

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on July 10, 2018 at 7:30pm with the following present:

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

Mayor White opened the meeting.

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

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

Mayor White - Please add Paul Cook and Ernest Edgell to "Unscheduled Public Comments".

Mayor White - Do we have any other additions/deletions to the agenda?

Mayor White – VI part (a) – TRIAD will not be here please delete from "Scheduled Public Comments".

Mayor White - Any other additions/deletions to the agenda?

Mayor White – Do we have a motion to approve the agenda as amended? Rod made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, Vickie 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, June 12- Regular Council Meeting, June 7-Budget Work Session, June 26 – Special Call Meeting. Are there any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes?

Mayor White - Do I have a motion to approve the three (3) sets of minutes?

Mary Ann - I make a motion to approve the three (3) sets of minutes, June 7, June 12 and June 26 as presented. 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.

Mayor White – "Unscheduled Public Comments" – Paul Cook

Paul – 601 Suffolk Avenue, I would like to compliment the Town for the fine job on the mowing and the beautification of the Town. I think Rusty and the crew has done a wonderful job. He is worth every penny you are paying him. I don't know if you are going to name the Police Chief tonight, but I would highly recommend Jerry Gilbert. He has been following the footsteps of some good Police Chiefs, Jack Young, William Puckett and Frank Dorton and prior to that Chris Spangler.

Mayor White – "Unscheduled Public Comments" – Ernest Edgell

Ernest – 206 Terry Drive – The tree growing in the forklift at the junk yard is getting taller every year. Is there an ordinance in Town about junk yards?

Tim – Yes

Ernest - There is a Plymouth sitting over there, I think it is on Town property, the trunk has been up for at least three (3) years that I know of. If that is not junk I don't know what you would classify it as.

Mayor White - Are you talking about the forklift?

Ernest – Yes and the old car sitting there too.

Ernest - There are cigarette butts at the red light/ by-pass. Before long, you will need a four-wheel drive to get thru them.

Mayor White - I have that on my list.

Ernest - The speed bumps you put in front of my house helped with some people but there are still people speeding at a high rate in that area. I still have not seen a policeman over there radaring. It is only 25mph in that area.

Mary Ann - Thank you Ernest, we appreciate your comments and your eyes and ears.

Mayor White - Thank you so much.

Mayor White – “Council Member Reports” – Rod Cury

Rod – I addressed all the concerns I had prior to the council meeting with Mr. Taylor. Those were regarding clean-up of the Town and trash along the sides of the sidewalks and curbs. He has taken care of that. One of the questions I had been asked is do we have an ordinance pertaining to trash. That has been addressed and I appreciate that. I have talked to the citizen that had asked me the question. The Planning Commission meeting is usually on the first Tuesday of the month, the meeting has been moved to June 17. The meeting will be at the Town Hall at 7:30pm. It was changed for the convenience of everyone due to getting everyone together before July 4th. I plan to get in touch with Rick Barton to ask for an update for the Planning Commission on the walking trail and other things he is working on.

Mayor White – “Council Member Reports” –Vickie England

Vickie – (Passed out information on Virginia Statewide Maintenance Code) - I have talked to several people and rode around Town and saw some of the conditions of neglected & abandoned properties and the condition of streets and sidewalks. The properties seem to be a big issue and I brought up before the Town Council a couple of months ago. I made a comment; Rusty from American Carpet Care had talked to me about Bluefield's ordinances. I deal with bank foreclosures. I had a bank foreclosure on Robin Street in Bluefield. If you will look on the second page of the handout the manager of the company, similar to Rusty, who takes care of yard work on these properties. They didn't send pictures, but it was a yard that was very neglected. The company will only allow yard work every three (3) weeks. The Town of Bluefield adopted the Virginia Statewide Maintenance Code. Brad is going to talk about it in a few minutes. If you will notice the previous owner was served with a letter and Bluefield fined the people. They give them a 10-day notice to cut the grass. They cut the grass and fined the people with a \$345.70 fee. The Town Manager and I talked today, and I talked to Brad this morning about trying to come up with some kind of code for the Town of Richlands. The Town of Richlands is the largest Town in Tazewell County. Looks like we are the most abandoned looking Town in Tazewell County. If Bluefield can set an ordinance for taking care of abandoned properties, I think we should be able to come to the table. Brad will discuss further, he researched the code that is reflected on this page. If you drive around Town, not only is there trees growing in forklifts but there is grass up to your waist. There are trailers falling apart, there are houses abandoned. I am a realtor, I show our Town. I try to showcase our Town. It looks really, really bad. At some point we have to say we have had enough and we have to address these issues. I understand the street sweeper is up and running so I hope we can get the streets cleaned. The Town Manager told me something today that I was not aware of although when I owned 1302

