

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on October 8, 2019 at 7:30pm with the following present:

Mayor:	Paul Crawford
Town Manager:	Tim Taylor
Town Clerk:	Connie Allen
Council Members:	Richard Brown, Vickie England, Rod Cury, Mary Ann Strong, Rick Wood, Doug Ratliff
Town Attorney :	Shannon Cooke

Mayor Crawford opened the meeting.

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

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

Mayor Crawford - “Unscheduled Public Comments” – Add Curtis Breeding to the agenda.

Mayor Crawford – Do we have a motion to approve the agenda as amended? Richard made the motion to approve the agenda as amended, Rod seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- 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 Crawford – We have one (1) set of minutes, Regular Council Meeting, are there any corrections, additions or deletions to the minutes?

Mayor Crawford - Do I have a motion to approve the minutes as presented?

Mary Ann - I make a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Rick seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- 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 Crawford – Randy Smith–Chair-Planning Commission: Consideration of Resolution PC-R-2019-10-01 regarding zoning amendment request from Jerry Dunford.

Randy Smith – After conducting a joint public hearing the Planning Commission has met and this is our Resolution –(Read the Resolution). A certain tract of land is rezoned from the current classification R2- General Residential to A1- General Agricultural as requested by the property owner. Adopt by a unanimous vote, motion by Rod Cury and seconded by Gaynelle Thompson.

Mayor Crawford – Any discussion?

Shannon – Read the Draft Ordinance O-2019-11-02, this will be the first reading, at the next Council meeting on November 12; the Council can go for a second reading or dispense of the second reading and vote at that time.

Rod - I make the motion to approve the recommendation made by the Planning Commission to the Richlands Town Council, Vickie seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- 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 Crawford - “Scheduled Public Comments” – Elliott & Melissa Joyce

Elliott Joyce – 529 Cresswood Drive, I am here to address an issue that has been ongoing for several years regarding water running off Mountain Brook Road on to my property. Tim, you and I have talked about this for several years. It is my understanding people came from VDOT and checked on the issue a month or so ago. It gets bad when the water comes off the road, it is destroying my driveway. I am afraid it is going to destroy the foundation of my house. I would like to ask Council to make a motion to get this issue fixed.

Tim - I think we came up with a solution that day; the elevation is what is causing the issue, if we put a roll of asphalt to turn the water before it gets to your driveway, should solve the problem, it would be a culvert.

Elliott - You are going to direct the water to the side, correct?

Tim - The water shoots to the edge of the road and gets on the edge of the grass and runs down the pavement. If we can put in a culvert it will catch all the water.

Elliott - There is a drain on the other side, just going the wrong way.

Tim - That is the problem with the elevation. Will you allow us to put a pipe across your property?

Elliott - There is a pipe under the road, I can show you tomorrow. There is a cinder block on the drain.

Tim - Do you know where it is discharged?

Elliott - I don't know if it is on Doug's property or mine.

Tim - George were you aware of that?

George - No, I was not aware.

Elliott – I can show you.

Tim - When we came over you were not there, we can meet again.

Elliott - Do we need to vote to get something going?

Tim – No, you have brought this up for years; if we need an easement we will have to vote.

Elliott - Can I ask Council to make a motion to get this going?

Mary Ann - Do you have to build any kind of speed bump at the end of his driveway?

Tim - If this takes care of it, we will not need to do that.

Elliott - They paved over the ditches that is what is causing the problems. (Showed Pictures) It has destroyed my driveway over the years. Would it be too much to ask for my driveway to be capped due to waiting years on this to be fixed?

Tim - Has your driveway ever been paved?

Elliott - It has been capped once or twice, I think.

Tim - It would take the vote of Council to do that.

Elliott - Would anybody from Council be willing to come and look at my driveway?

Richard – Actually I came yesterday and looked at it around 3:30pm, it was raining very hard , you do have a problem. Without Council voting can you give Mr. Joyce a timeline on when this will be fixed.

Tim - I don't know where the drain goes or where it is. It needs to be in the corner of the driveway, you said there is a pipe already there.

