

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on May 12, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. with the following present:

Mayor: Janis White

Town Manager: Tim Taylor

Town Attorney: Brad Ratliff

Town Clerk: Kelly Goodman

Council Members: Joe McCracken, Larry Johnson, Doug Ratliff, Mary Ann Strong, Frances Meadows, and Rod Cury

Mayor White called the meeting to order.

Mayor White gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor White asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. There were none at this time.

Joe McCracken stated that Mike Thompson from Tazewell County Economic Development would like to speak.

Mike Thompson stated that the town should be proud. The county and town have worked hard to keep business in Richlands. He also suggested designating enterprise zones throughout the state and providing two grant base incentives, the job creation grant and the real property investment grant, to qualified investors and job creators within those zones. While the localities provide local incentives. He also stated that he was attending the meeting because he wanted to talk about the local incentives. He said that the enterprise zone in Tazewell County expires on December 31, 2015. The county has to reapply to get the enterprise zone after a 20 year period. Therefore, Tazewell County has to reapply to get the zone for another 10 years and also some 5 year increments after that time period. He also stated that there are 14 other zone applicants that are going to be putting in an application for this at the same time. He stated that as a result of law changes, the number of zones have been reduced, from around 53-55 to 33 zones. He said that of those 14 that are going to be applying, only four are going to get the zone, or the approval for a new zone. He stated that this is a big task right now, just to get an application in for them to look at. He said that they look at everything, whether we have used a zone in the past; how beneficial it has been for us in this area; the rate of unemployment; and different things like that, that go into this as well. He said that it is going to be graded based on half of it being the grade of that, and that is out of the 14 different localities trying to get this, the distress score counts for 750 of those 1500 points. He said that right now Tazewell County is at 415.8. He said that sounds pretty good, but there are several other localities that are in the five and six hundreds. He said that Tazewell County is already behind the curve based on getting this grant. He said at least we are not at two-hundred or three-hundred, he said that is one good thing about having high unemployment, which he also added that was not a good thing. He said what they were trying to do is, which they have been working on this for quite some time now, they have worked on their incentives that they have already had, local incentives that the county has had. They have revised those local incentives to make them a little bit easier for companies to get the local incentives. He said sometimes he thinks those local incentives were set pretty high and actually could not be given out from a local incentive standpoint. He said naturally the state wants in the game as well. He said Tazewell County is working hard on being able to provide a method to their madness with trying to get this application through. He said they have worked hard on those and they have about four major incentives that they are working on right now. He said those are going to be brought up in their public hearing or posted for their public hearing on that. He said they are also asking now for the towns to be a part of this as well. He said the towns have not had local incentives for the enterprise zone and he knows that all of towns have been working on incentives for businesses in the future, for now and in the future. He said this only counts for new

businesses coming in, but it is really for expansion as well. He said a good example is to Tatano Mantis. He said they will benefit greatly from this enterprise zone incentive that they are going to have and they are part of the local incentive match that they are doing for them. He gave an example of the two, the last in 2014, they had PIMCO Corporation receive an incentive and Carillon who received an incentive. He said both of those incentives totaled around \$93,000. He said they are basically \$100,000 incentives, they were just prorated down to \$93,000. He stated that is fantastic on an investment that they made. He said that it is not that great for everybody but it is still great. He said that as he mentioned earlier, they are working on the incentives now, but they are coming upon crunch time however, what they have done is talk to the town managers as well as the county people trying to come up with ideas for incentives. He asked Tim Taylor if he would like to go over them with the Council.

