

TOWN OF RICHLANDS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Richlands Town Council held a "Regular Monthly Meeting" on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 6:00 pm in the Richlands Council Chambers with the following present:

Mayor: Rod. D. Cury
Interim Town Manager: Ron Holt
Interim Town Clerk: Amanda Beheler
Town Office Manager: Susan Whitt
Council Members: Doug Ratliff, Gary Jackson, 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.

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

Mr. Thomas, Town Attorney advised he wanted to add VA Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7) to bullet "c" under Executive Session.

Upon a motion by Laura Mollo seconded by Jan White and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to approve the 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 Laura Mollo and the unanimous roll call vote of all member present, the Council voted to approve the following Minutes: April 11, 2023, Regular Meeting Minutes, Special Called Meetings April 27, 2023, May 2, 2023, and Budget Workshop on April 20, 2023.

IN RE: 2023/2024 Proposed Budget

Mayor Cury read the Public Hearing Notice and advised there was a synopsis available to citizens.

Mayor Cury advised this is considered the first reading of the proposed Budget.

IN RE: Library Update

Regina Roberts advised the groundbreaking for the library was held on April 4, 2023, and work began that day. Roberts also advised they are currently waiting for the new windows to arrive.

Roberts stated that William Hubert with Hubert Architects will be doing the inspections along with Gary Jackson, the county building inspector.

Hubert Architects is currently behind on the Phase Two Bid Package due to Mr. Hubert having medical issues and being hospitalized. Phase Two includes working on the inside and installing an elevator that is handicap accessible.

Mrs. Roberts stated she is still working on the budget for Phase One and it will be available within the next month.

In RE: Lake Park Update

Rocky Hill spoke briefly to the Council about his planned upgrades for Lake Park. Mr. Hill stated that the Rec Commission has already gave approval for him and the Appalachian Agency for Senior Citizens to move forward with planned upgrades for senior citizens, but he wants to take it a step further and add equipment for citizens with special needs and disabilities. Mr. Hill also wants to make some repairs to the baseball field located at Lake Park with supplies he already has. Mr. Hill already has enough donations for the equipment and is only seeking the Council's approval to move forward with the project.

Mr. Holt advised that the Town would oversee the project and assist Mr. Hill with the upgrades.

Jan White and Laura Mollo inquired about safety inspections; Mr. Holt advised the Town would oversee the inspections also.

Upon a motion by Rick Wood seconded by Jordan Bales and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to approve Rocky Hill to move forward with upgrades to Lake Park.

IN RE: Scheduled Public Comments

No scheduled public comments.

IN RE: Unscheduled Public Comments

No unscheduled public comments.

IN RE: Planning Commission

Gary Jackson advised that the Planning Commission recommends the Town to forward with the Special Exception Permit Request for the property on Farmers Street Tax Map # 105A907 0044-0059 with the exception of coming back for review in one year.

Jan White asked Mr. Jackson if there was an exception made for Roby Perry regarding the one mobile home that would be placed directly behind his property, Mr. Jackson stated there were no exceptions made.

Laura Mollo asked Mr. Jackson if Mr. Perry was ok with the Planning Commission's decision to allow the mobile home to be placed directly behind his property. Mr. Jackson advised the decision was made after Mr. Perry left.

Upon a motion by Gary Jackson and no second, the motion to approve the Special use Permit failed.

The Council discussed options to help Mr. Perry.

Upon a motion by Gary Jackson seconded Rick Wood and the unanimous vote of all members present, with Laura Mollo voting no, the Council voted to approve the Special Exception Permit for the property owner A & E with the exception of deleting mobile home # 7 from the Permit.

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)(6) Contract Negotiations-
1. Davenport Financial Plan 2. Sam Lipman 3. RPF for Gas Generator 4. Paving Contract.
- b. VA Code Section: 2.2-3711 (A)(1) Personnel
- c. VA Code Section: 2.2-3711 (A)(7) Consultation with Legal Counsel

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

Upon a motion by Laura Mollo seconded by Jan White 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 Gary Jackson 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)(6) and 2.2-3711 (A)(7) were discussed during the Executive Session.