Elliott – It is at the bottom of the road where the water runs off on the other side of the road.

Richard -It is not hitting the drain, going around Mr. Hearl's property and going into the road.

Tim - If we can find the ditch, we can get it done quickly.

Rod - Will you be home this weekend?

Elliott – No sure

Rick - Water is coming down in the middle of the road.

Tim - We have some concrete pours at the Section House, once that is done, we will put you on top of the list. I know you have been waiting a long time.

Elliott – Thank you

Mayor Paul Crawford – “Unscheduled Public Comments” – Curtis Breeding

Curtis – Just wanted to go over some visions and goals. I work with the RDA and the County. Obviously, we can do a lot, it is just a matter of what we want. The Mayor always shows up at the RDA meetings, he is aware of what is going on in the county. No one knows the time and effort that has been put into the Jeep Trail, Rick has done a lot of work. We can see as many as twenty thousand people coming to the Jeep Trail this year. Where are they going to eat and where are they going to stay? We don't have a lot of either one. We have got to do a better job; we need to get our Youth more involved. If not, we are a dying community. How many businesses have closed in this Town? It is very depressing. Growing up in this area I didn't think it would ever go away but it did. We saw it happening, but we could not give it CPR and bring back to life. We have a whole different set of needs. What is our vision? What are we doing in a year, what are we going to do in ten years? The Jeep Trail will be a hinge point in what we are trying to do. We have other trails we are working on. There has been twenty-one Jeep Clubs in contact with me. There is a Jeep Club in Michigan with 500 members they want to come down here; they don't have a place to ride. Southwest Virginia is open for us to take advantage. We need to give them something to keep them here. This year with the help of the Board we were able to declare the Clinch a Scenic River. It will be in effect as soon as General Assembly goes back into session. It is 35 miles, upper part of the Clinch. The Clinch is now a State Park. How are we going to take advantage of it? We are working hard to get the Clinch cleaned up. TBA wants a presence in our part of the world. The River Walk could be the biggest piece of Adventure Tourism in this Town. It will be exciting for everyone. We need to develop some properties for small entrepreneurs. We need some shops on the River. If we want it, we can make it happen. Mr. Woods and I have talked to 30 plus businesses this year. We have two (2) major investors that will be here within the month. We had a major investor put a lot of money in our ability to have a trail. This is private money. We are going to have 100 miles of Jeep Trail. Buchanan County will open when we do. This is just the first phase. The next phase will hook up with Cavitt's Creek. We have some things we have got to do. It is very exciting. We have a CRVI meeting on Tuesday 15th. I encourage you to be there. We would like to have a Research Center. A Research Center is different than what we have ever tried to do. I think it will work. As a Research Center, once we can get the Center established, we will have students come during the summer and study our river, trails and the impact stating what can happen in this part of the world. I think it will be a big deal for us. We rate out of 136 in the State of Virginia, we rank at 120, quality of life.

Rod - Is that for health?

Curtis – Yes

Curtis – Russell and Buchanan are way below us. What can we do to encourage our quality of life? We need the River Walk and the trails and get people involved. We need to educate our kids. If we had a company that needed 400 people today, we could not find them. We have a lot of work ahead of us. We have an opportunity; everyone in Town will have to help. Thanks for your time.

Mayor Paul Crawford - "Downtown Events" – Connie Allen

Connie - Fall Fest - October 12 from 3:00pm to 9:00pm. Ways that we advertised - WGTH, STAR95, Richlands Newspaper, Voice, Facebook, ACCESS Channel, five (5) banners in Town, walked in parade and handed out flyers. I went to WVVA to do a mini commercial with some of the characters from Wizard of Oz, we also went to Rocky Gap Welcome Center and handed out brochures. We have 33 vendors, wood turning demonstration, robotics team giving demonstration, petting zoo, Classy Closet Fashion Show, puppet show, skit, live music, corn hold games. We have ten people competing in the Chili Cook-off, 5K race starting at Critterville. The Section House Committee is participating with a Reception and Artist Talk Exhibit by Emily Ball.

