahan

Mayor Crawford opened the meeting.

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

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

Tim - XVI- Executive/Closed Session please add (c) 2.23711(A)(5) Prospective Business.

Mayor Crawford – Do we have a motion to approve the agenda as amended? Rod 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 three (3) sets of minutes, Regular Council Meeting on February 11, Public Hearing on February 11 and Continuation of February 11 Meeting held on February 20. Are there any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes?

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

Mary Ann - I make a motion to approve the minutes, 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 – Richlands Wrestling Club/Team – Recognize team achievements.

John Brown - 433 Brown Avenue, Richlands, VA – I am the President of the Richlands Wrestling Club. On behalf of Richlands Wrestling Club we want to thank you for the donation that you gave us the last time I was here. You helped us get started and I appreciate that very much. It takes a special kind of person to compete in Wrestling. They go thru hours of workouts and torment, it is a tough sport. They have to maintain their weight weekly. We had several private donors to help us get started, we also thank them. This year has been the most successful maybe 2nd most successful season that the team has ever had. We combined as a Club early last year; we took kids Pre-K-12 instead of just Varsity. This benefited the kids in the community that competed. With the donations we were able to purchase uniforms and fees for the kids to compete. There was no charge to the parents. We purchased warm-up pants, tops and pants for Varsity and Middle School. We paid for food during the trips. By giving the kids a chance to compete without having the burden of all the finances we competed against some of the best teams in the State. The Richlands Varsity Wrestling Team won the Southwest District Tournament this year, the first time in 30 plus years. Coach Frank won "Coach of the Year". We had two (2) VA State Champions, Jacob Puckett, Luke Martin. There has never been more than one (1) State Champ on one (1) team, first time in school history. Chance Rose placed 4th in the State. We had several kids come close to placing in the State. To make it to the competition and win too is impressive. I would also like to congratulate the varsity team. We took the middle school kids and youth kids to Richmond for their state tournament. We took eleven kids and half of the kids placed in the State. Middle School, Caleb Simmons placed 6th, Kaden Dupree 5th Place Andrew Boyd & Kevin Dye was one match away from

placing. In the Youth Division we had one (1) kid to make to the State finals, he ended up losing by one point, Marcus Mitchell, 2nd in the State. Brennon Hess came in 5th in the State. Grandson of Mayor Crawford and Nephew of Richard Brown ended up 4th in the State. Brodie Boyd came close to placing as well. They are good enough to compete against anyone in the State. We had our heart set on Varsity State title. They ended up 6th in the State. Thank you for helping us get started.

Mayor Crawford - We did help a little bit when the wrestling team first started. I know they have had other donations. The Parents Club worked every meeting to raise money. They have done good taking care of their expenses. (Took picture of team)

Mayor Crawford - I would like to welcome our new attorney K.W. McClanahan, we look forward to working with you.

Mayor Crawford - Consideration of Conditional Use Permit Request at 420 Purcell Road from Glen Harold Roberts.

Glen – Thank you for considering giving me a permit, I saw Mr. Woods and gave him pictures of the trailer, it is a nice trailer. I had to move the trailer, it was either move it or lose it. It is on the lot now but it is up to you to give me a permit to set the trailer up. God's blessing and hope you make the right decision.

Mayor Crawford - Does Council have any questions or comments?

Mary Ann - Rick, do you have comments on the trailer?

Rick - The only problem I have it is a 1992 model; it is an older trailer.

Doug - Would the Planning Commission like to study and give us a recommendation?

Rod - We can do that if it is Council's desire.

Mary Ann - I think that is a great idea, I think 30 days maximum is enough time to give him our decision. We have already made him wait 60 days. If I were in his shoes, I would be getting a little frustrated.

Rod - We will meet the first Tuesday in April.

Doug - I make a motion for the Planning Commission to study before the next Council meeting and make a decision on the permit for Glen Harold Roberts trailer, 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 will have an answer by next meeting.