Tim Taylor stated that a time frame is an issue. Some of the other towns have looked at this also, the town has also hired a consultant to facilitate a lot of this activity. What you have in front of you is basically an incentive that the town is looking at. The Council had given a directive to try and do something with the Business/Professional/Occupational/Licensing (BPOL) taxes to try to attract business to our community through new business or existing business by expansion. This description falls in line with what the other towns are looking at. The county does not have BPOL, it is a worry trying to protect existing businesses and an unfair advantage for new business that might come in and undermine that particular area. It's very delicate to try to keep the incentives are a long term type of project and help everyone. This particular incentives, with real estate being a possibility. Some of the towns are looking at attributing some of the meal tax that they collect, one county is looking at tourism and lodging tax, we do not have those. The county also has those types of incentives that are piggy backed that they are doing. If the towns are participating, especially the larger towns, this will help enhance this type of application and makes it a lot stronger. The problem with real estate is that the rate in Richlands is so low anyway, which is a good thing, taking away anything from the Town that isn't extra money is difficult to budget. Food tax is the primary source of income; there are three big ones, real estate tax, food tax and BPOL tax. All three are very important to the town, most towns have personal property and a lot of the other taxes that are in the business community. It has been a challenge for the Town to try and find out what won't have a negative effect on the existing businesses versus the improvement. But, they also understand there are potential businesses that might come in that need to take advantage of all these taxes. When growth comes it helps everyone out. The one they have worked on so far is the BPOL tax. The BLFA is a portion of the business license fee collected by the Town of Richlands will be abated (or refunded if already paid) for a three year incentive period according to the following schedule: year 1-80 percent abatement; year 2 – 60 percent abatement; year 3 – 40 percent abatement. For a qualifying existing business, only the levied on the increase in gross receipts calculated from the base year to the first incentive year) will be subject to the above abatement schedule. After talking to the consultant they decided that 20 percent is way too high, it needs to be 5 percent to invest enough to expand business to increase revenue. If you are an existing business and you can create jobs as would be within the qualifications that is described in the second part of the form. You would have to create at least 10 time the equivalent jobs and if it is an existing business you would have to increase the gross receipts, subject to business license fee as a base plus 5 percent instead of 20 percent. So in other words, if you were going to expand your existing business you would have to invest enough to expand your business by the amount to increase your revenue at whatever your base fee was. Based on an average it was 2 plus 5 more percent. You would actually have to add the jobs, increase the business base and then actually generate more gross receipts based on over 105 percent. It would only apply to anything over 105 percent. That way it wouldn't give an unfair advantage to the existing businesses that didn't do anything. He asked Mike Thompson if his explanation was good enough, Mike Thompson said he explained it really well.

Tim Taylor stated that was a fair resolution instead of making it so low that existing businesses would just change hats and get a break and be a direct competitor to another business that has been here for 10 or 15 years and put them out of business, we don't want that. If in fact there is

more on the top, whatever you bring to the plate is above and beyond what you already have will help that whole situation. There is also some financial values that are not included but will be calculated for them and also the time frame is limited, that is part of the language that is in the index form. He apologized for not having information sooner for the Council to study but there are other avenues. He also stated he was really apprehensive about the real estate just because it is so low. It would be above and beyond what they already have, but it is going to bottom line business and you have to understand that. It would be open to competitive business like restaurants or whatever. As far as the taxes and meal tax, that's a debatable issue. There are some restaurants in town and they are a vital part of the tax base. They want to attract other but they certainly don't want to give one and unfair advantage over another. By hiring a consultant it puts them in line with everyone else and tries to enhance how you look at it. You're looking from some kind of directive. He then asked Mike Thompson to explain the time frame process.

Mike Thompson stated that they need the Council to authorize the town managers to write a letter to the county manager committing the towns to provide whatever local VEZ incentive they are willing to provide. He stated that you're not going to vote on this as an ordinance, they won't be able to do that until they get the enterprise zone in next year. It's the same thing with the county. The application is a whole lot stronger with the town's giving on this as well. It's not huge amounts that they are looking for. Tim Taylor stated that an example would be if you used the 5 percent he talked about for a business having about \$200,000.00 in qualifying above and beyond gross receipts. The value of that annual incentive would be \$576.00. If you had a business that would generate 2 million dollars in gross receipts then the incentive would be \$5,436.00 as you can see the amount of money they would pay would be quite a bit also. Mike Thompson stated they are here to add growth to have avenues for companies that want to be here. This is a local incentive for the enterprise zone only, only if a business is in the enterprise zone can it benefit from the incentive, the business is also signed up for 20 years.

