

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on August 10, 2021 at 6:00 pm with the following present:

Mayor:	Rod D. Cury
Town Manager:	John O’Daniel
Town Clerk:	Connie Allen
Council Members:	Mary Ann Strong, Doug Ratliff, Jeff Hurst Logan Plaster, Mike Street, Richard Brown
Town Attorney :	Michael Thomas

Mayor Cury opened the meeting.

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

Mayor Cury - We have a new format to our agenda, for anyone who has not had an opportunity to see it on the Facebook page or any other way I just wanted to read it a little bit, not all the details but to familiarize people with it. We are going to try it to see if it will help facilitate the meeting. (Mayor Cury went over the agenda titles and explained to the audience) The “Consent Agenda” are the items that need to have a formal action of the Council for approval and don’t anticipate much discussion on them. It does not mean that anything on the “Consent Agenda” can’t be up for discussion under the regular agenda. I thought it would be helpful to look at the new format.

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

John - I have a couple of things under “Scheduled Public Comments” and the Attorney has some additions. Mike Osborne has been asked to be taken off the agenda. Under “Old Business” under “Ordinance Cancellation” I need to talk to the attorney a little more and will bring back to Council at our next meeting and discuss. At the bottom of the Agenda our next meeting is September 14 not September 13.

Michael Thomas – Under “Executive Closed Session” – We will have Contract Negotiations for Collections (b) Property Acquisition 2.2-3711 (A) (3).

Mary Ann - Under “Executive Closed Session” I would like to add Pending Litigation 2.2-3711(A) (8).

Mayor Cury - Michael are you OK with that?

Michael Thomas – Yes

Mayor Cury - Approval of the Minutes – June 8-5:30pm Public Hearing, June 8 – 5:45pm Public Hearing, June 8 – Regular Council Meeting, June 9 – Special Called Meeting, June 14 – Special Called Meeting, June 21 – Special Called Meeting. July 13 – Discussion Minutes (No Meeting) I will like a motion to approve the minutes listed on V (a).

Jeff - I make a motion to approve the minutes covered under V (a), Mike seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call –Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan-Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury - I need a motion to approve Discussion Minutes for July 13; we did not have a quorum. It was an informal meeting.

Mayor Cury - I do have a few spelling of some last names that need to be corrected, Corey Whited, Maria White, and Morgan Earp.

Mary Ann – I make a motion to approve the minutes of July 13 as amended, Mike seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call –Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan-Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Michael – Property Acquisition is 2.2-3711 (A) (3) and Pending Litigation 2.2-3711 (A) (8).

Mayor Cury - Are there any other changes to the agenda? Do I hear a motion to accept the agenda as amended?

Jeff – I make the motion to accept the agenda as amended, Mike seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call –Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan-Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury - “Unscheduled Public Comments” – Anyone present who would like to speak? Ernest Edgell added to “Unscheduled Public Comments”. I should have asked for approval after I added the names. I will ask for a second motion to approve the agenda with adding Ernest Edgell under “Unscheduled Public Comments”.

Mary Ann - I make the motion to approve the agenda with Ernest Edgell added to “Unscheduled Public Comments”, Mike seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan-Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury – “Appointment of Town Attorney”- In your packets we have Appointment of the Town Attorney Resolution and a letter from Gillespie, Hart, Altizer and Whitesell, a letter of proposal of services. I will refer to John, should we read this resolution.

Michael - Before he starts I would like to make a correction, PLLC should be P.C. in the Resolution.

Mayor Cury - Read the Resolution R-2021-08-01, is it appropriate to ask for a motion to adopt the Resolution?

Mike - I will make the motion to adopt Resolution R-2021-08-01, Jeff seconded the motion.

Richard – In the agenda we approved for “Contract Negotiations” is that regarding collections?

Michael – Yes

Richard - I am assuming that is going to be a separate contract?

Michael – Yes, to my understanding it is a separate contract negotiation.

Richard - I am assuming your firm is wanting to negotiate, is that what it is about?

Michael – I believe there has been other request for that.

Richard - I didn't know if it was separate from this.

Michael – Yes, it is separate.

Mayor Cury - Any other discussion regarding the passage of the Resolution?

Doug - Is it \$200 an hour?

Mayor Cury - It says here it is \$200 an hour that is in the Resolution, I will refer to Michael.

Michael - What is your question? There was a letter in the packet as well.

Doug - It is a set fee at \$200 an hour, is there a cap on that?

Michael - My understanding there is not a cap, it is \$200 per hour.

Mayor Cury - It states the same thing in the original letter.

Doug - I was just questioning, we always had a set fee, like \$4000 a month and any excess we paid extra. I was surprised that we would OK that with no cap at \$200 an hour.

Mayor Cury - I understand that, this is a Resolution; we will be finalizing and signing a contract.

Michael - That would be for the services provided and hire officially a firm on that basis.

Doug - Were there any negotiations for this or did you guys just come up with this?

Mayor Cury - That was presented in their letter.

Doug - I don't think we every discussed it in closed session or anything.

Mayor Cury - Not that I know, I really can't say accurately, maybe at the interview.

Doug - I don't remember it being discussed. In my opinion I think we are opening the Town up for fees that we may not..., we need a cap or something.

Mayor Cury - Any other discussion regarding this resolution?

Doug - They are a great law firm and I have no problem with them. Based on the Resolution I would have to vote no because I am use to caps and how much are we going to pay a month. Are we going to pay \$4000 or are we going to pay \$20,000. It is just kind of scary.

Mike - We never had a cap on Gooch, we paid them a certain amount of dollars per month and once we got to that cap they charged us more.

Doug - But we OK'd that. If it was going to be more they let us know. We had a set fee and if there was going to be additional fee we had to OK it. Gooch Firm let us know before hand, before we went above that. That is my only problem.

Richard - I think we had an agreement based on the number of hours, 20 to 25 a month whichever comes first, I don't have a problem with that if you want to represent that to your firm, anything over 25 hours per month needs to be brought back in front of the Council.

Michael - I think the Resolution as it is presented today needs to be amended beforehand.

Richard - Do you want to put that in your contract before you bring back for us to sign?

Michael - I will have to talk to my firm about. It was my understanding that was a firm offer as the letter was presented.

Doug - May I ask I am not sure what you have liberty to answer, what do you charge Tazewell?

Michael - I am actually not aware of that.

Mary Ann - Remember in the interview, Mr. Altizer did say and it is in this letter the normal billing rate is \$275.00-\$300.00 per hour, they are offering discounted billing rate to the Town of Richlands of \$200.00 per hour.

Mayor Cury - I would suggest and maybe I am wrong, we have a Resolution to discuss and potentially be passed but it is not a contract. If this were to pass we could sign a contract based on any alterations they may want to make, a cap or whatever or hours. How would that work? It sounds a little confusing.

John - If you approve this you are approving their contract.

Richard - We did that based on the fact that the Commonwealth Attorney is now handling all the criminal cases for the Police Department, which caused a number of hours. The civil side of it could all be dedicated to it with Gooch and if I am not mistaken with Ratliff prior to that, we had a set number of hours. If it went over those hours they came back to Council. We realize the number of hours went up based on the number of FIOA requests that had to be investigated to determine whether or not they were legal and give out the information and a number of different things that cause the number of hours to increase. That is the reason Gooch would let us know prior if he went over the cap. I think that is what Councilman Ratliff wants to do, something to say we are going to be responsible for \$5000 a month, 25 hours and anything over that.

Mayor Cury - I don't think that is a bad idea and I understand what you are saying. In our request to have an attorney I don't think we should push forward without something in writing. If this is what we want we are accepting it as it is written, if you want some kind of cap we would have to ask this be taken up at the next meeting. What do you think?

Michael - That would be my advice as well

Mayor Cury - I would like for Council to take just a minute to take to themselves of what they want. It might be prudent rather than see a Resolution go down for someone who made the motion and who second the motion to withdraw it.

Mike - I can withdraw the motion, Jeff withdraw the second.

Mayor Cury - Is it the consensus of Council to have this caveat added to have a cap. You can go back and tell the members of your firm what we would like and in the meantime we can move forward with you as our temporary.

Michael - I know that was a big concern that is what the firm was purposing in the letter.

Mayor Cury - We have decided to withdraw the motion and the second unless someone in Council wants to make a motion again we will have to stand with this, any further discussion. We will cover again next month, if they can get in touch with the Town Manager, Council and the Mayor.

Mayor Cury - Consent Agenda - I think we should take in a separate motion, would you suggest that John?

John - Since these items have already been approved it is an update that you are approving each section as we move thru the year.

Mayor Cury – Consent Agenda – Authorization to Pay Bills (July) – You have already paid we just need to formally vote. The current ones in our packet reflect Item (b) Authorization to Pay Bills (August).

John - You should have both of them in your packet.

Mayor Cury - I will suggest to the Council is to vote separately since we will have questions. I need a motion for authorization to pay the bills from July.

Richard - I make the motion, Mary Ann second the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call –Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan-Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury - Authorization to Pay the August bills, these are the check registers in your packet. Any questions you can direct to the Manager.

Jeff – I make the motion to authorize to pay the August bills, Richard second the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan-Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury - Authorize Line of Credit Drawdown Number #10 from National Bank for Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades and Improvements (\$32,039.30) cost for May bill for a total of \$41,803.52. Also Authorize Line of Credit Drawdown Number #11 from National Bank for Wastewater Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project \$2,978.42 and Water Treatment Plant Upgrades and Improvements \$31,530.48 cost for May billing for a total of \$34,481.90.

