

TOWN OF RICHLANDS
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The Richlands Town Council held a “Regular Monthly Meeting” on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Richlands Council Chambers with the following present:

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

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

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

Mayor Cury asked if there was anyone present who would like to speak during unscheduled public comment.

Ernest Edgell and Dianna Taylor advised they would like to speak during Unscheduled Public Comments.

Mr. May requested to add (G) Greenville Drive Discussion/Vote.

Mr. Thomas advised that a (-) needs to be added to the Code Section listed under Executive Closed Session.

Upon a motion by Laura Mollo seconded by Rick Wood and the roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to approve the agenda as amended.

IN RE: Authorization to Pay Bills (May)

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

Mrs. Mollo:

- #15733- Anthony Cox \$734- Mr. May advised this was reimbursement for Concession Supplies.
- #15754- A & S Sanitation \$183.75- Mr. May advised this was the Porta Pottys at Critterville.

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

IN RE: Minutes

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 the minutes for the following dates:

- May 14, 2024, Public Hearing / Proposed FY 2024/2025
- May 14, 2024, Public Hearing / Rates
- May 14, 2024, Regular Scheduled Meeting
- May 28, 2024, Special Called Meeting

IN RE: Scheduled Public Comments

Jacob Vandyke, 721 Farmers Street- Mr. Vandyke stated he was feeling hopeful for a better future for Richlands. Mr. Vandyke also stated he had a dream that the Town would become a more affordable place to live, lower utilities, better parks and recreation, and empty buildings will become filled and thriving. Mr. Vandyke.

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 the amended budget for the current FY 2024, based on the projections.

IN RE: Contract for Federal Grants

Mr. May spoke briefly to the Council about available grants and an RFP received by Merchant McIntyre for their grant writing and grant searching services for a twelve-month period.

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 the twelve-month contract with Merchant McIntyre for grant searching and grant writing services.

IN RE: Fire Station RFP

Mr. May stated the Town is ready to move forward and advertise the RFP for the new Fire/Rescue Station. Mr. May advised no action is needed from the Council at this time.

IN RE: Swimming Pool Design RFP

Mr. May spoke to the Council about the REC Park Pool and Splash Pad RFP for design and engineering services. Mr. May stated he would like to bring on a consultant for this. He would also like to visit other localities that have a Pool and Splash Pad to gain more insight.

IN RE: Special Use Permit for 319 Greenville Drive

Mr. May advised that based on the conditions, the Planning Commission recommended approving the proposed conditional use permit (a.k.a., “Special Exception Permit”) request located at Tax map #123 A 0124 A 319 Greenville Drive with regards to the proposed purpose of placing a mobile home.

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 the conditional use permit (a.k.a., “Special Exception Permit”) request located at Tax map #123 A 0124 A 319 Greenville Drive with regards to the proposed purpose of placing a mobile home.

IN RE: Monthly Financial Report

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

- General Fund- Year to Date Net Income is 82.5% of budget.
- General Fund- Revenues are 78.7% of budget.
- Expenses- Lower expenses in Finance, IT, Community Development, Police, Rescue and Street/Sanitation Departments offset by higher expenses in capital purchases.
- Water- Year to date net income is primarily the result of lower revenues, currently at 84.8% of budget.
- Sewer- Lower revenues, currently at 71.4% of budget.
- Water and Sewer Line Maintenance- Year to Date net loss variance results from lower expenses. Currently 68.5% of the budget.
- General Fund- Unreserved Cash Balance is \$4,269,121, decreased by \$180k from March.
- Water Department—Unreserved Cash Balance is \$1,231,112, decreased by \$9k from March.
- Sewer Department- Unreserved Cash Balance is \$1,506,327 negative, increased by 21k from March.
- Electric Department- Unreserved Cash Balance is \$2,683,888, decreased by 480k from March.

IN RE: Attorney Report

Mr. Thomas stated he didn’t have anything to report on at this time.