Joe McCracken asked if other counties outside of Tazewell County can qualify for the incentive. Mike Thompson stated that it was only available to Tazewell County. There are certain areas of the town that are in the enterprise zone, not every area is included. Every town has their own thing they can or cannot do. Bluefield, VA might do something different that Richlands, VA based on what they're doing and promoting. It could be tourism or industrial like the Richlands area is doing. You have to consider that as well from your stand point also. They are not asking everyone to sign up for everything or just one or two. It's what the town feels like it could do. Tim Taylor stated the strategy is to do as much as they feel comfortable with as a governing body for the Town of Richlands. If you feel that later on after hearing the success stories of other towns is something you want to do that can be added. Your will be committed on doing whatever is in the application, you don't want to over extend.

Larry Johnson asked what Tim Taylor would recommend. Tim Taylor stated when looking at the BPOL, he stated he didn't have a problem with it. He said they looked over it during a conference call. He also stated he's not saying that the real estate wouldn't work, he just doesn't think they've had enough time to work it out. He asked Mike Thompson what the time frame was. Mike Thompson stated that they wanted to have a public hearing on June 2, 2015, but that has to be announced before hand. They need to have it posted in the paper by Wednesday, May 20, 2015.

Larry Johnson stated that the real estate is something they could add on at a later time. Tim Taylor stated that they might not get it in the application but it can be added on later. He also stated you could add anything you want especially if they could examine the other communities. Larry Johnson made the motion to allow Tim Taylor to send the letter with support of the BPOL.

Tim Taylor asked if the motion was on the particular one they just looked at with the change to 5 percent versus 20 percent. Larry Johnson confirmed that it was the same one. That at a minimum would give the Council something they could have, if they review a little more with the staff, he could give him the rest of it and get it to him in a package. The mayor could call a

special meeting; they could reassemble and do something. But, you're looking at finalizing it within the next couple of weeks. Mike Thompson stated they need it by next week. Rod Cury asked if the alteration was in the written part, Tim Taylor stated the base year plus 20 percent, he also stated he feels 5 percent would be more in line with the standard of what everyone else is doing. Rod Cury asked if it should be the base year plus 20 percent should be changed to base year plus 5 percent. Tim Taylor replied that is what it should read on the first and second page. He also stated that there will be more language that will identify the incentives. Mike Thompson said he will get that to Tim Taylor tomorrow, Tim Taylor replied he will email it tomorrow. Mike Thompson stated he will get the summary to him also and that will be what they will post. He stated that basically it would be the real estate grant, personal property grant and a rehabilitative real estate exemption; he stated that sometimes buildings needed to be rehabilitated instead of being built on to. They also have a building permit development fee that is new this time. The real estate grant is equal to 25 percent of your new net property taxes paid to Tazewell County for a period of 3 years. The amount of the grant increases to 50 percent of net new property taxes if the qualifying building investment is being undertaken. In order for the qualifying business to verify product or customer base. They are also adding 50 percent if the qualifying business is a technology driven company which is one of their economy restructuring strategies they are trying to get higher tech companies in the area. They are also adding 50 percent if the qualifying businesses is a tourism company. He stated that you could see where they are heading from the economic development restructuring. He stated there is strong tourism and it is getting stronger and stronger and they are realizing that tourism is a strong economic driver now in this county. They are also looking at the technology driven companies as well. He also stated they have got to diversify; they've got to get past the coal stage and get to higher levels so they can pay the higher wages. Mr. Barry Reeves of Tadano Mantis was talking about the benefit package at the company and it was very impressive. He stated that he's been in business for 37 years and said it was an excellent package and that is what the county needs.

Tim Taylor stated that a lot of incentives that were mentioned we don't have, such as the tourism or the lodging fees which means the town doesn't have a lot to choose from and that's why it is hard for the town. He thinks the one that has been discussed will be safe. Mike Thompson stated that the real estate is one that could be piggy backed if the town decided to do that and it's not losing revenue.

