

The Richlands Town Council held a regular monthly meeting in the Richlands Council Chambers on May 11, 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
Council Member Absent: Richard Brown
Town Attorney : K.W. McClanahan

Mayor Cury opened the meeting.

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

Mayor Cury - Councilmember Richard Brown let us know at the last meeting he would not be able to be here tonight but will be with us on May 18 and the June 8 meeting.

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

Mayor Cury – Is there anyone who is not on the agenda who would like to speak under “Unscheduled Public Comments”?

Mayor Cury - Please add Connie Estep, Ernest Edgell and Sandra Culler. Would anyone else like to speak under “Unscheduled Public Comments”?

Mayor Cury - Are there any additions or deletions to the agenda?

John - I have a small change, under “Scheduled Public Comments”, I would ask that Mr. Harold Glen Roberts be moved up after the approval of the minutes, generally those requests are done as a separate agenda item.

Wayne - Under Attorney Comments please strike item “b”. Under “Closed Session” add 2.23711(A)(5) Discussion of a Prospective Business, no previous announcement has been made, 2.23711 (A)(8) legal counsel regarding specific issues – conflict of interest concerns with a community development group, economic zoning implementation.

Mayor Cury - Are there any more additions or deletions to the agenda?

Mayor Cury – I will entertain a motion to accept the agenda as amended.

Jeff - I make a motion to accept the agenda as amended, Logan 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 – Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Jeff – Yes Motion carries – 5/0.

Mayor Cury –Are there any corrections, additions, or deletions to the minutes? We have minutes from Regular Council Meeting April 13, Public Hearing April 13, April 22 Budget Work Session, April 29 Budget Work Session, May 5 Budget Work Session.

Mike- I make a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Logan 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 – Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Jeff – Yes Motion carries – 5/0.

Mayor Cury - Harold Glen Roberts – Requesting a Conditional Use Permit

Mr. Roberts - 212 Bay Road, Richlands, VA – I am here to get approval for a permit to put a trailer on 140 Oxford Street. There is a double wide between my lot and the trailer park; I need to put a trailer there. There are trailers everywhere across the road, it is not like I am putting a trailer around nice homes, it is in a location where trailers already are.

Mayor Cury - I remember you coming to Council last year, it will be at Council's discretion. I would suggest as Mayor that the Planning Commission have an opportunity to study this for the benefit of the Council, but it is up to the Council.

Mike - That was the recommendation that I was going to make, that is what we have a Planning Commission for they can give us their recommendations.

Mike - I make a motion that the Planning Commission evaluate Mr. Robert's request for a "Conditional Use Permit".

Logan - Can I ask a question?

Mayor Cury - Yes

Logan – Will they have that prepared by the next Council meeting?

Mayor Cury - Possibility, the Planning Commission meets on the first Tuesday of the month. They will meet on June 1 and the Council meets on June 8.

Logan - We just need to give him an answer speedily.

Mary Ann - Mr. Roberts was very patient with us in the past with a request for his grandson. You are always a perfect gentleman and extremely patient with us, I do appreciate Logan's comment that we try to have an answer for you next month.

Mr. Roberts - When should I contact you back?

Mayor Cury - We have to pass the motion first.

Mary Ann - I will second the motion.

Mayor Cury- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion?

Mike – I just want Mr. Roberts to know it is not a "no" we just need to let the Planning Commission evaluate.

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 – Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Jeff – Yes Motion carries – 5/0.

Mayor Cury - The suggestion of the Mayor is that you attend the Planning Commission meeting here at the Richlands Town Hall on June 1. You can explain directly to the members of the Commission. Jeff Hurst is the Council's representative on the Planning Commission.

Mayor Cury – "Scheduled Public Comments" George Shelton – "No Show"

Mayor Cury – "Scheduled Public Comments" – Laura Mollo – Budget Issues

Laura Mollo – 262 Linwood Drive, Richlands – During the discussion about Council’s health insurance, Mary Ann, you said you prayed about that decision, since that vote I have had a lot of people ask me how God can allow you to do something so horrible and selfish by giving to yourself when you don’t need it and taking from people who don’t have it to give, my response to them is always the same, I don’t believe God would tell you this was OK, since you wanted to bring him into it I will tell you what the Bible says about taking from the less fortunate, Proverbs 22:16 says one who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and one who gives gifts to the rich both come to poverty, it does not matter what you guys do from this point on or how many baseball fields are named after you or how many 5K you want to run or what grants to twist. You are taking for yourself from people who don’t have it to give. You sat here and said you are not sure how you are going to pay for a \$2000 item for the Fire Department well I have a great idea we could not pay for your insurance Mary Ann and that would buy multiple items for the Fire Department. We should be taking care of that department way before we take care of any Councilmember’s insurance. We also have a Councilmember who is a RSO that position happens to be the only position in this Town that we pay for mileage from his home to the school. I don’t understand how that is fair to every other Town employee who drives from their home to work, and they are not getting paid mileage, and the SRO also gets \$50 a month for his cell phone and every other Town employee eligible only gets \$20. You sat here and said over and over that part-time positions are not allowed health insurance but the IT guy is a part-time position with health insurance and speaking of IT another way we can cut the budget is by not paying him in out on a daily basis, that position was never approved by the Council to begin with. The In-house IT needs to be reviewed. The big joke has been the Town can’t afford ink pens, but I don’t find this funny at all. They have a \$7000 office supply budget and can’t afford an ink pen. That does not even include ink and paper, so for \$7000 you are telling me we can’t afford ink pens for our Town Hall. You guys are squandering our money the taxpayers, you are spending money irresponsibly and asking us to pay more and more and selfishly for your own personal gains. We have over \$120,000 misc. expenses and when question about it the answer was the same each time. It is just a catch-all. A \$120,000 in catch-all expenses, I want to know where that money went and what it was spent on, that is too much to be unaccounted for. If you can’t classify \$120,000 into a line item, you need to create a new line item. This is getting ridiculous we don’t even require receipts for per diem Expenses ask the County or the State or any other Town for those receipts and they will provide them, it helps for accountability. We don’t require per diem receipts and why is it that any citizens that the Town has a return check they are charged a fee but when a Councilmember’s place of employment bounces a check their fees are waived. One of you sitting here right now was on last year’s delinquent real estate list and you are about to raise our real estate taxes when one of you are not paying your own. How can you expect us to pay ours? I am starting to see a distributing trend that certain Councilmembers are treated differently than other citizens and Town employees and I will say to you again sitting on this Council should not be what you can gain from the Town but what you can bring to the Town and to the citizens. There is no accountability withstanding, if you file a FIOA request, which you are required to pay for, Mary Ann and Richard sit here trying to insult people over it specifically myself obviously. The more transparent you are required to be the more accountable you are held the more the citizens are seeing what we are paying for stupid stuff. Mary Ann you also spoke about how easy it is for families to get on state aid during the pandemic why don’t you yourself sign up for Obama Care and Medicaid to help relieve the citizens of the burden of your insurance that you are putting on us.

Mayor Cury - “Unscheduled Public Comments” – Connie Estep

Connie Estep- 922 East 4th Street Richlands – My concern is with the Eagle Trailer Park that is owned by the Hackworth’s, which is behind me, I have lived here thirty (30) years and my neighbor behind me has lived there (31) years. He has recently put a trailer in there, as long as I can remember there has not been a trailer, even my daughter tried to get one in 2010. I have contacted Mr. Keene here and the County. I was instructed to get a new survey that is less than two (2) years old which I have done, I have presented it here as I was told. My request to you is that survey be reviewed by a professional because it clearly shows that the 10’ guideline that the Town has in the code is like 7’/8’ from me, on the boundary line he is clearly on the other neighbors land. My request to you is for mine to be reviewed, if you can’t take that and say the trailer needs to be removed, I expect that he be asked to get his own survey as well. It is less than two (2) years old, as a citizen I pay taxes and I have lived here for 30 years,

my family is long standing. I feel what I have worked for should be appreciated. I hope you can follow thru, when the permit was given from here for that trailer to be set there, I don't think it was clearly researched, the boundary of the properties.

