

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on March 14, 2017 at 7:30pm with the following present:

Mayor:	Jannis White
Town Manager:	Tim Taylor
Town Clerk:	Connie Allen
Council Members:	Mary Ann Strong, Vickie England Rick Wood, Rod Cury, Doug Ratliff, Larry Johnson
Town Attorney:	Brad Ratliff

Mayor White opened the meeting.

Mary Ann Strong gave the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor White - Do we have anyone that would like to speak that is not on the agenda?

Jimmy Keene and Joe Adair were added to the agenda.

Mayor White - Anyone else that would like to speak?

Mayor White - Please add Jerry Dunford under "Scheduled Public Comments".

Mayor White - Anyone else that would like to speak that is not on the agenda?

Mayor White - Do we have any additions or deletions to the agenda? If not, do we have a motion to approve the agenda as amended? Rod Cury made the motion, Larry Johnson 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 6/0.

Mayor White - We have three (3) sets of minutes. The minutes are included in the packets, two (2) were public hearings and one (1) is our regular council meeting. Are there any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes?

Mary Ann - Complimented Connie on good job of doing the minutes.

Mayor White - Do I hear a motion to approve the minutes as presented?

Rod - I make a motion to approve the three (3) sets of minutes as presented. Mary Ann 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 6/0.

Mayor White - Lynna Mitchell, Chairman of Section House Committee - Update on Project

Lynna Mitchell - I have great news on the Section House Project. The committee for this project has been dedicated in seeing this project completed; they have been a determined group of individuals. It has been a privileged and honor working with them. We have received the go ahead from VDOT to proceed with the construction phase of the project. I am here tonight to get Council's approval to authorize Mr. Taylor, our Town Manager/Project Manager, to award the construction contract to Twin Enterprises.

Rod - Thank you Lynna, this has been a long process but well worth it. I would like to make the motion to authorize Town Manager/Project Manager, Tim Taylor, to move forward and award the contract to Twin Enterprises.

Mayor White - We have a motion; do we have a second? Vicki England seconded the motion, any further discussion?

Brad - Twin Enterprises has met all the requirements for the proposal.

Tim - For the record, the award price was \$396,460.34. There is enough money in the budget to cover that particular part of the construction. There has been great effort throughout the community to raise funds to complete amenities outside of the construction of the house itself.

Mayor White - We have a motion and we have a second. All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motions carries 6/0.

Lynna Mitchell - Thank you for your support. One more thing I like to mention, Ellen Elmes has completed the mural that is a separate part from the restoration project and I wanted to recognize her for her efforts and thank her.

Mayor White - Ronnie Cordle, President Recreation Commission – Update from Rec Commission

Ronnie Cordle - Thanked the Council for the signage “No Animals Allowed on Field” and for the quick response on the issue. Signs are up at the Williams Park. Renovations upstairs in the conference room- walls have been painted and new LED lights replaced. We will have a state of the art conference room once the room is finished. The money for the bathrooms was donated by Richlands Youth Basketball League. Construction has already started. Ronnie handed out drawing of the Recreation Park traffic flow. Need Town or Street Department advice/solution on how to handle the traffic flow at the Recreation Park. Traffic flow has become a public safety problem. The solution must be something removable due to tractor trailers coming to the park. The signs and double lines don’t always stop people from going the wrong direction.

Rick - Do you have signs up now?

Ronnie Cordle - There are arrows going up the hill, but no signs. We use plastic saw horses when we have big events, which most people ignore.

Rick - What if we put “Do Not Enter” signs?

Tim – Traffic flow needs to be obvious. Will ask the Chief of Police and Street Department to take a look at a solution and make a recommendation.

Ronnie Cordle – We need signs put back up to direct people to the Recreation Park. We are trying to draw people in with tournaments and different events, some people don’t know where it is located.

Rod - Thank you for the good information you provided.

Ronnie Cordle - The LED lights that were installed in the conference room are pulling 2 ½ amps compared to the old lights pulling at 5 ½ amps. The lower amps will be cutting cost in half. We are not only renovating but we are cutting cost on operations as well.

Mary Ann - I would like to thank Ronnie and the Commission. We had a good meeting in February; Ronnie is providing excellent leadership and providing excellent information. I am excited about the future and appreciate your leadership.