Glen - I hope you make the right decision.

Mayor Crawford - Rick Chitwood – Thompson & Litton: Update on Water and Wastewater Rehabilitation Projects.

Rick – I wanted to bring you up-to-date on the capital projects. I handed out a booklet with the different projects. Tab 1: Wastewater - Application submitted to DEQ. DEQ has come back and offered funding for the sewer plant. There is a letter from DEQ approving \$10,916,316 @ 0.5% up to 25 years for this project. There is a copy of the budget and a schedule in Tab 1. We are hoping in March or April EPA will come back to the State of Virginia and offer grant dollars to the State, DEQ can distribute to some of the funding offers that they have. I cannot tell you how much they would offer if any, but I do feel comfortable that the Town of Richlands will receive some principal forgiveness. You have received very

favorable financing. In your booklet there are three (3) different fund scenarios for this project. Funding Scenario #1 is what they have actually offered which is estimated annual debt payment \$465,601. You have partners, Town of Richlands is 74%, Town of Cedar Bluff 6% and Tazewell County PSA 20%. Mr. Taylor, Kevin Blankenship and Adrienne have met with Town of Cedar Bluff and Tazewell County PSA Administrator, and we have shared the information with them. Funding Scenario #2, if we could get a \$1,000,000 grant and \$200,000 grant from Cumberland Plateau SWV it would drop estimated annual debt payment to \$414,419. Funding Scenario #3, EPA Grant \$1,000,000, CDBG Grant \$2,000,000 and SWV-W/WW Grant \$200,000 would be estimated annual debt payment of \$329,115. Tim, Adrienne and myself met with DHCH and they said that the Town of Richlands is too wealthy according to the HUD census data but the median household income in Richlands is just a little over \$29,000. The HUD census data have a lot of margin for error. They said they would help us if the Town of Richlands would apply for a Planning Grant it would provide some funding, up front to get started on survey not only in Richlands but Cedar Bluff and the western part of PSA. We have a short period of time to get the survey completed, a copy of the survey is in your handout. I want the public to know if someone comes to your house to do an income survey, they will leave the document with a self-stamped envelope. No one in Richlands, Cedar Bluff or Tazewell will see what the income is. It will be mailed directly to Cumberland Plateau. They will compile all the documents and send to Richmond to show that we do qualify. It is worth the effort.

Rick - Tab 2 – Water Plant - We need the Council to approve Resolution R-2020-03-02 for submitting the funding application. The funding application to the Health Department does not commit you in any way. The Resolution would authorize Thompson and Litton to work with the Town to submit an application in the amount of \$3,882,606. I have included a project schedule. The last two (2) documents are the funding scenario like I did for the sewer plants. The Town of Richlands owns 64%, Town of Cedar Bluff 10% and Tazewell County PSA 26%.

Rick – Tab 3 – I have combined the Funding Scenarios for WWTP and WTP, with the worst and best case scenarios. I know the Town is doing a rate study. I would recommend that you look at the worst case scenario and if you do get some type of funds you can back down if you need too.

Rick – Tab 4 – I made a few notes after the meeting in Richmond. I also included the letter from Richmond on the Planning Grant but must be complete by April 17. It is a lot to do in a short period of time. I also include the survey form in the packet.

Rick – Tab 5 – Documents with rates compared to other Towns. The average water for residential is 3,700 gpm which is a cost of \$24.15. I do know that some of the other Towns are considering a rate increase. If funding agents look at what you charge and see other Towns are charging more they are not going to give you additional money. We are trying hard to get every grant dollar we can for these projects.

Rick - This project will take place two (2) to three (3) years down the road; you have time to gradually increase the rates instead all at once.

Mayor Crawford - Did you say someone was doing a rate study?

Rick – Yes, I think the Town is working with Carl Brown. He is well recognized in his field.

