

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on August 14, 2018 at 7:30pm with the following present:

Mayor: Jannis White  
Town Manager: Tim Taylor  
Town Clerk: Connie Allen  
Council Members: Mary Ann Strong, Rick Wood, Larry Johnson, Vickie England  
Council Members Absent: Rod Cury, Doug Ratliff  
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 any additions/deletions to the agenda?

Mayor White – Please add “Closed Session” Personnel 2.2-3711(a1) to the agenda.

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

Mayor White - Add Ernest Edgell to “Unscheduled Public Comments”.

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

Mayor White – Do we have a motion to approve the agenda as amended? Rick made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, 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- 4/0.

Mayor White – We have one (1) set of minutes, July 10. Are there any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes?

Mayor White - Do I have a motion to approve the minutes?

Vickie - I make a motion to approve the 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 - 4/0.

Mayor White – “Scheduled Public Comments” – Recognize EMS Award Recipients

Gordon –I am proud to be recognizing some of the employees and I would also like to present a plaque we received as being the “Best in Tazewell County”. I thought it was very nice. At this time, I would like to recognize Josh Saylers, Matthew Whited and Marcella Keene. We had three (3) that participated in the Southwest Virginia Regional EMS ceremonies in Abingdon Virginia. The awards were presented to Matt Whited- Assistant Captain, an outstanding EMS administrator, part time with RFR, 23 years of service. He is an outstanding employee. Lieutenant Marcella Keene- EMS telecommunicator/dispatcher, she was a part time employee of the Richlands Police Department for ten years and with the Fire and Rescue for 32 years and now with Tazewell County Sheriff’s Office 911. Josh Saylers- EMS for children’s safety, he has been in the EMS for twelve years and RFR for ten years. He works as a coordinator for EMS and for the Fire Prevention Program with all our schools and day care centers. We had several more nominated. Lieutenant John Taylor pre-hospital provider. Scott McCormick paramedic for Fire & Rescue, Brian Lowe EMT/P pre-hospital provider, Chris Horne EMT nurse, outstanding career EMS and Paul Phillips our OMD. At this time, I would like to show appreciation to all these people.

Mayor White - Some of them have been recommended to go to State.

Gordon - They will go in November for State Awards.

Mayor White - We really appreciate all of you.

Mary Ann - Jim, could you please take pictures?

Jim - I took pictures when they received the awards.

Vickie - Can you please take again?

Larry - Please take again. (Someone took pictures).

Gordon - I handled out information to each of you on a grant we have applied for. “Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation Grant”. We applied for funding for a Lucas 3 Chest Compression System. It will be November before we hear anything.

Mayor White – Thank you and all the EMS Team. We feel we are in safe hands with your team.

Mayor White – “Unscheduled Public Comments” - Ernest Edgell

Ernest – 206 Terry Drive - Mr. Ratliff is not here. I heard a rumor that he does not live in Richlands anymore.

Vickie - He does own a home in Richlands and it is up for sale.

Ernest - That does not answer the question.

Vickie - I can't answer that.

Mayor White - I did ask him, he said if anyone would come by Cargo at 6:00am in the morning you would see him buying coffee before he went to Abingdon.

Ernest - You would see me there at 6:00am before I retired but no one knew where I lived.

Ernest - What is the ordinance on animals, especially dogs using other people's properties for you know what?

Mayor White - We do have an ordinance, Brad will you address.

Brad - There is a civil fine for \$100. There is an ordinance for all pet owners. They are required to pick up after their pet. If they don't and they are caught they can be fined.

Ernest - What do you mean, a picture?

Vickie - That is one of the questions that I have.

Brad - They must be seen by an officer to be ticketed.

Ernest - In other words you are not going to do anything about it.

Brad - The police officer must catch them before they can enforce it. It was not designed for private property it was more for our parks and things. I am sorry to hear that is a problem.

Ernest - Does the library have surveillance cameras?

Brad - I can't answer that.

Tim - I don't know it is part of Tazewell County. Is someone using the yard?

Ernest - They use my daughter's yard and it is right beside of the library. I called their attention to it and they picked it up.

