

TOWN OF RICHLANDS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Richlands Town Council held a “Regular Monthly Meeting” on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Richlands Council Chambers with the following present:

Mayor: Rod. D. Cury
Town Manager: Jason May
Office Manager: Susan Whitt
Town Clerk: Absent
Town Attorney: Michael Thomas
Finance Manager: Ronnie Campbell
Council Members: Seth White, Gary Jackson, Rick Wood, Jordan Bales, Jan White, and Laura Mollo.

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

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

Mr. Wood requested the Council move the Recognition of the Richlands Wrestling Club to 4.a.

Upon a motion by Seth White seconded by Gary Jackson and the roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to approve the agenda as amended.

Mayor Cury asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak during unscheduled public comment. There was none.

IN RE: Authorization to Pay Bills (March)

Mayor Cury asked the Council if there were any questions regarding the Check Register.

Upon a motion by Seth White seconded by Rick Wood and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to approve paying the bills for March.

IN RE: Minutes

Upon a motion by Laura Mollo seconded by Jan White and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, with Seth White abstaining due to not being present at the meetings, the Council voted to approve the Joint Public Hearing March 12, 2024, Regular Scheduled Meeting March 12, 2024, Special Called Meeting March 23, 2024, and the Budget Retreat March 23, 2024, Minutes.

IN RE: Recognition of the Richlands Wrestling Team

Mayor Cury recognized and congratulated the 2024 Richlands Wrestling Youth Wrestling Team:

The Richlands Wrestling Club placed 6th in the state as a team.

Noah Meade- 106lb weight class/ State Qualifier
Blake Hurt-120lb weight class/6th place in the state.
Brenden Phillips-132lb weight class /3rd place in the state.
Wyatt Spencer-138lb weight class/3rd place in state
Andrew Boyd-144lb weight class/6th in the state
Kaden Dupree-157lb weight class/4th in the state
Kendi Dye-6th in Va High School girls State
Peyton Deel 43lb - STATE CHAMPION
Connor Sayers-46lb weight class/2nd in state
Ricki Lamb-71lb weight class/2nd in state
Hollie Dye-2nd in state (girls division)
Kendi Dye-2nd in state in Junior girls division
Easton Chambers-4th in state (girls division)

Lellin Dye-4th in state
Zayden Deel-5th in state
Carter Dye-6th in state
Easton Roberts-6th in state
Cammie Spencer-6th in state (girls division)

Mayor Cury also recognized Coach Frank Daughtry for his many years as head wrestling coach.

IN RE: Scheduled Public Comments

Jacob Vandyke, 721 Farmers Street- Mr. Vandyke spoke briefly expressing his desire for change in the Town. Mr. Vandyke also announced his candidacy and will be running for Mayor in the upcoming election.

IN RE: Unscheduled Public Comments

No Unscheduled Public Comments.

IN RE: Amendment to Cigarette Tax Ordinance/ O-2024-05-01

Mr. Thomas advised upon review of the Town Code and the Virginia Code, it appears that the current ordinance is in conflict and should be adjusted. Virginia Code states that once there is verification that the stamps have been provided/redeemed then the Town shall refund the amount without penalties or fees. Currently, the Town Code states that the Town will only return 90% of the price paid. Since the Town cannot do more than the state allows, the Town will need to fix the ordinance moving forward.

Mr. Thomas gave the 1st reading of Ordinance O-2024-05-01 to the Council.

IN RE: Roofing RFP

Mr. May advised the Town of Richlands issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) to providers of Roofing Replacement and Repair Services for replacement and/or repairs to roofs at the Police Station, Town Hall, and REC Park buildings. All three buildings have active leaks.

One RFT was received from Frye Roofing, Inc. in Bluefield, WV. Their estimate was \$294,000, for the Police Station, Town Hall, and REC Park buildings. The Police Station is a full replacement and Town Hall, and the REC Park buildings are repairs. The proposed funding source is the unrestricted fund balance. The replacement is considered capital, and the repairs are considered expense.

The severity of damage a roof leak can cause, Staff recommended the Town Council approve the Frye Roofing, Inc. RFP and the necessary replacement and repairs.

Mr. Wood asked what the warranty on these would be, Mr. May advised 20 years.

Mr. White asked if the RFP had the square footage on it, Mr. May advised it did not.

Mr. White asked how many bids were received, Mr. May advised one.

The Council had a brief discussion on the RFP and the square footage.

Mayor Cury declared a ten-minute recess.

Mr. White advised the square footage of the Police Station is approximately 15,700 square feet and stated he wanted to move forward with the RFP.

Upon a motion by Laura Mollo seconded by Jordan Bales and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to approve the Request for Proposal from Frye Roofing, Inc.

IN RE: Paving Contract Addendum

Mayor Cury advised that Staff would like to add one additional street to the current paving contract. Lake View Road can be added to the current paving contract. The paving is priced at \$22,040. The additional paving will be funded by VDOT funds found in the restricted fund balance.

Upon a motion by Rick Wood seconded by Laura Mollo and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to approve adding Lake View Road to the current paving contract.

