

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on October 12, 2021, at 6:00 pm with the following present:

Mayor:	Rod D. Cury
Town Manager:	John O’Daniel
Town Clerk:	Connie Allen
Council Members:	Mary Ann Strong, Doug Ratliff, Jeff Hurst Mike Street, Richard Brown, Logan Plaster
Town Attorney:	Bob Altizer

Mayor Cury opened the meeting.

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

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

Mayor Cury - “Scheduled Public Comments” add Grace Stuart to the agenda. She had called prior to the meeting so she will go under the five (5) minute comments. The people signing up are Keith Jahnke under “Unscheduled Public Comments”. Anybody else who would like to speak on “Unscheduled Public Comments” but has not come forward. Add Craig Earls to the agenda.

John - Under “Consent Agenda” under “b” Drawdown Number #12 should be #14 and under the agenda items “Greenspace Update” should also be a Resolution. Under Closed Session Attorney Client Privilege, I don’t have the numbers but will have by the time we get to closed session.

Jeff – I make the motion to approve the agenda as amended, Mike seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call –Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan- Yes Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury – Approval of Minutes – September 14 – Public Hearing, September 14- Regular Council Meeting, September 27- Workshop.

Mary Ann - I don’t have any corrections or deletions to the minutes but would like to complement our Clerk, Connie Allen, this is 47 pages long a lot of time and effort.

Mary Ann - I make a motion to approve the minutes for Public Hearing on September 14, Regular Meeting on September 14 and September 27 our Workshop, Jeff seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call –Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan- Yes Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury – Authorization to Pay Bills (September)

Mike - I make the motion to authorize the Town Manager to pay the bills, Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call –Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan- Yes Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury – Authorize Line of Credit drawdown Number #14 from National Bank for Wastewater Treatment Plan Rehabilitation Project (\$727.96) and Water Treatment Plant Upgrades and Improvements (\$43,745.67) cost for September bill for a total of \$44,473.63.

Mike - I make the motion to authorize Line of Credit drawdown Number #14, Jeff seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call –Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan- Yes Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury – “Scheduled Public Comments” – Kenneth Boyd

Kenneth Boyd – I have a small piece of property under the code EO7 power consumption right now, makes me commercial or high demand usage. I am asking to be changed to EO5. Under the Articles B2 contract I am not a commercial business at all and I do not have a commercial license, it is just a private entrance and I have copies of the plan and also copies from Tazewell where it was recorded as residential property. It has always been that way. I am sure it is just an oversight of some kind I would like to get it switched back to the EO5 plan and ask the extra I have paid be credited back to my bill.

Mayor Cury - A few questions, you live at 208 Burnette Street, is that a B2 or a R2 zone? Is it residential?

Kenneth Boy - It is Residential.

Mayor Cury - So it is R2, I think the Town Manager maybe could add something I don't know.

John – It is something we looked at with staff and it is our interpretation that it should be a demand meter but that is as far as the staff could go. Anything differently I would like to have the discussion with Council.

Mike – What was the determination as why it should be on a demand meter?

John – When we looked at the property to me it felt like more commercial and not with a residential home. It is not a house and a garage it is just a garage on a partial by itself. It has had a demand meter for quite a while so; the staff felt like it had the potential to have those peaks. There were two (2) months where there was excessive usage to the main meter. That is what the additional charges were and they were added to the bill.

Mike - So he is using enough power to be on the demand?

John - When it is reassessed and has more peaks he will return back to the demand level.

Mike – How many times did he peak?

John – Twice

Mayor Cury - What was the question?

Mike - How many times did he hit the demand peak?

John – It hit twice in a two (2) month period.

Doug - If it is classified as residential, a demand meter is mostly commercial. He does not have a business license and not doing anything commercial. I think his wife uses as storage. I don't see how it can be classified as a demand meter. That means any house in Richlands could be demand.

Kenneth Boyd - This is a private driveway and has no access to public

Mayor Cury – I have another question, do you have a business license?

Kenneth Boyd – No sir.

Mayor Cury - Are you operating a business in a residential zone? You are not making money there?

Kenneth Boyd – No sir it is strictly private for my use. I have no business license and do no business at that property. The two (2) months that I did go over it was less than 4 amps. I just installed a new heat pump. When they put it in, it was Jan/Feb the temperatures were low the demand went on at 30 degrees they wanted to run up to 80 degrees it say on about 15 minutes. I have never since I have owned the property had an issue like this.

Mike – How long have you owned the property?

Kenneth Boyd – Over 11 years.

Mike – So nothing has changed until the heat pump.

Kenneth Boyd - That is correct.

Mary Ann - In our conversations you mentioned that the garage was built in 1987.

Kenneth Boyd - It has been there and deeded since 1987 as residential and it always has been. It was built by the Kinders in Tazewell; I got copies of the plat and the residential listing. I have never had a business licenses or anything to that nature. If we are going by what Tazewell County tells us, it is residential and always been residential I should not be listed on the E07.

Mayor Cury – Mary Ann have you been up there to see his operation? Did you get the same feeling that John did?

Mary Ann – I have and it is a little hard to find, on gravel road, when you get up there it does give you the feel of commercial on the way that it looks because it is a big metal building and had a lot of really old cars around it. I trust you but if a person didn't know and was out driving around.

Kenneth Boyd - There is no signage, I don't even meet the height requirement and I don't have a back entrance. There is only one way in and one way out. The reason I got this when we moved to Hidden Valley you was not allowed to build a separate structure outside of your home. I found this building so I could store things close to the house.

Mayor Cury - Who else did you contact in Council?

Kenneth Boyd - Mary Ann had John and Nathan and then we had conference call, talked several times.

Mayor Cury – What is the will of Council? Do you want to act on it or think about it?

Richard – I am familiar with the property, original in 1987 when it was built, it was taken in as part of the boundary adjustment, mobile homes on the side, and it is difficult to control. Does Council need a motion to direct the Town to remove the demand meter?

Mayor – I totally understand what you are saying, my only concern that is we do things properly. I don't know who changed the meter to a demand meter. I will ask the Attorney's for direction.

Bob – I don't know legally.

Mayor Cury – I just want to make sure we are following precedent and not setting precedent, people come in and get a meter changed. We have ground rules to accommodate if that is the will of Council and this is where we are headed.

Bob – Who sets the rules?

John – It doesn't have to be a commercial building. There is not a residential/commercial meter.

Bob – Demand meters you pay more?

John – You actually pay lower.

Bob – Lower rate until you reach a certain point.

Kenneth Boyd - I disagree with that, if you go down on the line billing, line item 4 & 5 town tax, commercial tax added to the bill to offset. If you are on commercial the fee is called CTC on your bill as well. You have a demand fee. State tax, Town Tax, commercial fee added to this. Demand meters were originally set up for more than a 200 amp meter which sets up for 400 amp meters which is a business. Any household is not going to go over 200 amps and that is what mine is.

Mayor Cury - I have one more question. My biggest concern is that we do the right thing not just for you but for the future so we don't have any misunderstanding with other people. How did you get the demand meter and did they put the demand meter on your garage?

Kenneth Boyd - I have asked but I have not received an answer.

John – It is not anything that was done recently.

Mayor Cury - Has the demand meter been there since 1987?

Kenneth Boyd - I didn't know nothing until I got it on my bill. I didn't even know what to look for and I had never noticed it before, it sure could have been.

Mayor Cury - When your bill went up you saw it.

Kenneth Boyd - What makes it really hard for me to take, you are locked in for 12 months at roughly \$150/\$160 on top of what you pay normally. That is roughly \$2000, I ask do I get my money back it I don't get that the answer was "no". It is that much money and I have a hard time accepting that. I don't want to make it worse than it is but that is a lot of money.

Mary Ann - You mentioned 1987 that was when it was built, you purchased around 2008.

Bob – I don't know how all this works. It seems to me that Mr. Boyd should be treated like all the other citizens in the Town of Richlands and I don't know what the policy is or what the procedures or regulations are to determine if it is one kind of meter compared to another kind of meter. I don't know what those requirements are.