Vickie - It is not just Mr. Plaster's property, but it is all over Town. It has been brought to my attention; I am tired of picking up as well. I talk to Mr. Taylor about signage; he can discuss more on signage.

Tim - George has done some research. We need to have more aggressive signage as far as penalties and more awareness, so people won't do it. We have looked at the cost it is very economical, we know

where to get the signs quickly, just need to know where to put them on public property. Private property is a whole different matter. Signage will only be put on public properties.

Brad - The ordinance are enforceable as far as private properties are concerned but an officer would have to observe that activity.

Ernest – You don't have enough policemen, same way with speeding.

Ernest - The ordinance concerning trash, you were supposed to address that at the last meeting.

Brad - I will address in my report.

Ernest – In April I turned in a request about a building, I have yet to hear anything.

Tim – I am sorry, I will have to talk to Mr. Blankenship, he is here today. We discussed the building, may be noncompliance; I don't have on my report, not sure if the people have been notified. Do you have an address?

Ernest – I think it is 311, couple houses down from Mr. Blankenship.

Tim – Are you aware of that one? I will look at it tomorrow. Did you notice it in April?

Ernest – People live over there said it was the last of March.

Tim - But it has happened recently?

Ernest - You all discussed the cigarette tax; did you ever act on that?

Tim - The cigarette tax is in place, I can give you a report on that.

Ernest – No, that is fine, it is in place.

Ernest - The consumer tax on the water bill, what is that?

Tim - It is a tax on the water but is used for governmental purposes. It is used for police, fire and rescue. Has nothing to do with the price of water. You had one on your electric bill and now there is one for water. Just went in to place lately.

Ernest – The new meters, I don't have any way of checking what I use. How do I know it is correct?

Tim - You will have to trust us.

Ernest - Well I don't trust any government agencies.

Tim - Well you will have to trust the leader. The meter is accurate, and it is the new technology, we all have to embrace it. That is the way we do business now. It gives us the ability to keep rates lower, we don't have to have as many meter readers.

Ernest - I see meter readers come by.

Tim - He only drives by.

Ernest - He was at the meter the other day.

Tim – He must have had a reason for it and must have had a work order. You should know what you use over your history of bills.

Ernest - I have a copy of all my bills.

Tim - You will have to trust us.

Mayor White - "Council Member Reports" – Vickie England

Vickie - Can you go to someone else first?

Mayor White – "Council Member Reports" – Rick Wood

Rick - The bridge at Hill Creek, the people keep bringing it up, they are worried about it. Is there any way we can get some help on that?

Tim – We have scheduled that to be looked at. We must get permits before we can do anything. We had a meeting I will talk about in my report.

Rick – We need to make it a priority.

Tim – We have more than one (1) like that; we must get permits before we can do anything.

Mayor White - Can I add something else? I got a call from Griffith's office and Morefield the last couple of days, they are going to try and get some help for us on the Hill Creek Water problem. Also, the people had a concern about Patteson being closed. Will try to get VDOT to close one (1) lane during bridge construction. I got a call yesterday and today from Cody Mumpower, he is going to try to get us some help cleaning out the creek bed.

Tim - Is that just one area?

Mayor White - Not sure but they are going to come and look at the Hill Creek area. I asked them to contact you and me, so we could go with them and show them what the people are concerned about. He said he would notify us before he came.

Tim - I have more detail in my report.

Mayor White – “Council Member Reports” – Vickie England

Vickie - I have had a couple of phone calls in the last little bit, one of the concerns was in Hidden Valley. We need to address the Bradford pear trees going into Hidden Valley. They are growing haywire and getting a little bit dangerous. They saw Rusty doing work on Kents Ridge Road, thought he could come and cut the trees back. Tim this is something you may want to address. There are other places in Hidden Valley especially at Plantation, the brush is overgrowing. If they are cleaning other parts of Town would someone come and look at the issues that need to be addressed. The overgrown shrubbery is growing out into the streets. I received a message from Mr. Don Keene regarding the abandoned mobile home park behind Magic Mart. It is Mr. Keene’s old abandoned mobile home park on 4<sup>th</sup> Street, he is complaining about the condition of that. I also had a lot of positive remarks about trying to clean up community properties in Town, getting the gas cut, mobile homes addressed and abandoned houses.