Ronnie – People care about what is going on at the Recreation Department.

Mayor White - Delores Price Boyd, 416 Shenandoah Street

Delores Price – I am interested in purchasing the alley that runs through my property and dead ends at the river. I have spoken to my neighbor who is not a resident of Richlands. He lives in WV but resides here a few days a week to work in Buchanan County. He is not interested in the property. I have maintained the alley since 1974. If allowed to purchase the property, I would have no objection if the town needed to use the alley.

Brad – The process for this kind of property acquisition, vacation of the alleyway, requires full Council approval. The Council would assign the Street Committee to the project. The Street Committee would determine if there are any projected uses for that property in the future. They would make a recommendation to the Council and proceed with vacation of the alleyway. Once that is done, by law the alleyway essentially becomes property of the two adjoining property owners. The property line would run down the middle of the alleyway and become the property of each adjoining owner. I have drafted a memo to our Street Committee with recommendations on what to look for and how to address the issue. I would recommend to Council to assign to the Street Committee for review and determine if it can be done.

Mary Ann - Would having an answer back to you by next council meeting be efficient enough?

Delores Price - Yes

Tim - As a point of contact, I will ask them to contact you. (Delores Price)

Mayor White - Robin McGlothlin

Robin McGlothlin - 600 Sycamore Lane, Richlands, VA - Fluoride Issues- Handed out FDA information to each Council Member. She asked for the Mayor and Council Members to reopen the Fluoride Issue. She requests that we take a deeper look of why fluoride should not be added to the drinking water. Health issues can be caused by overdose of fluoride and sometimes death. Many states have rejected fluoride being added to the water due to health issues in the communities. Fluoride is also linked to bone cancer in young adults. Fluoride is a drug not a nutrient. I ask the Town Council to put this matter before the town, allow the people to vote; let the people decide.

Mayor White - Angie Johnson

Angie Johnson - Angie Johnson, 205 Kents Ridge Road, Richlands, VA - I would like to discuss "Operation Wardrobe" known as "Back to School Closet". This services is offered to children within the Richlands, Raven and the Cedar Bluff areas. I already have several bags of clothes donated in addition to \$748 for this project. I have set up a separate checking account for money donated. I want to service a lot of kids. The group of children will be selected based upon parent's employment status such as low income, etc. We will also be offering select hygiene products, giving makeup/hair tips and offering some interview tips to senior students who are looking for a job. I am not asking the Council for anything, just trying to get the word out to the public. Hopefully, this will be available in August, set up like White Christmas.

Vicki England - Where is this going to be located?

Angie Johnson - I am not sure of the location at this time. I am trying to locate racks, etc. for displaying the clothes as in a boutique. I hope to have a location in the next 30 days; I will let you know when finalized. I am working on flyers to put at different business locations and at the Town Hall if permission is granted.

Rick - I have some racks I will give you.

Maryann - Can we put it on the Access Channel?

Tim - Yes, we can put on the Access Channel.

Angie Johnson - I am also advertising on Facebook Page. I will be focusing on teenagers and younger kids. I plan on spending the \$748 at Goodwill; money will go back to the community.

Mayor White - Any questions for Angie?

Joe Adair - You can come by Food Pantry, we put out free clothes on Monday, Tuesday and Friday.

Mayor White - Jerry Dunford

Jerry Dunford - I want to place a 14 X 80 single wide trailer on Birmingham Road. It is a 1 ½ acre lot with a shelter for fishing. I need a permit to get the single wide hooked up. The mobile home will be used as rental property. Kevin has checked out the land already.

Tim - He meets all the requirements and guidelines and does qualify for a Conditional Use Permit.

Mayor White – Do I hear a motion to award Jerry Dunford a Conditional Use Permit? Rick made the motion, Larry seconded the motion.

Mayor White - We have a motion and a second to issue Jerry Dunford a Conditional Use Permit, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those oppose say no. Motion carries 6/0.

Tim -Meet with Kevin and he will issue the permit. You must be finished within 6 months.

Mayor - Before we move on, I need to back up and have the 2017 Comprehensive Plan Draft minutes approved. I need someone to make a motion to approve the minutes. Rod made a motion to approve the minutes and Rick 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 oppose say no. Motion carries 6/0.