Second Street I cleaned the sidewalks in front of my office with a pressure washer. Property owners or tenants are responsible for the sidewalks in front of their property. Our sidewalks are terrible. I don't know how many people walk Town, I walk Town and I know our sidewalks are terrible. We do have a problem with dog feces in the grass beside of the sidewalks. I know there are trash cans and people can pick up trash and put wherever. Our Town looks bad. I would like very strongly to address the issues and if it is a possibility to adopt the maintenance code. There is a restaurant in Town that has grease on the sidewalk. It is an issue. We have people come all the time in from the Clinch and this is the impression that they get. I think it needs to be addressed before it goes on any longer.

Mayor White - Some of the businesses may not know they are responsible. I have always known that. We may need to send them a letter. I am not sure they are aware they are responsible. I would have not known if I had not read the charter. Some of it may be lack of education on our part as far as the business district is concerned.

Vickie - I don't know if it is the landlord's responsibility or the tenant's responsibility to keep it cleaned.

Tim - The code states it is the land owner's responsibility.

Vickie - Does anyone else walk or drive around Town and look at the condition of our properties like I do?

Mayor White - I do, I drive around all the time and I do see a lot of trash and different things. You also see people picking up little stuff too. There are a lot of elderly people that are not mowing their grass as often as they should.

Vickie - I understand people are on budget. Magic Mart is going to have a great sale. We need to address the issue. It is affecting our properties in this Town and it affects when we show properties in this Town. Since we are the largest Town; I don't know how Bluefield runs to Tazewell, if they can do it, I don't know why we can't unless it is about funding and Brad will address.

Mary Ann - I appreciate the trouble you went thru and the time and effort to provide all this for us and I agree. Do we have more trailer parks than Tazewell or Bluefield?

Tim - I am not sure if we have more, but we do have our share of trailer parks.

Mary Ann - I know we have done a really good job in cleaning some of them up. Some of the trailer parks seem to have high grass, trash and abandoned trailers.

Tim - It takes 45 days before you get thru the process of trying to get people to mow their yards. I noticed that the Bluefield code has a lot shorter time frame, maybe we can research and do something similar to that. I know we talked about that years ago and getting building officials to help with that. We need to talk about more alternatives. There are some places that need to be torn down now. Council needs to check out to make sure we don't tear something down of value. In the short term if we could do something like Bluefield has done on the time frame of 10 days, we can do that.

Mayor White - "Council Member Reports" - Rick Wood

Rick - I met with Jimmy off Hill Creek Road, Tim has already addressed the problem. I really think we are going to have to do some paving. That is my recommendation. I would also like to thank Karen Deel on the Freedom Festival. As far as I know everything went pretty smooth.

Mayor White - "Council Member Reports" - Doug Ratliff

Doug - Two (2) important issues that is facing Richlands is the "Gas Issue" and "Boundary Issue". Tim, can you give us an update on these two (2) issues? I have not heard anything for months. I think it is the two (2) most important things that face us.

