

The Richlands Town Council held a Public Hearing in the Richlands Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 7:00 pm with following present:

Mayor: Jannis White
Town Manager: Tim Taylor
Town Clerk: Julie Cordle
Council Members: Joe McCracken, Frances Meadows,
Larry Johnson, Mary Ann Strong,

Absent: Brad Ratliff, Rod Cury, Doug Ratliff

Mayor White opened the Public Hearing by asking if anyone wish to speak on the budget.

Tim Taylor spoke on the government portion of the budget. The Street Department budget includes funds for a snow truck and paving for \$400,000. This project is through the VDOT revenue sharing program for \$200,000 and town match for \$200,000. The Rescue Squad includes an ambulance that will be mainly purchased with grant funds if approved. The Police Department includes two vehicles they hope to purchase with grant funding. The Recreation Department plans on remodeling and relocating the weight room and bathrooms with donations. The Finance Office includes new software.

The Enterprise Funds includes a 5% increase in revenue needed for O&M for the Electric Department. Some of the cost increases are due to coal fired plants, low cost on gas and transmission cost up which is regulated by the federal government.

The real estate tax will remain at \$.16 per 100.

Mayor White asks if anyone wanted to speak.

Glenn Harrison-Provided council with documents from prior year council minutes pertaining to the donations and utility payments that were made to or on behalf of the Teen Center. He discussed the number of children that currently participated in activities at the center including cleanup day at Critterville Park and the Clinch River. They have applied for grants but haven't heard anything back on these. Travis Hackworth is giving \$5,000 to the center from his district. John Willis is working on a campaign to collect donations. The Town currently is helping collect this through utility billing. I am requesting the town to reconsider helping the Teen Center especially since you are paying the utilities for other activities in the town.

Larry Johnson- I cannot see giving money to Teen Center when the employees need raises.
Mary Ann-Thanked Tim Taylor, Adrienne Cordle and Sue Wade on the budget.

Mayor White asks for a motion to close the public hearing since there were no further discussions.

Larry Johnson made a motion to close the public hearing. Mary Ann Strong seconded the motion. Motion passed 4/0

With no further discussion, Mayor White adjourned the meeting.

Meeting concluded.

Jannis White, Mayor

Julie Cordle, Clerk