

The Richlands Town Council held a continuation meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on November 23, 2020, at 6:00 PM, with the following individuals present:

Mayor: Paul Crawford
Town Manager: Tim Taylor
Town Clerk: Christina Brown
Council Members: Jeff Hurst, Rick Wood, Doug Ratliff, Mary Ann Strong, Rod Cury
Town Attorney: Kenneth Wayne McClanahan II

Mr. Wood was not present at the start of the meeting.

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

Mayor Crawford: You have the agenda before you. Are there any additions or deletions to the agenda? Do you have the agenda, Mary Ann and Rod?

Mr. Cury: Uh, I don't have the physical agenda. Uh, let me see here. Is it posted, Tim? On Facebook?

Mr. Taylor: It was emailed to you today. It was emailed to you today.

Mr. Cury: Oh, let me just see. I'll check. Hold on, Tim.

Mr. Taylor: We were very late getting this out, and I didn't realize we were going to have so many people on Zoom, so I guess we should have.

Mr. Cury: That's all right.

Mrs. Strong: I don't have it, but I'll also check my email.

Mr. Taylor: Let me. I can make that happen.

Mr. Cury: Was it sent to my town email, Tim?

Mr. Taylor: I do not know that Rod, but I'll certainly check.

Mr. Cury: That's all right.

Clerk: Rod, I'll take a picture of it and text you.

Mr. Hurst: I was just getting ready to do that.

Mr. Cury: Okay, thank you. That's perfect.

Mr. Hurst: I was just getting ready to do that to he and Mary Ann.

Clerk: Okay.

Mr. Hurst: I'll get it.

Mrs. Strong: Thank you, Jeff.

Mr. Hurst: It's out in cyper space somewhere.

Mrs. Strong: Technology is a wonderful thing, isn't it?

Mr. Hurst: When it works.

Mr. Taylor: When it works.

Mayor Crawford: When it works.

Mrs. Strong: Thank you, Jeff. I have it.

Mayor Crawford: Have you got it Rod?

Mr. Cury: I have it. Thank you very much. I have it. Thank you. All right. I have it right here. Thank you.

Mr. McClanahan: Rod and Mary Ann, I just forwarded an email to you with it in there, so you'll have a Word doc.

Mr. Cury: Okay. Thank you.

Mrs. Strong: Thank you, Wayne.

Mr. Hurst: Do we need a motion to approve the agenda?

Mayor Crawford: Well, I was waiting on, uh, I'm giving them a little bit of time to look at it.

Mr. Cury: Let me shut up my dogs. Hold on. I got it, Wayne.

Mrs. Strong: I've got it, Wayne, by email and text now.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. We need a motion to, uh.

Mr. Hurst: I'll make a motion to approve the agenda as stated.

Mayor Crawford: Do we have a second?

Mrs. Strong: I'll second the motion.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion and a second to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call vote:

Mr. Cury: yes; Mr. Hurst: yes; Mr. Ratliff: yes; Mrs. Strong: yes. Motion carries. Okay, town manager.

Mr. Taylor: Okay, I certainly didn't want to cause any confusion. Maybe we might want to relook at this, but I want to make sure. Following the meeting the other night, we, uh, after the fact that the council had time to review the report, I, uh, emailed to Kelly Ward with the Virginia Department of Health and told her that council looked at the report and it was thoroughly looked at by them, and it appeared based on the information that we could qualify for the distressed community type of funding. In doing that, I asked for her to reconsider her offer, and you can see that in an email. I don't know; I doubt that was sent to you. I apologize for that. So, it probably was but it went to the wrong account. But basically, it asked for her to revisit that. If you remember, part of the discussion was we were going to qualify for or potentially \$400,000 of principal forgiveness, which is a grant, if we would be able to get our base to that level that was, uh, identified in the study—the one percent above the MHI, the town's median household income, which was presented to council the day when Mr. Chitwood explained that. Uh, they actually the next day sent me a revised offer. The offer is for \$3,889,000 with \$400,000 as principal forgiveness. So, that's a good deal. So, I just, we have until, uh, next council meeting, the 9th, to actually get the approval of this. I just think that most of the council members will want to go ahead and lock in at least the money for the potential \$400,000. Again, the resolution might be confusing, so you don't have to. If you don't have it in front of you, some of the council members don't have it. If they didn't have the agenda, they obviously don't have the resolution. So, I would ask the mayor to withdraw, probably, the resolution to be taken up. Basically, it is, uh, telling us that we are going to accept an offer, and that you have looked at the, uh, the report from Carl Brown. The resolution does give you the appearance that you are trying to adopt the rates. That is not the intent of this resolution. I don't want there to be confusion. So, if council would, uh, just have the ability to vote to accept the offer tonight, and we could rewrite the resolution to make sure council is aware that when Mr. Chitwood talked about it and what maybe Mr. Brown talked about was two different versions. But the ultimate goal is for the residents to pay the same rate whether you divide fifty/fifty percent or you let the sewer rates stand on their own two feet and the water rates don't. So, it doesn't affect what we get in funding through DEQ for the wastewater element, only water. So I really don't want to show that, so I'll recommend to council if you give me the answer for the letter, I'll go ahead and then on behalf of the council accept the offer for the \$400, potentially for the \$400,000. Then we can better explain the resolution at the December meeting. I think that would be better. Since you know, we'd have a chance to be looking at it more. (Mr. Wood entered at this time.)