Tim – I would like to comment on the Bradford pear trees, as far as getting the contractors to do that, we can do it we have the trucks, we will go ahead and take care of that now. We will trim them back properly. As far as the streets with brush hanging out, we need to do some more tractor mowing, should take care of that. If it is on private property we will have to look at the ordinances. I think we can manage, will take us a day or two.

Vickie – I can help you with the brush.

Tim - We got the contractors to cut the brush on 609, it was causing a safety concern.

Mayor White – “Council Member Reports” - Larry Johnson

Larry – We started on the access points for kayaking. We talked about having three (3) anchor points that the trail will connect thru. The third anchor point will be near the swinging bridge. We have a location now and Mr. Taylor is taking steps to get VDOT’s approval to use for that purpose. River Street that runs, if you turn at Gethsemane Baptist go all the way back and follow around to the right and dead ends, right there is a perfect place for the access point. It will draw traffic to that end of the Town and room for building in other private properties that are adjacent. On the right-hand side of that there is property that may be available to the Town for parking and other things. You have a copy of the map – (discussed details of map) What I need to know if everyone would be in favor of moving forward and getting the proper permits that is needed. We have an inside connection on that. There is also a

possibility of \$25,000 grant thru TVA (Tennessee Valley Authority) thru CRVI (Clinch River Valley Authority).

Larry - I make a motion that we move forward with the permitting process and follow thru to the access point. 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 that oppose say no. Motion carries - 4/0.

Larry - I want to commend the new Chief on the walkabouts. I have heard nothing but positive comments from the community. Everyone seems to enjoy, the officers and the businesses.

Larry - I would also like to thank the EMS winners. I have had the pleasure working with several of them. We have been in some bad situations together. They are top notched. They definitely deserve the awards they received.

Larry - The situation that Mr. Edgell brought up, I had a conversation today with Logan Plaster and he had similar concerns about the trash and other things in Town. I thought it would be a great opportunity to have a town cleanup day. I would like to schedule for the first Saturday in September. Get people to pick up trash, we have done it before. This is our Town, we have almost 6000 people here; we have a limited number of people that work for the Town. We all need to take pride in our Town. We don't have to wait on the Town to start cleaning up. The boat race at Critterville, anybody could have done that. It does not have to be one of us. People can schedule on their own just need to let us know. There are a whole lot of good ideas in Town, but people don't act on them. The more people in Town that get involved the more things happen in Town. People take pride in their Town. The same thing with businesses, I get ask constantly why Richlands is falling behind Tazewell, how come they have this and that and we don't, well it is the people. Several people came together, and they formed their own committee, "Tazewell Today". They sat down and started spending their own money that is why Tazewell is doing what they are today. I had a meeting with one of the board of supervisors and ask what is going on and that is what he said. If you look around and you go up there the Town is not doing it, it is the people. That is what it is going to take for Richlands too. After December I will no longer be on the Council, but I am still going to do the same things I am doing now. I still plan on having a boat race for one of the EMS guys to win next year. We have to do things, we cannot depend on the Town to do it. We don't have enough money to pay people to do everything.

Tim - Do you want to set a day in September for the cleanup, so we can advertise it? We will arrange to pick up the trash on the following Monday.

Rick - Would it be easier to have the trash trucks out on that Saturday?

Tim - We could do that. You can pick a day and have someone pick up the trash all day long.

Vickie – Is it just this area?

Tim – Town Wide, if you have something in your yard or just something you want to get rid of bring it to the curb and we will pick up. It is a great idea.

Mayor White – What about pieces of furniture or a refrigerator it would require a different truck?

Tim - We will work out the logistics on that. If we can't pick up on Saturday, we can pick up on Monday.

Larry – I can possibly meet with the Kayak Club and have river clean up that day too. Ernest, is there any Saturday that you can't clean up?

Ernest - I pick up garbage every day.