IN RE: Paving Contract

Upon a motion by Laura Mollo seconded by Jan White and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to accept the paving contract with W & L for the recommended streets by Chief Holt.

IN RE: Attorney Comments

Mr. Thomas advised that he has been working with Mr. Holt and has completed most of the projects that the Council asked him to look into or complete at the last meeting.

IN RE: Town Manager Report

- a. River Road- Mr. Holt advised the River Road has lost a significant amount of gravel over time due to flooding and would like the Town to close the road and convert it into a walking trail. Holt also advised he would like the Town to add some benches and lighting to the walking trail when funds are available.

After a brief discussion between the Mayor and Council Members, the Council decided to review this until June. A Public Hearing will be set pending Mr. Thomas's research on the proposed project.

- b. Friends of SWVA- Request for Partnership- Mr. Holt reported that he received a request from Friends of Southwest Virginia requesting a seventy-five-hundred-dollar donation from the Town. The council asked Mr. Holt to find out what the Town has donated in the past and this can be discussed at the June meeting.
- c. Events, Zoning, and Business License Help Packets (proposed)- Mr. Holt advised that he is currently working with staff to create help packets to hand out to citizens who come into the Town Hall requesting information for events, zoning, and business license. Packets will include instructions and the necessary forms that are needed.

- d. S&S Property Update- Mr. Holt advised that Councilman Jackson asked him to look into the status of the S&S property and Mr. Holt advised the process is still ongoing and will have more information including the DEQ report at the June meeting.
- e. CPROP Grant/Greenway Update- Mr. Holt reported the Town is back on track with the requirements of this grant.
- f. Water Treatment Plant/ Security Fencing- Mr. Holt advised that after he and several board members toured the Water Treatment Plant, he is concerned that there is currently no fencing around the plant. Mr. Holt stated that he has received two quotes for the fencing, one for fifteen thousand dollars and one for thirty-three thousand dollars. Mr. Holt advised that he would try to locate any leftover funds remaining in the budget for funding the fence and will update the Council at the June meeting.
- g. Security Camera Grant Update- Mr. Holt advised the Town was awarded a twenty-five-hundred-dollar grant from DCJS that he purchased ten wireless solar powered security cameras with. Cameras will be placed in problem areas around the Town.

IN RE: Council Members Report

Laura Mollo-

- stated that she is very appreciative of the updates provided and grateful for everyone working together.

Jan White-

- stated she discussed a few things with Chief Holt before the meeting and had nothing else this month.

Jordan Bales-

- thanked Mr. Thomas, Mr. Holt, and Billy for helping him take care of Mr. Yates drainage issues.
- advised opening day for the Rec Park Pool will be on Monday May 29, 2023.
- stated that he has had countless people reach out to him saying how excited they are to see the Greenway Project progress and he would like to thank Mr. Holt and everyone in the Town who has helped with this.
- thanked Councilman Jackson on behalf of himself and the Rec Commission for all his help regarding the Rec Park renovations.
- thanked the new Town Clerk, stated he loved how the minutes were easy to read.

Rick Wood-

- inquired about the streetlights, advised some are working and some are not. Mr. Holt advised they are being addressed.

Gary Jackson-

- stated he received a complaint about the road needing repaired in the curve at the top of Christmas Tree Hill.
- advised the Planning Commission still needs another member, maybe two.

Doug Ratliff-

- stated he doesn't have anything.

Mayor Cury-

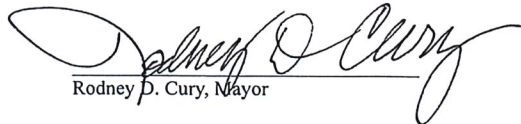
- advised he was disappointed in the attendance and participation at the last Revitalization meeting.

IN RE: Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce

Upon a motion by Laura Mollo seconded by Jordan Bales and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, with Rick Wood and Doug Ratliff voting no, the Council voted to approve the Town of Richlands to join the Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce.

IN RE: Adjournment

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


Rodney D. Cury, Mayor


Interim Town Clerk, Amanda Beheler