Mayor White asked if Larry Johnson's motion could be on the floor and it will need to have a second motion. Frances Meadows seconded the motion. Mayor White asked if there was any further discussion, no further discussion. Vote all in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

Mike Thompson did apologize for the short notice. He stated it was hard to get everyone together to get these things ironed out. He also thanked the Council and the Council thanked him.

Mayor White asked Tim Taylor if he would be reviewing the real estate portion in the next few days. Tim Taylor stated that he will get that to Council and that he has all of what the county is doing, he stated he would review it and stated if Mayor White saw a need to reassemble that they could do that. He also confirmed the deadline with Mike Thompson and stated that they had the summary and that he would also get the documents.

Scheduled Public Comments:

Dr. Glen Harrison and Laura Brown, executive director, from the Teen Center – Dr. Harrison stated he wanted to give a presentation of the funding campaign the Teen Center is doing. He and Laura Brown brought along a few of the children who frequently visit the Teen Center. Laura Brown thanked everyone for taking the time to listen to the presentation. The children that attended the meeting tonight range from about 6th grade to about 10th grade and they serve up to age 20. She stated she has the privilege every single day to work for and serve these kids. She stated they have a phenomenal facility, if someone had not taken a tour of the facility she personally invited everyone to come and take a tour and see what they have to offer the kids in

the community. The center is currently very active and healthy, they have the skate park; it is their busiest activity. They also have advisors that come in weekly to mentor the boys and girls. They have also added pizza and message night. They serve pizza while a local pastor comes in and delivers a message to the kids. The center also tries to fund out of town field trips. The Teen Center serves approximately 150 kids in the area, in April they served 450 kids. Parent and caregivers of the children are happy to have the facility available.

Dr. Glen Harrison stated that the Teen Venture is funded one third by Tazewell County and one third from the town and one third from fundraising. The Teen Center opened in 2008 before the economy crashed. He also stated they have raised money for 3 years with funding. In the spring the Teen Center applied for a 21st Century funding grant. He stated Tazewell County would give \$20,000.00 in matching funding with the grant. At that time he came before the Council and asked for help. Dr. Harrison stated that the Town of Richlands owns the building and pays for the insurance. As of right now the Teen Center has approximately \$60,000.00 in operational funds. They have been trying to apply for grants and unfortunately have had no luck in obtaining the grants. The \$20,000.00 matching funds from Tazewell County is still available and they are trying to raise an additional \$20,000.00 within the community to match the county money. He stated he is asking the Council for the assurance of \$20,000.00, if possible any contribution from the Town of Richlands would be helpful. If the Teen Center receives no help within 4 months the town would take control of the building because the center would be inoperable.

Joe McCracken stated that Dr. Harrison and the Teen Center couldn't say that the Town of Richlands has not helped the Center.

Dr. Harrison agrees that the town has helped with the fees but having the building renovated for the Teen Center has given the town a "face lift".

Frances Meadows asked about the electric service at the Teen Center. Dr. Harrison stated that the cost of electric service is anywhere from \$500.00 to \$1500.00 per month, approximately \$7000.00 to \$10,000.00 per year in utilities.

Tim Taylor asked Dr. Harrison why Tazewell County couldn't give the \$20,000.00 instead of matching the grant. He stated that the money belonged to the citizens of Tazewell County. He asked if that was Tazewell County's rules. Dr. Harrison stated it was easier to get a yes by matching the money. If they just asked for the \$20,000.00, which obviously everyone does, they would only do it as matching funds. Tim Taylor stated basically it was the county's rules; Dr. Harrison agreed and stated it also incentivizes other donors and the county was guarding their money. If the Teen Center didn't get the grant then the county wasn't out of their money. Dr. Harrison also stated that even though they didn't get the grant the money from the county it was still in the budget. The county stated that if they found matching money they would still give the center the money out of the budget and will continue in the future if they could find matching funds.