Tim - I can address one (1) of the issues, Brad addressed the other day. I will need direction from Council on what you want me to do. Gas Issue - Try helping develop what they have or take away from what they have. What are the plans as a majority? I cannot do anything else until I get advice from Council. The boundary issue, we had a "Closed Session" on that the other night, I thought we were up to date. I have done what I said I would do. I will need to know what Council wants me to do. I have done everything I can do so far until I have further direction and I can't discuss in "Open Session".

Doug - We don't have a date to meet with the boundary adjustment people. We don't have dates on anything or plans. We need a date to meet with these people. I have brought up in Council and in "Closed Session" and I cannot get any dates on either issue. We have been working on this three (3) or four (4) years and have gotten nowhere on either one of them. I would like some leadership and face those two (2) issues and bring to the forefront. That is all I am asking.

Tim - If you will convince the majority of the Council to establish a meeting with a purpose and scope for the meeting. I don't know what else to do unless we have a meeting and have a scope for the meeting. I work for the majority not for one (1) or two (2). We can develop a scope. If you want me to get the gas people back in here I will do that, I can get with them tomorrow.

Doug - We discussed several things in "Closed Session", Mr. Ratliff was supposed to do some research on some of the aspects, and I have not heard anything. He was supposed to pursue and get some dates. I have not heard anything. I guess I get tired of not getting anything done in the last two (2) or three (3) years. We can't get anything done with the gas or the boundaries. We spent \$60,000 for the study. I get frustrated; I am on the Council but can't get anything done.

Mayor White - Have you heard anything else from the gas people? I have not heard from them in several months.

Tim - The last time I heard from them was when they were doing the survey. They said they had very little response. I am willing to do what Council wants me to. You have data that gives figures to determine the best solution for the Town. I have had no direction on which way to go. We had a strategy in our last "Closed Session" if you want to talk about that we can. You can tell me what you want me to do and I will do it. I cannot produce things if I don't have direction that is not the way it is designed to work.

Doug - I can't discuss what we talked about in "Closed Session". We had some focal points and we had some things that were supposed to have been done but have been dropped. I wish I could discuss in public, but I can't. We have a direction to go in but seems we can't get nowhere with either aspects of them.

Tim - I am curious, does Council feel the same way as Mr. Ratliff. Maybe I don't understand Council's direction.

Rod - Town Manager Mr. Taylor, Mayor White and Council Ratliff, as far as I am concerned my personal opinion, when we had "Closed Session" we had discussion on concerning growth of Richlands as far as boundaries. I think unless you have something significant to report we will have to wait until you have something significant to report. As far as natural gas, my personal opinion, the company that is here has every legal right to be here and I think if anything we should not try to combat them but join them.

Doug - OK, as far as the gas company, I don't think legally they have the right to be here. I think we have a right to challenge that and we didn't. After they got here, people all over Town were waiting for gas and they are doing nothing. They put up a good game plan of what they were going to do. They got the hospital that was the "cash cow", after they got the hospital, which I warned against, everything stopped. I have friends that have business all over town and I have business all over town and nothing is being done. That is my opinion.

Mayor White - How does the Council feel about asking Mr. Taylor to contact the gas company and ask them to meet with us and give us an update.

Mary Ann - I agree, we need more communication with them to find out their plans, I do agree with Mr. Ratliff on that. Tim, it would be great to try and schedule a meeting.

Tim - Is that what Council wants?

Vickie - That is fine with me, we need an update. I was not here, it was before my time but when this first started I was told they were treated very rudely. Is that correct Mr. Ratliff?

Doug – No ma’am, they were not. They came in and took what should have been the Town’s charter, we have a right to do that. We cautioned against that when they came in. They were not talked rudely to.

Vickie - When they came to the meeting I was told they were treated rudely.

Doug - They were told certain things to do and they went back on every one of those. Is that not right Mr. Ratliff? We are supposed to be in partnership or some kind of agreement with them. He came here and took everything back and said we are not going to talk after we sign the agreement. Is that, not right?

Brad - I don’t remember him saying that but they did agree to partner and work with us.