If that's understandable. I guess in my haste Friday, I just, uh, we just couldn't get it out Friday evening, and then today we, uh, we drafted the resolution. But after I've read it, it does sound like that you are somehow, that you are trying to raise the rates, but you are not doing that tonight. We're just accepting the offer of the \$400,000 and trying to get that here, I guess is all I'm trying to say. Uh, and without the resolution or the letter, it would be hard for you to try to act on that. If you want to delay it all until the next council meeting, that's fine, too. They gave us until the 9th. I was just wanting to, uh, actually get the approval so they can really start churning some numbers out. So, either way works well with me. Mayor, whatever you want to do.

Mayor Crawford: I think it would be a good idea to, for the council to go ahead and adopt this resolution, understanding that we're not adopting a rate or any type of rate structure. It's just that we've heard the analysis from Mr. Brown, and we accept the analysis for what it said. It doesn't mean we're going to adopt the rates that Mr. Brown recommended as far as the cost to serve. Uh, uh, we eventually need to end up with a rate that's fifty/fifty in order to get funding for both the water and the sewer with the \$400,000 forgiveness. Uh, I encourage the council to, uh, pass this resolution tonight so we can let these folks know that we have passed the resolution and we're going forward with it. Uh, we

don't end up on December 8 at our meeting passing this thing and taking a chance of somebody tripping over the curb or something going to the post office and not getting it in by the 9th.

Mr. Wood: I'll make the motion to go ahead and put that in place.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Do we have a second?

Mr. Hurst: I'll second it.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. We have a motion and a second. Roll call vote, Chris: Mr. Cury: yes; Mr. Hurst: yes; Mr. Ratliff: yes; Mrs. Strong: yes; Mr. Wood: yes. I understand five yes and zero no. So, the resolution is passed. Thank you.

Mr. Taylor: Thank you, mayor.

Mayor Crawford: Um, anything else we need to do there, Tim?

Mr. Taylor: No, sir.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, we got it done?

Mr. Taylor: Yes, sir.

Mayor Crawford: Okay. Now we're ready to enter into closed session, uh, convene into executive closed session as permitted by the Code of Virginia 2.2-3711 (A)1, personnel. I will entertain a motion to do that at this time.

Mr. Hurst: I make a motion that we move to closed session per section 2.2-3711 subsection (A)1, discussion of personnel.

Mr. Wood: I'll second that.

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

The council entered into closed session at this time.

Mayor Crawford: Okay, at this time I will entertain a motion that the members of council reconvene in open session and accept the certification of executive session certifying that the matters discussed while in executive session were those both lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirement and identified in the motion by which closed session was convened.

Mr. Wood: I'll make that motion.

Mayor Crawford: We have a motion. Do we have a second?

Mr. Hurst: I will second that motion.

Mayor Crawford: I have a motion and a second. Roll call vote, Chris: Mr. Cury: yes; Mr. Hurst: yes; Mr. Ratliff: yes; Mrs. Strong: yes; Mr. Wood: yes. Okay. Anybody have anything else? Is everybody's mind clear?

Inaudible conversations.

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

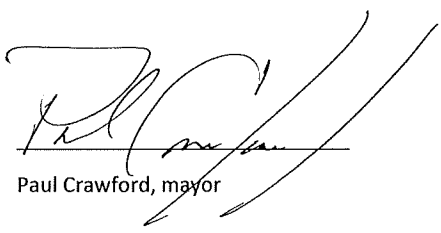
Mayor Crawford: Do we have a second?

Mr. Hurst: I'll second that motion.

Mayor Crawford: Roll call vote, Chris: Mr. Cury: yes; Mr. Hurst: yes; Mr. Ratliff: yes; Mrs. Strong: yes; Mr. Wood: yes. Motion made and accepted. We are adjourned until November 8th.

Numerous voices: December.

Mayor Crawford: December 8th at 6:00. Thank you all.



Paul Crawford, mayor