Jeff – Should it be June?

John - It should actually be June and July.

Mayor Cury - To clarify, should be (c) June and item (d) should be July.

John - Should be June and July.

Mayor Cury - I will accept a motion for items VII(c) and (d).

Jeff - I make the motion, Mike seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan-Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury - "Scheduled Public Comments" - No one scheduled, Mike Osborne has asked to be taken off the agenda.

Mayor Cury – "Unscheduled Public Comments" – Ernest Edgell

Ernest – 206 Terry Drive – I have asked to bring this to your attention, all of the citizens have probably noticed this, the Ladies of the Richlands Garden Club put a lot of time and money in flowers and they had an agreement from the Town, that the Town would water them properly. You can see they have not been watered properly. If you want to see some that have been watered properly go to Tazewell. What is the ordinance on "Outbuildings" in Hidden Valley?

Mayor Cury - I would be remiss to explain without being able to read it.

Ernest - It was my understanding when we were incorporated into the Town that they would not be permitted, and the ones already there would be grandfathered in but would not be any new ones. I have seen quite a few new ones; do they have permits to do that? How would I be able to check that?

Mayor Cury - I don't know the answer to that but I know when we added R1 zone to the Town's Zoning and Comprehensive Plan there were provisions in there for Hidden Valley properties residents. I don't have them in front of me and unable to share with you accurately. Guessing would be very dangerous. I doubt if the Town Attorney has at his fingertips.

Michael - I don't have it with me right now but doesn't Richlands post their Ordinances on the web page?

Mayor Cury - Not sure that we do Ernest, I don't have an answer but we will try to find out.

Ernest - I noticed one place has a shipping container in their driveway and it has been there all year. I know that should not be in the ordinance.

Mayor Cury - I would say it is unsightly.

Ernest - They have it hidden pretty well. I was thinking I might like to have one.

Mary Ann - Can I comment on the flowers on the bridge? I was contacted by someone on the Garden Club and I checked into it Ernest. Not trying to make excuses but Nathan Keene with the Town that is his responsible to water the flowers. He does water them regularly, he sent pictures but it seems though pedestrians or citizens have been damaging the flowers which could be part of the problem. I have no reason to believe that he is not doing as he has been told. The flowers are beautiful and I commented on them last month we need to be respectful and take care of them. What little bit of research that I did it appears we are doing our part but citizens walking across there are dumping things in the baskets.

Ernest - The hanging baskets, the pedestrians can't reach those.

Mary Ann - I specifically asked about the bridge.

Mayor Cury - I have been contacted by citizens who want to write letters of thanks to the Garden Club. I have been contacted by Garden Club members about their concerns. My suggestion and I am a flower lover, I want that on the record, Water is the substance of all life, that being said I suggested that rather than Council but you are so welcome to come, but rather than Council trying to solve that I suggested that they contact the Town Manager and meet with him on how the Club and the Town can work together in the future. I think John they have attempted to contact you. I thought that was a better solution and offered my thinking of maybe adopting a basket, but I will refer to the Manager for his update.

John - We are working on scheduling a meeting next week with them. The only areas I have gotten complaints about is the bridge, it seems to be a little bit different. I hope we can find a solution, seems that area gets the most complaints.

Mayor Cury - It will be better if they can meet with the Manager.

Mayor Cury - Barry Browning – Virginia DMV – DMV Deputy Director

Barry Browning – DMV Deputy Director for the CSMA Assisted Services Program- 2300 West Broad Street in Richmond, VA. Thank you for allowing me to come and speak to you today about the possibility of the Town partnering with our agency to provide a DMV Select opportunity in Richlands. We partner with government entities, like a Town, Commission of Revenue, a locality and some are run by private citizens and business. They contract with us and provide needed vehicle services to the citizens of the area. It is an annual contract that everyone signs with us. Why does DMV approach a locality or

Town? We feel the business model you have in place is very similar to what we already have in place. You have a beautiful building, you are ADA compliant, you have customer restrooms and consistent hours, ample staff in place, handicap accessible, all the things we do you already have in place. We want to piggyback already what you have in place to add the extra service. We currently have 53 DMV Selects, out of the 53, twelve (12) are operated by Towns. We are a very active program with the Commonwealth. We want to provide the services; we don't want to citizens to have to drive more than 30 minutes to get any type of service that they need. With Customer Service Centers we like to place in a lot of rural and urban areas so they don't have to drive. We had an office with the Commissioner of Revenue in Russell County; they made a business decision not to continue services with us in May. The only Select that we have is in Abingdon. We have a need to have another present down here. The Select focuses mainly on vehicle services. You would not do driver transactions; you would focus on titling vehicles, renewals, and transfers some of the easier less complicated transactions. We want the Town to think of this as an opportunity to offer this as a service to the Town and the County. By having a DMV Select in a Town, could open your Town up to have another business come in. DMV is considered a cornerstone office. Insurance offices and ABC buildings are near our offices. It is an opportunity to bring added business to your Town. You will bring people into the Town that normally would not come here; you will raise your revenue. We will pay you to do the transactions that you do. I shared the business model with the Town Manager and I will share it with you. It is in Code 46.2-205, states revenue stream on how we pay you. In Code it talks about 3 ½% on gross collections up to \$500,000 in a fiscal year. When you exceed \$500,000 in a fiscal year the compensation is at 4%. There is a budget language that was adopted in April 2021 states we didn't think that was exactly fair so we increased that with legislation, now 4 ½% on gross collections up to \$500,000 in a fiscal year and when you exceed \$500,000 it is at 5%. That is the business model. Take advantage of the customer when they are standing in front of you. You might not have the correct address or they may owe water bill, etc. You have the opportunity to process fishing & hunting licenses it is an optional service. We have an agreement with the Department of Transportation where you can sell EZpass. We offer DMV Connect is like a suit case on wheels. We will bring driver services in here so that don't have to drive to the Tazewell office. It is advertised and people will know that we will be here. In addition to that the other services they will offer are vital records. You can get a marriage certificate, divorce decree, birth certificate or death certificate. If you need any of those documents and you know that DMV Connect will be here you able to wait and get the certificates. Personal Property Tax, it that something that the Town does when you come to DMV and you have a STOP on your record you have to go pay the STOP at the locality. You can collect the money and then do the DMV transaction. What do we provide – we provide everything that you need, paper, forms, license plates, etc. We provide the website and training. The Town has to buy a printer; you already have staff and PC. Some of the numbers of Russell DMV Select last couple of years 2019 - 13,943 transactions - \$39,875 on an annual basis, 2020 – 14,881 transactions \$53,332, 2021 – 23,346 \$90, 542. The reason it is high they did not implement an online appointment system. We recommend strongly that the DMV implement an online appointment system for an alternative way to be able to help citizens so they would not have to wait outside. We asked them to implement an appointment online system or try to find a way to help the citizens so they would not have to stand outside. They elected not to do that. I have a couple of contracts I brought with me that I would like to leave with you, they are blank. One is a bonded contract one is not, I would like for you to take a look at them and see if it is something you may be interested in and partner with us. I encourage you to reach out to other Towns and see if it is a good fit.

Mayor Cury - You were using Russell County as an example of what we might could do, do they still offer that service?

Barry - They do not.

Mayor Cury - I just wonder why, I was curious

Barry - That would be a question for Randy Williams to answer. There is a need in Southwest Virginia for another office.

Mike - You mentioned on-line system, do we have to follow guidelines on time we offer this.

Barry - The contract has 35 hours a week. We want to piggyback on what you already have in place.

Richard - I have been a big advocate ever since this started, I had some questions, didn't know if you had a copy of our agenda but we have been discussing several months about the possibility of adding a drive thru to the Town Hall. Is there an issue with DMV drive-thru?

Barry - We use to have drive-thru. We do have a DMV Select that has a drive-thru. There is no issue with that; it would be an added service that you would get a lot of benefit from. I encourage it.

Richard- Do you take care of the IT portion?

Barry – We come in and set up the application on your PC that you already have in place. We don't support from the stand point of coming and setting the network up that is something you have your own IT staff do. We show them how to do it. We don't have an IT staff; we can't mess with your town's network. We can help with the application standpoint.

Richard - We have a lot of requests for driving record?

Barry – Yes, three (3) simple driver transactions, driving record, handicap placard, address change. The DMV Connect I spoke about that is where we can partner with you and bring driver services maybe once a month or once a quarter.

Richard - We just recently passed a personal property tax within the Town, can we use DMV records as far as collections within the Town the way the County does.

Barry – We have a department at headquarters called User Services. Treasurers and elected officials in counties, what they do is they sign an agreement , MOU, telling what you can and can't do, you will access to peoples records to put STOP on peoples records. You would have access too, as far as how it unfolds I don't handle that so I don't want to tell you something wrong.

Richard - I appreciate your time and I am a big advocate of this.

Mike – You mention that you are setting up tons of these, say we sign this contract what is the process and the turnaround time?

Barry – We build a time-line, it is built from when you want to go live. Example you want to go live December 1, we build a timeline backwards I need roughly 45 to 60 days from the time you tell me want to do this.

Mike – For instance 13,000 transactions, can one person dedicated to that role do 13,000 transactions.

Barry – No

Mike - How many people does it take?

Barry - What we have in place with monitoring and internal policy you need at least two (2) people to do DMV. You could have a full-time person and a part-time person. No office does it with one person because of scheduling people. What if that person is on vacation or sick?

John - Is there a minimum appointment we allow per day or week.