Richard - They supplied the survey in our packet prior to the Council meeting. Can the survey be reduced, it is very lengthy?

Rick – The survey comes from Richmond, I don't know if it can be reduced. We are supposed to meet with Jim Baldwin and Debbie Milton very soon. I think it is dictated from Richmond.

Richard - Do you know, on the percentages of Town of Cedar Bluff and PSA, are we collecting everything we can collect?

Rick – Yes, it has been a good relationship between the three (3) parties. The agreement you have is recognized across the State.

Richard - I was comparing Cedar Bluff and PSA and what they are charging their residents. I don't know if they are using as a money maker.

Rick - The cost of water/wastewater, the cost is established. Wastewater cost three times what water does.

Richard - Are we supplying them with a lesser rate?

Rick - No, sir

Richard – Based on what our rates are.

Tim - They are paying for cost of production; they have to pay for everything else after it leaves the plumbing.

Rick Wood - He has it broken down; it makes sense if you look at it.

Rick – Tim do they pay transmission fee?

Tim - PSA pays 12 1/2 % transmission fee, Cedar Bluff does not pay a fee, part of the initial agreement.

Richard – That is what I was looking at.

Rick - We are trying hard to find grant dollars and it is getting harder to find.

Mayor Crawford – “Scheduled Public Comments” – Cameron Smith – “No Show”

Mayor Crawford - Resolution R-2020-03-02

Tim - Read Resolution R-2020-03-02.

Mayor Crawford - Any discussion on the Resolution?

Rod - I make a motion to adopt Resolution R-2020-03-02, 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.

Mary Ann - I would like to request a five (5) minute recess.

Mayor Crawford - Any objection from Council?

Council – No, we do not have an objection.

Mayor Crawford - We will take a five (5) minute recess.

Mayor Crawford – “Unscheduled Public Comments” -

Doug - Can you add Jim Tatum to “Unscheduled Public Comments”

Mayor Crawford - “Unscheduled Public Comments” – Jim Tatum

Jim – I am here about the incubator that Southwest Virginia Community College owns. We have to go over there two (2) or three (3) times a month and work on the roof due to the buzzards. When we first addressed this we talked to Richard, Ms. Strong, Mayor Crawford, Mr. Ratliff and Chief Gilbert. The buzzards would get into the garbage cans and then go upon the roof. They are eating the corner patches of the units on the roof, I have never seen this happen before. In the last two (2) years we have fixed two/three times. One of the other problems we have had is the cats and the feeding of the cats. The cat issue has been pretty bad. I have been over there the last few months for the college, they are at the point they don't know what to do anymore. I am afraid you are getting ready to lose them and I think that is a bad thing. Their pockets are only so deep, every time I go up there it cost them several thousand dollars to fix. There are three (3) buildings together, we actually have replaced one of the roofs. They are eating the tape, corner patches, why I don't have a clue. I don't know the solution for the problem. We did get rid of the cans and it stopped for a while. You can go over there and sometimes there are 200 buzzards on that building. It has gotten worse in the last six (6) months. You have to realize when the people come out of the buildings, they are stepping in buzzards' feces and they are upset too. If they leave they are probably going to Wise. I don't know what the college is going to do with the building.

Doug - Did you have a problem at Advance Auto?

Jim - A year or so ago the cats went up behind the building and went thru the ceiling at Advance Auto, we had to put three (3) cat traps in there, it took us a month to trap (5) five cats.

Doug - Did it actually fall on a person?

Jim - It fell on a man and they had to take him to the hospital. He had to get a tetanus shot and things like that, he tried to catch the cat which he should have not done.

Mayor Crawford - Has "One Stop" considered putting up a netting there?

Jim - They did but it would be very hard to do, we even talked about putting gavel on the roof. We are afraid if we did the roof would collapse.

Mayor Crawford - Are you just informing us of the situation?

Jim - Yes, the college is so frustrated I don't know what to tell them to do. The buzzards are smart, they will jump up and down until the garbage can lid flips up.

