

The Richlands Town Council held a "Special Called Meeting" on March 7, 2023, in the Richlands Council Chambers at 6:00 pm with the following present:

Mayor: Rod D. Cury

Interim Town Manager: Heather Peery

Acting Town Clerk: Susan Whitt

Council Members: Doug Ratliff, Gary Jackson, Rick Wood, Jordan Bales, Jan White and Laura Mollo.

Town Attorney: Michael Thomas

Mayor Cury opened the meeting.

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

Mayor Cury- any additions or deletions to the agenda?

Michael-just one quick amendment, the Code Section for Closed Session should be 2.2-3711 (A)(1), not as listed 2.2-37.11 (A) (1), the second decimal should not be there.

Mayor Cury-another other additions or deletions to this Agenda? I would entertain a Motion to accept the agenda as amended. Laura makes the motion to accept the agenda as amended, seconded by Jan.

Doug-can we add something to the agenda? I'm getting a lot of calls about trash in town, and I think we need to talk about that too. I think we are getting overrun with trash.

Mayor Cury-we have a motion and a second to approve the agenda. It is my understanding that it takes a unanimous vote by council to add to the agenda of a Special Called Meeting. Laura-I don't mind withdrawing my motion. Jan withdraws her second.

Doug-wants to add to the agenda to speak about the trash all over town. Mayor Cury-we will put that on Agenda items above a, a plus-Trash in Town.

Rick-wanted to add the meeting that we need to have with Sam Lipman, just before closed session.

Doug-what I really want to talk about is putting out a bid for trash pickup.

Mayor Cury-and if I understand correctly, to change the agenda in a special called meeting, we need what?

Michael-for a special called meeting, you need to have advertised whatever you are going to discuss, however, if you need to add something, it has to unanimously approved by council, if you have one no vote, you can't change it.

Jordan-what do you advise?

Michael-I think if you wanted to discuss something, I would have recommended that you advertised it. I understand that things come up last minute, that kind of thing. It's better to advertise what you are going to speak about.

Mayor Cury-so we have two proposed additions under Agenda Items, Roman Numeral Five, we would add Trash first and then speaking with Sam Lipman, then go into budget workshops planning schedule. Any other proposed additions or deletions to this agenda? Is there a Motion to accept the agenda as amended? Laura makes the Motion, Doug seconds. Any discussion.

Jordan-I'm ok with it, but next time, we really need to think about it. I will say yes this time, but in the future, I won't feel comfortable with it, we really should advertise what we are talking about.

Laura-I agree with that.

Doug-I was at the car wash and I had 5 people approach me, saying what are we going to do about this trash?

Jordan-I just feel weird about it. I am going to say yes but, in the future

Laura-I do agree, anytime we can add something to an agenda prior.

Mayor Cury-any further discussion, members of Council?.

Roll call vote: Doug-yes, Gary-yes, Rick-yes, Jordan-yes, Jan-yes, Laura-yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Cury-Agenda Items. First Item-Trash

Doug-I want to propose that we put out bids so we can get some company to come in and start picking up trash, mowing the grass and so forth. Laura-we have bids out to mow the grass. We voted on that in the last regular meeting. Doug-we have out bids? Gary-does that include trash pickup?

Laura-no, it doesn't. We have a town crew, if you look at our Police Department tonight, the town crew came over to help Chief Holt. Those dead plants and dead trees that have been there forever,

they came out and pressure washed, put in new mulch, it looks incredible. Our town crew really is stepping it up.

Doug-I think we should put out the bids not only for the grass, but also the trash. Because in order to cut the grass, you have got to pick up that trash.

Laura-the people who bid on that might include it, if not, I think it's the responsibility of the town too.

Doug-I don't think the Town has enough workers to pick up the trash all over town.

Mayor Cury-I think the bid was just for mowing grass? So if that happens, Doug, it would be a negotiable thing, but the RFP is for grass mowing, is that correct?

Laura-yes sir.

Mayor Cury-I am assuming, dangerously, that whoever is bidding, they will include that in the grass mowing.

Doug-I just think it would be a good idea to add the trash in, because if you do it individually, it's going to be a higher bid for someone to come in and cut the grass and then someone comes in and pick up the trash. Doesn't make a lot of sense to me if we don't include cutting grass and trash.

Any further discussion on the trash pick up in town? Jan-I remember on the last bid when it was put out, they did include picking up the trash so they didn't mow over it, so maybe that is included on the bid, I haven't seen it.

