

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on December 11, 2018 at 7:30pm with the following present:

Mayor:	Jannis White
Town Manager:	Tim Taylor
Town Clerk:	Connie Allen
Council Members:	Larry Johnson, Vickie England, Rod Cury, Mary Ann Strong, Rick Wood
Council Member Absent:	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 anyone who would like to speak that is not on the agenda?

Mayor White – Please add Brad Hess to the agenda.

Mayor White – Do we have any additions/deletions/corrections to the agenda?

Tim - I have a Resolution that I need to add, we just had it prepared today. It will come under Town Projects in my report.

Mayor White - Please add “Resolution” under the Manager’s report.

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- 5/0.

Mayor White – We have one (1) set of minutes for November 13. Are there any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes?

Mary Ann - Page 5 under my comments, in the first paragraph, five (5) sentences down, please change “The field was dedicated to J.A. Robinson” to” The field was dedicated to Dr. J.A. Robinson”.

Mayor White - Does anyone else have any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes?

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

Mary Ann- I make a motion to approve the minutes as amended. 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 - 5/0.

Mayor White – The Recreation Commission would like to present a plaque to Mr. Jeff Hurst, honoring his service in the community as an “Outstanding Recreational Leader”.

Mary Ann - I would like to ask Jessica Reynolds to come forward. Jessica is the Assistant at the Recreation Department. The Recreation Commission decided this year they wanted to annually present an award honoring someone in our community that has been truly outstanding in their time and commitment to Youth sports. This year it was very simple to choose the recipient. At this time, I would like for Jeff Hurst to come forward, he is the recipient this year for the “Recreation Outstanding Leader Award”. I would like Jessica to present the plaque to him. Jessica could you please read what is written on the plaque.

Jessica - The Richlands Recreation Commission hereby presents this plaque to Mr. Jeff Hurst for his service as an “Outstanding Recreational Leader” in our community.

Mary Ann - We need a photo of Mr. Hurst being presented with the award.

Mayor White - We don't have any “Scheduled Public Comments” for tonight.

Mayor White – “Unscheduled Public Comments” – Brad Hess

Brad Hess - I have a couple of things. I have talked to Tim about the parking on Front Street. I asked for a loading zone in front of my shop. We have to carry so much in and out, I was wondering if there is any way possible I can get permission to have a loading zone in front of my shop. It doesn't have to be immediate; I know you have things to finish in that area.

Tim - I checked the code and the Town Manager can handle but if the Council wants to get engaged that is fine. It comes under my authority; I will work with you to see if we can take care of that. We won't lose any parking; we can take the spot that we use for B & L which is no longer needed.

Brad Hess - The trees on Front Street, I dislike the tree that is in front of my shop. Is there anything we could do about the tree?

Rod - I love the trees but if you don't like the tree just cut it down.

Brad Hess- Thanks, there has been several people trip and fall. I don't think they were the right trees for the width of our sidewalks.

Tim - That particular tree has destroyed the sidewalks.

Rod – I am fine with it, I have faced this battle for a long time. The trees were planted approximately 25 years ago by merchants who donated money for the trees, with the approval of the Town. At that time, FFA, Charlie Lawson and his class planted the trees. They probably are too big for our sidewalks, better suited for sidewalks in larger cities where they are very wide. At the time we were considering cherry trees, I was very much against that, cheery trees spread way out. I think we must consider our businesses, what you like and don't like. I like the trees, but it is more about you than me.

Brad Hess – I do like the trees, but they are overgrown. I also need a house condemned in the Town of Richlands. It is the property located beside of my property. How do I go about getting the property condemned?

Tim - Where do you live?

Brad Hess – The house number that I would like to have condemn is 1780.

Rick - What is the Street?

Brad Hess – Kents Ridge - It is located right beside of my house.

Rick - It needs to be torn down.

Brad Hess - Mr. Ells passed away, I have been in contact with his son Tom. There are back taxes on the house and they are going to let it go. I can get it to auction quicker if it is condemned and go thru a non-judicial sale instead of judicial sale.

Rick - There are not very much property there.