Connie - Jerry and I have been working on the Veterans Celebration for November 7 at 5:40pm Patriotic Music/6:00pm Ceremony and Dinner. It will pretty much the same concept as we had last year.

Connie - We already have people signing up for the Christmas Parade. We hope to have a Christmas Parade that the Community and kids won't forget. Small Town Christmas is December 5 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm and the Tree Lighting Ceremony following at 6:00pm.

Mary Ann – Do you have the Parade Marshall yet?

Connie – We were thinking the Richlands High School Softball Team.

Mary Ann - I would like to make that recommendation, but of course your committee can decide. I think they would be very deserving.

Connie - I think it would be great, especially young group deserving recognition.

Rick - We are having a Diesel Truck Show Saturday at the Richlands Mall if weather permits. They should be there by 10:00 am.

Connie – Saturday should be an awesome event if weather permits.

Vickie - The fodder is still slanting.

Connie - I work on the fodder every evening.

Connie – CProp Grant – I talked to Jim Baldwin today, he said we should have the contract this week. The grant is for \$124,317 with the Town contributing \$13,500.

Connie - MLP Grant - Due by December 17, draft review deadline is November 21, announcement of award winners is 2/28/20. I need to know if you want me to apply for the grant. Tier one is maximum of \$10,000 with a 1:1 match, no in-kind good or services allowed. We need (3) partners to commit financially. A commitment of \$250.00 is required. Partners may consist of Virginia Towns, Chamber of Commerce, private businesses, etc. Some examples of what we can use the money for are billboards, websites, radio/television advertisement, brochures and several other things we could consider. I just need to know if you want me to apply and for how much?

Tim - This will help us get the message out, it is not in our budget. It will take an adjustment to Connie's budget in order to do this. I think it is worthwhile.

Connie - Level 2 is up to \$50,000. The deadline is December 17, but the review deadline is November 21. I had to attend a workshop this summer before we could even apply for the grant.

Rick - We need all the advertising we can get. I am for it.

Tim - Can you work on a budget and bring back to Council next meeting?

Connie - I want to send in for review by November 21, will help us get the grant.

Rick - Are we looking at \$10,000 grant?

Connie - If you want me to apply for \$10,000 Council would have to approve giving me a \$10,000 match. If you want me to apply for \$5,000 Council would have to approve giving me a \$5000 match.

Rick - I make a motion that we apply for \$5000 grant and we match \$5000, Vickie seconded the motion.

Mary Ann - Could you apply for \$10,000 to see if could get \$10,000?

Connie - If we apply for \$10,000 and we are granted the \$10,000, Council must approve to give me \$10,000 which will make a total of \$20,000. I need to do some research to see how expensive it is to put up the billboards, etc. Everything must be at least 50 miles out. The goal is to get Tourists to our area. I will apply for the amount that you are comfortable with.

Shannon - There is a motion on the floor for the \$5000 and it has been seconded.

Mayor Crawford - Rick, would you like to amend the motion?

Rick - I will amend the motion to \$10,000 if that is what we need to do.

Shannon - Let's vote on the first motion and then if you want to change you can.

Mayor Crawford - 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 - NO.

Rick - I make the motion to apply for \$10,000 grant with match of \$10,000, Vickie seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford - 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.

Connie - Everyone turned down the \$5000 correct?

Council - Yes, we all agreed to the \$10,000.

Vickie - How can Council help you with the grant?

Connie - I need to get a plan in place, I need the vision first.

Vickie - We will help you in any way.

Rick - I can really help you, we went thru this in the last Spearhead meeting.

Connie - I welcome any help.

Mayor Crawford - "Council Member Reports" - Rod Cury

Rod – The Planning Commission met last week, we discussed the rezoning issue for Jerry Dunford. We also heard from Thompson & Litton regarding the Walking Trail which we have talked about for many years. I am glad Curt came to encourage us in all these projects. Thompson & Litton gave a very encouraging report; the Planning Commission would like very much to have a Joint Work Session with Council. We need a proposed date; Tim has the calendar I will let him take over.