Barry - No minimum or maximum that you have to do, you try to use as a tool. Example pre-Covid Staff took different lunch schedules now all the people take lunch at the same time.

Richard - The current staff we have and the work load do you think that could be an added responsibility, is it something you could look at and see?

Barry - Sure, on Go Live Day I bring some of my staff to be here with you. After you are trained my staff is still with you for a period of time.

Mayor Cury - The employees that are trained they would come and spend a week. They will tell our employees what transactions they can do. If someone comes to the Town Hall and asks for something they can't do or not sure is there a hot line to your office.

Barry - I have a team of ten (10) people that work under me at Headquarters. You will be given all of our contact information and you can reach me 24 hours a day. We have IT support group at Headquarters, if you need help with the application, credit card team Headquarters and a dedicated helpline.

John - The appointment process would be on line and what the appointment would be for, so you would not be surprised when you come to the Town Hall and cannot get certain services.

Mayor Cury - That would be an added feature that would be added so people would know what we can and can't do.

Barry - We are using Acuity software that is able to different transactions, with road and written test, a little more in-depth. You would only have the options of what the Town would be permitted to do.

Mary Ann - Did you say you had the services in the Town of Abingdon?

Barry - It is not with the Town but the Treasurer, Fred Parker.

Mary Ann - We received an email from Senator Hackworth encouraging us to look into this. I am certainly much in favor of it, services we can offer our citizens and not have to leave Town.

Barry - You are not just helping the Town of Richlands, you will be helping Tazewell, Abingdon, Russell you can different people from the State of Virginia.

Mike - John, you see what we have as far as staff that is my biggest concern. I want it but I want the landscape of our staff. Do you foresee a need to hire?

John - I think we can probably handle it, just don't know how long the average transaction takes. We have had a lot of transition; we are still trying to work thru the transitions before we try to add something else to our office staff. If it is something Council wants to look at in December/January we can get a draft contact and get the attorney to look at it and discuss next month. I will have more time to speak to staff. We can ease into it and set up the calendar so at the end of the month when everyone is coming in to pay their bills we don't do as many transactions. We can adjust when someone is on vacation. It is going to be a learning curve.

Barry - Your title transactions will take a little bit longer because it is a lot more involved. It usually takes from five (5) to seven (7) minutes to do those types of transactions, a registration two (2) to three (3) minutes. It is a learning curve.

Richard - Last night we had a business owner come in which is an advocate as well he has a fleet of vehicles that he could bring his registration cards that he could just drop off and come and pick up later. It would be a big benefit to him.

Barry - You won't be able to do some transactions, certain things you can't do.

Mike - What is the next step if we have a consensus we want to move forward?

Barry - I would work with the Town Manager, I would come down and take a little more detailed look at your office. We want to make sure you have a spot to secure the items that we will bring. You cannot co-mingle money; you have to have a separate drawer to host DMV money.

Mayor Cury - John would you feel comfortable with a consensus to pursue this or a motion?

John - A consensus and we will look at the contracts. I encourage you all to check with the other Towns and come back next month we can do something more formal at that time. Target date of Jan 1 that will give me time to get everyone situated into their new roles and training that will need to take place.

Mayor Cury - Consensus from Council – Full Consensus from Council (Doug, Jeff, Logan, Richard, Mary Ann, Mike) plus the Mayor.

Mayor Cury - Old Business: Ordinances- O-2021-08-02, O-2021-08-03, O-2021-08-04 - I will refer to the Town Manager to read for us or whomever you wish.

John - You all have a copy of the rate schedules. This is similar to the document we have discussed in the past, can't remember if there are any changes but they have been updated since then. We originally were just looking at the rate increases but staff and I spoke about looking at some tap fees. We wanted to increase as well. We were planning on but because the process got delayed we went ahead and put those in. If it is OK with the Attorney I can go thru and just highlight the changes instead of reading every one of them.

Michael – Since it is the first reading you would need to read the entire thing.

John - Ordinance has O-2021-07-01 – We will change to O-2021-08-01 for the final copy.

Mayor Cury – Rate Schedules and Riders – Q-2021-08-01 – Read Rate Making Authority - Read page 4 – Noted Change: Effective: Bills rendered after 7/7/2021 have to be updated. (Copy of Rate Schedules and Riders included in the minutes)

John - Will be updated to the first billing cycle.

Mary Ann - Read pages 6-7 – Note: Effective: Bills rendered after 7/7/2021 have to be updated.

Mike – Read pages 8 – Note: Effective: Bills rendered after 7/7/2021 have to be updated.

Richard – Read pages 9-10 Note: Effective: Bills rendered after 7/7/2021 have to be updated.

Logan – Read pages 11-12 Note: Effective: Bills rendered after 7/7/2021 have to be updated

Jeff – Read pages 13-16 Note: Effective: Bills rendered after 7/7/2021 and 8/13/2021 have to be updated.

Doug - Read page 17

Mary Ann – Read Page 18 Note: Effective: Bills rendered after 7/7/2021 have to be updated

Mike – Read pages 19-21 Note: Effective: Bills rendered after 7/7/2021 and 8/1/06 have to be updated.

Mayor Cury - I want to thank members of Council for reading this.

John – On the Ordinances we chose not to reprint them. O-2021-07-6 will be O-2021-08-02, O-2021-07-04 will be O-2021-08-04, and O-2021-07-03 will be O-2021-08-03 as on your agenda.

Mayor - Can you please repeat so I can make sure I have in the right order?

John - 2021-07-6 will be O-2021-08-02, O-2021-07-04 will be O-2021-08-04, and O-2021-07-03 will be O-2021-08-03 as on your agenda.

Mayor Cury- There was some confusion and I understand what we have done, to make sure we are all on the same page as well as the audience. The Water Ordinance should read O-2021-08-02 Water, O-2021-08-03 Sewer, and O-2021-08-04 Electric.

Mayor Cury - O-2021-08-02 – Water Ordinance – Read the Ordinance

John - We will do a second reading at the next Council Meeting.

Richard - Just of the Ordinances?

John – Yes, and at that point Council can chose not to do the second reading.

Mayor Cury - This is our first reading, correct?

John – Yes

Jeff - Read O-2021-08-03 Sewer Ordinance

Mayor Cury - That is the first reading of O-2021-08-03.

Logan - Read Ordinance O-2021-08-04 Electric

Mayor Cury – First reading of O-2021-08-04 Electric, have we properly read all the ordinances Mr. Thomas?

Michael – Yes

Mayor Cury - We will take those up at our next meeting for adoption.

Mayor Cury - IDA Appointment

John - There has been some discussion on who we should appoint to the IDA, meet with IDA in July, Blake Ray attended that meeting. The IDA asked that Blake Ray be appointed to the position, I met with them again this morning and nothing has changed from last month, they were supportive of that nomination.

Doug - We nominated Mayor White and she was accepted, not Blake Ray.

John - This Council has to make the appointment and no decision was ever made.

Mayor Cury - Doug, I remember you asking about it and as I recall, I think Jeff had made the motion that Blake Ray wanted to be on the IDA and Jeff made the motion to that effect, Mary Ann seconded the motion. You brought up that someone had asked Jan White to serve. Jeff withdrew his motion and Mary Ann withdrew her second until we could clarify what was going on. After the meeting I called Jan to make sure that she was asked, she said Larry Johnson had asked her. I don't know any more than that. At this point, I don't recall that we voted on anybody but those names were mentioned. Jeff and Mary Ann withdrew their motion when you mentioned about Jan. There was not a motion made to my recollection to actually appoint anyone. You may make a motion.

Doug – I would like to make the motion that we appoint Mayor White to the Richlands IDA; Logan, I will second former Mayor Jan White to the IDA Board.

Richard - Mr. O'Daniel did you state that you had a recommendation from the IDA?

John – I did.

Richard - Was Ms. White....

John - We discussed both candidates.

Richard - You discussed both candidates and they recommend Mr. Ray.

John – Correct

John - It was brought up in two (2) different meetings, and they had quorum at both meetings.

Doug - Everyone I talked to has recommended Mayor White and I have talked to several of them.

Mayor Cury - What I think it will come to Doug, since they are two (2) candidates that would like this position in what every way it comes it will by vote. Are you OK with that?

Jeff - So what I understand the IDA met today and they recommended a candidate. Correct?

Mayor Cury – Yes, and I understand what John is saying and there is a motion on the floor.

Jeff - Is there no room for both candidates on the Richlands IDA?

Mayor Cury - I think there is only one (1) position open, is that correct?

John - I believe so.

Mayor Cury - There are two ways we could do this, there is a motion on the floor and we need to carry forth or you ask about both candidates. I anticipated this to come up. I claim no expertise in procedure but often you can have a slate of candidates and you could vote on a slate but that would depend if Doug would want it and withdraw his motion. We can have a motion and a second and see what happens.

Doug - I would rather go with my motion.

Mayor Cury - Doug's motion is on the floor and Logan has seconded it.

Mary Ann - I would like to say that I look at this like the Recreation Commission, I think it would be very disrespectful to the IDA as it would be to the Recreation Commission, if the Commission made a recommendation to this Council and we chose not to follow the recommendation I think it shows great distrust. They had two (2) meetings from what the Town Manager tells us and they have chosen someone else.

Mayor Cury – I follow your thinking, we all know there is a motion on the floor. Do you want your motion to stand?

Doug - Yes

Mayor Cury- 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. Doug- Yes, Jeff- No, Logan-Yes,

Richard - I am torn on this one, I respect Mary Ann for bringing up that the IDA has made a recommendation but I don't know the logistics behind Ms. White's nomination. They met twice and both candidates were brought up at both meetings?