Doug - Have they done that?

Brad – At this point there has not been any progress.

Doug - Once they got it signed that was it and I knew that would be it. The gas would have been a big profit center for the Town. We let someone walk in and take it away. We are always asking what the Town can do to bring more opportunity than we have. A lot of opportunities like that would have been great for the Town. It would have provided services and we would have made money off the gas and kept a cheaper price, that was another opportunity that we let go by the wayside. They just came in and took over the Town and we let them.

Mayor White – We can’t do much on this until we get an update, we will let Mr. Taylor get us an update and possibly a meeting with them.

Mayor White - “Council Member Reports” – Larry Johnson

Larry - In one of our budget meetings we spoke about the Mobile Home Parks and the problems we were having. The billing for garbage pickup and we talked about dumpsters. Have we gotten anywhere on that?

Tim – We actually have the data. I will present to Council. We are looking into the logistics of that. I will try to have prepared for the August meeting.

Larry - I am glad Mr. Edgell brought up the junk yard. What is the definition of junk yard as far as the Town ordinances?

Brad – He is in the guidelines, he is qualified as a junk yard.

Larry - What can we do about it?

Brad – Had him in court a couple of times, failure to screen properly and those kinds of things. He qualifies as a junk yard business. We can look at what is there and see what kind of charges we can use. We can give him a warning and if that does not help bring charges under the ordinances.

Larry – Since he has already been to court a couple times he is not paying attention to it, what can we do?

Brad – Remedy the problem temporally and alleviate the criminal condition. We will take a look what is there and what kind of charges can be brought if necessary. We can give a warning and if that doesn't work bring charges under the ordinances.

Larry - Is that something the Code Officers would do?

Brad - Yes, that is appropriate officer.

Tim - I recommend that we evict him from that street that is where the tree is growing out of the forklift. It is on the Town of Richlands property, he uses for his business. He has had a lot of opportunity to do better than he has been doing. I propose to evict him from that street and not use it anymore. We have been very patient with him.

Larry - I wanted to thank Mayor White, Karen Deel and the Town employees that worked the Freedom Festival. It was very hot day and they were there working all day. I heard a lot of comments from the public about you all standing around helping all day in the hot weather. I appreciate that, I have been there and know how it feels.

Mayor White - "Council Member Reports" - Mary Ann Strong

Mary Ann - I would like to echo Larry and other comments on the appreciation for the Freedom Festival. I would like to thank everyone as Larry commented it was very hot. I was most impressed with the Town crew that were out working in the heat were very pleasant. I did not hear any complaints. They seemed happy to be there. That is a great reflection on the character of our staff. At the fireworks people were spread out everywhere in our community. A lot of appreciation to everyone that worked so hard on the Freedom Festival. On a sour note, it made me sad to drive by the Chamber of Commerce office and see the sign is down. I would like to wish Ginger Branton a happy and healthy retirement, it is much deserved. We will have to wait and see how our county chamber develops. In your packet you have the activities of the Rec Park. Mr. Phillips you are welcome to come up here and tell the Council about the events or I can go thru the events. There is a lot of fun well attended events been happening at the Rec. Park. The pool capacity at the Rec Park is 235. We had approximately 20 wrist bands left for the pool at the Luau we had recently. When you count children and adults that were not swimming that event was attended by at least 300 people. Again, a lot of appreciation to Fred Phillips, Jessica Reynolds and everyone at the Rec Park. You will see in your report that these are all positive numbers, we are moving in the right direction. The concession sales for the month of June were \$4500, swimming \$11,637. One big thing and I would like to thank Ginger Branton for bringing to the Rec Commission; we had 64 swim lessons given. That was huge. A lot of people enjoyed. You have all the activities listed in your packet – Kids Movie Night, Teen Night Swim and Back to School Donation Drive on August 9. Another thing that was brought to our attention from Ginger and others that we have not been doing anything for Senior Citizens. There is a Senior Citizen activity night planned. I can't thank everyone at the Rec Park enough for accepting the challenge. We ask them to schedule events and at the same time try to bring in some money. They have certainly stepped up to the challenge. I appreciate it. If you look on the Facebook page of the Rec Park you will see a lot of beautiful pictures and great comments. Connie would you like to mention what you have planned on the Beach Party.