Larry Johnson asked if the center had \$15,000.00 now and the county gave them \$20,000.00 and they received a \$20,000.00 match what happens after that. Dr. Harrison stated that the Center either gets the grant or the Town of Richlands gets the building. He also stated there was a probability of getting a private grant in the future, not a promise. If the county puts \$20,000.00 in their budget than that's a promise of money that they will get and stated that was a lot easier to get money on. He stated that if you're doing fundraising you can't go up and ask for \$75,000.00, nobody wants to be the first money in the pot and you only get to ask once on that in a course of a year. You have to do a silent part first to get at least 50 percent of the money raised. That's the county's contribution and the matching money, that gets them passed halfway. He also stated they have a couple of donors who give on a regular basis like the hospital which get the Center two thirds of the way on that. People will contribute the last two thirds of the campaign but they don't want to be the first money in the pot. You can't run the campaign until you have at least two thirds of the money already in your hand before you start the public campaign or promised

otherwise it won't work. Larry Johnson asked if you received \$20,000.00 from 3 different entities would that roughly take the Center through 10 months and would you publically raise the money for the remainder? Dr. Harrison stated he didn't think that would be a problem.

Mary Ann Strong asked Dr. Harrison when he would know about the private foundation. He stated that it was due in June and they would make their decision the last of August when they have their board meeting. He also stated it was not going to come in time to get the money from the county at this time. Which means the Center has to raise \$20,000.00 to match on the probability that they will get the grant? If the Town of Richlands would contribute the money it would be on a promise that they were receiving the money, that's a big difference in fundraising, a probability against a promise.

Mayor White asked approximately how much does the town pay for the Little League. Tim Taylor stated he didn't know the exact amount but it wasn't \$7,000.00 per year.

Dr. Harrison stated that the Little League only serves kids 3 months out of the year. The Teen Center serves kids for 12 months.

Tim Taylor stated that if the demand was meant the town could help with energy. They have discussed zoning, he asked Dr. Harrison has the Teen Center discussed making cuts in staff. Dr. Harrison stated that they've previously made cuts based on the usage. The Teen Center currently has two employees, Laura Brown who is the current executive director and one part time employee. He also stated that the town couldn't operate the Teen Center for \$75,000.00 per year, the Center utilizes volunteers.

Rod Cury asked Dr. Harrison of the possibility of expanding or enlarging the mission to include senior citizens, they are people who could pay a possible membership fee. Dr. Harrison stated that the Center has looked into renting the building out but due to the insurance liability issue it's not possible. The cost of the insurance would be greater than the revenue generated.

Joe McCracken stated that unfortunately things have not changed for the town since the last time Dr. Harrison approached the Council to ask for help. The funding ability is the same as last year, things hasn't improved.

Dr. Harrison asked the board if the town could give the Teen Center a break on the utilities to the Center. That would be helpful to put on a grant application. Tim Taylor stated that was a good point. He also stated doing a cost of service right now possibly could help.

Dr. Harrison stated he has served on many boards and knows there are some wiggle room in all budgets. It is like social security, pay as you go. If you don't have kids, you don't get paid. Our kids are our future.

Mayor White asked if there could be a power adjustment by the June meeting.

Dr. Harrison stated that should be fine. He also mentioned that several of the Teen Center kids helped with the community cleanup effort. He then thanked the Council for letting him speak.

Unscheduled Public Comments

Angie Johnson and Jennifer Harrison with the Humane Society approached the Council about selling American Flags and aligning them along Veteran's Drive. The public can purchase flags in honor and memory of a loved one. The fundraiser would not be any cost to the town, members of the Humane Society would install and take up the flags once the fundraiser is over.

Rod Cury asked about the cost of the flags and does the proceeds go to the Humane Society.

Angie Johnson stated that they are in the process of deciding a price and that the money goes to the emergency vet fund also the spay/ neuter fund. All the proceeds go the Tazewell County Humane Society. Since the January 1, 2015 the Humane Society has rescued 125 animals.

Mary Ann Strong made the motion to approve the Flag fundraiser and Rod Cury seconded the motion.