Larry - I do too. We will schedule for September 8.

Vickie – Jim, can you get in the newspaper?

Ernest - What about old tires?

Tim – We will pick them up.

Larry - Henry's Garage, do you know if the code officers got to coordinate with Brad on that.

Brad – I have not done anything with that yet.

Tim - I was going to wait until my report, I have a problem with that, we have a lot of folks that use Town property but obvious don't look like that. If we start writing letters would that open us up to any concerns for discrimination?

Brad – Almost creates that kind of presumptions if someone would want to make an argument. If you have someone who is taking care of property and being a good steward of that property and the other person is not, we have a right to enforce. I do not think we would be necessary at risk of a discriminatory claim. In this case the condition of that property there are ordinances.

Tim - We have enough codes, so we don't have to jeopardize discrimination. I think we can handle without the letter.

Mayor White – “Council Member Reports” – Mary Ann Strong

Mary Ann - I would like to thank Larry for his dedication with the access points. When he started out he had a goal of getting three (3), it won't be long he will have all three (3) completed. It has been a huge



benefit for our Town. I appreciate all your dedication and hard work. You will be missed but I know you will still give freely of your time. I wish we had more citizens like you. Again, I would like to thank the EMS workers, like everyone said, I would feel safe if my family or I was in an accident or fire I know we would be in the best hands. You are much appreciated. Marcella, Matt and Josh have opportunity for future awards, we wish you well and we know you will be successful. We expect all three (3) of you back after the November meeting congratulating you. There are a lot of positive things happening in our Town, one (1) is the Rally meetings. They have come up with a name "Rally Round Richlands". Connie, can you comment on Rally? It is really a lot of positive energy.

Connie - We have good attendance, approximately 20 people come to the meetings. Everyone is very enthused, and I think they will continue to work in the Town of Richlands after the Rally meetings end. We have agreed on a project, Kiosk, an information center. No decision has been made where the Kiosk will be placed. Meetings have been very positive, we still encourage everyone to attend, and hopefully the committee will continue after the Rally meetings.

Mary Ann - I was very impressed that it is just not one (1) project, but a lot of great ideas. When is the next meeting?

Connie - The meeting has not been scheduled. They had to contact some people to see if they could attend to give us advice.

Mary Ann - I was very pleased that the last meeting was held at the Rec Dept in the meeting room. It gave a lot of people exposure to the Rec Park that had not had an opportunity to visit. A lot of people look forward to using the meeting room at the Rec. Park. I appreciate the Rec Park hosting the meeting. Speaking of the Rec Park, they have continued to have event after event all summer long. Fred Phillips, Jessica, Alice, Scott and all the staff. The Clinch Valley Medical Center used the whole park a couple Saturday ago for their employee picnic, many compliments from Peter Mulkey and employees of the hospital. They used to use it years ago. They will be using for their annual picnic. The Rec Commission met on July 16 and will meet again on August 20 at 7:30 at the meeting room at the Rec Park. We welcome you. Anyone that has ideas, questions or concerns please come, it is an open meeting. We have a good core group for the Rec Commission, very dedicated. This has already been mentioned, Rusty from American Carpet Care, what a good job they have been doing cleaning up the Town. Clean up day is going to be great. We have all this improvement and you still see people throwing their trash out. Take some pride in our community. Larry, thank you for initiating the cleanup day. We will let our Kiwanis Club know and other civic clubs. I am sure they would like to get involved. I would also like to thank Chief Gilbert for the walkabouts on Wednesday. I have had many citizens tell me they love it. It is a wonderful idea and again very positive. I appreciate what you are doing. Not trying to steal Rod Cury's thunder but the Section House dedication date has been set for October 13. That is going to be an all day long event, you won't want to miss. There is going to be a train there, it will be neat to get on. Will be a fun family day, please mark on your calendar. Last thing, how are we doing on the playground at Lake Park and dedication to Mr. Fields? Do we need to form a committee?

Mayor White – A member of the Fields family call me, and they were upset that no one had called them. I told them the reason I didn't call them a motion was made for Vickie to contact them.