Tim - The date that worked out well with the consultants is October 29 at 7:30pm. We would also like to discuss the RFP with the Waste Water Treatment Plant. If Council could come at 6:30pm we would have time to discuss before the meeting. There will be two (2) representatives from Thompson and Litton at the meeting.

Mary Ann - Vickie and I both have a Legacy Hospice meeting that night.

Tim - Do you think you would be back by 7:30pm?

Mary Ann – Yes

Tim - We can follow the meeting with the discuss of the RFP, should take no longer than 30 minutes.

Rod - I had a couple of other concerns but I have already relayed to the Town Manager and Chief of Police, thank you for helping. I received two (2) calls this afternoon inquiring about the siren that goes off in Richlands. They consider the siren a nuisance. Is it a requirement to go off daily? They want to know why we have it daily, they thank it desensitizes us when we really do have an emergency.

Tim - The established policy was a test function daily, no requirement for law. It is more of a tradition.

Rod - It is not a law but a local choice decision.

Tim - We have more than one (1) but we only exercise the one (1) daily. Cedar Bluff sends theirs off at the same time. People will recognize the difference in the sounds of 1 and 5.

Rod - I have been in other communities, people in hurricane alleys and in hurricane zones, they don't have a daily alarm going off.

Tim - I was in Warrenton, VA they have an alarm at 12:00 noon every day, twelve times.

Tim - You can take them down.

Rod - We don't want to do that. People don't know about the five (5) alarms. Does anyone know if it goes off by accident?

Tim - If the electrical circuit trips it will go off. It is on a sensitive circuit. It may be a nuisance to some but will be a help in time of trouble. If they get multiple alarms they will dispatch.

Rod - There are many people interested in the Festivals that we are having. Emily Ball a local celebrity will be showing her exhibition of photos at the Section House.

Mayor White – "Council Member Reports" Vickie England

Vickie – I think everyone received a letter from Mary Lawson in your packet. Mary Lawson is from SVCC, every community in our county supplies funds for support for the Education Foundation. Mary has asked if we would consider doing what Bluefield, Tazewell and the surrounding areas are doing which is a \$500 pledge for the Education Foundation. It is in the Spring.

Rod - Festival of the Arts is in April. It serves the community such as Richlands and the community at large. We talked about all the trails. These things affect all of us and it all matters. It serves not only adults but students/youth in so many capacities.

Rod - I want to make a motion that we honor Mary Lawson's request to grant \$500 to the Festival of Arts. Vickie seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- 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.

Vickie - The Chief is doing a really good job with the clean-up of the Town, especially with old cars parked on properties. I think we need to have a next phase which would be to start working on Mobile Home Parks and some of the apartment complexes. If we are going to have 500 Jeeps come in from Michigan we need to clean up. Going down Farmers Street and other areas we have a lot of eye sores. We should start the planning on how to maintain the Mobile Home Parks. I may be offending some people and I am so sorry, but I am tired of looking at trash.

Mayor Crawford - "Council Member Reports" – Rick Wood

Rick – I would like to remind everyone the Jeep Trail will open October 19 at 10:00am. Fannies is having several activities that day. Did everyone receive a packet about Towns? The biggest thing in Roanoke that the Mayor talks about is the River. We really need to look at what he stated, if you have not read it please do. I would like to thank Curt Breeding for coming tonight and talking with us. He has put many hours into the projects. There is a lot of good things coming. Once the jeep trail opens people will see we are moving forward. We have a few more things coming to Richlands, Council needs to look at. We are losing restaurants, we don't have motels. We need to see if we can get people to start focusing on. The advertising with billboards is an excellent way to start. If we get people here, we will get restaurants and hotels. That is the outlook that I have.

Mayor Crawford – "Council Member Reports" – Doug Ratliff

Doug – I don't have anything tonight.

