

The Richlands Town Council held a Public Hearing in the Richlands Council Chambers on February 14, 2017 at 7:00 pm., regarding consideration of adoption of a “Public Smoking Ordinance” for the Town of Richlands with the following present:

Mayor:	Jannis White
Town Manager:	Tim Taylor
Acting Town Clerk:	Adrienne Cordle
Council Members:	Mary Ann Strong, Vickie England, Rick Wood, Rod Cury, Doug Ratliff
Town Attorney:	Brad Ratliff

Mayor White opened the meeting.

Mayor White – Ask Brad to speak on the proposed “Public Smoking Ordinance”.

Brad Ratliff - Spoke on No. 10 of the ordinance - This ordinance includes electronic cigarette and vaporizers, classified as smoking - Putting up for public debate.

Mayor White - Do we have anyone who would like to speak?

Jason Osborne and Ginger Branton were added to the agenda to speak.

Jason Osborne – 586 Plantation Dr. - All agree that smoking is bad for you, it is toxic. Not against people that smoke, just don’t smoke when kids are around. Outdoor smoke is bad for kids. Handed out article “Real-Time Measurement of Outdoor Tobacco Smoke Particles”, made a few comments on second hand smoke.

Ginger Branton – 109 E. Hill Crest Drive, Cedar Bluff - Thank you for your aggressiveness in the smoking ordinances. I think it is the step in the right direction.

Craig Earls – 311 Linwood Drive, Richlands, VA - Thank you for taking on this endeavor, we have been fighting for this on the ballfields for years. We have seen kid’s pick-up cigarette butts and even put them in their mouths. We have been trying to enforce “no smoking” on the baseball fields. We need this in the town to protect our kids.

Rod - There is a bill in the General Assembly about not smoking. I don’t know where it is right now.

Mayor - We will entertain a motion to close this public hearing.

Doug - Made motion to close public hearing, Mary Ann seconded.

Mayor - I have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say yes. All those oppose say no. Motion carries 5/0.

Mayor – Public Meeting Adjourn

Jannis White, Mayor

Connie Allen, Town Clerk