John - The way I understand it essentially, we don't have it as a business or not a business.

Mayor Cury – This man is in a residential setting, is it really a decision of Council you used your staff to decide these things but now Council is put upon to decide it.

Bob - I am not sure that Council has sufficient information to make a decision.

Mayor Cury - Members of Council has expressed I think perhaps we have more information.

Doug – Residential is Residential it is not a business. To me if it is residential and you are not carrying on a business, demand is usually just for a commercial business since you are making profit. The demand is to cover unusual peaks. He put in a heat pump that is not an unusual peak to take care of.

Doug - I make the motion that we remove Kenneth Boyd from commercial to a residential customer, not a demand meter he does not deserve that. If anyone comes in here and they are residential and they are not carrying on a business they deserve the same treatment as every other citizen. I make the motion that we remove the demand meter and put in a residential meter, Logan seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury - The motion is to remove the demand meter from the garage and put in a residential meter, I may be saying that wrong but do I have generally right.

Mary Ann - I was going to say I have no idea but it was long before I got on Council we don't dig in the weeds for meters anywhere. If a person didn't know and it was in a residential area but has a commercial look I can see how a commercial meter got put on it. It was all good until you hit the demand.

Kenneth Boyd - I am not pointing fingers.

Mary Ann - I know you are not; you have been extremely respectful and patient about the whole thing.

Kenneth Boyd - To me it comes down to the Town has a document what makes you commercial I do not fall into any of those categories at all. On top of Tazewell County saying I am listed as residential has been.

Mike - What is the difference in the rates of demand and residential?

Kenneth Boyd – For the E07 customer charge of \$13.90 per month demand charge of \$4.50 a month and an energy consumption .0895, E05 residential is very little within a few cents.

Mike – You were charged \$13.90 and \$4.50.

Kenneth Boyd - It ends up being about three (3) times more.

Doug - You don't want to be on a demand meter I have several.

Kenneth Boyd - I could have accepted it more if they put the heat pump in and I paid that month and went on but when you are hooked for the twelve (12) months and you don't get your money back that is hard for me as a citizen to understand.

Mike - You have the rate for the E05.

Kenneth Boyd – Very minimal, I have it right here.

Mike - You are looking at a penny and penny and half.

Kenneth Boyd – Yes, it is less but when you add the extra fee or tax on to it makes up the difference on your bill.

Mike - Looks like if we left you on the demand meter and you only peaked twice in twelve (12) years' time what is the difference in how much you have saved. I feel like he is on the wrong demand meter and now not to be the bad guy but to be fair has he paid less than what he was supposed to for 12 years.

Mayor Cury - I doubt it.

Mike – But what if you run into it again? I think we should provide consistency. I don't see the guy being commercial I really don't but we need to get our ducks in a row so it doesn't happen again.

John - Would it be OK if we get some more information and have on the agenda for next month.

Mayor Cury – We have a motion and second on the floor it depends if they want to withdraw their motion.

John - If the motion is not resolved is this one time change or is this a policy, if it is a policy that scares me.

Mayor Cury - That is where I am headed conducting this meeting we need to be very careful it is not about you but greater than one person setting precedent. I don't disagree but we need to be very cautious, not against you Mr. Boyd but all the other people we could be effecting and the Town. I hope you understand where I am coming from.

Kenneth Boyd – Here is my thing I am no different from anybody else if I am residential and I have the meter then everyone else should have.

Doug - The policy should be if you are residential and you are not making a profit and you don't have a business you don't deserve a demand meter. I am sure if you went to AEP they are not going to pick out a house and give them a demand meter that is ludicrous. That is your policy Mr. Town manager.

Kenneth Boyd – I did my homework no one else has a demand meter, I even checked in Tazewell, Honaker and Lebanon.

Mike - I have an idea I don't think it should be commercial, but I do think we obviously we figured out we need to be more clear on what that looks like, the ins and outs of what is demand and what is not. We need to work on this as an opportunity to grow. I am going to ask Council let's withdraw the motion and have a consensus that this in fact a residential area and allow the Town Manager to work thru what these issues are and come back with a better policy and we approve that policy. I think we can have a consensus and move forward and have the right plan in place for the future. That is all I am saying not disagreeing with you, it is not commercial either. If we have a consensus saying this is not the way it should be and do better I think that is the better action.

Mayor Cury - There has been a request to withdraw the motion, Doug how do you feel?

Doug - I am not going to withdraw it , what Mike said we can do that and discuss a policy later but this man has a problem and I am sure when the policy comes you are residential and not conducting a business and you are not making money at that residence you don't get a demand meter. It is fine to have a policy, but I am not going to withdraw my motion because this guy has a problem and we need to correct it.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call –Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan- Yes Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury - Please consult with the Town Manager on the details.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call –Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan- Yes Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury – “Scheduled Public Comments” Laura Mollo

Laura Mollo – 262 Linwood Drive – Before I start, I would like to commend everybody it was refreshing to see what just happened doing good for the citizens. We should see our Council come together as one not arguing as we have seen in previous months. First, I want to say that Council should be coming together as one, not arguing as we see month after month. It doesn't matter who likes who on this Council, the focus should be on the citizens and how Council can best serve citizens. It's very

disheartening to watch the back and forth and the disrespect of certain Council members. Personal feelings, personal agendas, friendships, family, etc. should all be left outside of this room. The focus in here should be on citizens and progressing Richlands for the good of everyone. We just have seen a great example of that. Now moving on, I also wanted to bring up another great thing I hope we will look into. Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. Per the website, they describe themselves as "Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family's income. This program would provide every child in Richlands a new book every single month of their life from birth to age five. There is no income requirement, no income check, it is available to everyone. It would be eligible for every child in this Town no matter their income or neighborhood. A parent simply fills out their name, address and children's birthdates. We could partner with the hospital to provide the information to every new parent. We could also provide the information in the school system. Instilling an appreciation for reading at a young age helps encourage the love of knowledge and education. It helps bolster a sense of pride in children and encourages parent/child bonding time in reading together. Consistent reading has also shown to have higher graduation rates. It's important that we find ways to improve the quality of life in the citizens of Richlands and this is a very simple, low-cost way of doing so. We do need a local affiliate. If we agree that this is something we are interested in, I suggest reaching out to the Friends of the Tazewell County Library. They are non-profit organization and would be a perfect fit. Amity Layne from the Friends is here tonight to show their willingness and support. There is a cost associated with this. A five-year estimate is provided by the Imagination Library, with year one being just \$622 per year. I can guarantee funding for year one. Year two is \$1,497 per year and the highest being year five and year after at \$4,400 per year, assuming we have a 100% participation rate. This is less than the cost of the health insurance given to Councilmembers which begs the question, which would we rather invest our money into, 60 new books for every single child in this Town from birth to age 5 or health insurance for a Councilmember. Guys, the money is here. It's time to start using it wisely and investing into the things that really matter in Richlands. I believe in the citizens of Richlands enough to invest into them and I'm asking you to do the same.

Mayor Cury – "Scheduled Public Comments" – Grace Stuart

Grace Stuart - Thank you Mr. Mayor you are one of the best. I have not seen Mayor's before this but I like how you do the protocol and your procedures and calmness you try to compromise with everyone here. There are a lot of negativities on sides so I appreciate you as a Mayor. This is a public meeting I am not only going to address the Council but the citizens that watch us on You Tube if we compromise, we can achieve wonders. For the 5.4 million dollars, there are a lot of things you can do. Parks and Recreation should not be just parks, sports and kids or a new soccer field. I am here addressing some of the needs for the active seniors ages 55 to 75 in the Town. We represent over 27% of the population. And yet, the Town provides us with next to nothing in the area of activities and recreation. Recreation is not just sports but also includes things as dancing, yoga, ping-pong, card games, crafts, board games, singing etc. By active, I mean those who do not require the services from AASC but instead are self-sufficient, self-reliant, and self-supporting independent individuals like myself. I am 70 years old. We think it is past time for Richlands to establish an Active Senior Recreation Center. Such a Center can provide friendships, socialization and activities which are physically, mentally and intellectually stimulating. Such a facility should cost much less than a one (1) million dollar Soccer Field and can be utilized year round regardless of weather. Just imagine having all of these activities available in one central location, such as somewhere on Front Street where seniors can gather and engage. The purpose of this Center is to have a healthy, energetic population sharing their talents, leading new things and enjoying community involvement. It is time for active seniors to step up and make their voices heard. I have given Council a packet of information concerning Active Senior Recreation Centers. I can provide the same packet available to any interested members of the public. If interested, please contact me. I would love to hear your suggestions and ideas. Words have meanings, if we as active seniors stand united together, support our needs, we can be a strong voice in our community and achieve an Active Senior Recreation Center. We have wisdom, talent and children we can teach besides sports.