Mayor Cury - I will ask the Town Manager to research that and get with you. If we don't have your phone number, can you please give it to the Clerk.

Mayor Cury - "Unscheduled Public Comments" – Ernest Edgell

Ernest Edgell – 206 Terry Drive - My first question is what has happened to the microphones?

Mike - We use the microphone in the middle.

Ernest Edgell - When you spoke earlier, I could barely hear you. Is there an ordinance about leaving your trash can out all week?

Mayor Cury - What do you mean?

Ernest Edgell - Tomorrow is garbage day, four (4) or five (5) leave theirs out until it is time to pick up again. I live on a straight stretch in Hidden Valley on Terry Drive, Cresswood is also a straight stretch, and if you will talk to people on Cresswood they are concerned about the speeding over there too. One (1) house down the street has six (6) small children, walkers, everyone don't speed but quite a few do. In Town they are pretty quick too, between Hurst-Scott and the next red light; you have to be very careful how you cross the street. I would be interested in knowing how many speeding tickets they write in this Town.

Mayor Cury - We can find out for you, but not tonight.

Ernest Edgell – I would be interested in hearing about the new ordinance too.

Mayor Cury – "Unscheduled Public Comments" – Sandra Culler

Sandra Culler – 1301 McDowell Street, Richlands – I have prepared this afternoon word for word for what I wanted to say but since the other people have already spoken it changes somewhat. I am really flabbergasted Laura by your presentation. I felt like it was a crucifixion of Mary Ann, and it was uncalled for. I am sorry, we talked before the meeting, and I could see where you were coming from, but I wonder what is motivating you to continue to complain about so much stuff and to continue to put such derogatory statements on Facebook. I am sorry to say I have allowed some of the posts on Facebook to change my own perception of things to more negative things and I am ashamed of that. I thank all of you but I don't know about you Mr. Ratliff, you keep bringing up the same stuff month after month after month, if I am not here I am listening on You Tube. I don't hear any real solutions. I would like to have some more transparency on 911. Why is Richlands so different from all the other cities and Towns in the State or in Tazewell County? Why are we holding out on 911? I understand that EMS and Fire Department is going to 911, so what is wrong with the Police? Can you tell me? Someone needs to know, and someone needs to find out so we don't have 911 coming up every single month. I spent a little bit of time with Adrienne this week, she was very good to show me certain things in the budget and helped me to understand a whole lot more like VDOT and what roads that VDOT has road maintenance and how we can spend VDOT money. We can't spend for anything but these VDOT roads. I am so sorry you all had to listen to such derogatory remarks and read bad things on the post and I would ask that you remember why you are here. You are here because we elected you to represent us. You should be interested in our interests, not yours, but ours combined.

Doug - Can I comment?

Mayor Cury - I suggest you wait until your turn to speak.

Doug - I should get to comment on that.

Mike - Mary Ann didn't comment.

Doug - I am not Mary Ann.

Mike - Just saying.

Doug - Shut up.

Doug - The only reason I bring things up is to save money. I have some more things later.

Mayor Cury - "Council Member Reports" - Mike Street

Mike - I am glad Ms. Culler mentioned EMS and Fire Department Dispatch. I have an update on that. It appears that we have a tentative goal of June 1, for EMS and Fire Department to be fully 911 Dispatch. They have been to the Dispatch Center; we are expecting some kinks and that is to be expected but it is a little quicker than what we thought it was going to be. I can talk a little bit about Police to ease the mind. The Police is a whole different rim of things, it is very complicated, and the Sheriff has even stated to me currently he does not want Police Dispatch; currently he wants to see how this goes and iron out any types of issues with EMS and Fire. He has stated that potentially in the future we can see where we are and how things go. Same thing at Bluefield, the County had EMS and Fire Dispatch and then to the Police as well. It is a large process. I want to understand to see how the numbers work out. Broadband, we are currently waiting on a proposal from Point Broadband, to potentially provide broadband internet for the entire Town of Richlands which is very interesting as well. They were supposed to have the proposal to us last Friday, but they have had some kinks and bigger projects that they had to focus on. I hope to have by the end of the week, Wayne, myself and John will take a look at it and present to Council. There is some make ready cost that we will have. We are looking forward to but do not include areas in Town that does not have poles like Hidden Valley. They are looking for micro trenches on the driveways, AEP owns that and will have agreements with AEP and assured us that will be included. It is an awesome opportunity and Spectrum I feel needs some competition, we need more for our Town and be able to give more opportunities, it is affordable and very reliable. I will continue to follow-up on that. I can't wait until it happens. I want Council to consider, and I won't put a motion at this meeting, but I think we should be limited on our terms, I think we should have charter members a two-term limit, 4 years off and potentially another term total of 12 years. It can't be anything from the past or anything like that, I feel like it is something we should have put the decisions we make in the hands of Council and for the people. I am also going to suggest that we add member of Council for a seventh member, this will not remove the position of Mayor, but I feel this is important for the position of ordinances and things in which we need four (4) votes. I think it is important that control is controlled by the people by which we are elected. These are things I want you to think about and things I am going to bring back up. I am all about transparency, I am not going to ask for a vote but ask that you think about it and I will bring up at the next meeting. I would like for every member to consider it, I think twelve (12) years is plenty of time on Council. If you can't make any real changes in twelve (12) years you should not be here, that is my opinion.

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

Mary Ann - Thanks Mike, I will definitely that into consideration. We have not had change in a long time. I received a message from a citizen not long after our April meeting she was a little bit upset that the transformer was being worked on in Town and businesses were not able to continue to work that night. I spoke to our Town Manager, and he said every business that was affected had advance notice. The particular business that she had concerns, I paid a visit there and the manager said there was absolutely no problem that night and the Town was kind enough to give him advance notice. It did not affect his business and he understood that things have to be worked on. He had no problems. I welcome citizens to let me know and I will check things out. I appreciate our Town Manager either you, or your staff giving all the businesses that were affected advance notice. Communication is the key in

everything we do in life. Secondly, really positive news at the Rec Park we did have our April meeting on the 19th and for the first time in a long time we had 100%, full quorum and we had our new members. It was very positive. I think our new members are bringing a lot of new life and new ideas to the Rec Commission. We will meet again on the 3rd Monday at 6:00pm upstairs at the Rec Park. The Rec Park is closed on Monday, but the front door is open. I welcome you it is great to have citizens input on Recreation. The pool looks great, Jessica Reynolds Lawrence our Rec Director said that Dave Ascue, our pool expert for all these years, said it was the smoothest pool opening in 40 years, that is a huge praise report. We are not having any problems with our pool. The pool will open on Saturday May 29, that is Memorial Day Weekend, and it will be open on that Monday but after that Monday the pool and the Park will be closed on Mondays. That will give us time to clean thoroughly. Jessica is very pleased to report that she has ten (10) lifeguards and could use a few more. If anyone is listening and you have the certification, please get in touch with Jessica. It was a little bit of concern when we first started looking, seems lifeguards were going to be difficult to find. The new playground at Lake Park, if you have not seen it you need to go, I have been there in the evening and there are kids everywhere. Lynna Mitchell at Appalachian Agency has applied for the grant which was due on the 14th of April. We should know and have the money by July. If you know Lynna Mitchell, you know she is the best around. I have full confidence and faith we will receive the grant. The project is to be completed by November and that will be Phase I which will be the walking trail. We will have a new paved walking trail with benches and activity stations around the trail. You should drive down to the Park and look at the softball field at the far end it is like a total transformation. It is really nice, and it was all done by volunteer labor and donations. I am going to mention the names I was given and please I apologize in advance if I leave anyone out it is not intentional; Jessica did her best to get a list. We are very grateful for the following: Board of Supervisors, Crystal Arms, C & C Realty, T & T Lawn Services, Off the Leash Blacksburg Roanoke, God's Rock Stars- Rocky Hill affiliated with Joel Horn's church, Parents of the Middle School Team, Chad Vance, George and Charlotte Shelton, Lisa and Tom Cordle have spent countless hours down there. It was really nice to look at. The Off the Leash Dog Training Program donated a fence. It is super nice; the Middle School Team is allowed to play there. They are not affiliated with the school, for public knowledge I have been ask why they cannot use the Girls High School Baseball Field it is because they are not school affiliated and with COVID the School Board is not allowing anyone to use if you are not affiliated with the school. I applaud this group they rallied together and made a really nice facility, and the young girls are super excited. We have a rich heritage of successful softball in Richlands I think it is certainly going to continue.