Doug – There are two (2) types of buzzards, there is a red tail buzzard and a black tail buzzard. The red tail buzzard is small, but they have a very keen sense of smell. They are not as aggressive as the black tail buzzard. The black tail buzzard watches the red tail buzzards they will follow once they smell the food. The black tail buzzard which cannot smell will watch the red tail buzzards and go after the cat food.

Jim - I know the College is very frustrated, if they leave they may go to Wise.

Mayor Crawford - You made your case, Thank you

Mary Ann - Can we ask Chief Gilbert for an update on the current situation. Since the new restaurant is open are the dumpsters back? I have not paid attention.

Chief Gilbert – I have not had an issue with the buzzards recently. My officers try to keep an eye on the situation. They have issued tickets for feeding the cats. I don't think they are feeding the cats at this time. We put bars in the dumpsters and we think they have finally moved out. I personally have not seen them on top of the building in the last couple of months.

Mayor Crawford – "Unscheduled Public Comments" Larry Johnson

Larry - Since you give us permission last time to put out the feeders , property owners have given us permission to put some out . The ones that had been feeding the cats are using the feeder , the buzzards can't get to it. The way the new feeders are designed they cannot get in. We had one test feeder at the Grant's area , there were buzzards in the tree when we put it out , they came over, but they could not get into it. As far as the cats in the Hardees area we caught nine (9) this week, it is progress.

Richard - Do you have a feeder near the Incubator?

Larry – No

Larry - We have had several people from the community make donations, we appreciate that.

Doug - No one loves animals no more than I do, and I want to protect them. I know Council has given permission to try the feeders but I was wondering if we could keep the feeders 1500' away from restaurants. Would that be too much of a stipulation?

Larry – That is five (5) football fields. If we are going to put a feeder that far away, you might as well set at the vet's office. They are not going to go 1500'.

Doug - What about 500'? Some of the materials that I handed out, a doctor will tell a pregnant lady to stay away from cat and cat feces. There is a reason for that.

Larry – Have we had any issues with that in the last 30 years?

Doug - If we could just keep them further away. There is cat feces in the parking lot, they walk thru it, cats carry all kinds of diseases, If you come in contact with a cat or its feces and you are pregnant it can cause the baby to go blind and other things. I am just asking if you can move the feeders 1500' or 500' from the restaurants so cats won't be on the parking lot and spread diseases to the population.

Larry - I have never seen so many problems with volunteers trying to help with your problem. Why hinder us to try and solve the problem.

Doug - I made a \$1200 donation and I am glad to do it; I love animals but if you have a cat in high traffic population it puts them in danger. If you could keep them from high population areas, 500' is not that far. The restaurants are just hanging on, if we put any more pressure on them Richlands is going to lose a lot more.

Larry - I understand and I have sat up there and I have had to deal with the same situations. What I don't understand is what we are doing now is better than what has been done in the past. I don't get it.

Doug - I know your heart is in the right place , the only thing that concerns me is the safety of the cats and the safety of the population. I am not trying to hinder you in the least all I am asking that you have a stipulation of at least 500' away from restaurants. You can put feeders all over Town if you want to. I don't think that is asking too much.

Mayor Crawford – Looks like we are down to 500', why don't we try that?

Larry - Why don't we just take the feeders and traps out at Hardees and we will take somewhere else on the other end of Town.

Rod - I am good with the original consensus.

Sandy Helton- VA Avenue - First I would like to talk about the diseases that you are referring to, I have two (2) perfectly healthy sons and I have cats. If you use precautions and wear gloves when you clean the litter box . My daughter-in-law has perfectly healthy children and she had cats. The only way you are going to get those diseases if you clean the litter box without wearing gloves . I worked in the medical field my whole life. You can walk thru Town or the grass and get poop on your shoes, you don't have to be in front of Hardee's it can be anywhere. When I first moved to Virginia Avenue, I lived in Hess Apartments, there were no cats at that time but were at least 100 buzzards that lived in the pine trees. The cats didn't lure the buzzards there, at least four (4) years before they destroyed the place, they got so nasty we moved to another location.