Connie - We are having a Hawaiian Beach Party on July 19 from 5 pm -8pm in the parking lot beside of the Richlands Post Office. We are going to have a lot of kid's games. We are having a sand castle contest, hula hoop contest and limbo contest. We are going to have a lot of cool decorations and use a lot of balloons to make palm trees. We are making the party very festive for the kids to enjoy and have a good time.

Mary Ann - Please come out and support this event. We have had the Richlands Festival, Freedom Festival and now the Beach Party and things going on at the Rec Park. People don't have any reason to say there is nothing to do in Richlands. Speaking of Town employees, we had three (3) members of our Rescue Squad recognized. Mr. Gordon would you please come up here and described the recognition that Matt Whited, Josh Salyers and Marcella Keene received. I was much honored to go to Tazewell and be present when Marcella was recognized; she has been nominated for the state award.

Gordon – We had nine (9) nominated for awards. Matt Whited, Josh Salyers and Marcella Keene received EMS awards and are up for state awards. They will go to VA Beach and try for state awards. I am very proud of them.

Mary Ann - We should all be proud of them. I would like to make a motion that we invite those three (3) individuals to come to our August meeting so we can formally recognize and thank them for the tremendous jobs they do.

Mayor White - When will the state events be happening?

Gordon – November

Mayor White – Mary Ann made a motion; do we have a second. 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.

Mary Ann - The last thing I have, I would like for Connie to comment on the Rally Grant meeting coming up.

Connie – We had another Rally Meeting on Thursday at 6:00pm here at the Town Council Chambers. We have several people coming to the meeting. We are getting ready to vote on where the \$3000 grant will be going. Council members, Section House Committee and others have been invited to the meetings. We want everyone to come and get involved in this program and help make the decision of where the \$3000 grant will be used.

Mary Ann - I attended the Living Local meeting called "First Community Soup" a few weeks ago at the Community College. Ricky Barton, Christy Asbury and Brent Warner are heading up the meeting, this is more positive energy. We were the first to host "Soup". They are doing a great job trying to make things better in Tazewell County.

Mayor White - I would like to add one thing, Mary Ann you were talking about doing things for the elderly. We had the Adult Health Fair in conjunction with the Freedom Festival at the Richlands Police Department. They had over 100 people to attend the event. We are trying to touch all age groups. If you have other ideas, please let us know. The Health Fair had 30 vendors; Mike Carter headed that up and hoping for it to become bigger each year. He also has one in Norton and Marion. He has over 100 vendors. We appreciate his efforts.

Mayor White - Does anyone have anything to ask the Department Heads?

Larry - At the first of the month Chief Dorton retired. I worked with Frank for years. I want to thank you for everything you done not only while you were Chief but all the years before that. I think the Town is a better place because of it, Thank you.

Mayor White - Thank you Frank.

Rod - I would also like to thank Frank. We have another person to retire, Lieutenant Richard Brown who has also done a great job. Thank you both.

Mayor White - We appreciate all their efforts.

Mayor White – “Mayor’s Comments” – Mayor White

Mayor White - George, the bricks at the Richlands Post Office are broken off, someone could trip over those. Someone on VA Ave. had a compliant that his neighbor is putting his brush limbs in his space. He called the Town to pick up, but so far, they have not picked up. It is Mr. Kitts. The sign at the hospital has been repaired, thank you.

Ernest - Can we ask the Civic Organizations to do a new sign?

Mayor White - Some of the organizations may not be active now and some of the signs have been changed already.

Mayor White - Judy Steele Horne purchased a couple of houses on East First Street. One has access over the sidewalk and the other does not. Can you look at the sidewalk to see if it could be cut so they could have access?