Mike - Ms. Stuart I appreciate your passion in what you believe in.

Mayor Cury – “Unscheduled Public Comments” – Keith Jahnke

Keith Jahnke - More than any other generation that preceded them baby boomers want to remain both physically, mentally, socially emotionally active as well as being active in the community. In according to an AARP survey at least 83% adults over the age of 45 want to age in place as long as possible. Stay in their own home as they grow old. A growing focus on active living recognizes that regular activity improves the health and vitality of aging population. The most common age of adults remain independent physically and socially active and it helps them to maintain their independents. An active aging population requires less care and services is more likely to contribute time and social capital to the benefit of the community. A focus on activating and provides effective lens which local government can assess the ability to respond to the needs of older residents as well as benefit people of all ages. Increasing socialization of course benefits all. For individuals active living can improve health and overall vitality increase independence and foster greater social interaction. For local governments this can help reduce cost associated with social services and health care and economic & social benefits by extending and expanding older adults' contribution to specific life. As Grace has already pointed out well over 20% of the population of Richlands falls in the category of 60 to 74 if you extended that to the people who are in their 80's it is over a third of the population of the Town and yet the Town has nothing in the way of organized activities for this group. This is some of the reasons in addition to what has previously been stated that I think Richlands needs to provide and active Senior Recreation Center for the Town.

Mayor Cury - Before we go any further tonight in our Public Hearing and in this Council Meeting everyone has spoken eloquently in what they believe and graceful presentation and civil. On behalf of the Town, I want to thank everyone for that. It makes a big difference.

Mayor Cury – “Unscheduled Public Comments” – Craig Earls

Craig – 311 Linwood Drive – I wanted to talk about the property at 281 Linwood Drive it is between Ms. Mollo and myself. It is looking pretty bad if you have been over there lately. I feel like I am the neighborhood watch over there it is a real problem and I appreciate you looking into the foreclosure and the issues we are dealing with it is a big problem. There are critters and bats, I feel like I am in a batman movie they are so many. If they take root in any house around there, they can come in. There are snakes, rats, cats, dogs and even humans have come out of there. It is becoming a real problem and appreciate if you guys could deal with it as quickly as possible. It is a safety issue as well and not only having to go and look at it every morning. I appreciate you guys looking at it and I know it has taken time; I appreciate you guys taking care of it. We do have a Rec Commission meeting on Monday and I would love to put the adult activities on the agenda. Ms. Stuart I would like one of your packets as well. If it is OK with you I will put you on the agenda. Ms. Stuart is on the Rec Commission as well. I appreciate you working on the property I know the previous attorney kind of a messed that one up, to be nice about it. I appreciate you guys moving it along and really taking a concern. It is a really big problem. I would like to thank Chief Gilbert and the police for handling all my calls and taking care of the issues.

Mayor Cury – Thank you and I am sorry I keep skipping over people tonight. I am really not that big of a hurry, but I have been at it a long time today.

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

Mayor Cury - The meeting is back in order thank you for the pause. Shea Cook brought a letter to me, and John informed me he received late this afternoon so we didn't have a copy to pass out to everyone, but I will give each of you a copy. Please take a few minutes to read the letter.

Mayor Cury - We have a guest with us this afternoon.

John - We have Jake Thomas with us tonight by zoom from GDS Associates.

Jake – I am here to speak on the Electric PCA. I was at the workshop in September and a few questions were asked so I have put together a power point slide to discussed and get answer back to you. Presented power point slides and discussed. (Attached to the minutes)

Doug – I would like to add something Richlands transfers a lot more than \$200,000 to its general budget. I don't know where you got those figures; I think the taxes might be around that. They probably transfer \$500,000/\$600,000 besides that into the general budget, if you check the budget. If you change that figure from \$200,000 to at least \$700/\$800 would go up to 10%/12% that is transferred over. It is not 3%.

Jake - John if I didn't misunderstand a lot of those funds are for paid services. You have to do thru the electric utility or pay outside services such as billing.

Doug – I would love to have a job making way over a half million dollars running an electric system. That would be a great job. It does not take \$600/\$700 to \$800 thousand dollars besides the \$200,000 to run that system. That is what the Town takes. It takes probably, we can check it later it is probably more like 12%.

Mike - We are wasting this guy's time in speculation.

John – What I understand it is shared cost to each department, I believe that is what Doug is referring to.

Doug - That is still a transfer.

John – Shared expense.

Doug - It is still showing \$200,000 you should have a realistic figure.

John - Those are costs among the departments.

Doug - I will take over your system and I will run for you a lot less than \$500,000/\$600,000, please give me a job. I will share all those expenses.

Mayor Cury – Jake in the interest of everyone we have bearing thoughts on it will you continue please.

Jake – Continued with the Power Point – Question: Would a Richlands PCA be comparable to AEP Fuel Factor Adjustment? Quick survey of posted electric rates for MEPAV members, Types of PCA, Current PCA, a variety of options to consider. What is the goal of a PCA formula? How does it work? Scenario I- Normal Differences, Scenario 1 – Summer Transmission, GDS Recommendation

Mayor Cury - I think I understand this but I will have to study this chart. Is number 7-6 July – June is that correct?

Jake - Yes

Doug - I saw on the last slide it should not be used to generate funds for other services in Town. Could you do a study or have any studies what the actual cost of running a system like ours is. I am kind of concerned that we are taking pretty close to a million dollars out of the system to run it, \$700/ \$800 counting the \$200,000 which you did not get the correct figures. Can you do a study of the actual cost that we should be using to run the system?

Jake - That is a study that could be done what we are talking about here is the PCA.

Doug - That would have a direct bearing on your PCA, when it falls short and we are taking that much out of the system that is going to cause your PCA to go up. I think it has a direct bearing on the PCA.

Jake - Not if the formula is defined correctly, based only on your power cost. Actual bill associated with the purchase of energy, and it would be tracking that versus what the budget is specifically for the purchase of energy and extend of the difference that factor, it should not be taking into account distribution cost, or any other cost associated with utility specifically just power cost. That is traceable because you can look at the power bills.

Doug – I understand that it is only pointing toward the cost of electricity buy, but when you take the total cost, if we charge a citizen and if that PCA goes up it is going to have a direct bearing on the whole bill, what you are already paying. That is my only point.

Jake – (Continued with power point) - Discussing the different scenarios.

Jake – GDS Recommendations: Recommended use of a backward-looking PCA formula. Allow for charge or credit on bills as over/under-recovered balance accumulates. Recommended adjustment every three (3) months. Tracking spreadsheet can be developed to allow for easy review and oversight.

Mike - We use this PCA in the backward-looking PCA formula the cost of energy we are buying and the adjustments are making, if in fact the customer is charged more than we could credit it back if we find we are over recovering our balance is that what you are telling me?

Jake - That is correct. You would track the month how much was actual power cost versus how much the recovery is for the base rates, what was actually incurred, the over collected could be credited back to the bills.

Mike – To insure we are not charging our citizens too much or trying to bank roll or anything like that.

Jake – That is correct. The large difference in power cost in the summer/winter peak, for budget purposes need to think about the worst case scenario.

Mike – The PCA formula that you want to do is going to allow us to break even.