Mayor White - Dr. Joe Adair

Dr. Joe Adair, Box 880, Richlands, VA - Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I would like to say that we all need to use common sense concerning air, water, salt and sugar. Too much or too little is not good for our bodies. We need to use our brain with the products that we use. Fluoride in the proper dilution is a God send to mankind. I hope you don't rescind on adding fluoride to the water; by not adding fluoride to the water is regression. Adding fluoride to the water helps a lot of people. We need to work together to promote our area and move forward. Who do you believe the American Medical Association, American Dental Association or those who are opposed to fluoride?

Mayor White - Jimmy Keene

Jimmy Keene, Maple Lane, Richlands, VA - I am here to discuss fluoride in water. I don't have much more to say than what Ms. McGlothlin has presented to the Council. It increases aging process, medical issues and it is a poison. I cannot find where the FDA has ever approved fluoride. Fluoride does not treat water; it is a medical treatment. Why not put a survey out to the community to get their opinion? Fluoride is in everything we eat and drink. Why do we want to add more fluoride? Please reconsider adding fluoride to the water.

Mayor White - We will move on to the 2017 Comprehensive Plan - Consideration to adopt Ordinance O-2017-03-01.

Tim – Following the public hearing on the 2017 Comprehensive Plan, items that were mentioned by Ginger Branton we have adopted the majority of her request. There were a couple items I discussed

with Ginger where she was in error, nothing major. The statistic numbers were refreshed to be more dated in the plan. We made one correction on the zoning map. I ask Council to adopt the ordinance as presented.

Mayor White – Do I have a motion to dispense with second reading of the ordinance? Larry made the motion; Doug seconded the motion. Is there any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those oppose say no. Motion carries 6/0.

Mary Ann - I have one question. Can we add the Little League Fields to part of the plan? If a family was moving into this area, they may want to know about our Little League Fields and this could be a positive influence.

Mayor White - I think we can go ahead and adopt the plan and add more later.

Tim – Mary Ann, if you could write a paragraph concerning the fields we could add it later. We will be making changes in the future anyway. My suggestion is to go ahead and vote tonight and add this later.

Rod - It is a living document; changes can be made.

Tim - I am still waiting on VDOT comments; will do one addendum in a couple of months.

Mary Ann - I would like to recognize and thank Ginger Branton for all her hard work in reviewing the plan.

Mayor White - We need a motion to adopt the 2017 Comprehensive Plan. Rod made the motion, Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Mayor White - We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All in favor of the motion say yes. All those oppose say no. Motion carries 6/0.

Mayor White - Rod Cury, Council Member Report

Rod Cury – Based on the needs, Richard Brown chairman of the Planning Commission, had a March meeting for things that needed to be addresses immediately, needs such as additions to the comprehensive plan. Our next meeting will probably be April 4. If any Council member has issues that need to be addressed by Planning Commission please let Tim, Richard Brown or myself know and we will be glad to take your concerns into consideration. At our last meeting, I was asked by Bob Beavers about recycling bins. I updated him on the information I had received from the Council. He recognizes the budget constraints. If there is a desire from the Council to have a committee to explore this; he is willing to assume this task.

Mayor White – Vicki England, Council Member Report

Vicki - Richard Brown is working with the Boy Scouts. One of the young men is working toward his Eagle Scout status. He wants to take on the project of refurbishing the Town of Richlands signs with approval from Council. He wants to go thru the right channels and will start working on the project as soon as he gets approval.

Tim - Is he restoring the signs we already have?

Vicki - Yes, that is my understanding. He will renovate the old signs.

Rod - Are you talking about rebuilding the signs?

Tim - These signs are made from plywood and I'm not sure they can be restored. We may be able to copy and remake the signs.

Rod - I support the young man; can we take consensus and allow this person to work on the signs?

Mayor White – A consensus is fine. No one has a problem with the young gentlemen working on the signs.

Mayor White- Rick Wood, Council Member Report

Rick – The mirror that was put up on Tazewell Avenue (Front Street), everyone is saying they are seeing their self, with no help in pulling out into traffic.

Mayor White – George, did you fix the issue on the mirror?

George - Yes

Rick - It is fixed, but when you look in the mirror you see the car you are sitting in. A lot of people are complaining about it.

Mayor White - I didn't see that issue today. I emailed George and he was supposed to fix the issue.