Tim - She needs to call us. We will get a work order and then we can look at it. There is a charge for that.

Mayor White - She said she had called a few times, but they have not called her back.

Tim - What is her address?

Mayor White - Not sure of the address but it is East First Street. First two (2) houses on the right.

Mayor White - There is a car sitting on Shenandoah practically in the street for two (2) months. The car has no tags. I believe it is an old Mercedes. It is on Town property. The issue with the cigarettes butts at the intersection, I know it is VDOT responsibility, but can we get that cleaned up?

Mayor White – “Attorney Comments” – Brad Ratliff

Brad – I would also like to thank everyone who helped with the Freedom Festival. Everyone seems to enjoy the festival. Tax sales will begin on the properties that we have placed notices for back taxes. Some will have cleaning, one in particular in Purcell, that will be one of the first prepared for complaints. Notice of sales throughout June. I think we have had good success of collection in results of our efforts. I am very happy with the results. The issue that Vickie mentioned earlier the Statewide Maintenance Code clearly there are some problems with enforcing the existence ordinances in our Town. An example is the grass height. The ordinances are vague in results of the vague language in the ordinance they are hard to enforce. We have wrestled with that in the past and we coordinate years ago with Bluefield. Statewide Maintenance Code is an option to clear a number of dilapidated properties it also includes issues in relation to maintenance in the property itself. It can be adopted. It is fairly lengthy and comprehensive. It is a great tool to resolve issues with the properties. There are some challenges with it. The biggest challenge is the adoption of the Statewide Maintenance Code requires an engineer as a building official. That person would have to be a staff person for the Town and have an engineering background. They would evaluate structures and give an opinion on how it is structured. We would need his guidance before we could enforce the code. An alternative we could consider would be to tighten up some of our ordinances to give more enforcement. We could draft our codes by Bluefield’s codes and have specifics in the codes and shorten the time frame. That will give us an opportunity for notice and enforcement instead of waiting months at a time. Enforcement is tough, and we need to identify when someone violates. It would be good for the Town to consider the Statewide Maintenance and Building Code in the planning for the next budget session. The hiring of an engineer could be expensive.

Tim - I have looked at things we can do without having a building official on staff. We can contract out to a professional or we can get someone on staff to become certified in certain areas. Would probably have to have advice for structural issues. We can deal with the electrical part of it, Mr. Blankenship is qualified. It is the structure piece we don't have. We can research and report back to Council.

Brad - I would suggest to Council and will certainly volunteer to pull some of our nuisance codes and attempt to type those up and work with Mr. Taylor. I will bring back to Council next session for evaluation by Council and pass an ordinance pretty quickly. We could at least focus our energy on things that have been a problem for a long time. We can look at Statewide Maintenance Code for a solution later on.

Brad - Referendum on sale of mixed beverages. As Council recalls there has been a vote to move forward with voter referendum on the sale of mixed drinks. I have prepared petition for qualified voters and I have the proper documents needed to be put out in the public. We need 10% of qualified voters in the Town to endorse this to go to a referendum. We need to have the 10% in hand to do a petition to the circuit court in Tazewell County, to give to the proper authorities to move forward with putting on the ballots. It has to be done no later than August 17. I would suggest effort be made to get 328 qualify signatures. The number of voters in Town as of Jan. 1. I would recommend 400 or even 500. Sometimes they give incorrect address such as PO Box and may not be a qualified voter. I need to get in the hands of the appropriate person to move forward.

Mary Ann - The Living Local Group is very eager to assist. If I could get some in their hands they will help. Some individuals were out trying to do on their own.

Brad - One of the things I have done is put together the compliant or petition for the court and start working up an order. I will have that ready the minute we have these in hand and supporting documents for exhibit for the essential lawsuit. I will try and coordinate with the circuit court for that and get in the court as quickly as possible. Once I have the signatures turn over to voters' registration.