Jake – Over the long term, yes, on power cost.

Doug – What you are saying about the PCA is not taking into consideration what the Town takes as we stated a few minutes ago. My concern is it cost an awful lot that the Town is taking more than it should to run the system. PCA is not going to protect the citizens from being overcharged it only considers what we pay for the power and does not consider all the other charges as I said close to one million dollars that the Town is bank rolling in the general fund. Are you following me? You made a statement a few minutes ago that the PCA is going to protect the citizens it does not. It only protects what we pay for electricity. It does not take into consideration all the charges the Town is making to run the system. I just want to clarify that.

Jake – those types of questions are budget questions, PCA it is a standard approach for making sure you recover your power cost.

Mike - I am curious, do you have any information in regards to why these four (4) localities don't have a PCA?

Jake - I do not but I can say a lot of times city Council, Electric Commission It's a formula once you approve a formula it goes, just making sure in designing a formula the source of information is durable.

Mayor Cury - Any questions for Jake? John?

John – The next step would be the Council approving a PCA to have Jake and his colleagues design one for us. If that is what you wish to do.

Mike – Jake if we don't do the PCA and we end up winter peaking essentially means we are going to not pay enough and go into the hole. Is that what you are saying?

Jake – No, winter peaking is designed to have our proposed rate schedules for over time that schedule assumes winter peaks every year. If all the projections were 100% accurate you would collect all your power cost that is necessary.

Mike – What you are saying it is an opportunity to give money back to the citizens if we were to summer peak. Are you saying that?

Jake – Yes, that is correct. Your current PCA does not allow for a credit.

Mike - So we would be saving the citizens of the Town money during the summer peak.

Jake - In the event the cost come in as projected that is correct.

Doug - The whole scenario doesn't wash because to save the citizens money you have to run the system correctly. You can't have absorbent fees to run that system. I don't follow, the PCA is not going to protect the citizens the only thing that is going to protect the citizens is if the Town runs the system correctly and doesn't bank roll the general budget. That statement I don't follow. PCA can't protect the citizens. The only thing that protects the citizens is how the system is run and how much is taken out of the system to run it.

Jeff - He is just talking about the power cost.

Doug – I know it they are making a blanket statement that the PCA is going to save the citizens money and protect them. The only thing that is going to protect the citizens in a blank statement like that is that the whole scenario, you have to consider everything it takes to run the system.

Jeff - He is just talking about the power cost.

Doug - It is misleading, says you are going to protect the citizens you cannot protect the citizens unless you take everything takes to run the system.

Mayor Cury - Jake anything you have to add. John was asking Council while you were here if we want you to proceed with formula for backward-looking PCA. The recommendation was to use a backward-looking PCA formula that allow for charge or credit on bills as over/under-recovered balance accumulates. Recommends adjustment every three (3) months. Is that your recommendation?

Jake - That was my initial recommendation.

Mayor Cury - The fourth bullet point is "tracking spreadsheet can be developed to allow for easy review and oversight" Is this a package recommendation that you want Council to consider?

Jake - Yes, that would be a package. We could look at one (1) or two (2) scenarios.

Mayor Cury - What timeline are you looking at to develop a new formula for us.

Jake – It will probably two (2) to three (3) weeks or at least by the next Council meeting.

Mayor Cury - Any other questions for Jake?

Richard - On prior PCA we have leaned on the Electric and Finance Director to keep us updated. In the past Mr. Taylor has advised us when we didn't need to add PCA this month and then next month.

Mayor Cury – We voted on it.

Richard - I don't want to get back into that position where we are voting on this every month. Are we looking at doing this every three (3) months?

Mayor Cury – Quarterly

Richard – Do we vote quarterly or GDS recommendation quarterly?

Jake – Our recommendations is that you approve the formula itself not necessary need a quarterly vote it is up to the Council. You can go either way with it.

Mike – The formula would essentially decide if we are going to charge the next three (3) months based on capacity lines.

Jake – That is correct.

Jake – The balance is changing from month to month, there is a formula and a spreadsheet and calculates the factor.

Richard - That was my question the formula is going to take it out of Council hands, to add or not add the PCA for the quarter. We are going to rely on the formula.

Jake – That would be my recommendation but again.

Mayor Cury - Is there a motion to have GDS move forward with GDS Recommendation?

Mike - I make a motion that we move forward with GDS Recommendation, Richard seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury - Motion to give the Town Manager permission to give GDS permission to go ahead with the recommendation.

Doug - On the PCA the recommendation would be great if it took everything into consideration of what the Town takes out to run the system. If the system was run correctly and not take so much out for the budget the PCA is great, it is a good system but if you don't take the whole system in considering the PCA is just another added bill to the customer. The more the Town takes out of the general budget it is going to drive the PCA up. If we would do a study to see why that the Town is taking so much out of the electric system to run it then I would vote for a PCA. We need to study why we are taking close to a million dollars out of the system. If we would study that I would vote for PCA, unless we do that I will vote no.

Mike – This is called a Power Cost Adjustment not a power cost increase this is just for what the cost is the power that our citizens use, they use the power they pay for the power. Depending on the situation this could save every citizen money. We are adjusting their bill; we say OK we didn't have to buy as much power here is your money back. Before anything or budget this is just them buying power. This is an opportunity to save our citizens money or break even, not to charge them anymore it is a no brainer.

Doug – The bottom line it does not work that way it is how much your bill is at the end of the month. When we buy power we mark it up based on how much the Town takes out to put into the budget the more money they take out of the system to put into the general budget it is going to drive the whole power bill for the citizen. If we would not take out as much to put into the general budget that PCA would not be as much. Watch and see as time goes on with the PCA if it is adopted it will be another charge on the overall bill.

Logan - The only thing I see is your average owners, I love the fact that it would give people money back if the cost was not substantial. Looking at the graph it looks like it fluctuates heavily and when you are trying to budget your monthly expenses how you would plan properly to pay your electric bill. I am split on it I see "good" and "bad" in it.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call –Doug-No (unless there is a study done to run the system I will vote no to PCA), Jeff- Yes, Logan – Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 5/1.

Mayor Cury - Thank you for joining us Jake.

Mayor Cury – Battery Backup Proposal Discussion - We talked about that last month in the work session.

John – This is something that Alice from Blue Ridge Power discussed at the workshop, we wanted to give everyone some time to think about it. The RFP that is going out in the other municipalities around us are planning on participating in to get bids on battery back-up for their electric system. Cost around \$10,000 to \$12,000 to participate, I wanted to bring back up to Council to see if you wanted to go forward with it.

Mayor Cury - Does everyone remember what this was about?

Doug - I make a motion that we participate in the Battery Backup, Mike seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call –Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan – Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury – Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment - We have two (2) members who are no longer on the Zoning Board, Gaynelle Thompson and Chad Ashby has resigned. I want to thank them for their service. Gaynelle Thompson is someone I learned so much from, when I was first on Council and I have known her my entire life, I didn't think I would ever vote in a way that she didn't but in a few months it happened, lessons to be learned. Chad Ashby is another person that has given talents to this Town he has fought his own battles for the Town in what he believes people agreed and disagreed. At the end of the day we are all still here.

John – The next agenda item is the Planning Commission Appointment that was also Gaynelle's position; we do have one (1) person that serves on both of those boards. They are kind of the liaison.

Mayor Cury - I think you told me that Barry Alley would serve on the Zoning Appeals Board; he is a fine person he did serve on the IDA and resigned. The Planning Commission has someone on the Commission from the Zoning Appeals Board. He is a possibility.

John - The recommendation came from Gene Hurst for Barry Alley to be on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mayor Cury - Have you spoken to Richard Smith the Chairman of the Planning Commission?

John - I have not.

Mayor Cury - I have not had the opportunity to talk to him but I think he would be very happy with Barry Alley. We need a motion for someone to be appointed to the Planning Commission first.

Mary Ann – I make a motion to appoint Barry Alley to the Planning Commission, Mike seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call –Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan – Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury - Can you inform Barry so he can submit the proper papers for financial disclosure and things he must do to serve.