Rod - I will check it out since I travel that way.

Mayor White - It could have fallen again.

Rick - Have we followed up with the Trash Project? Has anyone checked with the Sheriff to see if we can use inmates?

Mayor White – I have had several complaints from people that the trash is bad, especially coming off the highway and thru the town.

Tim - Some of the places we did pick up trash but in a few days, it was just as bad as when we started. It is a process and we can use help from the community and inmates. I will try to find out something and get some help with this issue.

Mayor White - Doug Ratliff – Council Member Report

Doug - Can we schedule a committee meeting?

Tim – Yes, probably first part of April, after we get the budget set.

Doug - What about the next phase of the Comprehensive Plan?

Tim - Will discuss that in my reports later in meeting.

Doug - What about the gas situation?

Tim - We received an email from them. They were checking in and letting us know what they were planning to do next.

Mayor White - I have a copy of the email, but forgot to bring it with me.

Tim – They plan to start back in early spring where they left off in the winter. Will set up meeting with them soon.

Mayor White - Larry Johnson - Council Member Report

Larry - I had a complaint on the wall on Second Street, rocks are falling off. Have we checked into that?

Tim - Yes, I have checked the issue myself and it has fallen off. We will patch it back up when the weather breaks. We are also going to work with one of the property owners on their driveway where erosion has set up. We have a plan to fix the issues.

Larry- Ginger brought up a good idea for the Comprehensive Plan, to include business contacts for prospective business owners coming into our town. Have you figured out the process for that?

Tim - Part of the budget includes the initiative to develop downtown business sector. Contacts for prospective business owners will be included in that section. As part of the Comprehensive Plan, we are considering having a strategic planning meeting to address economic development, processes to implement plans and identify what planning tools we have in place. We will include the Planning Commission as needed. This will help us get frame work on what we need to do next. We will get the process started a week after the council meeting in April. I will also involve our staff.

Larry - Ginger also mentioned the Walking Trail; I would like to get Rod's help in getting this started back up.

Rod - I would love to help and would also like to include Lynna Mitchell. She was instrumental in this project, if the Council is acceptable.

Larry – I have had complaints on Zoning Areas.

Tim - Mr. Reynolds has contacted a contractor to redo the project. It will be connected to his home. He doesn't have a permit yet, not quite ready for it. The building inspector has already looked at it. The other violation that involved a building; it has been sold.

Larry - I had a compliant that a room was left on the property where people had moved a mobile home.

Tim – The police department will give notice to tear it down.

Larry - Apartment complex - Complaints they were getting fees that had not gotten before.

Tim - We already have that issue solved, bills look different now.

Mayor White - Mary Ann - Council Member Report

Mary Ann - Commented on Rec. Park, recognized Fred Phillips again for all his hard work. When you get a chance, you should go and look at the conference room at the Rec. Park. The Recreation Commission will meet monthly on the 3rd Monday at 7:00 pm. Next meeting is scheduled for March 20. I would like to congratulate the Richlands Girls Basketball team on a successful season and Mr. Phillips's team for making it to the state tournament.

Rod - I would like to recognize the girls and boys team at our next council meeting if the Council Members would be inclined to do that. It means a lot to the students to come and be recognized, if the Council is OK with that. Fred, could you communicate with the coaches and then communicate back to Mary Ann, she could put on the agenda thru Tim or the Mayor.

Mayor White - Does anyone have any questions on the Department Head Reports?

Larry - Is there any way we can have lids put on the containers for the dumpsters? No lid is causing most of the problems.

Tim - Most of the dumpsters have lids when they arrive. They get torn off or people don't close them. We can research to find something better. People won't close the lids.

Rick - I have looked into the issue, but have no resolution.

Doug - Since we are going with the fluoride in the water, can you give us an update on equipment cost?

Tim - Reference Fluoride System Evaluation prepared for Town of Richlands. Included in the information is the purpose and scope of the plan. Analyzes our existing fluoride feed system and alternatives that are available. The one recommended is the sodium fluoride saturator system; we are already use to this system. The appendix has the cost outlined for the project. Total probable project cost is \$46,400. The estimate assumes that the Town will purchase and install the skid themselves.

Doug - Is the first year going to cost us around \$60,000?