Mayor Crawford – "Council Member Reports" – Richard Brown

Richard – I spoke to Andy Simmons and Andy McCann, I think they briefly spoke to Mr. Taylor in reference to the School Board approving the new site for the baseball field for the High School. They wanted me to talk to Mr. Taylor about the issue with the drainage. I thought that would be good time to do all at once. They wanted to make sure it all runs together with the drainage. He said he would talk to you and we could get together.

Tim - I have talked with him, the field won't take a whole lot, but the drain problem is serious. This has been going on for years. We have had multiple School Board and VDOT meetings on the issue. The main drain is collapsed. We have attempted to get the drain open. If they have some solutions, that would be great.

Richard - They are going to fix the problem with the water on their side, they just want to make sure it has a place to go. They want us to sit down and look at the schematics.

Tim – Will go in ditch between Pizza Hut and the highway.

Richard - Do you know of any main lines?

Tim - We have sewer, but it is very deep, there is some fiber. I have not seen the position of the poles.

Richard - They want to make sure the schematics they drew up is OK, nothing permanent built like dug-outs, etc. on the sewage.

Tim - Some of our staff has already met with them.

Richard - They met with Kevin, they want to meet and set a date.

Tim - I have his number I will give him a call.

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

Mary Ann – I would also like to thank Curt Breeding for coming tonight, we really needed the words you had to share with us. It was very well said, and we appreciate your passion to see our community not die. I would also like to recognize Rick too, as Curt said we have no idea of the time he has put into the Trails. I did not know that Curt was coming tonight but I already had in my heart about things in our community. As said, we don't have restaurant or hotels. Our meeting starts at 7:30pm and sometimes it is hard to get here by that time, but I was wondering Tim if there are Council Members interested in coming early, we could start brain storming on things we need. There may be some tax incentives or ways we can help bring new businesses into Town. We have some businesses that have survived a long time, I don't want to be disrespectful to them. I have been asked by some concerned citizens if we have some tax incentives for new businesses. I thought maybe we could meet at 6:30pm before Council meetings. We have to do something.

Rod - I understand the passion for the community as we all do. If it is something Council would like, I could take to the Planning Commission. If Council would like the Planning Commission to take Tourism Zone, we can do it. Several years ago, when Margie Douglas worked for the County, she came to talk to us about Tourism Zones. It does require some local effort and designation of certain places like the River Walk, could be a possibility around Richlands. We need people to come and talk with us, more of a refresher on things that have changed. They come before Council and tell us what would be consider Tourism Zone and make recommendations. Zoning thru proper channels would come thru the Planning Commission. Does that peak your interest?

Mary Ann - It does but not sure how it connects with my thinking of restaurants, hotels etc. The trails are wonderful but nowhere for them to eat or stay. They are not going to be able to stay in our Community they will have to go up the road.

Rod - I agree with you, this is only one component that might help.

Mary Ann - I am tired of talk and we don't do anything. We have lots of ideas, but we don't do anything.

Rod - Would you like to make a motion for the Planning Commission investigate the Tourism Zoning piece?

Mary Ann - I think that is great and needed to but it doesn't fit what I have been asked of citizens. We want to attract young people to come here and open businesses. We have dilapidated hotels that are horrible looking.

Rick - We need what Rod is talking about too. We need to get a motel or a restaurant by the River Walk. There could be grants that come with like TVA and other things.

Tim - We have some tools already, we had Real Estate Rehabilitation Grants. The Comprehensive Plan has a road map and implementation schedule. The things you are talking about we need some time to address. A lot of times the Council don't have information. We can't get there if we don't know what tools we have available and we need to have some discussion. You want to protect your existing business which you have already said. We need to find a happy medium for them too. I have the materials to get you started. It is perfect timing; our Revitalization Grant has been submitted. It will



identify the blighted areas; will identify areas you may want to rezone to have incentives. We need to schedule a day or time before Council meetings to discuss.

Vickie - I don't think an hour is enough time. I think we need to have a work day.

Rod - We are all here for the same reason. People are taking advantage of the Enterprise Zones. I think Dr. Willis took advantage of it for the restoration of his property. That is one example. Some people don't want to go in depth with what it takes to take advantage of it. There are many options, depends on the person.