Mayor Cury – Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment – I recommended personally if he is willing to serve Barry Alley, I believe Mr. Hurst has spoken with him. He is one possible candidate and we need another person. Gaynelle was the representative from the Planning Commission; I assume Barry would be willing to do that. We will need someone to replace Chad Ashby.

Mike – I make the motion to appoint Barry Alley to the Zoning Board of Appeals, Jeff seconded the motion.

Mary Ann – I spoke to Barry about serving on the Planning Commission but I did not ask him his interest to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mayor Cury - I have not either but I was assuming he would.

Mary Ann - So Barry understands he will be serving on both.

Jeff - I don't know just for the Zoning Board of Appeals. I guess you can appoint anyone to be liaison.

Mayor Cury - It is important for the Planning Commission to have someone on that Board so they can take to the Zoning Board of Appeals of what the discussion has been and the consideration of Council and the Commission.

Jeff - Should we let the Zoning Board of Appeals choose who they want to be on the Planning Commission?

Mayor Cury – You can, if you would rather wait to see what the Zoning Board of Appeals makes a recommendation.

Mike - Is Gene on the Zoning Board of Appeals?

Mayor Cury – He is the Chairman.

Mike – So he recommended Barry Alley.

John – He was recommended for Zoning Board of Appeals and since he was replacing Gaynelle he would be serving both I never heard.

Jeff – Someone on the Zoning Boards needs to make the recommendation to be considered by Council.

Mayor Cury - He has been appointed to be on the Planning Commission by vote of Council. Mary Ann you spoke to him about Planning Commission, correct?

Mary Ann – Yes

Mayor Cury – Would Council rather wait for him to be recommended by the Planning Commission?

Mary Ann – I would feel more comfortable because I did not ask him about serving on both.

Mike - The Zoning Board of Appeals you did ask him and he was OK with it.

Mary Ann – He could serve on Zoning and not Planning. He has a choice correct?

Mayor Cury – He could.

Mary Ann - My question to him was Planning Commission not Zoning. I received a message during this meeting he was OK with that.

Mayor Cury – Gene Hurst has been in communication with Barry Alley and he is willing to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals. John is that correct?

John – Correct

John – I don't think it is a rush but he understands he will be serving on two (2) Boards and not thinking they are the same one.

Mike – Last month we gave a citizen three (3) days to decide, so out of sake of time I think we should go ahead with it give him (3) three days and if he feels like he can't do both.

Mayor Cury – I think we should proceed with the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call –Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan – Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury – Barry Alley will be serving on the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals upon his acceptance. John can you talk to him and ask him to make a speedy decision.

John – I will talk to him in the morning.

Mayor Cury - We need someone else to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals, if you are not sure we can wait.

Jeff – I think they are still working on another replacement.

Mayor Cury – Recommendation from Jeff to wait until we hear from Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mayor Cury – Green Space Update and Resolution

John – There is a Resolution in the packet. The have started on the stage, excited to see some progress in that area but this Resolution is needed so we can apply for the next round of money from CPROP for an additional \$50,000 to finish out Phase II. I am asking Council to approve the Resolution so we can move forward with the application.

Mayor Cury - I must comment that the acronyms like CPROP throw people for a loop they don't know what it is, when I was on Council, I ask for a whole list of those things so I would know what was going on. CPROP stands for Cumberland Plateau Regional Opportunity Program, Jim Baldwin. Read Resolution R-2021-10-01.

Mike - I make the motion to adopt Resolution R-2021-10-01, Jeff seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call –Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan – Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury – Public Comments Rules and Procedure Update – In the packet there is an embedded Resolution.

John – That is the embedded Resolution, it is a little wordy on how public comments should be handled. I think we should add to one of the workshops when we discuss the Charter and the ARPA funding as well. We need to dig into it and discuss.

Mayor Cury - I think that is a good idea for us to take time to discuss. We can review the wording of the Charter changes. Let's put to the side for the moment. Next is the Charter Workshop Discussion and what else did you want to discuss?

John – ARPA

Mayor Cury – I thought of what everyone spoke on tonight and what they want they spoke from their heart and their head. We will plan a Work Session.

Mayor Cury – November 1 at 6:00pm Work session

Mayor Cury – Charter Workshop Discussion, AARP Discussion and Public Comments and Rules and Procedures at the work session.

Mayor Cury – Drive-Thru T & L Contract Approval – We have a copy of the MOU in our packet.

John - This is a proposal for the drive thru from Thompson & Litton, need approval.

Mike - I make the motion that we approve the contract with Thompson & Litton, Richard seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? General vote, approved unanimously. Motion carries.

Mayor Cury – Drive-thru Update

John - We have put out for bid for the contracting of the work.

Mayor Cury – Junior Firefighters Program Ordinance – I think we should consider this, I think it is a great program personally. I did call John with some concerns this afternoon, John did you have time to address?

John – We need to update the Ordinance number and the wording of volunteer. We will have the first reading tonight and hopefully the second reading at the next meeting. They already kind of had this in place but want to make it an official program.

Mayor Cury – So we changed the Ordinance Number to 01?

John – Correct

Mayor Cury – My concerns were it said in the original ordinance “Whereas, any person sixteen years of age is authorized to participate fully in all activities of a volunteer fire company”, we no longer volunteer the members are paid. Whereas, any person sixteen years of age or older is authorized to participate fully in all activities of a Volunteer Jr Fire Fighting Program? Keith are they going to be paid or are they volunteers?

Keith – Volunteers, The Ordinance is needed for the Program. We have had this program unofficially for a couple of years now.

Mayor Cury - I think the Ordinance is important just want to get the wording correct. We are not a Volunteer Fire Department. If everyone is OK with Volunteer Jr. Fire Fighting Program.

Mike - I would like to voice my appreciation for Keith for the development of those young men/women for their involvement, I think it is fantastic and we support every way we possibly can.

Mayor Cury - Logan please read the O-2021-10-01.

Logan – Read the Ordinance

Richard - It talks about the 16 years of age or older, when they become 18 do they not qualify for the Program?

Mayor Cury – Words matter.

Keith – For Jr’s

Mike - I make the motion that we adopt Ordinance O-2021-10-01.

Mayor Cury - This is the first reading.

Mike – Ok I apologize.

Mary Ann – Can we dispense of the second reading and approve it?

Mayor Cury - It is not written that way, not really even for a first reading. It needs some doctoring.

John – The plan was to have the first reading tonight and the second reading next month.

Mayor Cury - We need to be very cautious how we do things.

Mayor Cury – Town Manager’s Report – Introduction of Finance Officer

John – Heather Perry is the new Finance Officer, I just wanted you to be able to put a face to the name. I am sure most of you already know her. Just want to welcome Heather to her new role in the Town.

Heather - I am originally from Grundy, I have lived in the area for around 18 years. I am married and my husband is from here, we have two (2) kids I have a degree in Public and Business Administration. I worked in finance before I came here around 10 plus years, I think we have a good group of people here and have a lot to offer. I really appreciate you all and John for giving me the opportunity.

Mayor Cury - Thank you so much for your service.

Mayor Cury – Hill Top Update

John - I have a map to pass around so I can explain the long term project. John handed out the map to everyone. The yellow lines is what we have currently (2 inch line), blue lines is the proposed upgrades ((6 inch line) and the Red Box is the current water meters. At this point the cost is about \$20,000 if we wait as we had planned or until the new lines are in place the tap fee would be closer to \$2000/\$3000 because the line is already put in place. I just wanted to see the value in \$20,000 or come back in a year or two and do the same work.

Mike - What we are telling me we are already have the plans for the blue lines?

John - Correct that is part of the water lines upgrades.

Mary Ann – At this point it does not appear of any activity or renovations going on with this property.

John - I talked to the building inspector they had a permit for roof, progress has been very little.

Mike – We have 100% certainty that is part of our current upgrade schedule and that happens within the next few years. Have you relayed this to the gentlemen?

