

TOWN OF RICHLANDS
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

The Richlands Town Council held a “Special Called Meeting” on Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 6:00pm in the Richlands Council Chambers with the following present:

Mayor: Rod Cury
Interim Town Manager: Don Marr
Town Attorney: Mike Thomas
Finance Manager: Ronnie Campbell
Town Clerk: Amanda Beheler
Council Members: Seth White, Gary Jackson, Rick Wood, Jordan Bales, Jan White, and Laura Mollo.

The Special Called 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 Gary Jackson, seconded by Seth White and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted 6-0 to approve the agenda as presented.

IN RE: Fiscal Year 2027 Budget R-2026-05-03

Mrs. Mollo stated that she had been reviewing the last proposed Budget that they last had to the one they were just given, and she saw that the deficit had decreased, although some salaries had increased and some decreased, and advised she would like to go through the changes that were made.

Mr. Campbell advised the overall salaries went down by \$104k.

Council had a brief discussion regarding Roberts Rules.

Mr. Marr advised the primary components of the decreased deficit in the budget was because they changed the Flushers truck from an outright purchase to a finance purchase, made salary adjustments based on actualized salary numbers, made changes in the IT department by shifting some of the agreements that was worth about \$12k, and also made changes in the Traffic Safety that was a \$48k decrease.

Mr. Marr stated that he wanted to make clear that the roof of the Recreation remains in the budget, and if that item alone was removed, they would be below the \$120k deficit, but he does not recommend continuing to let a building decay from water damage after their initial investment in the usage of the facility.

Mrs. Mollo asked if rate increases are included in the budget, Mr. Marr advised they all were, besides real estate.

Mr. Marr advised this budget is with no increase of Real Estate Tax.

Mr. White stated that they all understand they have to increase rates and he appreciates the clarity.

Mrs. Mollo wanted to reiterate to the public that they cannot transfer from utilities to the General Fund.

Mrs. White asked where the bulk of the reduction came from, Mr. Campbell advised the change in salaries and the financing of the Flusher Truck were the main two items.

Mr. Jackson inquired if Capital Items listed below are in the budget, Mr. Marr advised there were not.

Mrs. White inquired if they had any ideas where they could come up with the money for the new roof, Mr. Marr advised if this budget is approved, they will be using the reserves for the \$120k deficit.

Mr. Marr advised they will continue to look for grant money.

Mrs. Mollo asked how much was in their General Fund Reserves right now, Mr. Campbell advised they have \$3.5-\$4 million in unrestricted.

Mr. Marr stated that they should be focused on growing top-line revenue because you cannot cut your way to long-term inflationary cost increases and if you don't have it in your rate structure, you have to have it in your economic development growth.

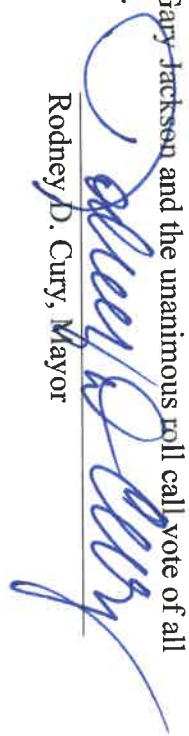
Mrs. Mollo stated the reason she will be voting no is for several reasons, including they would be breaking their own donation policy if they approve this budget and also because if they vote yes on the budget they will have to vote yes on all of the rate increases that are included in it.

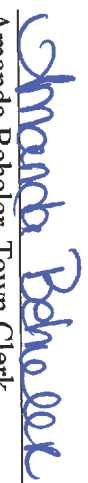
Mr. Marr stated that during their last discussions on the donation policy, they had come to a consensus that they are the only Town that when certain things for the region are being advertised and promoted, they don't have representation in it and how embarrassing that feels and the discussion of how sometimes these small things of just being a sponsor says that we feel these things are important and show that we're a part of the community.

Upon a motion by Rick Wood, seconded by Jordan Bales and the unanimous roll call vote of all members present, the Council voted 5-1 with Laura voting no, to approve Resolution R-2026-05-03.

IN RE: Adjournment

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


Rodney D. Cury, Mayor


Amanda Beheler, Town Clerk