Richard - When you talk about tax incentives, we can brag on having the lowest tax rates and utilities rates but look at everything around here. The trailer park pays a \$20 sticker why can't we make them pay personal property tax, maybe people would take more pride in their property. If you take the property tax and put back into tourism trails and the river walk and they see their tax money is being spent wisely they don't mind paying taxes. We have got to raise them up.

Vickie - I agree but hard thing to say.

Rick - This is not how these things are getting done, it is not from tax money. Most of what we are doing now is coming from private grants. We need to come up with a happy medium so everyone can benefit. We can get help for the new businesses.

Richard - That is not the point I am trying to make, no one minds paying taxes, it they have parks and river walks to go to. If you pay taxes for the day to day existence of the Town, they don't see an improvement that is the problem. What good is it doing the people to have low taxes and rates?

Rod - When Thompson and Litton met with the Planning Commission the point was brought up when you get your cable bill you don't pay any attention it is up a dollar or two but if you raise taxes, point well made. They need a work session with Council as well.

Rick - I think we need to meet an hour before Council so we can talk about things that need to be done.

Mary Ann - I think that is a great idea, we can't do a lot in an hour but in addition to some workshops we can get focused.

Rick - Workshops for what we have coming.

Mary Ann - Can we agree on a date?

Doug - One thing that would help is infrastructure. We have gas close to us, but we have not worked on it. The only people that has gas is the Hospital. We need to give businesses a reason to stay here like providing gas and infrastructure instead of raising taxes. Everyone is moving out; give them a reason to stay.

Mary Ann - Doug that is a very good point, we need to discuss in our meetings.

Tim - We need an evening to discuss, I have some things to bring to the plate that we are already engaged with, I can give you updates on things I know of. We don't get a chance to talk to you about it. I can write all kinds of memos but sometimes it is hard to understand. We can have a kick off work session for a couple hours and then after that meet before Council.

Doug - About two (2) years ago we spent \$60,000 on plans and we dropped it. If you don't have infrastructure and work on things like the gas, you stop growing and you die. Give people a reason to want to stay here. In the last few months I have had to cut five (5) or six (6) people's jobs, because we get no help. Give people reason to stay here don't tax them, work on the gas. The gas came to the hospital five (5) years ago and that is where it stopped, don't care about anyone else. Why don't we

work on things like that? Tourism is great and the trail is going to help us, but we need jobs and infrastructure.

Richard - Just want to remind you of something that Rick Chitwood said last month, Tazewell median household income is \$42,000 and Richlands is \$28,000, there is something wrong. Tazewell has some prettier things but it because they spent some money.

Mary Ann - We need a date for workshop.

Tim – What about November 14?

Mary Ann - What about 7:00pm and 6:30pm on Council nights, if you can make it?

Mayor Crawford - We have to spend some time on it. I will do my best to be here whenever you have a meeting.

Mary Ann - We have people investing in the Town. I want to recognize and thank the Brown family for the restoration of their building across from the Incubator . They put a lot of private money into the building. Sometime in the future maybe Connie, Adrienne and some of us can get together and tour the building. We need to know what to tell people when they call ask for vacant buildings and offices.

Mary Ann - I would like to thank Rusty Hess in continuing to do a great job making our community look better. They work in all kinds of conditions. Rec Commission will meet Monday October 14 at 7:30pm at the Rec. Park. Soccer is going on at the Rec Park, a lot of kids participating . Trunk or Treat will be on Saturday October 26 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at the Police Station.

Jerry - If anyone wants to reserve a space please call the Police Department and ask for Sgt. Stanley.

Mary Ann - What are the hours in Town for Halloween?

Jerry - Usually 5:30pm to 8:00pm

Mary Ann - I was asked from residents from Hidden Valley if the hours could be reduced. A couple years ago we were only going have Trunk or Treat and not Halloween, I received more calls from citizens on this than any other issue since I have been on Council. I just wanted to bring up for discussion.

Mayor Crawford - What do you want to do?