John – I have not. I think he had a misunderstanding thinking it was \$2000/\$3000 and it is \$20,000 now but it is in the scope of work.

Mayor Cury – Miscellaneous

John – The Hometown of the Clinch this is an organization where Ashley attended the meeting last month. Since she attended the meeting we can apply for \$1000 grant and use it toward the Greenspace Project and hopefully offset some of the Town's contribution.

Mayor Cury – Is this part of CRVI? I think it is part of the Hometown of the Clinch, they had a professional come and do this logo I was active on it at one time. Larry Johnson is responsible for getting for the Town where it says Hometown of the Clinch it is part of that program. Is the grant restricted to what we can use it for?

John – I think it is pretty open, I talked to Ashley she had a pretty good appropriate use for it.

Mary Ann – I make the motion to give John and Ashley authorization to apply for the grant, Jeff seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury - I will just ask for a general vote, all in favor say I, any oppose – Motion carries unanimously.

John - Credit Card – Auditors said we take more credit cards than anyone they audited, which was shocking. We are looking at our Utility Billing Company using a third party to come thru them, the staff feels it would be a cheaper alternative. The staff spends a lot of time on and a liability if someone calls in and reads the credit card over the phone what if something was to happen? Just wanted you to be aware if someone tells they called to make a payment and they transferred me. It will free up staff time and be cheaper for the Town.

Mayor Cury - Is there a consensus from Council to support John on this?

Doug - If they come in person they can still pay it.

John – For now but will probably try to phase that out long-term.

Doug - What if someone is due to be cut-off.

John - They can call that is how the other utilities have gone.

Heather - It is the same company instead of going online and paying they would call the 800 number. It is just a different way about doing it.

Mayor Cury – Attorney Comments – Foreclosure Update

Bob – Brad Pyott has been working with John on this issue it is my understanding it is different from the past and address the properties under the ordinances, that is one alternative it is also considering tax abatement that is something that is being discussed with Brad, which of these would be more effective way to go to address these properties. The county has some tax sales on some properties in the Town of Richlands; one may be the 281 Linwood Drive. May be in the works of the county already.

Mike - It is different properties.

John – If we foreclose on it then we could sell it and hope they have to do something with the property. If we do the dilapidated properties, we send notices, then a hearing, etc. then the Town can go and tear down. We have two (2) different options if Council wants us to do the foreclosure and hope someone else will do it or we spend the money to do the demolition.

Bob - I think Brad and John are discussing the proper way to go. Once they get an idea then they can come to the Council.

John - I don't want to start one process and we pay \$20,000 to tear a house down and at that time working on a foreclosure process.

Mayor Cury – What is Council's pleasure? If I recall Mary Ann mentioned at the last meeting it was originally scheduled for sale on the court house steps on June 14 but it didn't happen.

Mary Ann – Was that a tax sale?

Bob – Yes, one of the two alternatives.

Mary Ann – My opinion is for these two (2) properties because Hidden Valley and Fairfax property, my recommendation is whichever option is the fastest.

Bob – I have not been involved in the nuts and bolts, Brad has been doing out of my office. I don't know the specifics of the two (2) options to be able to advise you. I know the concerns and you want the problem resolved.

Mary Ann – Mr. Earls spoke tonight about how hazardous. Tell him to move fast like he runs races. Thank you for getting it moved in the right direction.

Mayor Cury – “Council Member Reports” – Logan Plaster

Logan – Update on the Cat situation as many of you know I have worked with the ladies in Town pretty much the entire time that I have been on Council. I spoke with Julia Winston today she stated to date 49 cats have been spayed and neutered here in Town, they had a meeting last week, Lisa Hess is no longer overseeing it she has accepted a new position and now does not have the time to trap. There are two (2) individuals who are joining the group who are both experienced in trapping actually there are three (3). This past Sunday they trapped 11 cats and delivered to the Margaret B. Mitchell Clinic yesterday those will be spayed neutered and relocated. SVCC students are also starting to assist in the efforts and I have to commend Julia Winston with Wise County Humana Society she has really taken this by the reigns driving and running it. I really appreciate her. Currently something that rarely happens if you are animal lover rescuers are vital especially to kill shelters. But today 21 cats are placed with rescues that any in Western Virginia one being Kitten Home in George Town there is an article on their Face book page which she shared with me, the rest of the cats very few at the Richlands Mall which was the original issue. The ones that are left are spayed and being looked after. John and I had talked a few weeks ago regarding some questions that Linda Keen had, she is overseeing the fundraising, and I encourage citizens to try to help them. They have gotten that many cats spayed and neutered on donations. I talked to John regarding a request by Preston Farmer about the speeding issue on Farmer's Street. Mr. Farmer messaged me and asked about a reduction in the speed limit it is very dangerous, I told him you would be talking to Jerry about that. When you get an update to him, please relay to him, I appreciate that.

John – I spoke to Jerry but it is up to Council if they want to change speed limit in that area , it is a dead end road and the amount of traffic looks like they are going a lot faster than they are, don't know if 10mph on sign would help or not. I will leave up to Council how they would like for us to proceed.

Logan – The Flag Pole at the Recreation Center that was one of the things I had talked to you about in the past I just wanted to see if there was any update.

John – I met with the Rec Commission once or twice they wanted to see what type of upgrades or renovations settled out they didn't want set a pole and then having to move it, they just want to make sure they get the right location before they install.

Logan - I know we just spoke about dilapidated properties but I talked to Ms. Natalie Wright today on 6th Street she lives under the bridge in the curve, I had told Tim when he was here Ms. Wright and Ms. Jan Erp have both contacted me regarding property that is across the street and they consider a hazard. I would like for us to be able to help them in some way. She asked me if there was anything we could do. Regarding the Greenway I really appreciate all the work that Connie put into that when she was working full time with the Town. It looks really good and I am excited to see what it looks like. Thank you Connie

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

Mary Ann – As always the Rec Commission as Craig Earls mentioned we meet Monday at 6:00pm at the Rec Park, we welcome everyone. Logan we did talk about the Flag Pole, if it seems like it is going to be some time on a decision for renovations, Rocky Hill as you all saw full of energy and passion he said he could help someone put one up and move at some point. We have not forgotten that, people who use those fields, like the softball group is patient and understanding at this point but realize the importance of it. As far as Rec, Soccer is finishing up and has been hugely successful, lots of activity down there. As mentioned parking is an issue. Whatever we do with Rec we will have to address the parking. Please I don't want to get into the discussion of the Soccer Field but maybe it would calm people down especially those watching on YouTube we are not proposing that we use 1.2 million dollars of our AARP money. If we could get a \$500,000 grant we would be using \$400,000 and a loan. I really compliment John, one of his many strengths is financing options and alternatives and also Jessica Reynolds Lawrence the Rec Director, if the Council approves any money for the Rec it will be used appropriately there are issues with the swimming pool and heaters in the gym. Maybe that will calm a lot of people down. Soccer field is wonderful but we have to take care of what we have got. Parking is an issue, John and I have talked about some options. Volleyball League will start soon this year the Rec is going to run the Volleyball League we are trying to get away from outsourcing leagues and programs. With Lisa Cordle assistance she ran the league last year she is going to help Jessica we are going to do Volleyball for girls and boys. There are a lot of boys that like to play Volleyball I didn't realize that. Following that will be the Basketball League. Rec and Ramp-Up Richlands will partner together on October 30 and 31 to do a Haunted Trail at Critterville. Anyone interested that is watching on YouTube or here they need some volunteers to be actors and dress up. Another positive is last Thursday at the College the Pure Salomon people which we always called Project Jonah they were there. John and I went over I wanted to introduce him to Lala Korall, it was very positive and it was a time for people/vendors were interested to come by. They are moving dirt over there it is going to happen not originally where we wanted it but they have not forgotten Doran. Hopefully they will have Phase II eventually. Obviously it could take much time. It is a very positive Project. Wanda Lowe messaged me and I told her when we have our workshop on the ARPA money we will of course take into consideration the Hidden Valley folks and the problems that they are having with water runoff and flooding. Thankfully Covid seems to be leveling off here but it is National Emergency Nurses Week throughout the country all nurses deserve a lot of recognition and especially emergency room and ICU. Just a big shout out to the Emergency Room Nurses at Clinch Valley I think we are very blessed and they do a tremendous job.