Mayor Crawford - Anyone else?

Linda Keen – When I first heard about the situation between the Police writing out citations to the people who were feeding the homeless cats and the problems with the vultures my goal was to come up with a solution. The people who have been feeding the cats have went thru a lot of heart ache the last couple of months. We will try the feeders for one (1) year and get as many spayed as possible I think this is wonderful, I had no idea there would be retaliation by any of the Town Council members for people to work and save these animals. This is heart breaking to all of us. We should all be working together to save the homeless cats and help the Town of Richlands. Saving the cats and trying to find them homes is a hard job and takes many hours of work. Work that we are doing free. It is impossible to clear up a problem that has been going on for over 20 years in just a months' time. Several people that have been feeding the cats have quit feeding them because the Police Department has scared them off. We need a message put out on Channel 5 to let the public know they can feed these cats as long as there is a feeder there and they put the food in the feeder. I did a research on the vultures they say if you put something sparkly and shiny on the roof the vultures will stay off. I noticed the dollar store has spiky things on their roof , they sway when the wind blows, I am sure they put on there to keep the birds off . The birds are scared of them, that may help with the problem.

Mayor Crawford – “Downtown Events” – Connie Allen

Connie - Arts & Crafts Show – April 4 from 9am – 5pm at the Richlands Police Department and the Farmer's Market. The contract for the Fireworks has been signed; \$5000 will be the cost. The Fireworks are scheduled for July 11. CROP Grant - We are still working on the CART Building, we have most of the building painted and have started on replacing the ceiling. The Train Play Station will be here first week of April for the Greenway. Planning Grant – We plan to have the second meeting in the couple of weeks. I have completed the list of properties that can be part of the Downtown Revitalization Program if they chose to participate. I will be sending letters out to owners next week inviting them to the meeting.

Tim - Everyone is invited it is not just for the owners.

Connie - Yes, that is correct.

Mayor Crawford – “Council Member Reports” – Rod Cury

Rod – Planning Commission meeting will be April 7 at 7:30pm in the Council Chambers, we will have several things to discuss.

Mayor Crawford – “Council Member Reports” – Rick Wood

Rick – The holes on the bridge at Hardees, we need to look at them when we can. Tim, the street I told you about, do you have anything on that yet.

Tim - No, I do not.

Mayor Crawford – “Council Member Reports” – Doug Ratliff

Doug – Last Council meeting we discussed having citizens on the Electric Committee, I would like to make a recommendation that we put Shea Cook on the committee. I think the committee should be half Council and half Citizens.

Mayor Crawford - If you will give me until next meeting, I am still looking into this, I will be better prepared.

Mayor Crawford – “Council Member Reports” – Richard Brown

Richard – I have a question about the library, the Town does the maintenance on the library, is it just on the outside?

Tim – We are responsible for the outside maintenance including the yard at the library. Tazewell County thru the library takes care of the inside. If it ceases to be a library, it goes back to the Williams Family.

Richard - Have you noticed the condition of the building?

Tim – Yes, we have talked about it a number of times. This year we were hoping to get some community involvement and some contributions to try and do that. We may be able to ask for some assistance from the County, we don't have the extra money like we use to have.

Richard - I would like to see something done, especially with the Greenway and the whole block in that area. The library needs some help. The issue on Kents Ridge, did you talk to Mantis about that or are we going to try and do ourselves?

Tim - We are going to do ourselves, just getting the time to do it. As soon as it dries up will be the first things that we will try to do.