Brad Ratliff - If it is on the tax sales list I can bring to the top. We can see if we can get rid of it that way and do a non-judicial sale, depending on the taxes.

Brad Hess– It is under a \$1000, I already have the process started. Tom has already called Tazewell County and it is on the list.

Rick Wood - There is also a lien against the house.

Brad Hess- There is a couple of liens on it, they have already gotten past that however, it could move a lot quicker if the house was condemned.

Brad Ratliff- I will look into it and see what I can do. I work with Chase Collins frequently.

Brad Hess – I can't remember the ladies name I spoke to at the Treasurer's Office.

Mayor White - "Council Member Reports" – Rod Cury

Rod – The Planning Commission was unable to meet at the regular December meeting. We had hoped to reschedule our meeting, so Rick Barton and Larry Johnson could come and update us on Outdoor Adventure Tourism in our Town, updates on ATV Trails, River Walk etc. Unfortunately, it was not a good night for everyone. We were unable to schedule the meeting. Our next regular meeting is January 1. I am going to suggest moving to Thursday, January 3. Tim you will need to check the calendar and we will have to get in touch with Randy Smith, Chairman of Planning Commission to see if that is an open night.

Tim - It is open on my calendar.

Rod - We need to touch base with Randy Smith. Larry is that a good time for you?

Larry - Rick probably can tell us more about the ATV Trails.

Tim - I will confirm the date.

Rod - I want to thank everyone who works for the Town. The management, staff, all the departments and all the non-paid citizens who work for this Town to make our lives better. Sometimes it is very vocal and sometimes in a quiet way. I am very thankful for them in this particular season, it does make a difference in how we live our lives. I am grateful for each and every one of you and I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas.

Mayor White – "Council Member Reports" – Vickie England

Vickie - I would like to thank Connie for all the work she did on the Small Town Christmas. I did not make the event at the Police Station but did go by afterwards. The "Tree Lighting Ceremony" was a super big night it was really a good time for everyone. Thank you for an excellent job. Chief Gilbert, "Shop with a Cop", I was there on Saturday morning along with Rod and Mary Ann, thank you for inviting me I was very blessed.

Vickie - The brush cleaning from Pizza Hut down to the Dickenson Place, it has taken over, getting all over the electrical lines, we need to address as soon as possible before bad weather gets here.

Vickie - I had another call on the Bradford Pear Trees going into Hidden Valley especially after the big snow we just had. Leaves - I had a person contact me twice about the leaves, he was supposed to be here tonight, but he is not. He was complaining that the leaves were not picked up in front of his house. He said he has called twice. I told him I would address tonight.

Vickie - Brad, where do we stand on the Vickie Drive Property?

Brad - It is on the list of tax sales, already issued notices on it.

Vickie – I received a call from a local business owner, they were furious that the snow was piled up in his front door, sorry George. I have already talked to the Town Manager about that.

Tim - We do have a plan on the brush clearing, the kudzu has been a problem. We dealt with that a little this summer. The people that live in the area say it has taken over some of their homes. We are going to try and get with VDOT to see if they have some type of product that we can use and if EPA would approve, if not, then we can try a different approach. The only other approach is to cut it. We did have something that we temporary put out, it was pretty strong, you have to have been licensed to use those products and have certification which we don't have right now. We will try to do during the winter months. The Bradford Pear Trees, we are going to try and get all the trees trimmed and have them ready for spring. If the leaves were bagged it would be better but most people don't want to do that. We will work on a better approach and get it taken care of as soon as the snow clears up. We have not had a big snow in a long time it has been tough on everyone. By code, it is the responsibility of the businesses to clean the sidewalks; we can manage out in the street. I think they think the Town is supposed to shovel the sidewalks, but we are not. We don't have the man power to do that. We will try to do a little bit better.