Vickie - I'm sorry I didn't know I was supposed to contact them.

Mayor White - I have a number for Marty, if you could call him.

Vickie - I would be glad to; I would like to know what is going on before I call.

Mayor White - I think we were waiting to see what their plans were. I told them that someone would call them tomorrow.

Vickie - I will call them.

Mayor White - Can you explain to them? Do we need to wait until Vickie contacts them or do we need to move ahead?

Vickie - I thought that someone had donated the equipment, the Brown Family for this park. I think the people just wanted the park named after them I don't think they were going to fund it that was my impression.

Mary Ann - They were going to pay for signage.

Tim - I think it was a different discussion, someone was going to donate some playground equipment.

Mayor White - I looked in the minutes, Fred, did you say there was some equipment donated?

Fred - I said I would look into it. I will call Mr. Brown first thing in the morning.

Mary Ann - I know we talked to him and he has a catalog with equipment in it. It is just matter of the cost. Vickie you were pretty sick after that, I think they will understand, we need to get moving on it.

Mayor White - Someone requested a sign "Children Playing "on Shale Street. Is that the one that goes into the Eagle Mobile Home Park? There are always a lot of children playing on the street. Scottie Lowe asked if I would bring up at the meeting tonight.

Mayor White – "Attorney's Comments' – Brad Ratliff

Brad – The dilapidated properties in Town, we have a two (2) pronged approach to this particular matter. One is the approach to tax sales on dilapidated properties, those that have not paid their taxes and owe to the Town. I have five (5) ready to go to court this week with foreclosure sales and have the tax sales in the near future within time frame statutes. Second, Mr. Taylor and I have discussed

tightening down on the ordinances. We have nuisance ordinance and a grass ordinance that we can specifically rethink and recreate a model that will allow a more stringent enforcement without adopting the state-wide maintenance code. We have reviewed and discussed in the past. The expense with adopting the state-wide maintenance code is pretty large. We think taking these ordinances and tightening these things up to provide real numbers for example and provide models. We have Bluefield's ordinances and Abingdon's ordinances we can look at those to see if we can create something similar for enforcement purposes. We will have some ordinances for the Council to consider next month; we need to create something that is workable. The problem with those things if they are too vague you get the same results that you have now. We don't want that. Bluefield uses the state-wide maintenance code, but I think we can adapt their definitions to use especially the grass codes/warnings/notices that are required. It creates an environment where we can enforce it and go in and do the cuttings of the grass and create a much better-looking property. If there is a tax against those properties that is what is paid back to the Town it would be less expensive for the Town to do the work, proceed with the tax sale of that property and someone who would actually take care of the property. That is where we are at on those things; we have been working on it and will have something tangible for you to look at next month.

Brad - I would like to discuss something briefly; there has been discussion of tax exemptions for rehabilitated properties in the Town. The program would be for buildings that meet certain criteria. Mr. Taylor has provided them with an email from Craig Wilson, Community Planning Partners. We have copies of code of ordinances from Roanoke, Abingdon and Richmond areas. These ordinances are not general ordinances, just to say this is what we want to do, to provide tax exemptions for buildings to rehabilitate. The reason you were handed these copies we would like for Council to read these ordinances and give us some feedback to what you would like to implement in such a program. Ultimately, this can be applied to commercial property and residential property. The age of the property is a consideration, the size of the property and all kinds of parameters included in this. It does affect the tax base, but it does increase the value of the properties. We have already done what we can do at this point without creating the ordinance. We want Council to look at these and give us some input and feedback, so we can put in an ordinance for consideration.

Larry - This is something that I was talking about when I met with the gentleman at Tazewell. They have similar things going on at Tazewell and it seems to be working for them. If we could have a short meeting sometime and toss around a couple of ideas. There are ideas out there that we have talked about a couple of years ago. Since we are talking about it again I think it is good idea to have a short meeting.

Brad - I would be willing to do that if it is the Council's pleasure.

Tim - We really need to meet on the Fire & EMS studies, we could make it a two-hour meeting if it is OK.

Brad - If Council wants to discuss a meeting date I would welcome that.