Mayor Cury - I want to add about the grant, I don't know a whole lot about it but it is thru Senior Citizens and what this is an intergenerational park. It is for the children and everyone in-between. That is really a good thing. We know we are all in this together old, middle and young. It is nice and it is refreshing to be around children.

Mary Ann - There is so many positive things happening at the Recreation Park. We also have NXT Basketball group starting in May they are going to have weekend tournaments in May, June and July. It will be teams from all around. That brings money to the Town; these teams have parents, grandparents that like to watch their kids play. They have to eat somewhere, buy gas and maybe lodging. For the Town there will be an admission charge and we have worked out 70%/30% split, the Town gets 70% of the admission. We get 100% of the concession. We are also looking into the idea of Flag Football. We are trying hard to reach all age groups.

Mayor Cury – “Council Member Reports” – Logan Plaster

Logan – I am very excited, and several citizens are excited regarding the nuisances and derelict structures. Since I have been on Council, I have reported several issues to former Town Manager Tim Taylor and now to John and to Chief Gilbert. I do have an update for any citizens that are following the feral cat situation in Town. Julia Winston and I had a conversation yesterday, trapping began this weekend, and ten (10) cats were taken to Dr. Mitchell's Clinic in Bristol for surgery yesterday. Ms. Linda Keene who we all know who has come to Council to express her concerns has collected donations to cover those surgeries for this number of cats. Julia is also working on funding the progress with Lisa Hess in Richlands. I am glad to see quick movement to start the TNR Process. I had several citizens after

having heard last week on the electric thru the Budget Hearing, many citizens have expressed to me that were watching that they are very concerned about the possibility of these increases. I have had several ask why we are keeping this if it is not positively impacting. One of the things that was asked, why don't we sell it and have local customer service and have a quicker response time. Several citizens said that does not pay my bill. I anticipated many of them coming to the public hearing. I have been asked about the ACCESS Channel and the funds for the new camera. What is the status of that?

John - I will address later.

Logan – I wanted to thank John for helping me and the library with the new signs for the animals that are being walked in the library lot. Have the signs been ordered?

John - They have already been installed.

Logan – I want to thank our Town Police and our County Police, State Police on National Police Week. I appreciate your service and your sacrifice to keeping us safe. I want to thank Tex and Juanita Sawyers and former Mayor Jan White for the invite to National Day of Prayer last Thursday. It was a nice service and the church prepared meals for everyone who came. Mayor Cury asked last time for Connie's benefit the Clerk, for us to do some research, I contacted Mayor Hoops in Tazewell to ask how they handle the notes and Councilmen Chuck Presley in Bluefield to see how they do it. They do a camcorder to focus on the Councilmember and they do the audio recorder. In Tazewell they have a system I think what we are getting, and they use that. Bluefield also has a Receptionist and a Clerk that pens notes down during the meeting. I received calls regarding the cross walk on Front Street at the National Bank, several citizens were upset, and business owners were upset that that crosswalk was removed only after two (2) weeks after being installed. They are very concerned about parking, one of the business owners said they have worked out a solution for that problem, they are concerned about their walk-ins with the lack of parking in that area. I would like to ask for an update for Wanda Lowe and Mr. Horn and other citizens on Plantation Drive in Hidden Valley regarding the water issue. I was asked to read comments from Derek and Marie White – Chasing the Wild Boar –read the letter.

John - I believe the guys are planning to go tomorrow. There is a catch basin along the road in front of her driveway that has washed out and they plan on fixing that and that the water drains to that area, beyond that we are limited because it gets on personal property, becomes a civil matter between neighbors.

John - I have not had time to look at Mr. Horn's request but we have several across Town we are trying to look at and get the biggest priority. The one in front of Pizza Hut where the water drains in front of the road we are trying to figure out how to address that, it is a little more complicated.

Logan - Thank you for taking care of Ms. Owens and Mr. Phillips the property you addressed last week.

Mike - I had a meeting with Supervisor Seth White he was telling me all the awesome things of Chasing the Wild Boar is going to have. It is going to be awesome, they have worked hard, and they deserve all kinds of recognition. John if you can I would like for you to find the info and put on our Facebook page and share. I want to get all the spectators that we can. It is going to be cool and hopefully they will all go the restaurants, and we get their families.

Mary Ann -I want to recognize Logan for mentioning the National Day of Prayer. I was also blessed to be there, and I failed to mention that everything he said is exactly true. That was the 14th year, and Logan I stayed for lunch, they treat you like royalty. I encourage every one of you next year to go there you will be blessed.

Mayor Cury - "Council Member Reports" – Doug Ratliff

Doug – On Chestnut Street there is a hole that we need a drainpipe, a bad accident happened there, we need to fill that hole, drain or something. Some people wonder why we constantly bring things up to try

and change things for the better. One thing is like 911, if we had not brought it up and kept asking questions about 911 trying to make it safe for the citizens, I assure you it would not be transitioning now if we had not questioned it. To get change you have to bring things up and question them. One thing I would like to bring up and we are always trying to save money for the budget, I would ask are there any documentation on where the rules changed for the SRO in that grant. We questioned the grant last Council meeting, if we had applied for 1800+ hours instead 1500 on two (2) positions we could have save \$30,000 for the Town. I would like to ask if you know or Chief Gilbert knows does anyone have any documentation that the rules changed, we were told the rules changed that they could not participate after school activities.

John - I have a meeting scheduled with the Sheriff, this is one of the items I plan on discussing with him. I will try to bring back some information by our next budget workshop meeting. This is the page from the very grant that we were told they were not allowed to take part in school activities and that is why they only asked for 1500 hrs., which they should have ask 1800 hrs. This is a page from the very grant (read item #8 from the grant letter). We lost \$31,000; we could have saved if it had been applied for right. I think Chief Gilbert is out there, if he has any documentation that does not agree with this I would like to see it.

Mike - I feel if we are asking personnel to come in here, we need to go into executive session.

Mayor Cury - I am trying to find the right way to answer your question, Doug. You asked for documentation, and I think it is an interesting question that would mean something on paper.

Doug - If you will look on the grant it will have the rules on it.

John – Is it No. #8

Doug - Yes, it was forwarded from the State. If you call the State no changes were made. That is why we bring things up; the budget is out of control. We bring something up to try to save the citizens who are having a hard time paying their bills, buying their medicine and groceries. We try to keep the budget down. If we sit here and smile and pat each other on the back without asking questions we are not doing our job.

Mayor Cury – “Council Member Reports” – Jeff Hurst

Jeff – I would like to remind people during Memorial week it is going to be a busy week with Richlands High School and their graduation exercises. The prom May 22 which is at the Greenway and Section House. May 28 at 6:00 pm is the Senior Parade; it will start from the High School. The banners look great, and we are excited for the Seniors. Teacher Appreciation Week was last week, we are thankful for our educators and all those who have weathered the storm this year. Graduation is at 10:00am on May 29 a Saturday morning. Mr. Puckett called me too about Chestnut Street, Mr. O’Daniel you looked at it today, it looks like there is a property fence there is a buffer between the streets, and it is a big dip.