Mayor White - "Council Member Reports" – Rick Wood

Rick - I would like to thank Connie she did an excellent job. I would like to congratulate Graham "G" Men for winning State Championship. Tim and I had a meeting with Shawn Lindsey from Spearhead Trail to look at options of where we can put our trail in. We are going toward Westfork. That opens our Town up. If we put in Doran we already have the property, but they can't come up the four-lane. Our best option if we go with this we will be talking to some people about some properties. There are four (4) signatures that will take us all the way to Pocahontas. It is coming really soon. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor White – "Council Member Reports" – Larry Johnson

Larry - This is my last Council meeting. I want to thank the snow crew, they did an awesome job. We didn't have too many people complaining that they could not get out, was a pretty big task with the amount of snow we had. I would like to thank everyone that is in Public Safety. They have dealt with me for the past eight (8) years on the Public Safety Committee. I didn't get everything done that I wanted to. Fire & Rescue don't have a building and they still don't have a ladder truck, but they have to have a building to put it in first. The two (2) main things that stand out to me that we didn't get done. I apologize for not getting it done. I should have pushed a little harder and tried to figure something out. Maybe the next person can help them out. The Town Staff, can't say enough about you, no one every complained when I needed something even if I wanted something stupid we could always sit down and figure out a different route that includes everyone in the office. Everyone has been great, I could not ask for anymore.

Larry - My time in the Town started in February 1998 when Sue Wade gave me my Oath of Office when I started at the Police Department. I hope in some way I made some kind of small difference and made the Town a little better. You really can't tell when you are doing it but hopefully it was an impact for someone or something was improved while I was in office. I appreciate everyone up here. There have been several people come and go since I have been here. I appreciate all of you. Not one person here has always been happy with every vote I made. I don't think that is a bad thing, if everyone always agrees all the time you have the wrong people sitting up here. I kept the one promise when I was elected the first time that I would do what I thought was right and I did. I appreciate it and have a Merry Christmas.

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

Mary Ann - I appreciate your heart felt remarks Larry, it is very difficult to follow. A lot of things that we should all be very proud of. I appreciate Mayor White and all her efforts with the Christmas Parade. It was a frigid night but still lots of people came out. I heard a lot of positive comments; I can't image managing a parade, a lot of time and effort, thank you again. As already mentioned by several of us, I want to thank Connie for the “Small Town Christmas”, I had so many people tell me that it was such a big event for children. I am sorry I missed it; I was watching Alabama Crimson Tide game. You really were in my heart and thoughts. As we continue with traditions in Richlands, the White Christmas as Vickie has already mentioned, my favorite thing to do during Christmas. I am sure Chief Gilbert will tell us when the reschedule date will be. I encourage anyone who did not make it, do your best to come to the second one. You will be the one blessed far beyond than what the children were blessed with. I think our Town looks beautiful with the Christmas decorations that the Town crew puts up. There have been so many people posting pictures during the big beautiful snow, it is a great time to complement our Town. It was just gorgeous, not many small Towns match what ours looked like. For the Street Department I have heard nothing but praise on how you handled the big storm. I was very pleased to get out of Hidden Valley, no problem at all on Monday. I know you were tired and worked in bad conditions. Thank you very much. I think it is a nice tradition that the Rec Commission come up with honoring an individual each year. Jeff Hurst was very deserving this year. It won't be quite as easy in the future, a lot of people stepping up now and getting involved in recreation. Our next meeting will be Monday, December 17 at 7:30 pm upstairs at the Rec. Park.

Mary Ann - I just want to briefly comment. It was brought to my attention that Dr. J. A. Robinson family members were offended and upset that they were not invited or made aware the honor Dr. J. A. Robinson received at the playground at Lake Park, being name the Dr. J.A. Robinson Field, WW Fields Park. I did some research and I found that to be quite the opposite. Barry Robinson told me that they were all very honored and there were no ill feelings. I just wanted to make that clear. The Robinson Family knows that we would love for them to come as soon as they can, maybe January or February to be honored publicly with the Press and with the weather permitting we will go to the field. I take complete responsibility; I only attempted to reach the only family member I knew. I left him several messages and he didn't get back with me. I should have reached out to other members of Council or

other community members to try and find them. I was very pleased to find out they seemed to be very honored. If they can make it here, they are very spread out and some of the family members are elderly. In closing we are very blessed to live where ever we are, and just a reminder to keep Christ in Christmas.