Rod Cury also mentioned talking with the VFW, they do the Buddy Poppy Program and will work for the cause.

Larry Johnson asked how long will the flags be displayed? Angie Johnson stated they will be up though Veteran's Day and approximately 2-4 days after.

Vote, all in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

Angie Johnson also wanted to bring to the Council's attention leaving animals in hot vehicles. She is asking the town to consider an ordinance making it unlawful to leave animals in parked vehicles without adequate airflow. She gave all Council members a packet of information pertaining to leaving animal in hot vehicles. She also stated that the shelter is over populated, they are in a joint partnership with a shelter in Pennsylvania and wants the town to also consider adding spay/neuter codes.

Frances Meadows stated she liked the idea of making the owner of the animal responsible for the upkeep of their pets and a spay/neuter ordinance would be helpful.

Angie Johnson stated that in an 8 hour period today she received 3 phone calls about unwanted animals.

Rod Cury made the comment that Freya Dalton took care of a lot of cats. She made sure they were spayed/neutered and she would be behind this idea 100 percent. He also asked Brad Ratliff to find out the legal options for ordinances.

Angie Johnson stated that they would work with individuals on cost and payments. They have already spoken with a veterinarian about helping.

Brad Ratliff encouraged everyone to support the Humane Society. He and his family just adopted a dog from the Humane Society. They are very pleased and the dog is already a part of their family.

Wanda Lowe – 292 Plantation Drive, approached the Council to speak. She stated the town under estimated the citizens of Richlands. They want to help with the children in the area and invest in our local employees. She stated you have to invest in order to get a return, you have to have money to make money. She encouraged everyone to think positive, our community has to move past relying of coal jobs, we need better jobs in our community. She also encouraged the Council to help with the Teen Center.

Ms. Lowe also stated that the coming week is National Police Officer Week. It seems lately everyone wants to criticize the law enforcement but she wanted to comment our police officers. She and some additional people in the community will be holding a luncheon in honor of our law enforcement officers Friday at the armory at 11:30, everyone is welcome to attend.

Council Member Reports:

Rod Cury – Is not going to announce the date of the next Planning Commission meeting, they have not had an agenda. He also wanted to bring to the Council's attention about a call he received from Brenda Sargent, 125 Franklin, regarding dust issues.

Joe McCracken – He went and talked with Ms. Sargent. It is dusty and dry where they are working on the road. The contractors are wetting down the road to keep the dust down. Talked with the people at Tadano Mantis and they will take care of the problem. He also stated that the

ditch on Birmingham Road is taken care of. He also stated that the potholes on the road at the rec park have also been taken care of. He also heard complaints about the smoke near the burn building. Chief Dorton stated there shouldn't be any smoke, it is a propane fire. One more complaint he heard was regarding the curb blocking the garage door entrance at Streets Auto Repair. Tim Taylor stated he and George will go look at it. Joe McCracken thanked everyone.

Frances Meadows – Asked Rod Cury about meeting with Sam Tuttle. She also stated that she has heard very good comments about Critterville and wanted to let Fred know. The rec. park pool will be opening soon and that is a good thing. She also stated that she is trying to reset a date for the town cleanup effort. She stated that it might be more beneficial in having the cleanup day set for the evening after school than on a Saturday. She also wanted to know if anyone had talked to Travis Hackworth about the presentation. Tim Taylor stated he had not heard from Travis Hackworth. Rod Cury wanted to know if the presentation could be presented at the June Council meeting. Tim Taylor stated he would contact Travis Hackworth and ask him. Frances Meadows stated she would like to see the presentation. Rod Cury also wanted to mention Bel Cibos restaurant, give them a plug, if you mention you saw the menu at the Council meeting you will receive 10 percent off.

Doug Ratliff – Wanted to know if anything has been with Appalachian Gas, has the town received a contract? Tim Taylor stated that there was a \$5,000 to get to a \$25,000 reduction and wanted to know about the comprehensive study from Mr. Tuttle. Rod Cury stated that they should have the study by August. Tim Taylor also stated the staff is complying the study and should get an update by August. Doug Ratliff stated that Brad has the letter ready and is waiting for authorization. All of Council stated that the letter was good.