John - The meeting a month ago both were discussed, and I told them no one was appointed and I asked if they still wanted to follow their recommendation to appoint Blake Ray, I just wanted to make sure nothing had changed since the previous meeting.

Doug - How as that brought up? You can bring up in different ways.

Mayor Cury - We had discussion we are actually in the voting process, Richard is trying to decide.

Richard - I vote "yes"

Mike-No, Mary Ann-No Tie- 3/3

Mayor Cury - Would you please read the results and I will make a decision.

Clerk- Doug- Yes, Jeff- No, Logan-Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike-No, Mary Ann - No

Mayor Cury - I will vote "yes, Jan White is the new member of the Richlands IDA.

Mayor Cury - Greenspace Update

John - I have met with the contractors a couple times in the last week, we hoped they would have broken ground sometime last week. After we started looking at the plan and the property we realized the stage was a little bit over built for where we thought it would go. We have worked around to get the stage to fit on that property in a way it is going to work. We are all on the same page now they will be able to start anytime now. We are excited to see that project going forth.

Mayor Cury - I think it is going to be very nice when it is finished and something to be celebrated in additional venue for the Town.

Mayor Cury - Grant Updates

John - The SRO Grants we received for this upcoming school year, we are glad to continue the service to the schools. We received the EMS grant that Matt spoke about at the last meeting; I won't go into any details on that. I did want to highlight the ARPA. It has been tossed around on how we should spend it. We should receive \$3.5 million in total; we have received half of that at this point. As you know we are doing around \$13 million dollars in water and wastewater upgrades to the plants. That is what the current rate increases were based on. The upgrades could come in 30% to 40% above the construction cost right now. My recommendation is we sit on the money until we figure out and wait on the construction bids to come in. Hopefully they will come in less than those high projections. We are working on things we are already committed to and try to fund those, like the second phase of the Greenspace. I talked to the IDA about a possible revolving loan fund; we will have to have further discussion on. We really need to figure out what the water and wastewater upgrades are going to come in at. If it comes in at three (3) or four (4) million dollars and we have already committed this money to other new projects we would still have to figure out how we are going to pay for that added cost that we had not budgeted our rate increases to cover. It is exciting to get the money but unfortunately we need to look at what we are already committed too. If we need any further discussion we can discuss in Council meeting on what other opportunities we would like to focus on to get additional funding.

Mayor Cury - Thank you John. It sounds promising. I don't know exactly how all this will go but I think consideration of making sure we have enough money to pay for the wastewater upgrades is very important.

Mayor Cury - Charter Update Discussion

John - I passed a copy out at the last meeting when we didn't have a quorum but I email you a copy of the changes. I would like to have the first reading and I think the copy you have highlights what has changed and what has been added is in red. It should be pretty easy, we can go thru and highlight those changes today and do a Public Hearing at the next Council meeting and vote at that point. I know it will have to be sent to the General Assembly and hopefully they will be able to get all the documents in time to get full consideration of the changes at that point.

Mayor Cury - John would you like for us to go over these individually where they are highlighted.

John - I think it would be worth reading all the changes in red.

Mayor Cury - Then we can schedule a Public Hearing so that I understand it and correct me if I am wrong, a Public Hearing is not necessarily required for this but in the interest of being upfront and fully transparent we diffidently need one. It might actually be required I do not know.

Michael - It is either required to have an election a special election or a Public Hearing. It is probably better and easier to have a Public Hearing with public comments.

Mayor Cury - Thank you for clarifying.

Michael – It is still up to the General Assembly whether they accept it.

John - We can read the proposed changes and not read the entire document.

Michael - I don't think it is even necessary to read anything unless you just want to point out changes.

John – We have the changes highlighted and we can have discussion tonight and after that a Public Hearing.

Richard – Seems like we changed the Charter one time before maybe 2006/2008 was there a fee associated with that?

John - I have not heard anything about a fee.

Richard - My understanding there is a flat fee.

John – I can find out.

Richard - I think it is pretty expensive around \$10,000; I like to know that before I make a decision.

John - I can find out before the next meeting and let you know.

Mayor Cury - Mary Ann will you start reading the changes.

Mary Ann – 3.2 - Nominations and Elections: Each member of Council shall be limited to two (2) consecutive elected terms in office. After serving two consecutive terms, the member shall not run for a third full 4-year term. After the member has not been a member of Council for four (4) years they will be eligible for a final four (4) year term, for a total of 12 years of service. 2. Time served as an appointed member of Council shall not count toward the term limit described above.

Doug – Is that retroactive.

Mayor Cury - It is not retroactive. Mike called me this afternoon and asked me about some of these and I shared my thoughts, he is the one who suggested this.

Mike – Right

Mayor Cury - I am fine with it my only suggestion to Mike and I can go with it either way I like keeping it simple (2) terms or this way is fine too.

Mike - I am good either way.

Doug - Does that apply to the Mayor?

Mayor Cury - This is Councilmembers.

Doug – Would pertain to some of us, getting up in age, we have served our duty.

Doug - Seems like to me it pertains to Council I can go with this, but if it pertains to Council looks like it would also pertain to the Mayor.

Mayor Cury - The Mayor does not serve the same kind of term but we can look at that. We would need to get to the Mayor's part.

Doug - I am not in favor of changing the Charter any at all because the Charter has served for many years. I think it is a big step when you change a Charter that was here in 1892, for someone to come in propose a change that is a big step for me.

Mayor Cury – Mike would you read 3.5 - Mayor

Mike - The Mayor shall preside over the meetings of the Council and have the same right to speak therein as a member, and vote only in case of a tie on any matter before Council including ordinances and resolutions, but shall have no veto. The mayor shall be recognized as the head of the Town government for all ceremonial purposes, the purpose of military law, and the services of civil process. At the regular meeting of the Council held in the month of January following a municipal election, the Council shall choose, by a majority vote of all the members thereof, one of their number to be Vice-Mayor for the ensuing two (2) years. The Vice-Mayor shall in the absence or disability of the Mayor perform the duties of Mayor, but shall not lose their duties as a member of Council including, but not limited to voting. If a vacancy shall occur in the office of Mayor, the Vice-Mayor shall become Mayor for the unexpired portion of the term. In the absence or disability of both the Mayor and Vice-Mayor, the Council shall, by majority vote of those present, choose one of the number to perform the duties of Mayor and the selected member shall not lose their duties as a member of Council including, but not limited to voting.

Mayor Cury - Those pertain to the duties of the Mayor and the Vice-Mayor

Doug - To me that proposal is ludicrous.

Mayor Cury - Are you talking about the Vice-Mayor?

Doug – Voting, you cannot wear two (2) hats. If you are over a meeting and you are conducting that meeting, you can sway the way that meeting is going and then vote that is very unfair. The person as Mayor runs the meeting it is for a purpose of why you could not run it unless it was a tie. Whoever is over the meeting and conducting the meeting has a lot of power to conduct the meeting one way or the other and then come in and say they can vote, that is very unfair.

Mike - What Power?

Mayor Cury - Just to clarify, you are saying to vote are you saying in case of a tie?

Doug - I am saying if the Mayor leaves.

Jeff - If the Mayor is sick, if he vacates the office that is different than him just missing the meeting.

Mike - This is just talking about if the Mayor is absent.

Jeff - If he is absent from a meeting what is the process?

Doug - If the Vice-Mayor takes the place of the Mayor if he/she is over that meeting, they have a lot more power to persuade which way the meeting will go and how the meeting is ran and then to give them power to vote. You cannot wear the hat to conduct the meeting and then come in and wear another hat and vote unbiased too.

Mayor Cury - Your point is taken.

Mike – I see what Mr. Ratliff is trying to say, personally I don't let anyone sway the decisions that I make because I am a member of Council and it is my duty to the citizens that voted for me to vote on how I feel. I am not going to let anybody sway how I vote. My bigger concern is when you talk about two (2) different hats. I agree with you on two (2) different hats. I think what needs to be added if we are going to consider this because I do believe in clarity, I do believe it needs to be clear. Those should be some wording that provides that clarity. I think what we are also missing it can be perceived that and almost sounds like they can be a Mayor and also a member of Council. If there is a tie that Councilmember can also vote as the Mayor. I think we need some more clarity that shows that if the Vice-Mayor of this person is running this meeting is going to be acting as Chair of the meeting they only get to vote once as a member of Council and unable to vote in case of tie as a Mayor. They are not the Mayor they are acting as the Chair. If we are missing a member of Council and that member of Council votes and it is a tie because we let the Chair vote and we have a tie, the member of Council running the meeting should not have the ability to break the tie because they have already voted.

Doug - When he/she assumes the Mayor's position if he is incapacitated then she/he has the right to vote in case of tie that is understood but her to vote otherwise it would be very bias one way or the other. Cedar Bluff had this same thing occur, I think last month, they would not let the Vice-Mayor vote because it was not fair he/she could only vote in case of a tie. They understood how it would be a travesty of justice if you are running the meeting and persuade one way or the other which way the meeting goes and to have a vote. When this person takes the place they will have a vote to break the tie that is all they should ever have.

Mayor Cury - Doug do you mind to finish your statement and that will be your two (2) times.

Doug – Since 1892 the Charter has been in effect and it has worked well and any person that looks at the Charter and some of the changes like giving a Vice –Mayor a vote after they preside over the meeting common sense would tell you that is not fair. To me I am offended that a Charter that has been in effect since 1892 and has served the Town so well that someone would come in with not a lot of experience and propose that we change the Charter that is offensive to me.

