

TOWN OF RICHLANDS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

The Richlands Town Council held a “Special Called Meeting” on Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 6:00 pm in the Richlands Council Chambers with the following present:

Mayor: Rod. D. Cury
Interim Town Manager: Ronnie Campbell
Town Attorney: Mike Thomas
Finance Manager: Ronnie Campbell
Project Manager: Susan Whitt
Town Clerk: Amanda Beheler
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 Mayor Cury.

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

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 the agenda.

IN RE: Cell Tower Contract

Mr. Thomas gave an overview of the Cell Tower Contract. Mr. Thomas stated the contract looks to be for the exclusive use of the cell tower and from his understanding this is not what the Council was on board to do.

Mayor Cury and the Council advised they were under the impression this was a one-time payment and not for exclusive use.

Mr. Wood suggested Mr. Thomas reach out and speak with them about adjusting this contract. The Council agreed.

IN RE: Strategic Government Resources Contract (SGR)

Mr. Thomas gave a brief overview of this contract.

Upon a motion by Rick Wood seconded by Jordan Bales and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted to authorize Interim Town Manager Ronnie Campbell to execute this contract.

IN RE: Events and Grants 2025

Mr. Campbell spoke to the Council about the proposed list of Events for 2025.

Mayor Cury read the List of Events.

The Council briefly discussed items that were planned to be purchased for certain events from the Cell Tower Contract Funds. These items included hanging baskets, brackets, etc.

Keisha Cole, Economic Development Director inaudible.

Mayor Cury asked if the hanging baskets and brackets would be in place of or in addition to what the Garden Club already does. Mrs. Cole advised it would be in addition to.

Mayor Cury asked if the Garden Club had been advised of this, Mrs. Cole advised they had not.

Mr. White suggested Mrs. Cole work with the Garden Club and the Town could assist them. Mr. White and the Council stated they appreciated the Garden Club for all their volunteer work.

Mrs. Mollo stated the Town still has the Downtown Beautification position that has not been filled and didn't want all the work for this to fall back on the Street Department.

Mr. Bales advised it had been hard finding someone for that position.

Mr. Campbell advised they would be talking about that position shortly.

Mayor Cury inquired about the Virginia Tourism Cooperation grant that Mrs. Cole was applying for, for the Freedom Festival. Mrs. Cole was inaudible.

Mrs. Cole advised the Town could ask for up to \$25,000 for this grant and it is a 1.1 match. Mrs. Cole also advised they had some sponsorship money.

Mr. White recommended applying for the full amount of the grant.

Mayor Cury inquired if the Town could complete this match with work or time. Mrs. Cole advised they cannot.

Mrs. Cole advised she has been working on the CDBG grant since August collecting data, pictures, etc.

Mrs. Cole stated that the Town is currently in the Exploring Main Street phase of the IRF Grant and trying to level up to the next tier.

Mrs. Cole advised CPROP Grant opens up again in August 2025 and she will be working on that as well.

Mr. White advised the most important Grant on the list is the CDBG Grant. Mr. White advised this grant has been worked on for a while and would like to move forward on it.

Mr. White also advised he would be sending Mr. Campbell information on two additional grants for the Town to apply for.

Mayor Cury spoke about Dialog and Design, and advised Mrs. Cole he could send her the contact information.

Mrs. Mollo advised the Town was further ahead with the grant. Mr. White advised the ball had been dropped by the Town Manager before Mr. May. The Council advised they would like to focus on the west side of town with it this time.

Mr. White asked if Mrs. Cole could give the Council estimated cost for the events that she currently has planned.

Mrs. Cole advised for each movie they have to buy the rights for will cost around \$327.

Mrs. Cole stated they currently have \$37,500 in sponsorships.

Mr. White stated it would be important if Mrs. Cole could put together a budget for the proposed events and bring them to Council for review and approval before advertising.

Mrs. Cole gave a brief overview of the remaining list of events that was presented to the Council.

Mr. White asked where the Town was on the lights for Suffolk. Mrs. Cole advised there are still two property owners that they need to speak with, and she has the quotes for the lights and poles.

Mrs. Cole inquired if she should get permission from the property owners in writing. Mr. Thomas advised they should. It was the consensus of the Council that Mr. Thomas draft a document for this.

Mrs. Mollo advised Advance Auto has always done the cruise-ins in the past and would like to sponsor something. Mrs. Cole advised they're on her list of contacts and will reach out to them.

Mrs. Mollo stated that going forward with any events with cash prizes, like the Cupid Shuffle, there needs to be a rule that town employees would not be eligible.

Mrs. Cole advised they had discussed an Employee Incentive Program for employees that may win a cash prize.

Mrs. Mollo expressed her concerns about the Slip-N-Slide event. Mrs. Cole advised there would be a waiver that had to be signed for this event. The Council discussed other locations and dates for this event. Mrs. Cole will come back to Council with more information.

Mr. White suggested giving Mrs. Cole time to come back to the Council with a budget outline in February for the Council to review and approve a list of events for the Town.

Mrs. Cole advised she would need permission to move forward with the Valentines Day Drive In Event located behind the Police Department.

Mrs. Mollo inquired if there would be wine at this event, Mrs. Cole stated there would not be any.

Mrs. Mollo also inquired about the rating for this movie "The Notebook", or if there would be an edited version shown. Mrs. Cole advised there would be a disclaimer.

Mrs. Mollo discussed her concerns about the movie being shown by the town with the Council.

Upon a motion by Rick Wood seconded by Jordan Bales and the roll call vote of all members present, with Gary Jackson and Laura Mollo voting no, the Council voted 4-2 to move forward with a movie event for February 14, 2025, with an "edited" version only.

Mr. Bales suggested "Lady & The Tramp" as an alternative and Mayor Cury suggested "Cinderella".

IN RE: Executive Session

Mayor Cury advised the Council would be going into Executive Session pursuant to VA Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) Personnel

Upon a motion by Jan White seconded by Rick Wood 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 Gary Jackson 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 VA Code Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) was discussed during the Executive Session.

IN RE: Adjournment

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

Amanda Beheler
Amanda Beheler, Town Clerk


Rodney D. Cury, Mayor