

The Richlands Town Council held a Budget Work Session in the Richlands Council Chambers on June 7, 2018 at 6:00pm with the following present:

Mayor:	Jannis White
Town Manager:	Tim Taylor
Town Clerk:	Connie Allen
Council Members:	Rod Cury, Doug Ratliff, Vickie England Mary Ann Strong
Council Member Absent:	Rick Wood, Larry Johnson
Town Attorney:	Brad Ratliff
Staff Present:	Frank Dorton, Gordon Russ, Keith Reynolds, Hobert Lester Kevin Blankenship, Adrienne Cordle

Mayor White – Called the meeting to order.

Brad Ratliff gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tim - Discussed 2018-2019 recommended Budget.

1. Proposed Water/Sewer rate increases (Estimated annual increase in revenue of \$165,500).

Monthly billing as follows:

- A) Increase Base Charge (First 2,000 gallons): \$2.50

*Current base charge \$13.50

*Proposed base charge \$16.00

- B) Eliminate Tiered Rate Structure for all usage greater than 2,000 gallons.

- C) Proposed Rate:

* All over 2,000 gallons @ \$4.50 per 1,000 gallons

- D) Current Rate:

* 2,001-52,000 gallons @\$4.00 per 1,000 gallons

* All over 52,000 gallons @3.75 per 1,000 gallons

2. Proposed Sanitation Collection Fee Increase (Estimated annual increase in revenue of \$39,500)

Monthly billing as follows:

* All monthly residential and commercial collection fees: \$1.00 increase

* All container fees: 15% increase

Tim - Reviewed handouts - "Projected Rate Increase for Container Fees", "Projected Rate Increase for Garbage Collection Fees, "Proposed Water & Sewer Rates" and "In Town Water Rates". – (see attached)

Rod – No one wants to raise rates. It is better to add a little increase every year, won't be such a shock.

Tim – It is hard to do business without increases, Cost of Living keeps going up. People will understand modest increase. We are still competitive with our rates.

Adrienne – Our base rate is low compared to other communities.

Tim – Most of our competitors are a lot higher.

Tim - We have a budget request for consideration of Heart of Appalachia for the amount of \$2,500. I have added to the proposed budget. They ask for a donation but this really is a service that they provide for the Town.

Rod – Read part of the letter from Heart of Appalachia.

Tim - I have also added \$20,000 for repairs/maintenance on the Library. It is a project that the Town & County entered into with the Williams family who owned the library. They donated the library to the Town with certain covenants in the deed. One of the covenants is the building stay a public library. The County maintains the internal part of the library and the Town takes care of the external part of the library.

Rod - I am glad you explained so we would know how that worked. Maintaining the library is so important. A lot of people use the library.

Mayor White - I need a motion to go into “Closed Session” per Section 2.2-3711(A) 3 with Community Planning Partners for Boundary Adjustment Issues.

Vickie- I make the motion to go into “Closed Session”, Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Mayor White - We have a motion and a second to go into “Closed Session”? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 4/0.

Mayor White - I need a motion to come back into “Open Session”.

Mary Ann- I make a motion to come back into “Open Session”, Rod seconded the motion.

Mayor White - We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 4/0.

Mayor White - Does everyone agree the only thing discussed during “Closed Session” was 2.2-3711 (A) (3) - Mary Ann – Yes, Rod- Yes, Doug-Yes, Vickie-Yes

Mayor White - Does anyone else have anything to add? If not, do I hear a motion to adjourn?

Rod- I make a motion to adjourn, Doug seconded the motion.

Mayor White - We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries- 3/0 – (Mary Ann already left)

Adjourned

Jannis White, Mayor

Connie Allen, Town Clerk