Jeff - You would never find a Vice-Mayor at this point if you are going to do that because they would not want to give up their vote. I think the point of this someone has to Chair the meeting, period, correct? If you are a Councilmember and you have to run the meeting to me it doesn't matter how you vote or if you get to vote. If you are elected as a Councilmember you need to vote on Council issues that was what you were elected for not elected as Mayor. I think that is what they were trying to say. If the Mayor and the Vice-Mayor are both gone who will run the meeting?

Richard - If two (2) members of Council are absent and we had four (4) members of Council and the Mayor, if two (2) members of Council and the Mayor are absent and the Vice-Mayor has to step in the role of the Mayor do we have a quorum?

Michael - The quorum is the majority of the Council, so you would have three (3) members at that time.

Richard - So we would not have a quorum.

Michael – Right

Mike - What we need to remember is we are providing clarity here, the conversations we are having is about changing the Vice-Mayor but that is not what is being discussed. It is not even in the changes all we are doing is providing clarity as what the Mayor and Vice-Mayor can do, not changing anything, proving in the court of law in the past month that the Vice-Mayor can vote in that case. We are not changing the landscape of what this look like; we are just providing clarity so people understand it. So there is no room for error or interrupting in a different way. That is honestly all this is. My biggest thing is if a Councilmember is going to take over those duties and Chair a meeting I don't want them to vote twice. That is not in there and I think it should be added if we are going to consider this because that provides an additional amount of clarity. I think that is important and that is what this is for. I think a fresh set of eyes on this is pretty nice in my own personal opinion. That is my opinion and I don't have an issue with what this says as long as we can provide that the Councilmember that Chairs the meeting does not vote twice, he/she only votes one (1) time not two (2).

Doug - I am not making a statement but a misstatement that has not been judged yet where they can vote, that court case is not over and he has not made a ruling so that was a misstatement.

Mayor Cury - I appreciate all the conversation and we are going to move on. Is there anyone else would like to comment on this particular proposed Charter change?

Mary Ann - Only statement I have I agree with Councilmember Hurst it would be very difficult to find a Vice-Mayor otherwise.

Mayor Cury - Richard will you read the next change. 3.8 Ordinances section (b)

Richard – Read Charter 3.8 Section A B C D

Except in dealing with questions of parliamentary procedure, the Council shall act only by ordinance or resolution, and all ordinances, except ordinances making appropriations or authorizing the contracting of indebtedness or issuance of bonds or other evidence of debt, shall be confined to one subject. Ordinances making appropriations or other obligations and appropriating the money to be raised thereby shall be confined to those subjects respectively.

The enacting clause of all ordinances passed by the Council shall be: "Be it ordained by the Council of the Town of Richlands". No ordinance shall be passed until it has been read at two meetings (regular, special or emergency) unless the requirement of a second reading has been dispensed with by an affirmative vote of four (4) of the members of the Council. No ordinance or section thereof shall be revised or amended by its title or section number only, but the new ordinance shall contain the entire ordinance, or section as revised or amended. The ayes and nays shall be taken upon the passage of all ordinances or resolutions and entered upon the journal of the proceedings of the Council, and every ordinance or resolution shall require, on final passage, the affirmative vote of at least four (4) of the members.

All ordinances and resolutions passed by the Council shall be in effect at the time set by Council at the time of their passage. No measure increasing a tax or license, or providing for any new form of tax, shall be adopted until notice has been published in accordance with Virginia General Statutes in a paper of general circulation in the Town.

Every ordinance or resolution upon its final passage shall be recorded in a book kept for that purpose and shall authenticate by the signature of the presiding officer and the Town Clerk.

Mayor Cury - This has to do with passage and accepting ordinances to new form from what we have been doing. Are there any thoughts on this particular change?

Doug - That is another instance where you are taking power away from the people. It is where Council can overrule the people that were put in there for a reason, for the people. If you change that ordinance you are giving more power to the Council and taking away from the public.

Mike - What are we taking away?

Doug - The thirty (30) days they have to think about it and the process. You are taking away the process, it was put in there for a reason, and to slow things down to make sure we are doing the right thing when we call an emergency or when we raise taxes.

Mike - So you want to keep 30 days?

Doug - I want to keep the Charter like it has been since 1892. I would not change it period.

John - That was the one that caused a slight headache in the last five (5) months, since there are State requirements and ours are more fickle than that, say we follow all State regulations, that is what most places follow unless they have more restrictions. You still have to advertise for Public Hearing and still have to give people enough time to attend the meetings, it simplifies it, if we follow the State requirements we are good and don't have any issues.

Mike - So this aligns us with the State of Virginia?

John - I will refer to the attorney, it makes it more difficult for us to try to get things passed when things come up in a crunch.

Doug - With all due respect John these headaches you are talking about has slowed down the things that people think about, taxes, what you call headaches. The Council can slow down all these raises and rates and I think the Council is doing wrong now putting a burden on the citizens. These headaches you are talking about that is the only way we can slow the power of the Council and the Town Manager from doing things that the public can think about and voice their opinion and maybe at times stop these things that hurt the public.

Mayor Cury - Anyone else on this particular aspect of Charter change.

Mary Ann - I respect the Town Manager and the research that he does and what he finds to be more common throughout our State. A lot of things that have slowed down the process have also cost our Town a lot of money in legal fees. Citizens that I have spoken to that were opposed to the increases once they understand the reason behind them I have not had one that has a problem with them. I have not talked to everyone, we already see we are paying an attorney fee of \$200 an hour, add that up and see what that has cost us with all this slowing the processes down. It is astronomical I think citizens should think about that.

Mayor Cury - Anyone else who has a comment?

Mayor Cury - 3.9 Appointees - At the first meeting in January following each Council election, or as soon thereafter as practicable, the Council shall: Appoint a Town Manager who shall be the administrative and executive head of the municipal government. The Town Manager shall be chosen by the Council without regard to political beliefs and solely upon the basis of his executive and administrative qualifications. At the time of his appointment, the Town Manager need not be a resident of the Town or the Commonwealth. The Town Manager shall be appointed for an indefinite period and shall hold office during the pleasure of the Council. What has changed here is during the tenure of office shall reside within the Town. What this is saying the Town Manager does not need to reside in the Town of Richlands or in the Commonwealth.

Richard - I don't understand the purpose behind that one.

John - I plan on living in Town but I just see Council adopting as an Ordinance so Council has the flexibility in five (5) or ten (10) years the candidate you want to hire has four (4) or five (5) kids that can't find property in Town they can serve the Town Council based on the change. If it is in the Charter

you are stuck with it, you have to follow it; the Town Manager must live in Town or a majority vote /consensus to make an exception of that requirement. I was trying to protect Council years down the road getting stuck in situation where the candidate you wanted to hire can't because of the requirement in the Charter.

Richard - It is hard to allow a Town Manager not to live in the Town Limits and the Town Manager requesting Council to approve increase that the Town Manager is not going to pay. I understand your point of view also.

Mayor Cury - Any other thoughts on this one?

Mike - I don't know if I am OK with this one at this point, John I get your mindset as to why you would think that and do it by Ordinance but for the sake of not changing a ton of stuff I do feel like the Town Manager should live in Richlands. At this time I think I would be more inclined to leave that one the way it is.

John - I don't have a problem with it either way.

Jeff - The only thing we sort of ran into during the hiring process was, are they able to move within the time frame after they are hired and when they begin working. I think that is the difficulty here. We had a couple of candidates across the country, picking up and moving in 30 days is tough especially if you had property and closing on it or anything like that.

Mayor Cury – My personal feeling is that the Town Manager needs to reside in the Town of Richlands within the corporate limits, reason other members has expressed.

Jeff - Could you do an ordinance on that situation?

John - Relocate within six (6) months.

Mayor Cury - I think the change should be a period of like 90 days or whatever Council would like or people would like. I think the Manager needs to live in the Town of Richlands. Under the Town Manager system that we have that are part of the government. Over the years you will become so well known, they will not know all the members being here on and off but they will know you and they will want you to live amongst them.

Mike - I am good with giving six (6) months.

Mayor Cury - I am just making a suggestion but I want the Manager to live with me. I think a time period proposal of six (6) months or 90 days. I think we need to think about that caveat right now.

Mayor Cury - That is the last proposed change, as the Mayor I will share my thinking. When Mike called me this afternoon I was very honest with him. He wanted to know what I really thought, he valued my opinion and I appreciate that very much. I am fine with the term limits some other things I can live with as a member of governing body. As the Town Manager I want him to live here and I think people would want that. The part about the 30 days I get it, it is cumbersome and it is hard when you have to deal with that, especially when you are new. It becomes cumbersome but after a while after you get used to it, it becomes less of a headache, the waiting time that 30 days puts out there. That being said it is a mixed bag for me, time for people to think about it, not to gather the opposition for people who don't want things or those who do want things it gives Council time to think over certain thing.

John - If is OK with Council we will have a Public Hearing next month and we will go thru and vote on each change. If there is one that Council wants to leave in there or cut out we will focus on each specific change based on those votes we will submit updates to the General Assembly for approval.

Mayor Cury - John may I suggest, the changes proposed you can go thru and number them so we have a clear idea what we voting on. It is very easy to flip paper around and get mixed up. Do you like that idea?

John - I can do that.

Mayor Cury – Thank you

Doug – Should we have a vote whether we want to change the Charter at all and let each Councilmember vote before we even consider the changes? Do we really want to change it?