Doug - It is right near the road; it is big enough for a tire to go in. I think there was an accident there last week.

Jeff – A couple of people called me about the possibility of maybe a contractor’s fee in Town. It would be for contractors that come in and do work, it is a little different than merchant license. I was not sure if we had ever had one before.

Mayor Cury - It has been discussed but we have not had it, Jeff.

Jeff – I did attend my first Planning Commission meeting, the meeting lasted 35 minutes opposed to a Rec Commission meeting which is 4 hr. and 35 minutes. It was nice. I am excited about the Planning Commission.

Mayor Cury - "Mayor's Comments"

Mayor Cury – Regarding the cross walk, I know people are very disappointed. Mr. Davis contacted me and asked me to share this, they are trying to develop a business down there, he asked me to convey until that happens the people can continue to use the parking lot until they actually have action down there and won't require a lease which we had. I will ask John to contact Mr. Davis just to clarify any details to try to help alleviate some measure of parking. It doesn't replace the crosswalk, but it does help some. Logan, thank you looking into things that would help Connie, I have read the minutes for so long, it is quite challenging to write that much. If this is what we want she does need some kind of technical help. It is almost impossible to capture off of this small recorder and handwritten notes. I am hearing a couple different things, where other Towns are taking notes.

Logan - They have a Clerk and Receptionist both taking notes. They also have a camcorder as well as an audio.

Mayor Cury – I would hope that Council would consider investing in something that would make the Clerk's job easier and more accurate. So, when she is trying to write the minutes in detail that it will help her or him in the future to be more accurate. I don't know where to go with it but I am sure cost is in the matter, but I think it would be a good investment. I can't imagine that it would be that much money.

Logan - Tazewell has a system that I hope we are getting.

Connie - I did ask Tazewell to send me a copy of some of their minutes, they are only summarizing, normally around eight (8) to ten (10) pages.

Mayor Cury - Council will have to decide what kind of minutes they want. What we are doing is more of like a transcription. When the minutes are accepted we know and the Clerk knows they are as accurate as they are going to get. On my time on Council, we have had several Clerks, Elvalee Vandyke was the Clerk for many years, and she was trained under Carl Mahaffey, he said just the facts, which are Council actions. That is how she typed the minutes, and they were accepted but maybe they were too slim. We may want something a little bit more detail. I really would ask that Council consider a plan of what we want and how we are going to achieve it. These records are our written history and when people do go back and read them from ten (10) years ago, they read it they see all the things in it, it is important that it be accurate. I said all I can do; the rest will be Council action.

Doug - Would it work just as a suggestion we recorded it and keep it on file and let her summarize it? If someone has a question, they can always refer back to the recording to check facts.

Mayor Cury - It is going to be Council decision, not easy to read all that.

Mayor Cury - Mike, did you get a chance to check into it?

Mike - Not very much but I did talk to Connie about different kinds of Apps, it's hard but I don't think it will help us much, would be nice to let her summarize, its unrealistic expectations to expect all to be correct.

Mayor Cury - It is not easy to read all that. Logan since you came up with some specifics things and Connie has other minutes for other locations, in your spare time I say caution may investigate a camcorder and look at those notes and report at our June meeting a recommendation that the Council could consider.

Logan – Sure

Mayor Cury – The Memorial Day Chase the Wild Boar, I think these are the things that make us happy, and I would be glad to help in any way that I can. Logan or Jeff if you will hook me up, I will be glad to do what I am able to do. The race I was asked to stand at and basically say Hi to the winners it was

rejuvenation for me that was at Coal Town. A few years back before Covid, the Rec Park had a race that ended at the Section House, Greater Richlands Race, it was a wonderful event, and I don't know if Covid is preventing that now. Mary Ann is there any talk about that?

Mary Ann – There hasn't been, it was a joint effort with Clinch Valley Medical Center, Kiwanis Club and the Town. Kiwanis Club has not been meeting with full attendance. Once Covid lets up I am sure it may be discussed.

Mayor Cury – Those things are so great, being the major athlete that I am I was actually a runner it was some of the fun times of my life and I don't think we need to let that go. The bike and road races they are important because we define our community by our health, our participation and our joy. I will ask if you will talk to Rec people, Kiwanis Club see what we can do. I am extremely excited about the bike race. I think we all need something to lighten us up and want to live here and be proud of our community knowing nothing will ever be perfect but always working to make it better.

Mayor Cury - At the last meeting there were mention of vacancy on the Richlands Industrial Authority. It was placed on the Town of Richlands Facebook page to send a general letter of interest. We received one in the packet from Mr. Cody Elswick. I think Council should consider and the other I received a message today from the Chairman of the IDA, which is Barry Alley, Reece Strong who is Mary Ann's son who has served on this committee before had been asked prior to our other meeting, he called and said he would do it. I am putting two (2) names out for consideration; I do not know Mr. Elswick but he wrote very well. It is up to Council if they want to move on these (2) gentlemen, Cody Elswick & Reece Strong.

Logan - Is it only one for (1) vacancy?

Mayor Cury - It is for at least two (2). They can both be put on thru a nomination. From time-to-time Commissions have trouble filling positions.

Jeff - I make a motion that we appoint Cody Elswick and Reece Strong to serve on the Richlands IDA Commission, Mike seconded the motion.

Mary Ann - The letter from Mr. Elswick was very impressive. I should abstain from the vote since both names are put in the motion.

Mayor Cury - Can we retract the motion and do separately.

Jeff - I will retract my motion.

Mike - I will retract my second.

Jeff - I make a motion that we appoint Cody Elswick to the Richlands IDA Authority, 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 – Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Jeff – Yes Motion carries – 5/0.

Jeff - I make a motion that we appoint Reece Strong to the Richlands IDA Authority, Mike seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury – Mary Ann you want to abstain for personal reasons?

Mary Ann – Yes

Mayor Cury - Does Council accept her request? 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. Roll Call – Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Jeff – Yes Motion carries – 4/1 (Mary Ann abstained).

Mayor Cury - Motion carries, Council has appointed two (2) members to the Richlands IDA Authority, Mr. Cody Elswick and Reece Strong. I think there may be one (1) more seat available. John, will you notify these gentlemen. Please find out if there are any more vacancies so we will know if we need to continue running this offer, they actually came as a public suggestion.

Mayor Cury - I will echo, the High School, it has not been an easy year for anyone being a teacher, administrator or students, because we have had COVID and all the complications that it has caused. I am thankful to the dear Lord that the vast majority of our students and teachers have stayed safe. That does not mean everyone; I had a student who lost his mother. Every time I look at him it is hard. We must be resilient we must be careful and must move on. I do hope that the events coming up, these are for high school students, and it is important to them. The dance coming up it is not a prom it is a formal dance; the Town is hosting it we are providing the place. The money is coming from the parents who raised it; I think that needs to be stated. The theme is "Las Vegas". We have all kinds of themes, "Around the World in 80 Days", and others. They will be using Norfolk Street, Suffolk Street Front Street and the Greenway. They have asked for the use of the Section House and we have gladly let them use for a place for general photos for parents and students. We all love something, things happen in ways you don't expect. It has become a major photo center and it is cool. We have lights across the patio and hanging baskets from Kim's Greenhouse who supplies all the plants for the Richlands Women's Club, who is a group of volunteer women who do hard work for this Town. These ladies work hard to make our Town beautiful. We need to water them as much as possible. The only green thumb that works is one that waters a lot. Kim is doing the ones for the Section House at no charge because she has a soft spot for historic preservation. We are also purchasing other things along with the Garden Club, who is doing some designing of their own down there that will be done soon to beautify the place by the way of flowers. I am here to testify about the beauty of our Town.

Mayor Cury - We will take a 10-minute break.

Mayor Cury - Council is back in session.

Mayor Cury – "Attorney Comments" – Wayne McClanahan

Wayne - Consideration of Nuisance Ordinance that we read at the last Council meeting and had the Public Hearing prior to today's Council meeting.