Town Manager Report

Mr. May advised of the following:

- The “Toy Story” movie at Greenway Park will be held on June 15, 2024, at 7:00pm.
- “The Past That Makes the Future Better” Mural Rededication will be held on June 18, 2024.
- Cumberland Forest Grant- Received a grant for \$8,720. Mr. May stated these funds will be used for updates at Critterville, including sand and mulch.
- Wastewater Upgrade- Seven bids have been received for this project. Will bring back bid information to the July meeting.
- Oriole Street Bridge Update- anticipates a late July or early August installation.

Council Member Reports

Laura Mollo-

- Would like Council to consider not allowing citizens who owe taxes to serve on committees.
- Signs on Town Property- stated signs are being put everywhere in Town, starting to get bad.
- Thanked Chief Holt for standing in for Mr. May while he was on vacation.
- Citizen Complaint- There is a pothole located on 1st St. near the Water Plant. Mr. May advised he would have staff patch this in the morning.
- Freedom Festival- Thank Mrs. White for all her help with organizing the Freedom Festival. Gave a brief overview of music, activities, etc.

Jan White-

- Paving- Mr. May advised the paving will begin at the end of the week.
- Veterans Drive- Mr. May advised staff is “shouldering” to allow the water to better filter off the road.
- Bridge Closure- Mr. May advised there is a start date in November for this process.
- Freedom Festival- Thanked Southwest for loaning the chairs.
- Health Fair- will be held during the Freedom Festival.
- Big Creek Housing Project- Asked if the Town is still collecting funds for this. Mr. May advised we are not, and this is one of the accounts that will be closing.

Jordan Bales-

- Project Graduation- Thanked the Town for allowing Project Graduation to use the Rec Park and assisting with parking.
- Project Graduation Banners- Asked the Council if the Town could help with the Project Banners next year.
- Abandoned Properties- Asked Mr. May what the plan is for the abandoned properties in Town. Mr. May advised the Town is currently working on the tax process for these homes.
- Stated he has received numerous complaints about parking on Grayson Ave. Mr. May advised the Town is currently looking for a solution to this issue and he has a meeting scheduled next week.

Rick Wood-

- The Barber Den- The Town will assist with a Ribbon Cutting
- Purcell Road- has low hanging trees that need to be trimmed.
- Paving- will begin by the first of next week.
- Thanked the EMS and Fire Department for their work. Jan agreed.
- Advised he is thankful that Mrs. Mollo worked so hard to get 911 in Town and spoke on its benefits.
- Stated this Council is moving the Town in the right direction and thanked his fellow council members.

Seth White-

- Thanked all the Town employees for their hard work.

- Expressed his excitement about the pride that is in the Town right now and advised it is contagious.
- Stated “It costs you nothing to be kind”.
- Advised he is proud to live in Richlands.
- Stated that it’s a problem for the Town to drive the trash trucks all the way to the landfill and advised that the County will be correcting this issue after he spoke with them.
- Spoke on the importance of being pro-active in government.
- Advised he has spoke to Mr. May about a plan for Front and 2nd Street to slow traffic down, create more parking, and to make the Town look better.

IN RE: Mayor Comments

- Thanked the Police Department, Street Department, and Chief Holt for scraping and painting the Section House.
- Advised the Section House still needs to be finished and hopes the Town can help with this.
- Thanked Randy Smith for serving on the Planning Commission for 30 years.
- Thanked Nancy Jesse Henderson for serving on the Planning Commission for 20+ years and hosting all the meetings at her store.
- Flag Day- June 14, 2024
- Sent his prayers and support to Office Manager Susan Whitt and her family.

Mrs. Mollo asked Mayor Cury how much it would cost to finish painting the Section House.

Mrs. Mollo advised Johnny Honaker Sr. who worked with the Richlands Police Department for 38 years recently passed away.

IN RE: Executive Session

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

VA Code Section: 2.2-3711-(A)(7)- Pending Litigation

Upon a motion by Laura Mollo seconded by Seth White 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 Seth White 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 Pending Litigation- VA Code Section: 2.2-3711-(A)(7) was discussed during the Executive Session.

Mayor Cury and the Town Council held a Benediction Prayer for Susan and John Whitt.

IN RE: Adjournment

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


Amanda Beheler, Town Clerk


Rodney D. Cary, Mayor