Tim - Between \$50,000 and \$60,000

Doug - Since Cedar Bluff is part of the program should we contact them and get their opinion. They already have the responsibility of distributing water to their community.

Tim - I already contacted Cedar Bluff, Russell County and Tazewell County.

Doug - For our safety I would like something in writing, to protect the town, just in case something would come up later.

Tim - I will, but it may take some time; probably must come from the board.

Doug - Before we proceed I think we should get that.

Mayor White - I had a complaint about property on Floyd Avenue, on the river side at the very end, has a lot of vehicles around it.

Tim - Requested the Street Committee to go down and look at the situation.

Mayor White - Manager's Report – Tim

Rod - I forgot to ask a question concerning the recycling issue. Last meeting you were going to check to see where we could place a recycling bin.

Tim- I thought about that, not really what I meant. If we owned it, we would place on public property. We would have to decide where to place the bin, and then contract with a recycler that would take it.

Rod - Could this be part of the Strategic Plan?

Tim - Yes, if you think it is important enough.

Rod – Yes, I do.

Rick - I think it is important, the problem we had was they would not come and clean it out. If they could sell the materials, they would pick up. If they couldn't sell, then they would not pick up. It was based on the price at that time.

Rod - I appreciate the information.

Tim – Please review the check register. Check 55248-Capital Auto Group, Inc. - \$49,001.00 was for (2) police cars, part of grant program with Rural Development paying part of the bill. Check 55256-Dell Marketing L.P. – computers, part of the Rural Development grant program, cruisers updated.

Mayor White - What is check 55268?

Tim - Chemicals for Water Treatment Plant

Rick – What is check 55313?

Tim – Asset Management Study

Mary Ann - What is check 55284?

Tim - Mark E. Ison - IT Specialist - He helps us remotely.

Rick - What is check 55282?

Tim – Lusk Disposal Service - We get reimbursed from the hospital, we contract out and hospital pays us back.

Mary Ann – I would like to make a motion to pay the bills. 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 6/0.

Tim - Consideration of the Resolution regarding the commitment of funding with the Revenue Sharing Program and to ask for an extension to the project when encompasses the spring paving of various streets. The project is expected to be completed prior to July 1, 2017; however, would ensure that we would be funded in the event there were delays. Ask council to adopt the resolution.

Rod - I did read this, we need to correct the spelling of the Mayor's name.

Mayor - Do we have a motion to approve the resolution?

Rick - Made motion to approve the resolution, Rod seconded the motion.

Mayor - 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 6/0.

Tim - We have several Request for Proposals advertised:

- a. Pre-Bid Conference for Paving March 16th at 1:00 pm
- b. Paving bids due March 23rd at 1:30 pm
- c. Health Insurance due March 23rd at 2:00 pm
- d. Moving Services due March 16th at 2:30 pm
- e. Audit Services due March 16th at 2:00 pm

Tim - We are currently using the financial and utility billing modules of the new software that we have been working on transition beginning in January. The transition has been very involved and has required a tremendous amount of time and energy from our staff. This is a work in progress and will continue to require training. Other modules will be implemented as time allows. Features such as online bill pay will be later in the project as it will require a merchant bank to implement.

Tim - Smoking Ordinance passed effective March 14. No signs have been installed yet. Will let the public know; for common public places, not for business.

Tim - Strategic planning meeting will be held on April 18, Tuesday 7:30pm

Rod - Ask Jim Talbert to serve on the Walking Trail committee.

Mayor White – Do I have a motion to go into closed session per Section 2.2.3711(a) 6 – Contract Discussion? Rick made the motion, Larry 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 6/0.

Mayor White - Do we have a motion to come out of closed session? Mary Ann made the motion, Rick seconded the motion. All those in favor of the motion say yes, all those that oppose say no, Motion carries 6/0.

Mayor White - Do all members agree the only item discussed was Section 2.23711(a) 6. Vicki – Yes, Rick –Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Larry-Yes, Rod-Yes. Do I have a motion as a result of closed session?

Rod - Made motion to accept the contract for Fire/EMS with Tazewell County and authorization for the Town Manager to sign contract. Larry seconded the motion.

Mayor - We have a motion and a second, all those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 6/0.

Mayor - Do we have a motion to adjourn?

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

Mayor - We have a motion and a second, all those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries 6/0.

Jannis White

Connie Allen