Mayor Cury - O-2021-04-01 Nuisance

Wayne - Read the second reading O-2021-04-01 Nuisance, I can answer any questions that anyone has before we entertain a motion.

Mayor Cury - Brief Summary of Exhibit A – Section 92.01 – Definitions, Section 92.02- Removal or disposal of trash, cutting of grass, weeds, and running bamboo; penalty. Section 92.03 – Removal, repair, etc., of buildings and other structures. Section 92.04 – Prohibition on the keeping of inoperable motor vehicles, etc., on residential or commercial property; removal of such vehicles; penalty. Section 92.05 – Removal, repair, etc., of buildings and other structures harboring illegal drug use or other criminal activity. Charter Reference – Richlands Town Charter 2.4, power to make regulations for the preservation of the safety, health, peace, good order, comfort, convenience, morals, and welfare of the Town and its inhabitants. It states the definitions of words, terms and phrases. I am just highlighting. 92.02 - Removal or disposal of trash, cutting of grass, weeds, and running bamboo; penalty, explains all the details. 92.03 – Removal, repair, etc., of buildings and other structures, I did read it and I am no expert, if you need clarification on that Wayne could help us. 92.04 Prohibition on the keeping of inoperable motor vehicles, etc., on residential or commercial property; removal of such vehicles;

penalty. 92.05, Removal, repair, etc., of buildings and other structures harboring illegal drug use or other criminal activity. That is a very quick summary; if anyone has questions it is a good time to ask them. I know Mike is very familiar with this. This is a new and improved model from what we have worked on for years.

Mike - We needed more defined processes to both Nuisances and Derelict structures, the big reason is for our revitalization project. They have already expressed how important and imperative it is to define process for Nuisances and Derelict Structures and how important it is to have that and keep in place. I won't say it increases our chances for the grant, but it does make us look better to have a process in place. I have taken some complaints about some certain properties as well as Logan mentioned. I think it is important that we make our Town look the best that we can.

Wayne - We have read it twice; we can address after motion of consideration.

Mayor Cury - At the bottom of page (1), do I need to call for a motion.

Wayne – To entertain for the passage of this, if the ordinance passes then we can address the effective date by default under the charter states 30 days. I just picked June 1 out for a start date. That is flexible and we can change that.

Mayor Cury – We didn't dispense we actually read it.

Wayne – We read the first time on April 13, 2021.

Mayor Cury – With this ordinance we felt like it was important to read it not dispense with the first reading but read it which we did and give people time to see it read it and have their opinion. The motion that I am calling for is to pass this Ordinance.

Mike - I make the motion to adopt Ordinance O-2021-04-01, Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury - Any discussion on the Ordinance O-2021-04-01 Nuisances?

Doug – You have already discussed that we have some things we need to clean up, I will vote for this if Council agrees we need to clean up our own messes. We have a junk yard over there and I think Mr. O'Daniel has taken steps to alleviate that.

John - Are you talking about the Street Department? I have looked at it but the beast that it is, we are limited on how much we can do besides move the facility to another location.

Doug - What I am speaking of, things that we don't use, things we have not used in years. If we are not using something sell it and get rid of it, with that we can buy new trucks and things that we need. I will vote for this as long as it pertains to the Town too. Clean our messes up get rid of the junk and buy new things.

Mayor Cury - I understand the goodness that you are trying to go for, can we have a caveat about someone voting for it, how does that affect Doug's vote?

Wayne - I don't think that it does, I understand but don't think it qualifies that.

Doug - I am just bringing to our mind that we are asking the citizens to do something, and we need think of the Town. I don't want to ask the citizens to do something, and we can't clean our own house.

Mike - I agree with Mr. Ratliff, what we can do I think we should when you come off the exit and it is right there. We could probably do better; we need to look at it.

Mary Ann – I know Lebanon has Surplus Sales.

John – We have a few items that we are ready to sell.

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 – Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Jeff – Yes Motion carries – 5/0.

Mayor Cury - I think Wayne wanted to make note of its effective date.

Wayne - If everyone is comfortable, the version that Connie has an effective date of June 1, if you will entrain a motion to become effective as of June 1.

Mike - I will make the motion to make Ordinance O-2021-04-01 Nuisances effective June 1, Logan 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 – Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Jeff – Yes Motion carries – 5/0.

Wayne – First reading of O-2021-05-02 Derelict Buildings/Tax Abatement Program - (Read the Ordinance). We spoke about it the last Council meeting it is an extension of the previous code we just adopted in regard to entire structures, part of the potential downtown revitalization to identify that we have process in line to address these things. You should have a copy of the proposed code section just as lengthy as the nuisances' one. In short version we will designate a Building Official which currently is the Town Manager, I know you have discussed potentially hiring an in-house building official, we can designate to building official any point and time. When a building is identified as a derelict structure an abandon structure it has to be unoccupied. Once it is identified the property owner will have to work with us to develop a plan that is approved by building official to bring that up to par, this is the interplay with the downtown revitalization project comes into effect. That can made part of the plan. If the plan is approved a timeline is set out for the accomplishment of that plan. The tax abatement portion is some incentives from a tax standpoint to encourage people to fix these things and get a little bit of a tax break, if they improve the rundown property. It is pretty common throughout the Commonwealth a far as I can tell. We can only abate our own taxes. This reflects a public hearing on this but is not required and was not required on the nuisance ordinance we just past but a matter of personal preference. I think anytime you are amending the code especially affecting people's property rights, my recommendation that we go forward on that.

Mayor Cury - I think it is important to have a Public Hearing on every level. Section 92 on page three (3), can you please read Wayne. (Tax Abatement of Rehabilitation)

Wayne - Read Section 92.3.

Mayor Cury - Just wanted you to read for clarity, we don't control what the County does, we can only control what we do but since it is in here it needed to be read.

Mike - Do you know if the County has any abatement processes?

Wayne - I do not.

Mike - Can you reach out to them, maybe we can partner with them.

Wayne - That would be beneficial, would help with the incentive.

Mike - Especially with the commercial property.

Mayor Cury - I appreciate your comments and you reading it, the implications for me is prior to commencement of work on the habitation plan we will develop a plan, the owner may request in writing a tax abatement from the County, while it is in there and it is clear but we have nothing to do with it that implies that it could be coming and it just disturbs me a little bit.

Wayne – We can reach out.

Mayor Cury - I am not opposed but I think there is the implication unless you are a real careful reader and I certainly am far from it, I think it could lead to a problem. I am glad that you asked to reach and see Mike what those abatements could be.

Mike - I think the wording covers us as far as it says may request, that tells me they can request it but does not mean they are going to get it. I think we should work hard to work with the County, if Council allows, I can contact them with you to see if we can work out something. We don't have an Economic Director currently but maybe we can work together and figure something out and work with the County. I personally think we are OK, but I get what you are saying.

Mayor Cury - Many people reading it may not understand.

Mayor Cury - What is your recommendation Council and Attorney how do you want us to proceed.

Wayne - It is the first reading we can have those conversations this week and be in contact with everybody by email.

Mayor Cury - "Manager's Report" – John O'Daniel

John - The first item authorization to pay bills, you should have a check report. Do you have questions on any of those items?

Mayor Cury - If you would look at your check register, please. If you have any questions for the Manager, I am sure he will entertain them.

Jeff - I make a motion for the Town Manager to pay the bills, 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 – Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Jeff – Yes Motion carries – 5/0.

Mayor Cury - Cell Tower Lease Agreement

John - This is an item that Council has talked about for several months now, we had a public hearing at the last meeting, and we have a contract for approval. I am asking for Council to give me authorization to enter into this contract extension. This is the cell tower we have and they have ask for six (6) extensions on that of five (5) years with a total of thirty (30) years, if we agree to this they will give us \$10,000 bonus agreeing to this extension, will still be the same revenue fee we receive on a monthly basis and actually a 15% kicker every two (2) years not to increase in the next thirty (30) years.

