

TOWN OF RICHLANDS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

The Richlands Town Council held a “Special Called Meeting” on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 6:00 pm in the Richlands Council Chambers with the following present:

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

Absent: Gary Jackson and Mike 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

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 the agenda.

IN RE: Budget Presentation

Mr. May thanked the staff, citizens, council, and his family.

Mr. May gave each council member a copy of the Proposed FY 2024/2025 Budget and gave a presentation and overview of it.

Highlights from the Proposed FY 2024/2025 Budget:

Recapped the past six months:

- Water & Sewer Upgrades
- Greenway Park Upgrades
- Real Estate Broker
- Oriole Street Bridge
- MOUs with Little League and RYBC
- Forensic Audit
- Paving Contract
- Mowing brought in-house.
- Bulk & Brush pickup.

Property Tax Rate Reduction:

- Property Rate for FY 2025 is \$0.19
- Assessments have increased.
- Property Tax accounts for only 8% of General Fund Revenue.
- Revenue Structure decreases reliance on citizens.
- Pushing for more tourism.
- Equates to a reduction of \$4 per month for a \$200,00 property owner.

Municipal Solid Waste Fee Increase

- Proposed increase from \$12.65 to \$15.00
- Fee increase equals new trash truck.
- Trash Truck financed over five years.
- New Trash Truck every five years.
- Keep three trucks ready.
- Holiday trash route being scheduled- four-day trash routes.

Utility Rate Adjustments

- One dollar increase per 1000 gallons for water rate.

- Twenty-five cent increase per 1000 gallons for sewer rate.
- One dollar increase to monthly customer charge on electric bill.

REC Park Pool and Splashpad

- Start design Spring/Summer of 2024
- Construction begins Fall of 2024
- New Pool and Splashpad ready for Memorial Day 2025
- Debt financing- Parks and Recreation will pay for debt service.
- 5- or 10-year financing.
- Debt service turns into CapX Fund once the debt is paid.

Fire Station/Rescue Squad Building

- The current station is not large enough for apparatus.
- Cleared area at Public Works- not in the flood plain.
- Fire Department is not a VFD nor a municipal Fire Station- issue with grants.

Five Percent Cost of Living Adjustment

- State provided 4%
- CDL training for Public Works
- Town's compensation behind the region and county
- Recruiting and Retention
- Large projects on the horizon.

Increases to Training Budgets

- Executive Leadership Training
- CDL Training for Public Works
- Fire Inspection Training for Fire Fighters
- Human resources Training
- Succession planning

New Capital Improvement Plan

- Carpenters Truck- replacement
- Mechanic Truck- new
- Trash Truck
- Turn-out gear for Rescue
- Contract Paving
- Jet-Vac Truck
- Water Treatment Plant Work Truck- replacement

Full-Time Firefighter

- Half funded- Not hiring until Jan 1, 2025.
- Commence a free Fire Inspection Program
- Smoke Detector Installation
- Better coverage
- First step to Full-time crew

Mr. May asked the Council if they had any questions about the presentation.

The Council came to a consensus that they would study and review the Proposed Budget for FY 2024/2025 and have questions ready for the next planned Budget Work Session on April 23, 2024.

IN RE: Adjournment

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


Amanda Beheler, Town Clerk


Rodney D. Cury, Mayor