Mayor Cury - I will share my thoughts with you, when Mike called me he agreed but not sure he necessarily did. I am not crazy about a lot of Charter changes either but sometimes we need them we have changed our Charter before you can see all the amendments from the very beginning (2013). That being said, State or Town made changes, codes have changed and we have to abide by it, I think it should be a slow and considerate process sometimes what appears to be so helpful can backfire. We will never know it until we do it; I think slow and easy does it on the Charter. As far as voting whether we are going to change it a motion can be brought to that effect but don't know how effective that motion would be or should it take it one by one.

Doug - My point is every one of these changes, we take away from the public and their decisions. These are all gaged to give more power to the Council and takes the power away from the people. Term limits I can see where term limits are good and it is not going to affect me in the least because I won't be running two (2) or three (3) more times. When you put term limits on you are taking the rights away from the people to say who they want to run. To me that is not right. If they want to elect someone one four (4) or five (5) times that is their prerogative and I don't think it is right for the Council to limit terms and try to hold what they want. If the public likes someone and they want to vote them in 100 years that is up to them that is their choice. If you look at every one of these it is taking away from the public, their choices and the input that they have every one of these changes. That is why I don't want to see the Charter changed.

Mayor Cury – Drive-Thru Discussion

John - We have talked about this a couple of times and asked Mayor and Logan to look at a couple of preliminary designs that we have for the drive-thru. Since we are where we are and the amount of money that we had from the Cares Act money we are looking at a column maybe five (5) or six (6) foot tall has the voice and the tube underground similar to what is at a bank. I want some direction from Council. We have to move pretty quick the deadline on the money is December. We need to put out bids for quotes or get some pricing to move forward with that. If that is not what you had in mind we can go back and see if there is anything else we can spend the money on.

Mayor Cury - I think it is a fine thing personally; did you distribute the pictures to everybody?

John – I did and I can email them out again tomorrow and you can send me comments back. I will send the actual quote when I get it.

Mike – Where is it going?

John – Front right of the building we may have to repaint the parking lot to direct the traffic in the right pattern I think it should not be too much.

Mayor Cury - Traffic flow was a concern I had.

John - There is not a perfect place to put it but the best place we can find. There is a lot of electrical and utilities we have to find a place as easy as possible. I will send an update on that tomorrow and send me some feedback once you have a change to look at it.

Mayor Cury – Proposed Holiday Schedule - Everyone should have a copy. It is in tandem with federal guidelines is that correct?

John - I have drafted what other Towns are doing, Cedar Bluff, State, Lebanon, County, Tazewell, Bluefield and what we are doing. We fall pretty short on the amount of holidays off, it doesn't sound like an issue but when the Town of Cedar Bluff and County are closed and we have to pick up trash we can't take it to the land fill, there is business that can't be done. I wanted to present to you to see what holidays you would be willing to add back to the calendar for the upcoming year.

Mayor Cury - Has everyone had time to review the proposed holiday schedule?

Richard - I am going to abstain on any voting or discussion according to Section 2.23115.

Logan - Looking at the chart we fall terribly short on allowing our employees for the Town of Richlands time to celebrate with their families on holidays. I know for myself I would want to be with my family and I think that is the least we can do for our Town employees. I also see the Town Manager's point if something is closed on the County level obviously we can't operate as we normally would. I don't see any reason why we could not add all of them. Juneteenth was added this year as a State and Federal holiday. I don't see why we could not offer all of those. I was looking at Cedar Bluff, the County and State. Would you agree Mr. O'Daniel as far as schedule?

John – The County is pretty close mirrors the State. If we mirrored the County you would be mirroring the State schedules as well.

Jeff - If we just mirrored the County.

Logan - If it already creates an issue for the County or for the Town when the County is closed, I think we fall terribly short looking at our 8-10 days comparison to 14.5 days. I think it would be wonderful to mirror the County.

Mayor Cury - That is three (3) members of Council that feels to mirror the County.

Mary Ann - I agree with matching the holidays with the County but the one (1) holiday that the County does not offer is Good Friday, I think we should add. I would mention New Year's Eve but I know in my personal business it is the last day of the year and I have a lot of people making payments but I would defer to the Town Manager if that is a similar experience here. I just work it and tell my staff to go home. I am typically busy.

John - It depends on what day the cut-off falls on, I am not a 100% sure on that.

Mary Ann - I will make a motion.

Mike – I would like to add one thing, I think we should remove the asterisk beside of Christmas Eve, if we have employees planning on vacation but they don't know to plan because they don't know if Council is going to give them Christmas Eve off or not. It has check mark and asterisk which indicates it is annually our decision. I don't have an issue with taking that asterisk away.

Mary Ann - If we match the County we would take it away.

Mike – And add Good Friday. We would be mirroring Lebanon.

Mary Ann – I make a motion that we change our holiday schedule pay to match the current plan of the Town of Lebanon, Mike seconded the motion.

John - Just to be clear if Lebanon changes anything we would not automatically mirror, we would bring back to Council for discussion.

Mary Ann - We could read thru each one of them for the motion but ...

Mike – Lebanon as of 2020

Mayor Cury - Mary Ann I follow what you are saying but for clarity, is it possible to reframe that motion. Richard is saying 15.5 days.

Mary Ann - I will amend the motion that we change our holiday schedule to 15.5 days.

Jeff - You could leave to the discretion of the Town Manager for the 15.5 days.

Mayor Cury - What days are we voting on it could come up later?

Jeff - Why are we wasting time asking if the employees can have off Christmas Eve, get the schedule out early and everybody knows?

Doug - I think leave it to the discretion of the Town Manager.

Mary Ann - I will make the motion to add the following holidays for our Town Employees - Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Washington's B-day (President's Day), Good Friday, Juneteenth, Columbus Day, Thanksgiving Eve (Half Day), Christmas Eve to the current holiday schedule. Mike seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call – Doug- Yes, Jeff-Yes, Logan-Yes, Richard-Abstained, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann– Yes Motion carries – 5/1. (Richard Abstained)

Mayor Cury – Census Committee Appointment

John – I put an email in your packet from Eric Young, there is a Census Committee they have requested to add someone to that committee. Just wanted to see if there is anyone you would like to serve on that committee.

Mike - Who was our old one?

Mayor Cury - I don't think we had it, the census is every ten (10) years. Are you looking for a volunteer?

John – Yes

Mike – How many do you have to have?

John – Just one (1).

Mike – Does it have to be a member of Council?

Mayor Cury - Mike would you read the email.

Mike – Read the email from Eric Young – Dated July 19, 2021

Mayor Cury - I presume you can pick someone or someone can volunteer.

John - I didn't know if it was more like political....

Mayor Cury - I think it implies political.

Doug - What about Wanda Lowe? I think she would be a good one.

Mary Ann - I would agree with Wanda Lowe.

Mayor Cury - Do we have a consensus on that? Who is going to call and ask her?

John - If she is not interested I will be the fall back.

Mike - You could both do it.

Mayor Cury - We have someone in the audience that wants to participate.

Morgan Earp - I would be happy to be on the committee.

Mayor Cury – Morgan Earp, he is a volunteer and I accept it. Mr. O’Daniel will be in touch with you about meeting times, we can also ask Wanda, we will send a slew of people.

Mayor Cury – Budget Billing Update

John - We discussed at our last meeting, we are changing to our “Budget Payment Plan”, and people on a set budget will be set up on monthly budget amount. At the end of the year we try our best to estimate based on their previous consumption, a lot of times people overpay. In the past we have automatically sent them a check but that turned into a pretty big headache most people would bring back and apply to their account. If someone still wants a check we will cut them a check at the end of the year if they don’t they can let us know how they would like it or we will apply to their balance.

Mayor Cury – I think that makes excellent sense.

Mayor Cury - Utility Disconnections Update

John – The disconnection moratorium will end at the end of the month. We put a note in the delinquent utilities customers’ bill the last time we sent out bills, so everybody delinquent should receive that notice. Basically we are to the point where we are at the next billing cycle if not paid they will be cut off. Anybody delinquent needs to come in and set up a payment plan by the end of the month. I wanted to give you some updated numbers how much money we had out there, Commercial and Residential Accounts \$8569.00, total of 25 accounts ranges from \$12 to \$2600 delinquent and average of \$342 . For residential we have \$142,000 that is for 206 utility accounts delinquent, they range from \$16.51 to \$6,536.72 with an average of \$690 per account. We essentially are at \$156,000 worth of delinquent accounts. We need them to set up payment plans to get the payments paid for the past due amount. We are moving forward and going back to our normal process unless Council choses to do something beyond what the governor has required to do for our customers.

Mayor Cury - Times are complex aren’t they. It could get that way again but we pray not. John, do you need to cover anything else under miscellaneous.

John - If you will notice the new camera in the back and the new camera beside the computer that is for the Public Access Channel we have talked to IT guy to get him to come in next month and get that set up so we can broadcast live. At that point we can discuss if we still want to do You Tube or is the Public Access Channel going to be sufficient. Hopefully in the next 30 days we can get it up and running.

Mayor Cury – Attorney Comments: Appointment of Zoning Board of Appeals

Michael – I had talked to Brad about this it looks like you actually have (5) members on the Zoning Board of Appeals but you have to have it approved thru the Circuit Court of Tazewell County. I have a sample draft here of what it would need to look like; I already have Chad Ashby, Bill Patton, Gene Hurst, George

Brown, and Gaynelle Thompson on the list. Under the State code it is recommended that everyone should stagger their years you would have one (1) stagger for every five (5) years. It looks like Richlands has done that for the most part but there are two (2) that will be rotating off June 30, 2023. There is no one set to rotate off in 2026. Someone must have not rotated off this past year. It is something that will be a continuous petition every June or July just to keep that on file in the Circuit Court.