Doug - Could we tie that to inflation?

John - I assume it is based on a consumer price index, some kind of factor that they built in.

Wayne - Just a 15% increase in the monthly payment, different points in the extension.

Logan - I make the motion for the Town Manager to enter into extension for Cell Tower Lease Agreement, Mike seconded the motion.

Doug - I don't like it, if it were me, I would go back and tie it somehow to inflation because you are going to thirty (30) years, 15% may be nothing later the way inflation is going to hit. If it were me, I would go back and say let's tie it to the inflation so if it goes wild.

Wayne - I don't know if they are open to negotiation. My talking with the representative, it is just like this is what we are offering, if you want to do it great and if you don't, currently to expire in 2023. In addition to the signing bonus, it increases the monthly rental payment and I believe after 2023 a 15% uptick in the monthly rental fee, and they continue to acceleration throughout the course.

Mike - Does this cell tower provide service?

Wayne - It is an old ALTEL tower later required by Verizon; we lease them the area where the tower is constructed.

Mayor Cury - There is a slight miscommunication here, I will call for further discussion.

Doug - Seems like they are anxious to get it done and they want a long term, they are not going to do away with that tower as many customers as they have. Who would not go with an inflation clause?

Wayne - Tim may of spoke to this in one of his last meetings. It is something that had been kicked around for a little while, I think he speculated that it was a desire for the company to restructure a little bit more favorable to them.

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 - Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-No, Mary Ann-Yes, Jeff - Yes Motion carries - 4/1.

Mayor Cury - Flood Task Update

John - At the Flood Task last meeting, Rick Chitwood came, and he had a discussion on potential grant opportunity that is out there, asked about going after this grant funding. After he went back and looked at it he realized because of our contract with the organization it would put us at \$200,000. We would have to negotiate that agreement and go after RFP. The \$200,000 grant the Town would be required to put in 25% as part of the match I have some concerns that by the time we go out and find a new engineer and by the time we apply for the grant and receive the grant we would be very close to the timeline that the Army Corp would come in and potentially do a similar study. If they come in and we meet the requirements, the requirements for the grant are very similar to the requirements of the Army Corp have in place. Asking for Councils direction or would you like to meet with the Flood Task, it is a very political, with the flooding in Town I don't want to make a decision on my own, I would like to know what direction Council would want to go. I understand the enthusiasm of wanting to get something done with the grant, but I like to use local resources where there would be no required match.

Mayor Cury - Is my understanding correct, Army Corp has a period of waiting, approximately two (2) years. When Army Corp comes to help us what would our expenses be with the Army Corp?

John - I have not had a discussion with anybody but from what I am hearing they would cover the cost of that research.

Mayor Cury - The research and the fix.

John - Depends on what the results show.

Mayor Cury - The option that is out here is seeking another grant up to \$200,000 and we would be responsible for \$50,000. We would have to get a new engineer to do this?

John - We would have to go thru the RFP process because of the amount.

Mayor Cury - The possibility exists that within the time frame of the possible \$200,000 grant and the possible solution of the Army Corp. The Army Corp may be able to do this as timely manner as we would hope.

John - I think it will be close.

Mayor Cury - I will leave up to Council.

Mike – Same results \$50,000 less.

John - The grant and the Army Corp standards are as stringent we could apply for the grant and not get it and the Army Corp come in and say requirement, is \$200,000 enough to do the entire Town but focus on different areas but the areas that have the most issues? If we start looking at those areas and start fixing them, is it going to cause other issues. I think the Army Corp may be able to do a more thorough job.

Mayor Cury - Their view of the Town would be more of a bird's eye view, more comprehensive.

John - That is what we would be asking them for.

Mary Ann - You also mention our relationship with T & L.

John 222- We have a retainer which includes certain items I believe because the project would cost over \$200,000 it makes us having to go after RFP's based on procurement regulations.

Mayor Cury - On this update do you want a consensus of the Council, direction from the Council a motion from the Council?

John - Just general.

Mayor Cury - I would say a consensus.

John - I had talked to Rick and he said he would come and meet with Council and give more detail but need Council go give some kind of direction so I can go back to Flood Task.

Mayor Cury - What is the will of Council?

Logan – I know we have been waiting on Army Corp engineer, I think they would do a much better and thorough job. Water is a huge issue in Richlands, whatever we can do the quickest would be the best, but we have to think how thorough Army Corp would be. They know all the regulations; I think it would be best in my opinion to wait on Army Corp Engineers to do this.

Mike - I agree with Logan, I know how important it is but my concern is if we go with this \$200,000 grant we are not guaranteed the grant, it is a gamble. Does it really take care of our overall needs, that is my concerns, I am not sure that it will. It feels more like a band-aid. I am good with waiting on Army Corp., I think we should.

Mary Ann – I agree with Logan and Mike.

Jeff - I agree

John - I think with the grant they have the desire to do something as soon as possible but obstacles either way we go.

Mayor Cury - Is it Council consensus to advise Mr. O'Daniel that our judgement is to wait for the Army Corp? John, I think you have the consensus of Council to wait for the Army Corp.

John - I will let them know that is the direction Council made.

John - Drive-Thru-Committee – We meet with Rick Chitwood and one of their architects to look at options for the Drive-Thru at the Town Hall. Would you like to appoint a couple of people to help to facilitate that and get something acceptable to Council? How do you want to go thru that process? We tried to get a couple mockup or ideas what it would look like but we are on a time crunch, we can wait until the next Council meeting.

Mayor Cury – What is the time crunch?

John – It has to be completed by December.

Mayor Cury - If it is appropriate for the Mayor to be a member of that committee I would like to be a member of that committee. It is up to Council.

Mary Ann - I think you would be an excellent member Rod.

Mike - I will make a motion for Rod Cury to be part of the committee, Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Logan - Can you also keep us up to date by email on the plans?

Mike - How many people are you looking for on the committee?

John – I just want to have some representation.

Mayor Cury - I am going in very bias, it must be right.

Mayor Cury - I would like to have another Council member, may I choose? Logan, would you help me?

Logan – I will.

Mike - I make a motion that Logan Plaster be on the committee, Mary Ann seconded the motion.

Logan - Our Town Hall is one of the most beautiful in Southwest Virginia. When you compare to other Town Halls they are not even close.

Mike - I will rescind my motion and Mary Ann rescinded her seconded.

Mike - I will make a motion to appoint Rod Cury and Logan Plaster to the Drive-Thru Committee, Jeff 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 – Logan- Abstained, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Jeff – Yes Motion carries – 4/1 (Logan Abstained).

John - Credit Card Discussion, Doug brought it up at our last meeting on how the Police Department handles their credit card. I spoke to Chief Gilbert they plan on switching how they do it, the use of petty cash will be very rare and use for small items when needed. Another issue brought before at another meeting I plan on addressing in the same manner. I wanted to give you an update that was the direction we are going on that.

John - Salary Freeze Discussion- From what I understand about a year ago may have been part of the budget discussion, Council instructed the staff to hold or freeze on any type of raises, and I would like to

get some clarification on what you meant on that. Over the last year we realized there are certain odd things that fall into that, I want to make sure we don't do something that Council instructed us not to do. I understand arbitrary merit raises, some of the issues that have come up that I would like some direction on, right now we have a couple employees that are making slightly less than others the same salary class, some reason it got missed. We need to bring them up to where they should be. We have a uniform policy on personnel cost, employees get a certain amount of stipend, the uniforms have gone up, something we need to follow up on Personnel Policy. Minimum wage has gone up and we are going to have to go up on that, we will have a second one following. We had several employees who were promised a bonus that was part of their hiring, part of their standard practice where they get a six (6) month probation period and a bump at the end of that, some things we have held up on. We still have certifications, if someone gets Waste Water Certification or something of that nature we still have to do those bumps, certifications we sent them to school for. Just wanted to know Council's thoughts to continue to do those increases and if the true intent was that for more of merit increases for certain employees and certain amount of bumps. Was the freeze just for merit raises or all increases?