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

Mary Ann – The Recreation Department held their first annual paint class, it was packed out and very well attended. I compliment them for doing different things. The Richlands Youth Basketball League has finished up and has been very successful once again. The new sport “Pickle Ball” is going very strong. We will have our Rec Commission meeting on March 16 next Monday at 7:30pm. Last month we did not meet due to different conflicts with Rec Commission members. I was contacted by Dr. Lori Musick, about a parking problem on Tazewell Avenue in front of her office, tenants' in the apartments across the street are parking there overnight and still there during working hours. There are signs up the street and on Front Street with 2hr parking but not in front of Dr. Musick's practice. I talked to Tim about it he can explain better. I plan to make a motion to ask our Town Manager to regulate parking there. It is not fair if they have patients that have to walk and elderly patients that can't walk that far.

Tim - The original ordinance restricted street & limited parking in various parts of Town. It was codified on Section 72.21 Limitations on parking. It is unlawful to park vehicles in areas that are designated at that particular time, were identified as a formerly metered space, back then they had parking meters. They took the parking meters out and some type control from the business sector and put up these limited sign, hourly parking during daylight business hours. If that was a previously meter spot we could go ahead and put the signs back up but that was not the case. There is another code section that allows the Town Manager under the direction of Council to physically regulate parking in other areas without an ordinance change. You can make a motion to whatever is appropriate. It will not take an ordinance to make the change you can vote tonight.

Mary Ann - Would you put up signs like the ones at the other places?

Tim - Yes, we can it is up to you. Is two (2) hours enough time for the business to do their practice?

Rod – Some of the procedures can take up to three (3) hours.

Rick - Why don't you put during business hours and not put a time.

Tim - Businesses have different business hours that would be the problem.

Richard - If we contacted Victor Lawson, he would probably take care of the issue.

Mary Ann - I would like to make a motion that that we put the same restrictions that we have in other areas on Tazewell Avenue based on code 72.21 and direct Town Manager to have signs installed and monitored, Richard 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 - "Mayor's Comments"

Mayor Crawford - Once again the response that we had during the flood disaster was beyond measure in my opinion. We had food, water, furniture and everything that we needed. Everyone helped. The supply was always coming in. We had people from other states like TN and Ohio. Tractor trailers brought loads of things. We had church groups reworking homes. In this area people gave donations of over \$38,000. As many differences as we have had I am proud that when we have a problem we can all come together and work on it and leave our differences at the door.

Mary Ann - Boating Safety Class on March 20 at 6:00pm at the Richlands Police Department.

Chief Gilbert – Free to the Public, all materials provided. Bring your kids to learn water safety. April 3- Fly, Fish & Tie Seminar and maybe a Kayak Seminar. April 10 - King University the Bass Fishing Team will come down and do Bass Fishing Seminar for the kids.

Mayor Crawford – "Attorney Comments" – K.W. McClanahan

K.W. McClanahan - I have not had a chance to review the proposed ordinance language, I don't anticipate any problems but I can give you a concrete answer next month. I did talk to the previous attorney and he had no problems with it.

Mayor Crawford - Do we need a first and second reading?

Tim - We already had the first reading, won't be much of a problem for us, seem to be a consensus to do. We had to do some homework on rules and regulations, just took some time to do that.

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. Check No. 7543- Thompson & Litton, Inc, WWTP upgrade and Improvements \$45,786.00, Check No 7614- Clinch Valley Community Action - \$38,340.60 is the money we collected during the flood relief and funds are being distributed as we speak. Check No. 7676 – Virginia Risk Sharing Association \$49,048.25- Insurance Renewal

Mary Ann - I make a motion to allow the Town Manager to pay the bills 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.

Tim – Monthly Power Cost Report of January 2020, actual sales came in 14% lower than budget, the major items that contributed to the \$0.45/MWh higher than budget all-in wholesale power cost rate of \$84.52/MWh with the dollar cost of \$89,844 lower than budget. We sold less than we normally do.