Mayor Cury - Will you be taking care of that for us?

Michael – Yes

John - Do we need to reapprove those appointments just for the remainder of their terms or good with no action tonight?

Michael - I think it would be good to go ahead and approve who is on there and get there terms set in the circuit court.

Mayor Cury - Is there a motion to renew the current members of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the terms they are currently serving.

Doug - I make the motion, Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call – Doug- Yes, Jeff- Yes, Logan-Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike– Yes, and Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury – Attorney Comments – Foreclosure Update

Michael – I talked to Brad about this one I have an email from Wayne McClanahan dated Saturday April 10, our stance is to follow Wayne’s recommendation however seems like there has not been any active action on that since that date. We are basically here at scratch on the foreclosure of the tax sales. There was a recommendation of a Blight/Nuisance Ordinances I am not aware of that ever being passed. That would be the recommendation of the Firm to pass that ordinances and base the sales off that ordinances itself.

Mike - I think we were close to one.

Mayor Cury - Is that the one that I question that had blanks in it.

Mike – Yes

John - One was for code enforcement, we had some wording and tax abatement with the County that we could partner on and try to figure out how to encourage people

Mayor Cury - There were blanks in the ordinance, is that right Richard?

Richard - There was.

Mayor Cury - I would have felt uncomfortable voting on it with blanks in it and the other thing was tax abatements with the County. Based on fixing the property up, I was not sure about that. I questioned that, I remember Mike saying it needed to be a priority, Mary Ann said you are right, it needs to be a priority but apparently we have dropped the priority and we need to pick up again.

Mary Ann – Big question I have and I don’t expect you to know the answer but when Mr. McClanahan prior to his leaving for the Blankenship property on Fairfax Avenue and the former Dr. Gomez property in Hidden Valley there was supposed to be a public auction on steps on the Tazewell County Court House on June 14 at 9:00am. I had so many citizens in both those areas so pleased that something was

finally going to happen and I don't know what happened. But I know that Brittani Ferrell in Hidden Valley told me she called the Court House and she was told that it was rescheduled to October, I am totally lost and very upset I think surely Wayne McClanahan from the Gooch Firm should be able to fill in the blanks of what happened on the sale of June 14.

Michael - That is the first I am hearing of it. Do you know what day in October?

Mary Ann - Ms. Ferrell just said she was told in October.

Mayor Cury - I want to echo what Mary Ann is saying it was supposed to be in June and I don't recall being on the Court House steps, obviously it has not happened can you research all that and bring us up to date.

Mary Ann - All these citizens have been more than patient; I could not be that patient if I were them. That is just two areas but that is two that we had definite action. It didn't have anything to do with the blight what I understand was tax sale.

Michael - Was that a Town Tax Sale or County sale?

Mayor Cury - It was complex, the Town was selling it

Mary Ann - He had discussed with Eric Young.

Mike - He discussed with Chase and they had an agreement, obviously if there were taxes owned to Richlands there would be taxes for the County.

Michael - I will try to find out if the County moved to October.

Mary Ann - I just think the citizens deserve an answer because now we are two (2) months after what they finally thought was an answer of a huge problem and we still can't give them an answer and it is not your fault but if you could be kind enough to check into it we would really appreciate it.

Mayor Cury - Michael thank you for representing yourself, your firm and our Town.

Mayor Cury - John can you explain the new layout to us.

John - This is something that will take a little time to get use to but it helps me prepare and the Council for any decisions that you would like to make. If there is something you want to bring up and it takes Council voting I ask that you send it to me the week before so we can put on the new or old items for discussion. You can be prepared to make decision at the meeting versus make a decision that night if we have not had a chance to get background information. It will be at the Mayor's discretion but I think it will take time to ease into it is a little different to what you have done for years.

Mayor Cury - I was not familiar with the terms but I think I understand it in general. He is asking if we are going to make motions if we know in advance we can let John know so he can put it in a different section. Otherwise these are Councilmembers report that does not necessary need a motion. It does not stop you from making a motion, just trying to get information to you first.

Doug - If it is not possible, you understand.

Mayor Cury - "Council Member Reports" - Richard Brown

Richard - I spoken to Mr. McCracken on Jewell Street and he advised that the Town had done some work on the ditch line at McClure is there any more work that is going to be done over there or do you know?

John - I asked our guys to kind of go and dig out as much as they felt comfortable and not go to the point where it would be too deep and the water would not flood, we have spoken to the railroad and they are planning to move that culvert we are waiting on them to do that. We have done everything on our end that I feel comfortable doing.

Richard – There was a couple of signage issues that we had on Veterans, I didn't get a chance to talk to you prior to the meeting but if you are going south bound as you cross the bridge kind of behind Jeff's house there is a "Reduce Speed Ahead" sign and a "Speed Limit" sign next to Farmer's Street that the trees are blocking the signage. I think when the bridge crew from Allegheny pulled there signs there is still one at the second Allegheny intersection that states the "Road Closed". It was when they were doing the bridge next to the memorial; they forgot to take the sign down.

Richard - I want to get you to go over the first reading of the four (4) ordinances, I had spoken to you earlier regarding that these in fact are not new increases or additional increases.

John - They are not in addition to what was already passed. At our next meeting we plan to ask Council to revoke those because when they were passed during that process we realized procedurally we might not have followed the process as close to the ways of the regulations that we would have liked, that is why we are going back and going thru the process again to make sure that we follow regulations that are in place as close as we can.

Richard - There is not a double increase.

John – No, the only difference maybe in what we talked about three (3) or four (4) months ago when we started this discussion are some of the tab fees the staff was going to bring up in three (3) or four (4) months but since we already had to do the rate schedule we went ahead and put those in there.

Mayor Cury - "Council Member Reports" – Mike Street

Mike – Point Broadband I don't have an update currently, the past month was hard to meet and discuss, we plan on having the meeting this month to discuss that proposal.

Mike – 911 had their first collective meeting on July 20, we had some radio volume issues, some calls that were concerning both Fire and EMS, the 911 folks have been very responsive in providing updates and fixing those so we appreciate that thoroughly, it looks like it is going OK there were be growing pains as they continue but it seems the two are working and trying to figure everything out. They have not created the committee yet, I think the Sheriff is manning that and we are hoping that will be created soon.

Mike - Back to School Kids Day Bash, that is going to be this weekend, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Supplies have been rolling in, I have a number of people on the committee it has been amazing. The response from the community has been humbling as far as what we have been able to raise and what we have been able to buy. We will provide 1500 backpacks to the kids in the community as well as school supplies. We have been buying our school supplies, notebooks, scissors, pencils, glue sticks, pencil bags and crayons; it is an awesome opportunity to really help the kids in the community. That is going to be on Saturday we have lots of volunteers and it is going to be at Critterville that is where we will be giving all the supplies. We will be doing a "Touch a Truck Event" with all our EMS Services and Emergency Services involved and the Richlands Police Department, Fire Department and other agencies around the county to come and bring their vehicles. There will also be some K9 dogs doing some demonstrations it gives them an opportunity to show that they are the good guys. We are really excited and it is all working out. At a later date I will have some recognition as far as our extent with the community, they are putting in hours and hours of time. The community has been incredible in regards to donating time, money and even supplies. We can't thank them enough.

Mayor Cury – "Council Member Reports" – Mary Ann Strong

Mary Ann – I will start with positives I again would like to commend Councilman Street, a lot of time and effort for the Back to School Bash and hope everyone watching brings the kids out all weekend long, Friday, Saturday and Sunday. It is good to have the signs throughout Town. Thank you so much.

Mary Ann – The Rec Park has had a very successful summer season with the pool as far as the number of kids coming. The pool opening went well that is a big thank you to Jessica and Dave Ascue for taking care of the pool. Especially Dave he is retired but he keeps coming back, he helps with the pool and pitches in whenever needed. The lifeguards deserve a big thank you because they have been a great crew this swim season. Going back to school on August 17 the pool will only be open Tuesday – Friday in the evenings for pool parties, by the way there has been pool parties galore this season more than ever. The pools open Saturday from 11-6 and Sunday from 1-6. Regrettable we did not have a quorum in July for the Rec Commission meeting. Summer is a busy time and I am very disappointed in that and encourage all Rec Commission members to be at the meeting next Monday August 16 at 6:00pm upstairs at the Rec Park. The park is closed on Monday's but the downstairs down is open so you can circle around come thru the back on the second level. I started with positives the only negative that I have and I honestly do not enjoy controversy but when citizens after citizens come up to me and they ask me to ask this question, I feel the responsibility to do so. I have asked this before but again I have been asked to ask again, Mr. Ratliff several citizens have asked me can you honestly say that you live in your home in Hidden Valley or somewhere within the Town of Richlands limits?

Doug - Yes I do and if there is a problem and you keep asking this, we have so many problems in Town and bringing this up every time why don't you think about the problems and deal with the problems that the citizens have. If you have a problem with it why don't you go to the State Police or the Attorney General. I would be glad to show them where I sleep most every night. Sometimes I am out of Town but I suggest instead of bringing up every meeting and taking this time up, go to the State Police I will be glad to show them where I sleep. You bring this crap up every time.

Mary Ann – I have brought this up twice.

Doug –As many problems that we have and as divided as Council is you try to divide it more.