Mayor Cury - I really don't remember that we actually used the word freezing salaries.

John - Maybe it is my term.

Mayor Cury - I will ask another member who has been here for a while.

Mary Ann - I am having the same problem remembering I don't recall. I think it is something we have allowed our Town Manager to do at your discretion. Adrienne might be able to comment on that.

Adrienne - It was a consensus last year.

Mayor Cury - I think we need to unfreeze it.

Mary Ann - I agree

Mayor Cury - I think we need to be fair and equitable to everyone.

Mayor Cury - I was watching Ms. Culler, she has dealt in the world of big business, am I right Ms. Culler?

Ms. Culler - Yes

Mayor Cury - I am not supposed to address the audience, I broke the rules and I apologize.

Mike - I think we should allow John to do what he sees fit with his personnel.

Mary Ann - That is not our role to get involved in that type of decision making.

Mayor Cury - Do you want a motion?

John - I think consensus is appropriate.

Mayor Cury - Ms. Mollo in all fairness I ask Ms. Culler, your husband runs a big store does he try to keep it even and keep everyone happy?

Laura Mollo - Yes, I appreciate John's thoroughness on everything.

John - Downtown Coordinator Position - I went back and changed the job description for what that position will be, I wanted you to have a copy so you would understand the direction we are going on that, we will start advertising the position tomorrow as well as Director of Finance, Director of Utilities someone to help with electrical system, someone with electrical background to help. We will advertise

for about three (3) weeks and then start our initial review, if you know of anyone who would be interested in any of these positions, should be on our website in the next day or so.

Mike - Utilities, Economic Development and Finance – all three (3) go out tomorrow.

John - We will get on our website, if you know of any other resources that would be good to send to just let me know.

Wayne - ???

John - We will try to put on there.

John - Budget Public Hearing Rules – In our last meeting we had a discussion on how that is going to take place, right now we don't have any rules for the public comments. My recommendation would be to allow people to sign up before public comment, go thru and read the names out and ask if anyone else would like to speak and at that time close the sign-up sheet. Everyone signed up allow to speak for three (3) minutes per speaker. If we have 25 people to show up, I would recommend to keep at three (3) minutes if only few show up Council could allow additional time. That is the plan on how that will take place, just want to make sure everyone is on the same page no question that no one had the opportunity to speak.

Mayor Cury - The floor is open for comments or discussion on John's proposal.

Jeff - It is hard to predict how many people will be here I hope there is a lot.

Mary Ann - In the past we have not had very many. I hope we have many and we stay here all night if we have to. Everyone deserves three (3) minutes and if we don't have many give them more time.

John - We are going to try to put a couple extra chairs in here and in the lobby and prepare for as many as we can.

Mike – Do you plan on having a person come in when they say what they have to say do they leave.

John – If they already have a seat they can stay. If we have someone outside, we will convey who is up next.

Mike – What have we done in the past?

Mary Ann - We would have maybe three (3) or four (4) people.

Mayor Cury - We didn't limit to a time the goal is not to restrict people but have an equal amount of time for all the people we anticipate coming because it has been a lot of discussion we have been open about, no taxes, mixed taxes , whatever, we want to be able to hear them all. I think it is wise to have some kind of time frame. What you think Mike?

Mike - I am OK with it, I like a streamline process as long as we can make sure that the people who wants to talk that they have that.

Mayor Cury - Three (3) minutes was an arbitrary figure; it is at Council discretion if they want more time. The Chair thinks to set a time ahead and not change at the last minute is wiser. A person would know if they had three (3) minutes, four (4) minutes or five (5) minutes it would be the same for very speaker. Three (3) minutes can be alternate to whatever Council thinks.

Mary Ann - It is good to discuss about a plan but be flexible based on the attendance.

Mike - I am good with it, Logan -Yes Jeff-Yes

Mayor Cury - Is it the consensus of Council to have a sign-up sheet at the door so any person who comes to speak on the budget we will put their name down and we will need their address when they actually come to speak, and three (3) minutes each to present their case or feelings. We will go until we have heard everyone that is what a public hearing is, hearing the public.

Mayor Cury - Let's have a consensus, all Council "yes" to consents to three (3) minutes. What do you think about closing the book because people could start coming in later and it could be cumbersome to keep order?

Logan - I think as long as it is advertised that way.

Mayor Cury - You must sign up by six o'clock in order to be heard.

Mary Ann - What would be the starting time if people wanted to sign up early.

Mayor Cury - I will ask John to address.

John - We can be available 5:30 or 5:45.

Mayor Cury - 5:30pm is that reasonable, you OK with that John?

Mayor Cury - When they come to the podium, they will state their name and address, is that fair and clear to everyone?

Doug - Can you give them 6:10pm, someone is always late.

Mayor Cury - I would not do it, but it is a Council decision.

John - When you get the list you can ask if anyone else wants to sign up and if not one speaks up at that time it is closed.

John - When we post we will explain how it will work, most effective way to get information out there.

Mayor Cury - Anyone on Council have any suggestions on how to have the most effective Public Hearing for us and the people.

John - Access Channel - As you know our IT guy turned in his resignation, I wanted to get Council approval when I start making the purchase on the audio. I didn't want to go out and buy all this technology before we address the audio issue, I want to address the audio issue before we made any more changes, had a couple conversations to go ahead and make the purchases but with him no longer being here I didn't want to order it and have it sitting in a box without someone here to set it all up. Do you want to hold on that or does Council want to go forward on ordering?

Mary Ann - As bad as we need the upgrade, I think we have to wait.

Doug - I am sure that someone has enough tech that they can set it up, there is someone at the Police Department that is good at that, we could help from him, I am sure there is some Town employees that could help us.

Mike - How complicated is it?

John - I would have to refer to the person that recommended it.

Mike - Frank how complicated is it?

Frank – Two (2) Options - If the streaming part works, we would do everything from here, if it doesn't would have to have fiber from here to there (Police Station). The biggest problem is Spectrum will not allow HD quality they only allow 1080i or 720P.

Mike - On the Access Channel?

Frank – Yes, any video you put in you have to convert from HD.

Doug - If we had to get someone to come in and set up for the first time for us.

Mike - Who is going to do it?

Doug - There is some IT people in Town that could set it up for us for \$100.

Mike - Can I make a motion for Doug find someone to install.

Doug - I will find you a person.

Mary Ann - For \$100?

Mayor Cury - The Chair is thinking Mary Ann your suggestion was to wait.

Mary Ann - I have to admit my tech skills are extremely weak; It makes me nervous if we could find the proper person.

Frank - I sure there is IT savvy people in Richlands. Jeff Mathis gave us a quote for the exact same system. His installation charge was way more than \$100.

Mary Ann - What was his charge?

Frank - I think it was around \$1500.

Mayor Cury - I am going to suggest something, right now my mind is stuck on who and how much, I think we need to get it some thought, that is my suggestion.

Doug - My thinking is if we buy the equipment from someone, I think they would give us a better deal setting it up. Everything I buy they agree to set up the software. I am sure he will do it for less if we buy the equipment from him. I think it is important, \$1500, I think it is important for people to hear what we are saying on Council, what we are doing and what we are voting for and how we are spending their tax money. We are quivering over \$1500; we need to get the word out to the whole community. I don't think that is a good thing. Our budget is \$16 million, \$1500 to educate your community to see how Council is functioning I think that is a little ludicrous.

Logan - I think since we have already appropriated, I think we should do it. I have had several complaints from citizens they don't have a computer where they can watch the meetings on. I think the Access channel is a very important especially for older citizens who are not as tech savvy. I think we should do it since we said we were going to do it.