Rod - Is that a motion?

Mary Ann – Chief, do you know what the time is for other communities?

Jerry – Most communities are the same as ours from 5:30pm to 8:00pm.

Mary Ann - I guess it would be too complicated to cut time off earlier at Hidden Valley?

Jerry - Would have to be standard for the Town.

Mayor Crawford - Do you want to keep the same time?

Richard - We need to make a motion.

Rod - I make a motion for Halloween to be from 5:30pm to 8:00pm, Vickie seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- 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.

Doug - I had a few calls that people are walking in Hidden Valley without a flash light or reflective clothing. I would like to urge people to wear reflective clothing, we almost had a couple run over last week.

Mayor Crawford – “Mayor’s Comment”

Mayor Crawford - The only thing I have is the result of what we are saying we don’t follow up. We have four-wheeler business coming etc. We have talked about having a way for them to get into Town and control while they are in Town. It is my understanding that the Council voted on this before I became Mayor, but nothing has happened. Is that correct? Shannon can you resurrect that?

Shannon - What are you talking about?

Mayor Crawford – Tim knows what I am talking about.

Tim - There was a motion made by Council to consider an ordinance to allow ATV’s to be in certain areas of Town and be able to ride on the streets. They voted to go ahead and start the process, but we never made an ordinance or work product. This will take some discussion. We may need a public hearing I am not sure.

Shannon – Have you reached out to other jurisdictions?

Tim - I don’t have any work product on that, we will have to do it together.

Shannon - No problem, I will work on it. There have been some designated areas?

Rick - Larry made a motion and I seconded the motion. We discussed where we would and would not allow ATV.

Shannon - So there are designated areas.

Tim - Not in my discussion.

Rick – From the library back to the Bridge at 460 and over to Food Lion and 67.

Rod - Was that based on Council decision?

Rick - I don’t think the routes was, we just talked about it.

Mayor Crawford – “Attorney Comments” – Shannon Cooke

Shannon - Consideration of ordinance for Zoning Amendment request by Jerry Dunford which we have already discussed. There is a reminder for Training requirement for local elected officials in your packet. You need to go on website and complete. Connie will keep record of who has taken the training. Please take time to complete, pretty basic.

Tim - The auditors will check to make sure you have completed.

Shannon - If I were you, I would try to complete by the end of November, but I don’t think it is due to end of December.

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

Tim - You have two (2) check registers please review and let me know if you have any questions. We did make a CART donation of \$10,000 on Check Number 60910, we will get \$4500.00 back from the State.

Check No. 60932 Hach Company \$4,585.19, things are wearing out part of the infrastructure. Check No. 60975 BDH-Waterworks Tech Asst. Fund - \$1924.87, this is our second installment, we pay to the Health Department. Check no. 60969 Town of Richlands – Annual contribution, Task Force for \$7,000. The first of the month checks are self-explanatory.

Richard- Check No. 60830 Hunter Johnson \$277.20

Tim - Utility Refund, we can't hold utilities for taxes.

Mary Ann - I make the motion to allow the Town Manager to pay the bills as presented, Rick seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- 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 – You have a copy of the letter from VA Department of Conservation and Recreation for the final scenic river study for a section of the Clinch River between Pisgah and the Tazewell/Russell County line. You can go on their website to see the final study report, you will hear the proposal at their next meeting. I think it is on December 12.

Tim - The Monthly Supply Power Cost Report, \$10.28 MWh lower than budget all in wholesale power cost rate of \$94.12/MWh with the dollar cost of \$44,418 lower than budget. Actual sales came 1% higher than budget.

Tim – River Access on River Street – It has been a little slower than we expected but have made the final concrete pour and ready to do the asphalt.

Tim – Section House Project – We are close to getting the Certificate of Occupancy. We poured concrete. We have some brick inlays to do, pavement and finish the bathrooms. We need to get finished as soon as possible so we can apply for other grants.