Brad - The last thing that I have is a proposed ordinance change for consideration by the Council. Chief Gilbert approached me and ask me to look at the current archery ordinance for the Town of Richlands. As Council is aware we do have archery ordinance in place, there are pretty significant limitations on governing the use of bows and arrows in Town. Regard to the ability of the scholastic archery team to shoot archery equipment on public property it created a problem for us, example to shoot archery on school grounds, I have drafted an ordinance (read the ordinance). This is a very brief ordinance that solely creates the opportunity for students involved in scholastic archery. I will leave for consideration, no sense of urgency.

Jerry Gilbert - They wanted to use the Rec Park, but it prohibits that. The change will allow for tournaments and allow schools to have an archery program.

Brad - I set up for scholastic teams, I will have to do some more work on that and broaden a little more.

Mayor White - Are you going to revise this one?

Brad – Yes, I need to include non-scholastic teams. I will have a copy next month.

Mary Ann - Thank You Brad and Chief Gilbert, we talked about it at the Rec Commission, but we really did not know how to pursue it.

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

Tim - You have a copy of the check register in your packet, please review and let me know if anyone has questions?

Tim – Check No. 58458 General Shale Brick, Inc. \$1063.25 – A tribute to some of the block sectional brick work at the Section House - That has been funded thru families in Town.

Mayor White – Does anyone have any questions? If not, do I hear a motion to allow Mr. Taylor to pay the bills.

Mary Ann – I make a motion to allow Mr. Taylor to pay the bills as presented, 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 that oppose say no. Motion carries - 4/0.

Tim - I was asked to give an update from ANGDC following last month’s Council meeting. I have handed out the email response from John Ebert discussing resent development efforts and proposed initiatives for this Fall. They will give us an update on the surveys they did. They plan on doing some activity with commercial and industrial customers. The biggest road block is to cross the Clinch River at the bridge. I plan to meet with him with my staff and report back to Council, however, if Council wishes we can make

it a full Council meeting request. I would like to give them an agenda before the meeting, so they can fully inform Council on matters of importance and maximize our time. We have lost the link on the Town website; will try to get it back up and running. It will be accessible link to our citizens.

Mayor White - Will the meeting be before the next Council meeting?

Tim - I can ask him when he is available. I think we should give him a couple weeks' notice. We certainly need to work with the gas and utilities that are here. I will let Council know the dates available and you can get back with me. I will give the press a Public Notice. Would be a Budget Work Session, is that correct?

Tim - If you have been following Sunset Fiber formerly BVU OptiNet, it has been in the works for a long time. I have had correspondence with representatives of Sunset to discuss the Point of Presence (POP) that is located in the Richlands Police Department/Civic Center Complex. The room in the back is fireproof. Currently the Town provides space and security for bandwidth and use on key dark fiber optic cable strands that the Town owns. We need to update an agreement for a long term that includes bandwidth that is index of value as technology evolves going forward. We also need to discuss the securing of a block of Class C IP address for governmental use as we have today. The Town Attorney and myself have already engaged in preliminary discussion and would like to bring a draft to the Council soon.

Tim - Council ask for an update on the Cigarette Tax. We started selling stamps on February 13. We have collected \$59,006 since February 13 until July 24. We collected more than we anticipated.

Tim – The Fire and Rescue Financial Study – Zac Frazier has been working diligently on the study this summer. He is getting ready to go back to college. We almost have the draft complete. The financials are finished and currently working on the narrative and presentation. I would like to meet with the Public Safety Committee first to discuss the narratives and get a full Council presentation ready to discuss. I hope to have finished in two (2) weeks. Will try to schedule the meeting on the same night as with Natural Gas Company if that is OK with everyone.

Tim - The staff and I met with Lucie Law, a Permit Coordinator with Canann Valley Institute and Corey Kanuckel, a Biologist with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to look at the soil and stream bank erosion issues in various parts of the Clinch River throughout the Town. They are the same ones that did all the work at the Tabernacle Church, they did a great job. They were able to stabilize the stream banks and provide some flood relief and control some of the stream erosion. We have hopes that we can obtain grant funding to stabilize the areas with added benefits to clean up the river and provide a healthier environment for fish habitat. The positive recreational and economic benefits are very important to our quality of life that residents and visitors experience. No action from Council is needed at this time. The Planning Commission is involved with the project and it goes along with what Larry is trying to do. I am trying to get Shawn Lindsey to come to the next Council meeting, so we can talk about the trails.