Mary Ann - It appalls me, personally I think Jan White was a fine Mayor, I appreciated her service to our Town, this is not a personal statement and Mayor forgive me for being off subject but it is my report and my final statement but it appalls me that number one we didn't have enough respect for the IDA for their recommendation and more than that Ms. White has currently has sued the Town of Richlands and we appoint her to serve in a very important capacity.

Mayor Cury – “Council Member Reports” – Jeff Hurst

Jeff –The trash behind the Food Lion, since they put two (2) dumpsters in it has actually helped tremendously as far as the amount of trash that was previously on the ground, they still fill up on the weekend but it is getting better. Thank you for trying to work on that problem. I just want to make mention it is illegal to put tires in there. I have seen a few people with tires in their truck driving around Food Lion, just beware there are eyes out there. Mr. Edgell came and spoke about the flowers I think the flowers look great and I wish there was a better way to keep an eye on them. I have run thru there several mornings; they have trashed them and thrown on the ground. I thought that was an eyesore with such a beautiful little project, beautiful than it has ever been. I thank the Garden Club for what they did and hope we can get a better solution in watering. Planning Commission, we did not get to meet this month the gentlemen that was supposed to come and speak with us last two (2) months still has not made it there we are getting a little frustrated as far as that goes. Exciting about school starting and next weekend our Back to School Bash, I thank Mike for his persistence in organizing this event and all the money he has raised and all the businesses and the people that donated financially. It speaks volume to the need in our community and the willingness of people to join together for a great cause and encourage people to get out on Saturday. Everyone knows what is going on nationally and locally, spiking Covid cases just a reminder for citizens to be careful and to use judgement and be mindful of the spike that is in the area. I know our hospital is really concerned with it and the industry that I am in have

seen it too. We are not in the clear yet I am an advocate of health and safety. Just make sure we take the proper precautions and guidelines.

Mayor Cury – “Council Member Reports” – Logan Plaster

Logan – First I would like to thank Council for their understanding of my absence from the last two (2) meetings, our regular scheduled meetings I should say. I have had pneumonia which I am still getting over. I had a prior obligation that I had no choice but be at the last meeting, I ask Mayor Cury to relay that. I have a very good update and look forward to these messages each month since the DNR project has begun in Richlands. I spoke with Julia Winston and she ask me to read this to the Council as of yesterday the TNR Project a total of 31 cats have now been trapped, spaded and neutered and none of the sterilized cats have been returned to the Richlands Mall are being fed and closely monitored by the ladies that were designated to do so, fourteen (14) of the sterilized cats are in foster care and working on getting them adopted, seven (7) cats have already been adopted and in addition twenty-one (21) kittens have been trapped or collected and are in foster care they will be spade and neutered when age appropriate and adopted out or sent to rescues outside of our area. I would like to thank Lisa Hess and Julia Winston and Linda Keen and all the other volunteers. They have done several fund raisers and I commend them on their efforts and I think no one in Richlands has matched what they have done and I really appreciate their efforts, Lisa especially, I talk to her a lot almost weekly of course I would highly encourage citizens if you can and you have an animal to spade or neutered it especially if you leave it outside. Secondly I had a citizen request a Flag Pole at the Rec Park, she had messaged me and she thought since so many different things were going on over there now that Gods Rock Stars she thought that be appropriate and very much needed to have Flag Pole. I promised her I would ask the Town Manager and he had sent me a response but I didn't have time to write it down so would you reiterate that.

John – At this point I think I will refer to the Rec Commission to where it would need to go and get some feedback from them and then we would look at what the cost would be and bring back to Council.

Mary Ann - Jeff I take that we don't have a Flag Pole right?

Jeff – No

Mary Ann - It kind of surprises me with all the softball games that are played thru the years, that is an excellent idea. I think Woodmen would help with the flag; we will talk about it on Monday night,

Logan - I would like to thank John again I will reiterate from the businesses on Front Street across from the old Incubator, they were very thankful that you had the team go out there and paint walk out there. They walk behind the building and not able to get out since they are no longer can park across the street. They are parking behind their building and getting blocked in and many of them are professionals that have appointments and they were having issues in getting out. I really appreciate that and wanted to reiterate from the businesses as well. Of course as a new school year begins it is not as great as the teachers and students would want it to be but I wish the teachers and students a great back to school year, my prayers are with them and hope they have a wonderful year. Education is so important and I know that Tazewell County Public Schools are working hard to provide a safe environment for the students and I commend them on that. I thank the Council and I appreciate the discussion on the ordinances I didn't make a comment during that time but I will make a comment that the only thing I would see and some I don't agree with but some I do. The term limits I definitely agree with and I think eight (8) years would be easier with everyone involved you can run two (2) terms and you are finished as far as that goes I am personally OK with that, some of the other ones I will have to think about and ponder whether they are good or not but I appreciate the work that has been done on that.

Mayor Cury – “Council Member Reports” – Doug Ratliff

Doug – I didn't get a chance to talk to the gentlemen but Gene Hearl called and he would like for you to look at the Ash Trees that is on Town property two (2) of them have died, one (1) is on Town property and his is afraid it will fall and cause damage to the road.

John – Is that on Plantation Drive?

Doug - Yes, it is the first house on the right. There is another one that is on Town property that could be a danger if you follow the road to the right there is one up there on Town property could fall and pose a danger.

John - Does he know where both of them are?

Doug - He left it at my office but I will get one of my people to bring to you it is where the line is. On 1754 Kents Ridge Road they can barely get out because there is no gravel in front of the road, it is washed out and really from the Gillespie's all the way down thru Kents Ridge both shoulders of the road are breaking off it could pose a danger if we could look at that maybe help that situation. One of the houses which we have talked about before poured a concrete driveway to the road I think if it snows and the plow goes thru there I think that I going to be a problem if they hit that concrete. You need to take a look at that, if you will look at both sides of the road going thru Kents Ridge to the Gillespie's going all the way down to Town Limits there is a problem there. We were talking about the pool and I had a complaint it wasn't a complaint just a suggestion maybe you could help us out with this Mary Ann. They were at the pool and most of the seats were broken, they need more seating. If you could talk to Jessica and you guys get together with the Rec Committee and maybe help them out with some of the seats around the pool I would appreciate that.

Mary Ann- You are very welcome.

Doug – There is also a rumor don't know if it is true or not we bought a police console up into thousands of dollars, is that true?

John - If we did Council would have approved it.

Doug - It was going around that we paid close to \$100,000 for a new console.

John - Not that I am aware of.

Doug - I just wanted to make sure I think everyone knows we are the last dispatch in the State of Virginia and to make a big investment like that it is going to go in the next two (2) or three (3) years because of the laws. I wanted to make sure we didn't make a large investment in a police console that is going to be obsolete in a year or two.

Mayor Cury – "Mayor's Comments"

Mayor Cury – I have had two (2) calls concerns that is best relayed to the manager privately. People who are concerned about neighbor things and they are afraid of retaliation. I will mention them to you privately. I want to thank Mike and all the people that worked with him for helping with the "Back to School Bash" which promises to be very successful. Success comes in not in terms of numbers necessarily or money it is when you see the children and the happy expressions that they will have. That is the real success; I want to thank you for working very hard on that. Mary Ann works very hard at Rec, Logan you report on animals it is so appreciated because I know it can take a lot of time and nothing we can personally do about it but the people working toward that end have done something to help these living creatures. I love history and I own up to it gratefully so I want to share something. I am reading a book called Split of the Vow and it is very detailed May of 1944 about the split and how Churchill handled it and all the famous speeches that he gave he wrote himself he loved poetry, he loved literature and he loved history and he drew all kinds of scriptures all those words from all those sources and they are famous words but what confounded the Nazi who would control Europe was his positive

attitude. He had to take on that persona and when I hear of positivity no matter our differences it inspires me to still love this Town as we all do with no question about it from any point of view. What confounded Hitler and all those people who were trying to bring Britain to their knees was Hitler's positive attitude, they could not understand it, you know the greatest darkest days, that's not important

Mayor Cury - Executive Closed Session Pursuant to VA Code Section

- (a) 2.2-3711 (a) (29) Contract Negotiations
- (b) 2.2-3711 (a) (3) Property Acquisition
- (c) 2.2-3711 (a) (8) Pending Litigation

Mayor Cury - Do I hear a motion to enter into Executive Closed Session?

Jeff- I make the motion to go into Executive Closed Session, Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call – Doug, Yes- Jeff, Yes –Logan -Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury - We will go into Executive Closed Session.

Mayor Cury - 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.

Jeff – I make the motion, Richard second the motion

Mayor Cury- 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. Roll Call – Doug, Yes- Jeff, Yes –Logan -Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury - Is there any action that needs to be taken following our Executive Session?

Richard - I make the motion to hire Steven W. Gooch firm to proceed with collections on behalf of the Town of Richlands, Logan seconded the motion.

John - Based on their proposal.

Mayor Cury - Let's add that language.

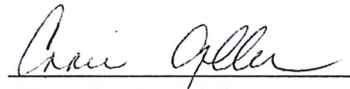
Mayor Cury- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those that oppose say no. Roll Call – Doug, Yes- Jeff, Yes –Logan -Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.

Mayor Cury - We will direct the Town Manager to inform the Gooch Firm.

Mayor Cury - Is there a motion to adjourn the meeting until September 14.

Logan - I make the motion to adjourn, Richard seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury- 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. Doug, Yes- Jeff, Yes –Logan -Yes, Richard-Yes, Mike – Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 6/0.



Connie Allen, Town/Clerk



Rodney D. Cury, Mayor