Mayor White – “Department Head Reports” - Do we have any questions for the Department Heads?

Gordon - I had to postpone the Christmas Party for Public Safety. I have moved the party to this Sunday at 3:00 pm at the Community Center inside of the Police Department.

Jerry - I would like to thank everyone in the community who has donated and supported our White Christmas Program. We have been very blessed. We have invited approximate 140 children to shop in a two-day event this past weekend. We had to cancel on Sunday but did have four (4) kids to show up. We have worked with Walmart and are going to shop again this coming Sunday for the second part. Come out and support the program and be with the kids, Sunday at 7:00am at Wal-Mart in the food entrance. We are trying to get the word out for the kids that were supposed to be there this past Sunday. We have approx. 70 children coming this Sunday. I would like to thank Burger King for providing breakfast for the children. We were blessed this past Saturday shopping with the kids and I did post live on Facebook.

Tim - Can you tell us how the Thanksgiving Dinner went? Do we have any statistics?

Jerry - I don't have any statistics on it, I heard comments from the community. They were very appreciative. It was a great event and had a lot of participation. Meals were delivered to different people.

Mary Ann – Peter Mulkey said 400 meals were served. Grants and Ramey's are partners with the hospital.

Jerry - They have already reserved room for next year.

Mayor White - This is it for me tonight, I have been here for eight (8) years. I want to thank all the staff and workers and the community for allowing me to serve as Mayor for eight (8) years. The sad part about any of these positions, people think you can do things that you can't, they think you are a miracle worker. You accumulate a lot of friends and a few enemies. I have been fortunate; I feel I have had a good working relationship with everyone. I just want to say thank you and I hope Mr. Crawford, Richard and the rest of the Council members most success. I truly mean that, I have no ill will over the election I do wish the very best for this Town. Thank you so much.

Brad - I would like to thank you Mayor White and Larry for your services. It has been a privilege and honor to serve with you. Larry did a lot of things on the side and so did the Mayor. One thing Larry did that stands out to me was he would go and cut a yard when no one else would. That means a lot. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

Tim – Please take a moment to look at the monthly check register. If you have any questions, please let me know. Some of the larger checks – Check No. 59168 – Dominion Driveway & Parking Lot Paving, Inc. for \$5600.00 – We had some alley work we had to contract out to get paved. Check No. 59176 Hach Company for \$5,024.19 a special piece of equipment to help us with issues we are having. Check No. 59206- Robinson Farmer Cox Associates, PLLC for \$22,000.00 annual audit. Check No. 59213 State Electric Supply Company - \$14,988.13 we had to buy a few electrical items. Check 59185 King Luminaire (Ohio) Inc. - \$15,755.00, Street Lights we had to buy in the lots of five (5).

Rod - I have a question on Check 59145 American Carpet Care \$28,605.00, what is included in that amount?

Tim - Most of that is clean up, brush cleaning and tractor mowing. They are doing a great job, a little more than normal but we had a lot more cleaned up.

Mayor White - If no further questions, do we have a motion to allow the Town Manager to pay the bills.

Larry - I make a motion to allow Mr. Taylor 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- 5/0.

Tim - You have a copy of the Monthly Power Cost. The total cost was \$3.44/MWh lower than the budget all in wholesale power cost rate of \$94.14/MWh with the dollar cost of \$41,105 lower than the budget. Total sales came in 5.5% lower than forecast because of the seasonal weather we had in the month of October. We paid a little less which is good, but we didn’t sell as much as we had hoped to, which hurts the bottom line. There is nothing else that is new that you have not seen before. We do expect an increase in the month of January due to increase transmission cost, we talked about last month. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Tim - We handed out Resolution R-2018-12-01. The Town of Richlands had a notice of violation for Haloacetic Acids, everyone received a notice. HAA5 is short term for the Haloacetic Acids. It is a by-product of chlorine. We have to use chlorine to disinfect the water. We use chlorine gas at this time. The issue with chlorine products during certain times of the year, if it is a real hot summer and we don’t turn the water over enough and it stays in the pipes to long it has a tendency to loose by-products of this nature. Two of the by-products are TTHA and HAA5, which has been a problem in Southwest VA for a long time. EPA has standards and they take quarterly samples; the samples are taken from different parts of the Town. We had two (2) samples in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter that did not meet the specs by a very small margin. Unfortunately, for us we have to send a notice to everyone in Town that there is a problem. The problem is very minute. We have made adjustments to keep this from happening again, which includes



