

**Richlands Planning Commission**  
**May 7, 2024**

**Members Present**

Barry Alley  
Michelle Elswick  
Greg Horn  
Elaine Holmes  
Randy Smith

**Staff and Town Officials Present**

Nathan Keen  
Jason May  
Gary Jackson

**Guests**

- I. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barry Alley at 6:00 pm.
- II. Invocation given by Randy Smith
- III. Pledge of Allegiance led by Barry
- IV. Greg made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Elaine seconded it.
- V. Randy made a motion to approve the April minutes as written. Michelle seconded it.
- VI. Business:
  1. Nathan updated on the status of the Mobile Home Park in Lake Park. It has been paved and the power was inspected today. Progress is being made.
  2. Don Matney would like to subdivide land he has next to Cresswood Mobile Home Park. There are multiple approximately 1 acre lots. Barry asked what was going on the land. Jason stated owner wants to place a singlewide on the property. Once the subdivision is approved, he knows he will have to return for the Conditional Use Permit.
  3. Cresswood owner is currently updating park and cleaning it up to improve the area.
- VII. Manager Update
  1. May 23 the Governor is returning to Richlands. He will be coming to the water treatment plant to discuss the need for an expansion. Currently the Salmon farm has contracting us for 400,000 of Gallons. However, they are expanding their productions and will need closer to 800,000 Gallons. The Salmon farm is expected to produce 200-300 jobs. Along with the water for the Salmon farm, we also sell water to PSA, Russell County, and Buchanan County.
    - i. There is a public meeting on 5/28/24 to discuss the budget to work through the need for a sewer increase.
  2. The town has applied for many grants and are hoping to hear from them in the near future.
    - i. Ready, Set, Go Transportational Alternative Program- The town would like to create walking, biking, ATV, and UTV trails in the area where the Swinging Bridge is located. This would tie areas to Grants.
    - ii. Appalachian Regional Commission no longer requires a match.
      1. Applied for \$15,000 to revamp Critterville- Structure Repair, New equipment, paint/stain, mulch.
      2. Should know something next month.
  3. Finishing up the Greenway this week hopefully. There will be a LOVE sign placed in the Greenway for Photographic purposes.
  4. Working on building a stacked grant for sidewalks and Crossing Guides
  5. IRF due at the end of the month.
  6. Working on a grant for a gas generator.
  7. Still working on the beautification grant.
  8. CNX is finishing up their building.
  9. Roofs are being repaired/replaced at Town Hall, the Police Station, and the Rec Park.

10. Working on as many grants as possible. Trying to create a Tourism Based Economy. There is lots of money available from federal government for small towns. Applying for 5,000,000 plus in grants.
11. Remaining ARPA money must be spent by 2026.
12. Going to speak to Norfolk/Southern about the possibility of removing the railroad going through town.
13. Lou Lou's will be going into the old King Kone Building and a Japanese restaurant will be going into the Food Lion shopping center.
14. Junk sale happening May 16. Auction money will be used to fund a new Fire/Rescue building where the public storage lot currently is.

VIII. Miscellaneous/Member Concerns

1. Barry asked about the Teen Center. Jason said it is still closed. The board is trying to decide what route to take. Representatives are supposed to be at the May 14 Open session.

IX. With no other business, Gary made the motion to adjourn; it was seconded by Greg and all members voted "aye". The meeting was adjourned.

X. The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, June 4

XI.

XII. Submitted by: Michelle Elswick, Secretary

Barry Allen  
6/4/2024