IN RE: Monthly Financial Report

Mr. Campbell gave a brief overview of the Monthly Financial Report for February as follows:

- General Fund- Advised the Town is doing well and keeping expenses down.
- Revenues are 59.3% of Budget.
- General Expenses- Running lower year to date.
- Water- Year to date net income is primarily the result of lower revenues, currently at 55.7 % of budget.
- Sewer- Lower revenues, currently at 55% of budget. New rates have gone into effect, will see rebounding.
- Water and Sewer Line Maintenance- Currently at 53.6% of the budget.
- Electric Fund- Rates just went into effect. Currently 62% of the budget.
- General Fund- Reserved Cash Balance has an increase of \$149,000 from January. Will be used for roof repairs.
- Water Department—Unreserved Cash Balance decreased by \$7,000.
- Sewer Department- Unreserved Cash Balance has no change from January.
- Electric Department- Had a \$500k increase, due to timing.

Mayor Cury asked the Council if they had any questions about the Financial Report.

Mrs. Mollo thanked Mr. Campbell for his monthly reports.

Mr. White asked if the Town was looking into different investment options for the cash accounts. Mr. Campbell advised it was in the staffs plans, currently working on the budget and updating cash investment policies, will start on this sometime during May/June. Mr. May advised he is working on this as well and will have updates soon.

Mr. Wood asked if there was any way the Town could set up a way for citizens to go ahead and begin to pay property taxes. Mr. Wood stated his concern that citizens would be put in a financial hardship with the taxes being due during the holidays. Mr. May advised the Town has a budget/payment plan for citizens to help with this issue.

The Council had no other questions.

IN RE: Attorney Report

Mr. Thomas stated that Chief Holt informed him the Police Department has property that was impounded, and he hasn't been able to track down where it originally came from. State Code Section 15.2-1719 addresses the disposing of such items by Town Ordinance. Chief Holt is requesting the Town allow Mr. Thomas to draft an Ordinance for the sale of this property and be allowed to keep the proceeds.

Upon a motion by Rick Wood seconded by Laura Mollo and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to allow Mr. Thomas to proceed drafting an Ordinance for the sale of the unclaimed property.

Mr. Thomas advised the Town would need to advertise the property for two weeks to allow owners the chance to prove their ownership of the property before the sale, per the State Code.

IN RE: Town Manager Report

- The Water Treatment Facility was awarded the 2023 Excellence in Waterworks Operation Performance Gold Award.
- Critterville Volunteer Cleanup Day is April 13, 2024, was postponed until April 20-2024.
- Farmers Market will be opening April 13, 2024, and will be open on Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- Wisteria Station will be opening May 11, 2024, at 7:00pm with Toy Story. This event will be free.

Mr. White asked what the qualifications are for someone to set up and sell at the Farmers Market. Mr. May advised they would need to fill out a Vendor Permit.

Mr. White also asked where the name Wisteria Station came from, and the Council briefly discussed it.

IN RE: Council Member Reports

Laura Mollo-

- Stated that Tazewell is having a kid's day at their Farmers Market and asked if Richlands could do the same.
- Advised she has had several citizens reach out to her and ask if the Town could also offer movies geared more for adults.

Jan White- No report given this month.

Jordan Bales-

- Stated the Library's Eclipse Viewing Event at Critterville was fun.
- Advised Tiny Tots is wrapping up at the REC Park, and it had also been a lot of fun.
- Thanked the town crew for getting the walking trail back open at Critterville.

Rick Wood-

- Inquired if the Town had started mowing yet because he had received a few complaints. Mr. May advised they have begun mowing already and to please pass those complaints along to him.
- Asked when the paving will begin, Mr. May advised in the next 3-4 weeks.

Gary Jackson-

- Announced that a new business, Livy-Licious, will be opening in Town on May 1, 2024.

Seth White-

- Stated the basketball season at the REC Park wrapped up and was great. Mr. White also gave a shoutout to his team for going undefeated this season.
- Gave a project update on the Professional Building and advised the reglazing is almost done.

IN RE: Mayor Comments

- Celebration of Spring at the Section House Saturday April 13, 2024, from 3:00pm - 5:00pm.
- Spoke to the Council about all the positive things happening in the Town.

IN RE: Executive Session

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

VA Code Section: 2.2-3711 (A)(8)- Consultation with Legal Counsel / Teen Center

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

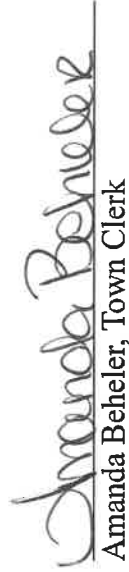
Upon a motion by Rick Wood seconded by Laura Mollo and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to return to Open Session.

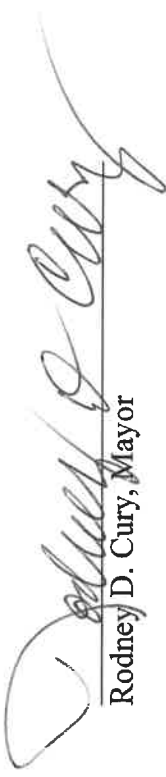
Upon a motion by Rick Wood seconded by Seth White and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council certified that only Consultation with Legal Counsel / Teen Center-VA Code Section: 2.2-3711 (A)(8) was discussed during the Executive Session.

Mayor Cury advised the Teen Center Board would be meeting on April 18, 2024, at the Teen Center. Mayor Cury also advised Mr. May will be attending this meeting and he would like two Council Members to join him. Seth White and Laura Mollo agreed to be representatives for the Council at this meeting.

IN RE: Adjourment

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


Amanda Beheler, Town Clerk


Rodney D. Cury, Mayor

