

**TOWN OF RICHLANDS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING**

The Richlands Town Council held a "Regular Monthly Meeting" on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 6:00 pm in the Richlands Council Chambers with the following present:

Mayor: Rod. D. Cury
Interim Town Manager: Ron Holt
Office Manager: Amanda Beheler
Interim Town Clerk: Amanda Beheler
Council Members: Rick Wood, Jordan Bales, Jan White, and Laura Mollo.
Town Attorney: Michael Thomas

The Town Meeting was called to order at 6:00pm and opened with the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Cury.

Mayor Cury apologized to Gary Jackson for not mentioning his name when stating which Council Members attended the Chamber of Commerce Dinner at the May meeting.

IN RE: Additions, Deletions, or Corrections to the Agenda

Mayor Cury asked for the following changes be made to the agenda:

- Add Recognition of Jack Clem
- Move Scheduled and Unscheduled Public Comments after Recognition of Jack Clem
- Add Brian Beck to the Agenda with AASC.
- Move AASC to after Recognition of Jack Clem
- Add Street Closure Discussions
- Move all agenda items before Executive Closed Sessions.
- Move Appointment of Clerk to after Executive Session
- Add Quantum Power after Mayor Comments

Upon a motion by Laura Mollo seconded by Jan White and the roll call vote of all members present, with Jordan Bales voting no, the Council voted 3-1 to approve the amended agenda.

IN RE: Authorization to Pay Bills

Upon a motion by Jan White seconded by Laura Mollo and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to approve paying the bills.

IN RE: Minutes

Upon a motion by Rick Wood seconded by Jan White and the unanimous roll call vote of all member present, the Council voted to approve the following Minutes: Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission May 9, 2023, Public Hearing May 9, 2023, Regular Meeting May 9, 2023, and Special Called Meetings on May 17, 2023, and May 22, 2023.

Mayor Cury thanked Interim Clerk Amanda Beheler for the Minutes being very concise and reader friendly.

IN RE: Recognition of Jack Clem

Mayor Cury recognized local student Jack Clem, the 2023 Mens 2A Division Tennis State Champion. Clem had an undefeated season with twenty-four wins and zero losses.

IN RE: Scheduled Public Comments

Mayor Cury advised there was no scheduled public comments.

IN RE: Unscheduled Public Comments

Mayor Cury advised there was no unscheduled public comments.

IN RE: AASC- Brian Beck (CEO) & Lynna Mitchell- Park Updates

Brian Beck, AASC CEO, advised the Council he came with good news. Mr. Beck stated a grant for eight thousand one hundred and ninety-four dollars was awarded to AASC and they are excited to partner with the Town of Richlands and Rocky Hill for Lake Park updates and new equipment with this grant. Mr. Beck stated he had two wheelchair accessible swings suitable for children and adults, two stationary Air Walker Exercise Units, and four benches. Mr. Beck advised the Town would be required to post the name of the organization that is funding the equipment and have a crosswalk with signs installed. There would also need to be an MOU in place due to the equipment being placed in a location that is not owned by AASC that states what deliverables they are responsible

for and their portion of the crosswalk and signs. Mr. Beck stated there would be a kick-off event for this on June 29, 2023.

Lynna Mitchell stated that the park will be called "Fit for Life Park" because it will be accessible for all ages and all abilities.

IN RE: Street Closure Discussion

Laura Mollo advised there is currently no policy on street closures and would like to have a policy in place on street closures for consistency going forward and would like for decisions on street closures to come before the Council first.

Mike Thomas, Town Attorney, advised it is the council's decision to draft an ordinance on this.

Jordan Bales advised he prefers to leave these decisions to the Town Manager.

Jan White and Mayor Cury asked Mr. Thomas to research how this issue is handled by other towns before the Council makes any decisions.

IN RE: Attorney Comments

Mr. Thomas advised he has no comments.

IN RE: Town Manager Report

Mr. Holt advised he has been meeting with all department heads regarding the Freedom Festival and the Carnival.

Mr. Holt reported all requirements have been met on the CPROP Grant.

Mr. Holt stated the Town would need to purchase and install fencing and rubberized mulch for the train due to the train being moved closer to the roadway creating safety concerns.