Mayor Cury – “Council Member Reports” – Mike Street

Mike – Revitalization Group they have a meeting that is scheduled for tomorrow to discuss the next steps on that with the Grant. That is something that is important to me I have been involved in that since the beginning with Connie and now Ashley is doing a lot of that, Connie is guiding her along. We are excited with those efforts have continued. There has been a lot of involvement thru the community and some of those folks will be at the meeting tomorrow. I can't wait to share next steps in regards to

what that looks like and what the potential benefit will be for the Town of Richlands. I will continue to give updates on that.

Mayor Cury - What is the time and place for the meeting?

Mike - Tomorrow at 2:00pm, if you want to attend you most certainly can. There will be a number of different people.

John - It was a selected list that was on there before.

Mayor Cury - I don't recall, must have slipped my email.

Mike - I will email to you.

Mayor Cury - This is for the Revitalization.

Mike - It is incredible important to take care of our Town. I told Connie I would make sure that stayed on track; I promised her I would continue that, it is a wonderful opportunity.

Mike - I had a meeting with the Back to School Bash Committee on Monday, we will be providing funds to our local schools with what was left there. It was a promise from me to our donors to make sure that money stays within our local school system and that is going to happen. We are going to decide what that is going to be on Monday. We have some significant Fire Department issue in regards to radio as well as normal coverage issues as well I have been in multiple conversations with the Fire Department, EMS, John and multiple sit downs with the Sheriff so we are all on the same page and we all agree there is some issues. Currently we have a major portal radio issue that is very concerning to me, where if our Fire Department is on a call and they are on their portal radios 25% of the time they are not able to reach Tazewell. That is a significant issue where we have had it for years but had not come to light because they have not been going to Tazewell. That is why we are just now seeing this since we have transitioned to 911 and we have noticed this is a problem. For instance, if the Fire Department responses to meth fire anything in regard to that and a person shows up after they are on the scene and the ambulance is gone and someone pops up and has a gun. One in four chances our Fire Department can't talk to Tazewell and let them know there is a person on the scene with a gun. What if they find another person that is injured, and the ambulance is already gone? This can be resolved by what we call rack packs both to command vehicles as well as the fire trucks that respond on scenes. This is an option that I think Council should consider. It is very important for public safety as well as our citizens. This appears to be an issue that can be fixed very easily. A decision made by us regards those based on the conversation with Two Way Radio as well as the Sheriff, Keith and Matt I believe we should go ahead and purchase one (1) to make sure everything goes well and then purchase the rest. I am going to suggest to Council that we use some of the AARP money for that we can go into more detail conversations as far as what that looks like. It is incredibly important to make sure that we can respond efficiently that is what we do as a Council as far as providing our part of public safety. We believe around five (5) of the rack packs absolutely do what we need it to do. Include command vehicle crash truck, new truck and the other engine as well as a Claypool Hill Truck. These are all needed to make sure we can communicate efficiently. I will be prepared to bring that to our meeting as far as AARP workshop so we can make a decision on that I obviously will be a big advocate I feel like it is a no brainer. The second problem is an on coverage issue. There is coverage problems the sheriff will back me up on this one, we talked today for quite some time. We had breakfast together to discuss the problems and how we can work together. There is a possible fix with coverage issues.

Mayor Cury - Did you say you had breakfast and met with Sheriff Hieatt.

Mike - He is very aware of our issues, he will provide a list of things we need in that nature, we had a meeting as well a cheaper option. The option he gave was around \$21,000 in regards to upgrading our Tower at Claypool Hill, the alternative option is to move our traffic to what is called Morris Knob, they have proven the ability, coverage problems no longer exist, proof from the Chief as far as him being on

the radio with Morris Knob. Already proves that it helps, we got cost of \$8000/\$9000 instead of \$21,000, half the cost. I have been in conversations with the Sheriff they have money for that as well, not only Richlands but County issue, they have money budgeted to help with this problem but also some of the coverage is a Richlands issues. I feel like we should join in on those costs they have funds available to assist us with that as well as manpower. They have the ability to do a lot of work themselves and help in the process. I was pleased they are willing to help and I have no problem negotiating. These are issues that will help us become more efficient, that is what our focus is here. I am passionate about it and making sure it works the way it is supposed to, next steps I will be meeting with the folks at 911 Staff, Sheriff, Keith, John and Matt and dive deep into these issues and solve once and for all. I will come back with more information. I can't emphasize how important it is that we put public safety first in regards to how we respond and be able to respond. Any questions just let me know.

Mayor Cury – "Council Member Reports"- Jeff Hurst

Jeff – I just have a couple of things, it was great to see the parade back in Town. It was great to see everybody and the High School participating and the different organizations that participated in the Homecoming Parade. I thought it was great and appreciated all the help from the Town and Police Department for making it smooth and funny. Just to piggyback what Mary Ann was saying close to finishing Clinch River Soccer season, happy to be able to do that again and looking forward to Volleyball and Basketball. It was interesting I was talking to Mary Ann one night after It was fun to see a lot of people out and in the restaurants here in Town, there were several families in the restaurants that I went to and Mary Ann said there were four (4) families at that restaurant she was at. It is great to see people out in Town and supporting local businesses. The other thing I wanted to mention I attended the Ramp-Up meeting, Mike and I have talked a little bit about this too, we want to help them develop and get some assistance from the Town. We have an event planned for next Summer, "Rock the Clinch" looking at a possible two (2) day festival we may ask for some monetary support from the Town and logistics as far as working out with the Police Station.

Mayor Cury – "Council Member Reports" – Richard Brown

Richard – I just want to remind Mike and the rest of the Council I was excluded from the discussion from 911 because of my employment at the Police Department and it involving dispatch. I don't know if you recall or not when you made the motion you stated that it would be zero expense for the switch and any expense incurred would be the County's. Now you are asking the Town to use ARPA money for this. I want you to look at that and remember you made the motion based on.

Mike – Yep

Richard – I am going to go all the way back to May 24, 2010, myself, I was in the final months of my first term on Council along with Mr. Ratliff and Mr. Cury. We had made the motion in May of that year to switch the employees to the VRS as well as a motion was made to switch the law enforcement officers to the LEO Supplement. At that time I don't know if either one of you recall it but it was discussed with the full-time members and the Fire and Rescue at the time which is EMS, those full-time officers or full-time employees with Rescue was eligible for that as well. When my term ended the ball was dropped regarding the inclusion of the Rescue. Heather can speak on it but Covid now being the monster that it is, line of duty has agreed to pay any injuries or deaths sustained from line of duty based on Covid. Not just because of Covid I think we need to revisit getting those six full-time members eligible for the LEO Program. We promised them basically we would do but we dropped the ball. I know things are slow and it is near the end of my term and I would like to see if we can start looking at getting some cost and stuff. Do you recall that?

Mayor Cury – I do I really do. It was an additional expense and we all agreed it was a wise investment for our employees. John, can you look into that?

John – I will talk to Heather.

Richard - Doug do you recall that?

Doug – Yes I do.

Richard – Do you still support?

Doug – Yes I do

Mayor Cury – I think it was unanimous at the time.

Richard – When I went off Council the ball dropped and honestly I have been wanting to bring up and I am not saying to use ARPA money because there will be some back cost but I think away to attract very qualified employees by offering the benefit.

Doug – I think that is an excellent suggestion.

Mike – What does it do?

Richard – Basically it is a supplement that goes along with the VRS if you serve in a hazardous duty position for 20 years. You receive a supplement paid for by the State, there is a cost incurred by the Town initially to catch up the years of service that we have not paid for before. I think it needs to be included in our budgetary; I would like to see that.

Doug – I think it is excellent timing with this extra money because it is fairly expensive.