Laura-we had a discussion about it when we did it, because I made the Motion for the mowing contract, and I was asked at the time if I wanted to amend the Motion to include trash and I said no, so that Motion was for mowing but I would hope that if someone is mowing, and they see a piece of paper, that we aren't going to end up paying another \$17 per hour to someone to pick it up.

Doug-if someone bids to cut the grass, they are going to do it as quickly as possible and they aren't going to take time to pick up that trash, they are going to zip in here, cut that grass and get out of here.

Laura -if they do a bad job, I would think that Council would be able to...

Mayor Cury-I think we could revisit that at that time.

Doug-I just think it would be a good idea to include trash, but it's up to Council.

Mayor Cury-thank you Doug, thank you Laura and Jan. Does anyone else have any comments on this particular topic? There being no further discussion, I will defer to Rick.

Rick-some of you many know, I have been talking to Sam Lipman and I have given each and every one of you his phone number to give him a call. He has some good ideas on how to help us. His company is a 501-3C. He is wanting to do a zoom call and talk to us all as a group, can we schedule that?

Mayor Cury-if Council desires that, we can have that included in our meeting next week. Rick-I would rather do it in a workshop or something, because everyone has questions. We are talking about this interconnection stuff, and what he was explaining to me with his experience, what I am hearing we are on two different pages. So if we can get this call done with him, the sooner we know how they can help us. They have 7 grant writers and they can start writing federal grants to help us. It's all got to be in by May, so we have to get going or we will have to wait until next year. I just don't want to lose our window of opportunity. This interconnection, everybody just says vote for that but it's a study, and it's got to be broken down, all the way down. Has everyone spoken to him? Jordan said he had. Laura said she is waiting until his presentation.

Mayor Cury-any further discussion? Council discussion.

Mayor Cury-moving on to Budget Work Session planning schedule. Heather, have you any idea of a planning schedule? Heather -I was going to throw some dates out there for everyone so they can check their calendars. For this month, I was going to see if March 21 would be available and I would prefer to start at 4:30 or 5:00 pm. In April, I had two additional, we have our regular council meeting on the 11th and then I added the 18th and the 25th for April. In May, we have the regular Council meeting on the 9th, and then I was looking at the 16th and the 2nd and the 25th.

In June, which that would be 4 meetings in May, for June, I put the 20th and 27th, but I feel like if needed, we can add one, earlier than that but I will be out of town at the first of June.

Michael-the goal would be to have the budget in place by July 1, and if you pass it, an ordinance takes 30 days to take effect, so you would want to have the budget passed by June 1st at the latest. And budget amendments have to be read twice at regular council meetings.

Doug-can we have the non-revenue departments first as far as the budget workshops?

Heather- General fund? Doug-yes, have the non-revenue first so that we will know how much we will need from the revenue departments.

Heather-I had planned something similar. Maybe do it by departments, the general fund first and the electric, water and sewer last.

Council discussion about the proposed workshop dates.

Council agreed upon the following dates for budget workshops:

- March 21 and 23 at 5:00 pm
- April 1, 3, 4, 5, 19, 25, 26 at 5:00pm
- May 2, 3, 16 and 25 at 5:00pm
- June 20 and 27 at 5:00pm

Mike asked, since these are considered budget workshops, if he would be required to attend.

Mayor Cury said he thought he wouldn't need to but if they needed him, they would let him know.

Mayor Cury asked for a Motion to go into for Closed Session for Personnel, pursuant to VA Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1).

Laura made the motion to go into Closed Session, pursuant to VA Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1) for Personnel, seconded by Gary. The council voted unanimously to go into closed session, 6/0.

Council returned to Chambers. Laura made the Motion to return to open session, seconded by Gary. Council voted unanimously to return to open session by a vote of 6/0.

All council members certified nothing was discussed in Closed Session other than Personnel, pursuant to VA Code Section 2.2-3711 (A) (1). Roll call vote: Doug-yes, Gary-yes, Rick-yes, Jordan-yes, Jan-yes, Laura-yes.

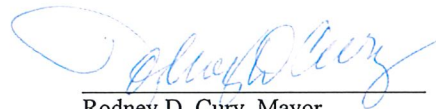
With no further action from Council, Rick made the Motion to adjourn, seconded by Jan.

Roll call vote: Doug-yes, Gary-yes, Rick-yes, Jordan-yes, Jan-yes, Laura-yes. Motion passed unanimously 6/0.

Meeting adjourned.



Susan Whitt, Acting Clerk



Rodney D. Cury, Mayor