flushing a lot more of the water out and some things we can do from the field. The problem with the field work is we are wasting a lot of water. We are trying to figure out a better solution, we also deliver water to Cedar Bluff, Doran, Raven, Sword Creek and Honaker area and sometimes into Castlewood. The water must be re-chlorinated. There is way to reduce the amount of chlorine you use and still kill bacteria. We have met with the Health Department and talked about some short-term things we could do, and we have already instituted those. The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter results are already in and we are way under the limits now. When it is colder it helps some too. We think there is some money available to look at this in a more comprehensive way. We talked to the Health Department and they have an application design fund program that gives financial assistant to use on looking at different ways to do things. We must stay in the guidelines of the State, EPA and VA Dept. of Health on anything we change. Any type of operational change that requires a permit must be approved by the Department of Health and design by a registered professional engineer of the State of VA. We have a retainer for such activities with the firm Thompson & Litton. They also meet with us and the Health Department. We have an application prepared for some funding to address the situation. That is what the resolution is all about, to try to obtain some funding to address HAA5 problem that we have in the distribution system. (Read the Resolution). Project will cost \$45,000 we will have to find additional funding shown in Exhibit B - I have summarized scope of service for you already. The funding cycle ends at the end of the year. I recommend that we apply for the funding for \$35,000 toward the project. It is the first step of getting the problem resolved.

Mayor White - We will need a motion if you have no further questions.

Rick - I make the motion for the Town Manager to immediately begin process for funds. 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- 5/0.

Tim - Thank you and we will get in the mail before the end of the year.

Rick – Any other funds we can get to help with that?

Tim – We didn't have any success with Cumberland Plateau request for \$25,000 to do a preliminary engineering report for Wastewater Plant rehabilitation. They are more needs than funds available. We will continue to try and get the SERCAP to pay some of it. If we have to pay up front ourselves, we have in the budget to cover that and should go ahead and pay and try to find other funding sources. We will discuss in our budget work sessions. We are looking to make major improvements to Waste Water Treatment Plant because of the age. If we have to go out and borrow money for those improvements eventually money would be reimbursed and apply to loan at that time. We will try to find some funds if we can.

Tim - We are looking at a conversion from our old phone system to IP Phone System it will take some time but hopefully it will save us some monies. It will provide some more modern services and help our staff.

Tim - I do want to thank the Road and Street Department. The first big snow is always a challenge, they worked hard some stayed out all night. George was out 18 plus hours. I do appreciate what they do.

Tim - We have not received a quote from APCO on the street light they will want to sign contract before they will do the work. The East Second Street extra light, we think that is justified now. We have done a lot of homework, the fact that we don't have handrails on the sidewalk we feel like we need more lighting. It has already been installed.

Tim - We had a RFP out for professional services for the next three (3) years, bid open in November. The three (3) firms that bid were Thompson & Litton, Hurt & Proffitt- Firm out of Blacksburg, and Engineering Concepts from Daleville Virginia. They all meet the qualifications; we won't negotiate until after the first of the year. Hope to have a recommendation for Council for the January meeting. We can have more than one (1) firm, we only use as needed.

Tim - I would like to thank Larry and the Mayor. I have enjoyed working with you and feel we have accomplished a lot. I agree with Larry sometimes you have to disagree to make stronger. I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mayor White - Do we need to go to "Closed Session" for anything

Mary Ann – Tim, have they rescheduled the Business Round Table Yet?

Tim - I got a notice today they will be following up; we should get something by email.

Mayor White – I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas. Do I hear a motion to adjourn?

Larry - I make a 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 – 5/0.

Adjourned

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Jannis White, Mayor

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Connie Allen, Town Clerk