IN RE: Council Members Report

Laura Mollo-

- Stated she owed citizens an apology for not informing them of everything that has been going on.
- Reported the process of hiring a new Town Manager has gone slower than she had expected but they are still actively looking.
- Stated she still intends on abolishing personal property taxes and lowering electric rates.
- Advised the slides at the pool were removed strictly due to safety concerns, and the Town does not have the money to replace them at this time.

Jan White-

- Advised the Council is still looking for a new Town Manager, trying to find the best fit for the Town.

Jordan Bales-

- Asked if there were any new updates on the Iron Street Property, Mr. Holt advised not at this time.
- Stated he had received several reports of drainage issues at the elementary school. Mr. Holt advised they have met with representatives from the school board and other local municipalities on this issue. Advised the Town has a very limited role there but has offered to help where it could.
- Also stated he has received more reports of vandalism at Critterville. Mr. Holt advised the town was awarded the grant for ten new security cameras and those should be installed very soon, and the police department has stepped up their patrols in that area. He could not divulge the location of these cameras to the public.
- Reported that July 13- July 18 the Little League State Tournament will be held in Richlands.
- Thanked the donors for the REC Park Adopt a Child Program.

Rick Wood-

- Advised he had received a complaint about the potholes at the Water Treatment Plant being worse after being patched.
- Advised the power adjustment cost needed to be removed for the month, Mr. Holt advised it was at zero.

Mayor Cury-

- Spoke briefly on upcoming Town events. Cury advised Flag Day is on June 14th, Freedom Festival on June 24th and a Carnival on July 6th, 7th, and 8th.

Mayor Cury declared a ten-minute recess.

IN RE: Executive Session

Mayor Cury advised the Council would be going into Executive session pursuant to:

- a. VA Code Section: 2.2-3711 (A)(1)
- b. VA Code Section: 2.2-3711 (A)(8)

Upon a motion by Laura Mollo seconded by Jan White and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to go into Executive Session.

Upon a motion by Jan White seconded by Rick Wood and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to return to Open Session.

Upon a motion by Laura Mollo seconded by Rick Wood and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council certified that only VA Code Sections 2.2-3711 (A)(1) and 2.2-3711 (A)(8) were discussed during the Executive Session.

IN RE: Resolution R-2023-06-01

Mayor Cury read Resolution R-2023-06-01.

Upon a motion by Laura Mollo seconded by Rick Wood and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to approve Resolution R-2023-06-01 to appoint Amanda Beheler as Clerk.

IN RE: REC Commission Appointment

Upon a motion by Jordan Bales seconded by Rick Wood and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to appoint Michelle Blankenship to the REC Commission.

IN RE: IDA Appointment

Upon a motion by Rick Wood seconded by Jordan Bales and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to appoint Jeff Casey to the IDA.

IN RE: Planning Commission Appointment

Mayor Cury advised the Planning Commission Appointment will be delayed until the July 2023 meeting.

IN RE: Board of Zoning Appeals Appointment

Upon a motion by Rick Wood seconded by Jordan Bales and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to re-appoint Bill Patton and Gene Hurst to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

IN RE: Berkley Group Contract

Upon a motion by Rick Wood seconded by Jan White and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to authorize Interim Town Manager Ron Holt to enter into a contract agreement with the Berkley Group for an Interim Town Manager and for the search of a New Town Manager.

IN RE: Quantum Power

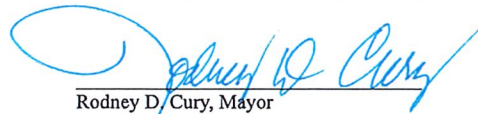
Rick Wood spoke briefly to the Council regarding the Town needing an inner study of the Power System done. Wood stated this would cost eighty-one thousand five hundred dollars.

Mr. Holt advised these funds would be taken from the Electrical Reserve.

Upon a motion by Rick Wood seconded by Laura Mollo and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to enter into a contract with Quantum Power to do an inner study of the Towns Power System for eighty-one thousand and five hundred dollars pending a legal study done by the Town Attorney.

IN RE: Adjournment

Upon a motion by Laura Mollo seconded by Rick Wood and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the meeting was adjourned.


Rodney D. Cury, Mayor


Amanda Beheler, Town Clerk