Tim - Financial Review Update - We do not have money appropriated to purchase a water/sewer line maintenance tool truck for \$54,000. We are having trouble paying for capital equipment on the governmental side. They need the truck for water/sewer it was not included in their budget but they have money in reserve to pay for the truck. It will free that truck up for George to use for the carpenters and release their truck to the mechanics. It was scheduled for July but we would like to get earlier. I would like to make a recommendation for Council to allow money appropriated to purchase a water/sewer line maintenance tool truck for \$54,000.

Richard - I make a motion for \$54,000 to be appropriated to purchase a water/sewer line maintenance truck, Rick seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford – We recently had to buy a garbage truck and we are buying a fire truck and I am told we budgeted a loss. We should have done better. Am I going to get the same story on this one?

Tim - There is reserve funds for this truck. There was not enough money to pay for the fire truck. The garbage truck is budgeted to be paid for.

Mayor Crawford - I would like to say if you look over the financials the Town is in a financial mess. I know we all try to be as responsible as we can but I just want us to be careful in what we are doing.

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 - That is one of the reasons we are doing this so we can free up another truck instead of waiting.

Tim - We do have an opportunity, Small Towns Pilot Initiative . It is a simple application. The objective is to demonstrate successful economic development strategies for the creation of higher paying jobs and the attraction of skilled workers to rural downtown commercial districts. Small towns will generally be defined as incorporated communities with populations under 5,500 that also demonstrate high vacancy rates in the downtown commercial district. Ideally, communities will have strong community-led interest and committed capacity from public and private leaders to address opportunities for economic revitalization and growth. There will only be two (2) localities awarded. One will be on the south side of Virginia and one on south west, it is competitive grant. It would be nice to land the grant. The biggest unknown is from the private side in our downtown community. If the Council wants I can send a letter with the intent to do it and see what happens.

Rick - I make the motion to send a letter with the intent of applying for Small Town Pilot Initiative, Doug 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 – Consideration of Resolution R-2020-03-01 adopt the Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission Hazard Mitigation Plan. It has to be updated approximately every five (5) years. The plan has to be adopted. If you want to get FEMA monies or any type of monies, you needed this plan. We didn't qualify for a lot of funding this time, if we don't adopt the plan, we won't be eligible for any future funding.

Richard - I make the motion to adopt Resolution R-2020-03-01, 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.

Tim - Employee Health Insurance Plan Renewal for Fiscal Year 2021 - The plan has 0% increase which is good news. We have asked for a 30-day extension- April 1 . We need authorization from Council to continue with the health insurance plan

Rod - I make a motion to continue with Employee Health Insurance Plan Renewal for Fiscal Year 2021, 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.

Richard - The property in Hidden Valley, Elliot Joyce, do we have a plan on that?

Tim - Yes, I just have to get with him to make sure it is OK with him.

Rod - Thank you, he has contacted me as well, might be a good idea to call him and let him know.

Tim - I will.

Mayor Crawford – At this time I need a motion for the Mayor and Members of Council convene in executive closed session as permitted by the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion of 2.2-3711(A)(8) Legal Advice, 2.2-3711(A)(29)Contract negotiations for Fire and EMS protection and 2.23711(A)(5) Prospective Business.

Mary Ann - I make the motion to go into executive session, 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 - 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", Rick seconded the motion.

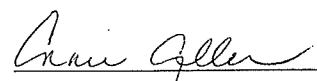
Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 5/0.

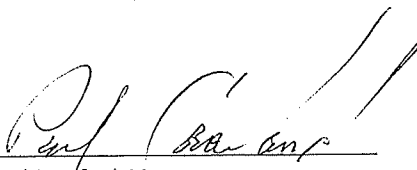
Mayor Crawford – Roll Call Vote – Doug - Yes Rick-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Richard-Yes, and Rod-Yes - Motion carries - 5/0.

Rick- I make a motion to Adjourn, 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

Adjourned


Connie Allen, Town Clerk


Paul Crawford, Mayor