Rod - What was the date again?

Brad – August 17

Rod - Everything must be complete and, in the court, is that correct?

Brad - That is correct.

Rod - Do you have a recommended date you would like to have the signatures to you?

Brad – I would like to have in two (2) weeks; I know it sounds impossible but no later than three (3) weeks. I feel we will get a quick court date because there is no notice that has to go out. We get approved and hand over to voter's administration.

Mayor White – “Manager's Report” – Tim Taylor

Tim – You have a copy of the check register in your packet, does anyone have any questions?

Tim - Check 58286 – James River Equipment - \$36,311.47 – We had work done on our John Deere equipment.

Tim - Sound system was paid for this month, check 58301- Mathis Recording & Sound - \$2,957.17

Mary Ann - There are small amounts of money to WGTH and WRIC. How do we determine who gets more advertising?

Mayor White - That was advertisement for the Freedom Festival. One did the live remote and helped with the festival, the other was only advertisement.

Mary Ann - I make a motion to allow Mr. Taylor to pay the bills as presented, Vickie 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 – Monthly Power Cost Report of May 2018 is enclosed in your report. Does anyone have any questions? PJM costs were available for this particular report. It is very close to budget. The overall congestion was higher than budget, but the overall budget was lower by several dollars. It has been really hot the last few days, had numerous warnings from transmission room to load share, we don't have the option to do that. I would like to peak in the summer instead of the winter months. It will help us in the long term. We do have a couple scheduled meetings with AEP next month.

Doug - Dominion Power Supply

Rick - Did we ask about them?

Tim – We talked to the consultants about them. They have responded but they have not been the lowest bidder in a long time.

Rick - What is the transmission to us?

Tim - The transmission is regulated by the Federal Government, we can't do anything about it. You don't have the ability to go out and buy transmission from anyone else because there is only one (1) set of wires. The interstate highway controlled by federal government.

Doug - It is my understanding they have to build wires, go around the transmission cost.

Rick - If you work a deal with them.

Tim - I can talk to them but I don't think that is possible. They would have to give us a special deal on how to regulate that, APCO cannot even build these lines without permission.

Rick - Do we own our own lines?

Tim – We don't have the transmission all we have is distribution lines. We get our transmission from the substation behind Food Lion. I have the gentlemen's card, I can call him. You would have to get a court order to cross peoples land.

Mayor White – You have a contact person.

Tim - I will give you a report next month.

Tim - I was trying to get a report on EMS First responders by the end of June. We will try to get in the next 30 days. I would like to get something in writing to review in the next two (2) to three (3) weeks. I hate to go back to budgetary issues, but it was things Council wanted to look at.

Tim - Recommendation to Council for Police Chief Position. My recommendation is to appoint Jerry Gilbert as Police Chief for Richlands.

Mayor White – Do we have a motion?

Rod - I make a motion to appoint Jerry Gilbert as Chief of Police. 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- 4/2 (Doug- No, Rick-No)

Congratulations Jerry

Mayor White – Do we need to go into “Closed Session”?

Paul Cook - Mr. Ratliff brought up the boundary adjustment; I agree with him, if you are going to do it you need to do it now. We had a study done when I was on the Council. Cedar Bluff didn't want to lose their identity. Their identity was their post office. Coleman Brittle was the Town Manager. He had the vision for the growth. If you go back 35 years ago, Claypool Hill needed a lot of things, like water and sewer. I don't know what happened to the study that was done. You may be 35 years too late; he knew what was going to happen. You have car lots, Walmart and grocery stores at Claypool Hill. If you are going trying to do a boundary adjustment you need to do it now.

Rod -The Section House Committee will have a dedication on October 13. We will have lots of festivities in celebration of the Section House. I want to thank the Council for their cooperation and support and the citizens. Thank you very much.

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

Larry - I make the motion to adjourn, Vickie 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.

Adjourned

Jannis White, Mayor

Connie Allen, Town Clerk