Mary Ann Strong made a motion to send the letter, Rod Cury seconded the motion. All in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

Larry Johnson – He stated that 2 things he had to discuss had already been covered, the dust and the potholes. He asked George West how far along have they got with the repairs, George stated that they were halfway finished. Larry Johnson also stated he knows that the potholes near the Richlands mall and the Shoney's building were bad, need to talk to VDOT to see if they will help.

Mary Ann Strong – She stated that Sue Wade had sent ordinance out about signs, regarding the sign in Hidden Valley about pressure washing. She stated that it was against R1 zone and maybe the bylaws. She also stated about a complaint at 333 Cresswood about the grass being too high. Chief Frank Dorton stated he also talked to someone on Cresswood about the grass. Mary Ann Strong stated that if a home is a foreclosure that the lienholder should take care of the upkeep of the property including taking care of the lawn. Mayor White asked about property on Terry Drive. Chief Frank Dorton stated he talked to the owners who are in Florida. Mayor White also asked about the muddy water issue. Tim Taylor stated that had been addressed.

Sue Wade addressed the pre-taxation of the hospitalization and cancer policies. She explained how it helped the town's FICA and Medicare and keeps employees from paying a higher tax.

Rod Cury made the motion for the pre-taxation, it was seconded by Larry Johnson. Vote, all in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

Mayor White explained the Clinch Valley Community Action Proclamation declaring May 13, 2015 as CVCA Day. Rod Cury made the motion to approve the proclamation, Frances Meadows seconded the motion. All in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

There was also a Proclamation that May 18th through May 31st was National Click It or Tick It Mobilization. Rod Cury made the motion to approve, Joe McCracken seconded the motion. All in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

Brad Ratliff – He stated he would get the letter out to Appalachian Gas tomorrow along with the E-Citation Ordinance.

Rod Cury – Asked if there were any updates on Cedar Bluff. Brad Ratliff stated that he has not received anything from Mr. Carmody yet.

Manager's Report:

Tim Taylor stated they now had to offer Hepatitis B testing to all sewer plant employees. He also went over the check register and asked if anyone had any questions.

Frances Meadows made the motion to pay the town's bills, Larry Johnson seconded the motion. All in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

Tim Taylor also stated that Robinson, Farmer, Cox and Associates was the only bid for the audit. He also stated he highly recommended them.

Rod Cury made the motion to approve Robinson, Farmer, Cox and Associates. Mary Ann Strong seconded the motion. All in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

Tim Taylor asked if Council needed another work session. Rod Cury wanted to know if the budget was going to be passed as is. Tim Taylor stated he recommended one more work session, it could be held May 26th – May 29th. After discussing various dates, the Council agreed on May 28, 2015 at 6:30 for the work session. Tim Taylor also discussed the various projects going on thorough out the town. Work is being continued on the Huddle House, the projected opening date is July 20, 2015. They are also working on illuminating the flag and improving street lighting. The fire at the Richlands McDonalds and movement of the weather station. They also discussed the bear problem. The town is dealing with the bear, they purchased bear proof lids for the trash containers and employees are working on the weekends to keep the dumpsters clean.

Council went into closed session to discuss litigation to discuss Code 2.2-3711 A7

Frances Meadows made the motion to go into closed session, Rod Cury seconded the motion. All in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

Council went into closed session at 9:55 pm.

Council returned to open session at 10:23 pm.

Frances Meadows made the motion to return to open session, Rod Cury seconded the motion. All in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

Mayor White asked if all Council members affirmed that Code 2.2-3711 A7 was the only topic discussed in closed session. All members confirmed that is was.

Mayor White asked for a motion to adjourn

Rod Cury made the motion, Frances Meadows seconded the motion. All in favor, 6/0. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:24 pm.

Jan White, Mayor

Kelly Goodman, Clerk