Richard – I know it is but we are also are just talking six (6) employees. I think it is doable.

Doug - I think it would be good use for this money.

Logan – Is it like insurance or like a supplemental pay?

Richard – It is a supplemental pay that is provided by the VRS.

Logan - It is a supplementary pay for you putting your life on the line.

Richard – Hazardous duty

Richard – LEO – Law Enforcement Officers Supplement and also Fire and Rescue full-time employees. I think we merged our Fire and Rescue and have six (6) full time employees that will be eligible.

Logan - I agree that should have already been done.

Mayor Cury – “Council Member Reports” – Doug Ratliff

Doug – The letter from Shea Cook, do you want me to summarize or do you want me to read it? It is very important.

Mayor Cury - I will read it. (Included in the minutes)

Doug – I think there could be no better use for that money to study the flooding and maybe we could get a grant to help the Town in many ways even beyond the flooding. I hope that the Council when we are in the work session will consider Shea Cook’s suggestion. I agree with him, all the people who spoke tonight for the Soccer Field and all this. How many has gone to the Board of Supervisors, 75% of the people that use those fields are in the County. Why does Richlands always have to bear the burden and pay for everything? All the people who spoke tonight I want to see them in front of the Board of Supervisors and make the same pitch that they made to us. I suggest that.

Mike - John, do you have any update on Fluoride?

John - They were working on it and have a meeting tomorrow morning as soon as I get an update from that meeting I will pass it along.

Mike - Do you have any update on the Library?

John – Yes, but it is not good news, we received one (1) bid it was quite a bit higher than what we received in grant funding it is something we will have to discuss at the workshop. It was so much higher I don't know how we could make it work out. We are working with T & L to see what we can cut to make it work.

Mary Ann - I would ask Chief Gilbert to come and tell us about the event at Fannie's last Saturday to benefit White Christmas – Shop with a Cop.

Jerry – About two/three months ago me and Lisa from Fannie's along with Carolyn Marshall approached me and they wanted to do something to help us with Shop with Cop Christmas Program for the children. They worked with Planet Power Sports on a four-wheeler and sell up to 350 chances at \$100 a piece to pay for the four-wheeler and everything they made above that was going to donate to us for Shop with Cop Christmas Program. We have done it for around 30 some years and worked our way up to 120 children. They worked on the idea and put it together, this past Saturday they give the four-wheeler away. I went down and joined the festivities; Mary Ann was there and helped sell a few tickets. Keith Reynolds won the four-wheeler. Fannies was able to donate \$10,700 from the proceeds, with Covid and everything we have dealt with over the last year, last year was tough and deleted most of our reserves just trying to serve our children. What they have done is phenomenal; they gave back and helped us. Again this year we will help 120 plus children. It is a big event I know it's real close to my heart, Mary Ann, Rod and other Councilmembers and members of the Community that has helped. It is a heartwarming program. A lot of the kids wouldn't get to have Christmas without us helping.

Jerry - Planning on October 29, having Trunk or Treat at the PD on Friday afternoon. If anyone is interested in joining in on that it is free of charge. It is non-political, just having a good evening.

Logan – Do we have that advertised?

Jerry – Yes

Mayor Cury - What time is it Jerry?

Jerry – 5pm to 7pm – Good event good for the kids. Contact Sgt. Crystal Stanley she will put your name down, will be outside in the parking lot.

Jerry - The donations has not been publicized yet, they are getting a big check. We are doing a photo-op to let everyone know how hard those people worked. Appreciate everyone who purchased tickets it was awesome.

Mayor Cury - Thank you Jerry and the other members of the Police Department.

Mayor Cury – “Mayor's Comments”

Mayor Cury – It is pleasing to see all of us moving along it is a good thing. I am deeply gratified. I will echo Jeff on the parade; it was really nice to have a parade in downtown Richlands. In certain ways it reminded me of old times. I think it is a good thing. Thanks to everybody and the Town who helped with that.

Mayor Cury - Who is on the select group for the meeting tomorrow, can you pull up your email and let me know?

Mike – Ashley Harris, Ervin Davis, John O’Daniel, Ginger Branton, Rod Cury, John Willis, Barry Alley, Adrienne Cordle, Ramona Simmons, Paul Crawford, Debbie Milton – Cumberland Plateau

Mayor Cury – Thank you

Doug – Who came up with the list?

Connie - It was the former people on the committee with a few people added to it. It is not the finally committee but who was on it last time.

Mike – Somebody you want to add?

Doug - Just wanted to know where the list came from.

Mayor Cury - Connie are you on this?

Connie – I was asked but I am helping behind the scene.

Mike - This meeting is kind of like brainstorming?

Mayor Cury - The reason I am asking I was very involved in it. That is how we got Phase I done we had lots of meetings. Ginger was on the committee, it is quite a process and it takes a while to get the money and people to participate.

Mayor Cury - We have a joint meeting with the IDA and Planning Commission, when is that John?

John – October 26

Doug – Does that include Council?

Mayor Cury – Just those two but anyone can attend. My interest in it we are all for the Town. These are two (2) different bodies that are similar function but not identical. Just want to be clear in what they are doing.

Doug - What is the purpose?

Mayor Cury - I don’t know the purpose but John can you explain.

John – Planning Commission is working on RFP for where the Council approved \$30,000 to have outside consulting company to work on our Zoning map and ordinance, we look at that and what we want it to be. IDA was aware of that and wanted to make sure they could come and give some input on what they would like to see as related to the IDA function. In the end it will be up to the Planning Commission what decisions are made but the IDA wanted to have a voice at the table.

Mayor Cury - For the initial part, I ask John I wanted to be sure that I understand as a member of the government, the IDA function is to help us seek industry and business. As far as zoning that is under the Planning Commission, I think and I do not know, the IDA involvement is to suggest to the Planning Commission we do this and this and this with zoning open for business and industry.

John – That is pretty much in line, wanted to make sure that piece was considered and zoning updated.

Doug - They bring to Council?

Mayor Cury - For the final say, Planning Commission studies recommendations because Zoning can be one of those things, it is one of the things the Town could get sued more easily than any place else. We have to be really careful. The Planning Commission is in place to do the background work for Council and give a studied opinion to Council for consideration as far as zoning. Anything with zoning has to have a Public Hearing. If you are rezoning in an area everyone in that whole area and surrounding area has to receive a letter from the Town notifying them of the Public Hearing and there could be a possible change in zoning might affect them, is that correct John.

John – Correct any recommendation they make on the zoning would have to come to Council before you go thru the whole procedure.

Mayor Cury - Doug that is why I ask all that I wanted to be sure I understood it correctly.

Mayor Cury - We are going to go into "Closed Session" for 2.2-3711 (A) (29) Contract Negotiations (DMV, Property Acquisition, Jonah Project), 143 318.11A3 Attorney Client Privilege. Do I have a motion to go into "Closed Session"?

Mary Ann - I make the motion to go into "Closed Session", Jeff seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All Council members "I".

John - I have a correction, change 143 318.11A3 to 2.2-3711(A) (7)

Mayor Cury - We need a motion to come back into regular session and to certify that each member of Council, Mayor and anyone included in the "Closed Session" discussed nothing other than 2.2-3711 (A) (29) Contract Negotiations regarding the DMV, Property Acquisition, Jonah Project and 2.2-3711(A)(7) Attorney Client Privilege.

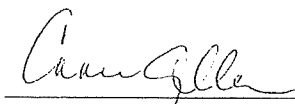
Mayor Cury - Work Session- Nov. 1 at 6:00pm, Regular Council Meeting- Nov. 9 at 6:00pm.

Mayor Cury - I need a motion to adjourn.

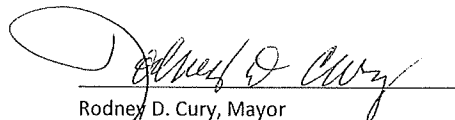
Mary Ann - I make a motion to adjourn, Jeff seconded the motion.

All said "I"

Adjourned



Connie Allen, Town Clerk



Rodney D. Cury, Mayor