Tim – Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCH) Planning Grant submitted September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Tim - Procurement of Professional Engineering Services for Wastewater Treatment Plant Project - I put in letter form to you. The Town prepared advertisement for Solicitation of Qualifications (SOQ) for Professional Engineering Firms for Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade final design phase services in August 19. We only received one (1) bid from Thompson and Litton on October 29. They are the firm that designed the facility years ago. We met with the firm today to discuss the approach they would take, they identified the PER but did not talk about the cost. We talked about the budget and the contract that we would have to be signed. I gave the contract to Shannon today to review, very lengthy document. Mr. Chitwood will go over all this at the Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. We will have to fund prior. We are tentatively approved for the project by DEQ. The Board will meet in December to authorize loan rates, terms and conditions for the projects that are funded. We have a period between now and March for engineering services to be performed. We don't have enough funds for the engineering services. The final design will take several months. We don't expect to fund everything thru DEQ but from other ways of funding.

Tim - We have sent out letters of interest to all the banks, favorable response from all the banks. We may need a line of credit for approx. \$1,000,000. I think the loan will be from a local bank for the fire truck purchase.

Richard - Have you heard anything from the committee?

Tim - I did, all the dates they give me either we had conflict, or they had a conflict.

Tim - RFP Downtown Market Study, IDA will manage the grant for us. The market study is \$10,000.

Tim - I hope to have everyone at the October meeting.

Rod - When will the fluoride be installed?

Tim - We are trying to get fully funded that is why it is taking so long, I think we are getting \$40,000. As soon as we know we are getting the money we will order the equipment.

Tim - Consideration of Resolution R-2019-10-01 - Adopt Town of Richlands Financial Policies. Does the Council want to make a motion to adopt the resolution? The auditors said it was fine.

Shannon - Read the Resolution R-2019-10-01.

Richard - I make motion to adopt the Resolution R-2019-10-01, Rod seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- 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 Crawford - At this time I need a motion for the Mayor and Members of Council to convene in executive closed session for the purpose of discussion of 2.2-3711(A)(7) Actual or Probable Litigation and 2.2-3711 (A)(3) Discussion or Acquisition of Real Property for a Public Purpose

Rod- I make the motion to go into executive session, Vickie seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- 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 Crawford - I now entertain a motion that the Members of Council reconvene in open session and accept the CERTIFICATE OF EXECUTIVE SESSION certifying that the matters discussed while in executive session were those both lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements and identified in the motion by which the closed session was convened.

Connie - Roll Call Vote - Vickie - Yes, Rick-Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Richard-Yes, Rod- Yes - Motion carries 6/0

Rod- I make the motion for Council to return from "Closed Session", Rick seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford - Any results from "Closed Session"?

Richard - I make a motion for the Attorney to read the ordinance on Pending Litigation, Rod seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- 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 - 5/1 (Doug abstained).

Shannon - Read the Ordinance, at the next Council meeting on November 12; the Council can go for a second reading or dispense of the second reading and vote at that time.

Mayor Crawford - Any other results from "Closed Session"?

Richard - I make a motion to authorize Town Manager to sign the contract for legal purposes to have the Town join the Opioid Lawsuit, Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- 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.

Rod - I make the motion to authorize Town Manager to sign deed contract to purchase land from W.B.F. White and Sons, Richard seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- 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 Crawford - Anything else to discuss?

Tim - We would like for Council to consider having a Christmas Dinner for the Staff, Council, Retirees and their families this year. We can decide a date later.

Rod - I make a motion to have a Community Christmas Dinner, Rick seconded the motion.

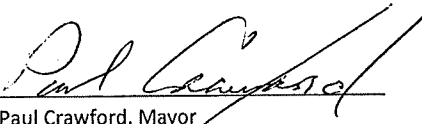
Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Motion carries - 6/0.

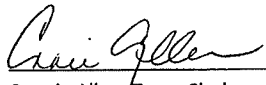
Mayor Crawford- Do I have a motion to adjourn?

Rick- I make the motion to adjourn, Rod seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- 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 Crawford - Adjourned

  
Paul Crawford, Mayor

  
Connie Allen, Town Clerk