Mayor Cury - Doug you know someone one and I think I know someone. I think to remove us from any hint of impropriety, giving business like I will get you this job. I think we should charge you to do that. I think it would be inappropriate like I am incurring favor from someone. I don't want to do that.

Mike - I am good with going ahead and getting it, and then we can decide who and when to do it.

Mary Ann - You could send us an email.

John – Jonah Project, we received an email from the County several months ago this Board put together a proposal on the sale and capacity of water to the County for the Jonah Project, they have come back with a counteroffer. Do you want to have discussion on this item on Council or do you want to designate a couple representatives, how do you want to handle this type of negotiation with the County?

Mike - Did they ask for a sit down?

John - They asked for a sit down, I told them we did not have a committee or designated to help on that.

Doug – Why could they not address the whole Council?

Mike - He is just looking for direction.

Mayor Cury - I think Council, this has been such a mysterious project for so long I think we all need to be part of it. I say that in truth.

Mary Ann - Probably needs to be a special meeting.

John - We go into closed session for contract negotiations. I will reach out to the County with some different dates and options and get everyone on the same page on having the meeting.

Doug - Can you get us a copy of the proposal, so we won't be blindsided.

John – Miscellaneous – Dispatch - We had a couple of meetings with Town Staff and the County and Sheriff to go over some last minute details how that whole process will be shifted over, I will have discussions with them after the first 30 days to have another meeting to see what went well and what issues came up, try to ease in to that to make sure everyone is on the same page and if any issues arise and we know who to contract to address those. As I mentioned we have three (3) jobs that are going out shortly. Briefly mentioned the Pizza Hut drainage issue as well as some other areas in Town that we have looked at we are trying to find solutions on the best way to handle those and corrective actions and options as well hope to have a list of those by our July meeting. I will get some direction from Council, I am sure some of the projects are not cheap, if it is something we are going to move forward with definitely need prioritization on those.

John - Fire Department has a Kid Training Trailer they use for special kid events; they train the kids what to do if there is smoke in the house and how to climb out safety. When they first got it they used frequently but don't anymore most of the time we let other Towns borrow it. We had a Town approach us about donating it to them. Right now it cost around \$400 a year in liability insurance. This is request that came from the Fire Chief asked for the authority to donate to another municipal.

Mike - That request came from the Fire Department.

John – Yes

Mary Ann - I think if that is his recommendation, we should respect that.

John - Any objections? I will move forward on that.

Mike - County does intend on creating an Advisory Board for the committee once we get going with 911 so our voices are heard, that would include our Fire Chief, Matt, Jerry as well, a place for us to voice our concerns on the process.

John –We will have some transitions in the leadership department, Gordon retiring from the Town and will no longer be the Director of EMS we are looking to find someone for that position, that department will be changing when get those positions finalized, we will let you know the people being promoted.

Mike - Have we sent him anything for his service or anything?

John - They are having a cook-out this weekend and they are going to try to recognize him at that if he is physically able to go.

Mike - Do we plan on thanking him or anything like that?

John - EMS did on behalf of the Town.

Mike - How many years? We need to do something.

Mary Ann - Matt Whited showed me pictures, really nice shadow box with his badges and a really nice plaque but that is from the department, from the Council he needs to be recognized.

Mike - We can do a letter and get the Mayor to sign.

Mayor Cury - We need to do that.

Mary Ann - Can we have it framed; a plaque would be nice.

John - We can come up with something don't have to be now.

Mayor Cury - I am favor of that but want to consider all the other people are either retiring or moving on to other jobs and the service they have given us. We need to bear that in mind.

John - Adrienne is leaving the Town she has 18 years of service.

Mike - Write her a letter and I will write one too.

Frank too.

Mayor Cury - I like the idea but right now we have several people leaving that we need to be remembering everyone.

Mary Ann - I would like to comment Gordon's health is his reason; keep him in your prayers. Pertaining to Adrienne and Frank personally think that is a major loss to our Town and extremely hard positions to fill with the knowledge and more importantly the passion they have for the success of our Town.

Mike - I agree 100% I think Frank has done a terrific job and I am biased, but I think Adrienne is irreplaceable. I want her to know that.

Mayor Cury - So we need to draft a letter of recognition for all these people.

Mayor Cury - Motion that the Mayor and Members of Council convene in executive closed session for the purpose of discussion of personnel as permitted by 2.2-3711 (A) (1) Personnel – Town Attorney Position, 2.2-3711 (A) (7) Actual or Probable Litigation, 2.2-3711 (A) (5) Discussion of Prospective Business, no previous announcement has been made, 2.23711(A) (8) Legal issues regarding conflict interest in economic incentives.

Mike - 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 – Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Jeff – Yes Motion carries – 5/0.

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.

Mike - I make the motion, Jeff 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 – Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Doug-Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Jeff – Yes Motion carries – 5/0.

Mayor Cury – I will accept a motion to adjourn the meeting until Regular Council Meeting June 8 at 6:00pm and Budget Work Session May 18 at 6:00pm

Mary Ann - I make the motion to adjourn, Mike seconded the motion.

Mayor Cury - Any discussion?

Jeff - About tonight's meeting I felt halfway thru we had some love in the room or some excitement but at the same time I didn't feel it, we all stick our necks out here, we all volunteer and put forth the effort to be on the Council. I think it is a two-way street of respect and I think professionalism and just the stature of being on Council amounts to something. No disrespect to anybody but using the word "shut up" during the meeting is not appropriate. And I didn't think it was called for.

Doug - It is not appropriate to not let someone speak either and to interrupt. If anyone won't let me speak, I will tell them to shut up it is not perfectly right. (Screw You and walked out)

Jeff - I just don't think it is professional.

Mary Ann - I appreciate Jeff for sharing that.

Jeff - I would not want someone saying that to me and I would never say to one of you guys. I respect what you say and how you say it, you are here to say your peace and here because you were elected officials you can speak at any time, there is certain times of order that you cannot speak. Rod I think you have done a great job on structuring the meetings the last couple of times.

Mayor Cury - I am not a big prayer but being the most sincere prayers that I have ever said, I fall short of the glory of God every day of my life, knowing that is half the battle for forgiveness. I can't ask anybody else to do that but the Lord; it is very difficult when you have members of the audience who attack a member of Council. I hope I am not offending anybody but there is nothing you can really do but listen and that is it.

Mary Ann - One thing Logan and I talked about, and we were going to get with Wayne, Code of Conduct for Council, it is not Wayne's fault he has not had the time and I have not had the time. I think when we hire a new attorney once he is up and going if the Council and the Mayor approves that we meet with the attorney and get a Code of Conduct.

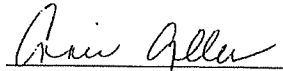
Mayor Cury - We do, and we need some professional advice. I have googled Roberts Rules of Order since I've been the Mayor more than I ever would have thought. The broad power of the Mayor is to maintain order. I have tried to find different ways to do that some more successful than others. If any member of Council or the audience refuses to be orderly you don't have a whole lot of choice, I did consult with and not Wayne one of my friends who is a retired attorney, in the event it is within your authority to remove someone. Do I want to do that, Absolutely Not, but if it becomes imperative and destroys the good conversation it must happen? I pray that never happens. I do seek advice and I do read.

Mayor Cury - I don't like losing my cool it's embarrassing.

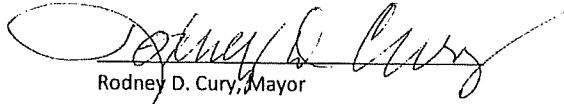
Mayor Cury - We have a motion to adjourn.

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 – Logan- Yes, Mike, Yes, Mary Ann-Yes, Jeff – Yes Motion carries – 4/0. (Doug already had left)

Mayor Cury - Adjourn, next Regular Council Meeting June 8, 2021, at 6:00pm, Budget Work Session May 18 at 6:00pm



Connie Allen, Town Clerk



Rodney D. Cury, Mayor