Rick - People really need to know what is going on with that, it is going to be a good thing once we get it. I think the land is pretty much a done deal.

Larry – When I spoke with him on Friday he was signing the deal.

Tim - I am very excited about it and the Planning Commission is very excited about it. We are going to try and engage the Rec Commission, would be a good opportunity for them to engage in the recreation side of the river, even though the trails are in the hills still opens up opportunity for people to use for other things. The Rally group is talking about that too; it is like the “Tazewell Today” group.

Tim- The Westfork Sewer Project is a little behind schedule and has been delayed with a new sewer line construction in the Shadow Lane area of Big Creek. We have been talking about the dumpsters in Mobile Home Parks; we have been encouraging people in the trailer parks if they don't have dumpster they need to get them. The one problem I see with putting in the dumpsters is it is going to take a little more time than we thought. It is going to take an ordinance; we want to get it right. I think it will help clean up our Town. I also met with VDOT with the concerns about entry signs, will show where to put the signs, will schedule a meeting in the near future. We will need to get a permit.

Mayor White – Does anyone have any questions on Mr. Taylor's report?

Mary Ann - I am excited about them coming to the Rec Committee.

Mayor White – We need a motion to go into “Closed Session” for Personnel 2.2-3711(a1).

Rick – I make a motion to go into “Closed Session” for Personnel 2.2-3711(a1), 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 - 4/0.

Mayor White – I need a motion to come back in to “Open Session”.

Rick – I make the motion to come back into “Open Session”, 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 - 4/0.

Mayor White – Does everyone agree that the only thing discussed in “Closed Session” was Personnel 2.2-3711(a1) – Vickie – Yes, Rick-Yes, Mary Ann- Yes, Larry-Yes

Mayor White – Reminder- Marcella & Gordon's announcement- A party for David Fox, Sunday at 3:00pm at the Richlands Police Department.

Mayor White - Do we have anything else? Connie has a couple of things she may want to go over.

Connie – I would like to have an event at Christmas. I want to call the event “Richlands, A Small Town Christmas” on December 1. We want to include the local businesses, churches and schools. I would like to have a Christmas party for the kids in the Richlands Civic Center. We would be making Christmas ornaments, cookies and other activities. I would also like to decorate the parking lot beside of the Richlands Post Office. We would have a tree along with other decorations and a place for people to sing Christmas carols throughout the season.

Vickie - Would you leave the tree up for the month of December?

Connie – Yes, we want to leave up for the month of December. I would like to get local churches and schools to do Christmas caroling during the day thru the month. We would also like to get the local business to decorate their store front for Christmas. We would like to have different people on the committee.

Tim - We still need to work out some details, want to get people involved.

Connie - We are going to have Santa Claus, Ms. Claus and elves. It will be a lot of fun for the family.

Rick – It would be nice if you had an area where people could sit around and drink hot chocolate.

Connie - I have included that as well. I would also like to have a vendor event on November 9 -10 to raise money for the Christmas event.

Mary Ann – I think it is all great ideas.

Connie - I would also like to earn some money to buy some decorations for the Town. I talked to Tim about lighting the tree up on the same day of the event on Christmas Tree Hill.

Mary Ann - Town of Cedar Bluff has caroling in their Town Square.

Connie – That is what we are going to do also.

Mayor White - We still have not set the date for the Christmas Parade. I need to talk to the school and to Honaker School to make sure we don't have them on the same night. Last year we did it on Monday night. I will get with Connie and try to coordinate the parade, don't know if we can or not.

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

Mary Ann - I make the motion to adjourn, 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 that oppose say no. Motion carries- 4/0.

Adjourned

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Jannis White, Mayor

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Connie Allen, Town Clerk