

The Richlands Town Council held a "Recess Meeting from April 27, 2020 " in the Richlands Council Chambers by "Zoom" on April 29, 2020 at 5:30 pm with the following present:

Mayor:	Paul Crawford
Town Manager:	Tim Taylor
Town Clerk:	Connie Allen
Council Members:	Rod Cury, Mary Ann Strong, Richard Brown, Rick Wood, Doug Ratliff (ATTENDED BY "ZOOM" DUE TO COVID-19)
Town Attorney :	K.W. McClanahan (ATTENDED BY "ZOOM" DUE TO COVID-19)
Town Staff:	Frank Dorton, Kevin Blankenship

Mayor Crawford opened the meeting.

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

Mayor Crawford – At this time I need a motion for the Mayor and Members of Council convene in executive closed session as permitted by the Code of Virginia for the purpose of discussion of , 2.2-3711(A)(8) Legal Advice.

Rick- I make the motion to go into executive session, Doug seconded the motion.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say "yes". All those that oppose say "no". Roll Call - Doug-Yes, Rod- Yes, Mary Ann – Yes, Rick- Yes - Motion carries – 4/0. (Richard Brown late arriving)

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

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

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say "yes". All those that oppose say "no". Roll Call - Rick – Yes, Doug-Yes, Rod- Yes, Richard- Yes, Mary Ann - Yes Motion carries – 5/0

Mayor Crawford - We had a request to invite Sheriff Heatt and Chief Gilbert to the meeting on Monday by "Zoom" to present information concerning 911/dispatch. I think it would be a good idea to hear both sides. I am not comfortable enough with the subject to make any decision about it.

Mary Ann - I think it would be good idea but not in the room at the same time, I think it would be good to hear both but at different times.

Doug - That would defeat the whole purpose, we will be live on Facebook, any concerns that Chief Gilbert has he can discuss with Sheriff Heatt, they can react to each other. We need to hear both sides.

Mary Ann - Doug I see your side, but I think it would escalate to an argument.

Doug - They are both professionals, the public and Council needs to hear both sides.

Rod - I think it will create an argumental platform instead of productive.

Doug - It won't be an argument. If Chief Gilbert has reservations how will Sheriff Hieatt know unless he hears them. They can't make judgement unless they hear each other. That is the problem no communication.

Mayor Crawford - I think you have made your point. Richard, what do you think?

Richard - I am not interested in what Sheriff Hieatt has to say, but if you put them together, they both better buckle up because someone feelings is going to get hurt, that is all I have to say.

Doug - We work for the public; we don't need to worry about each other's feelings. We want to know what they can do for our citizens. If they are not professional enough to speak to each other and tell their side they don't need to be in the positions they are in.

Richard - I'll save my debate until Monday.

Mayor Crawford - We will invite both sides on Monday and then decide how to handle the meeting.

Mary Ann - Don't you think we need to decide now? What do you think about allowing each one to speak to us without the other one in the room then bring both in together and then hear their concerns? Doug, I see your side, but I can see it becoming an argument.

Doug - Let each one do a presentation and let the people on Facebook be the judge. Let each one answer about the reservations people have. We need to hear what will work and what won't, we need to find out the truth. I can tell you all kind things that is wrong, at least give a chance to look me in the face and tell me what we can do.

Mayor Crawford - My feelings and my career in business, I was always prepared to set across the table from the other person and state my beliefs on what should or should not be. People could base the final decision on the information. They are both grown men, I would really like to hear why Sheriff Hieatt wants it.

Richard - Is this to do with the budget?

Mayor Crawford - Yes

Richard - It may not be a necessity if we can get together with the budget.

Doug - It is going to have a very large effect on the budget, everybody is scared to death for Sheriff Hieatt to talk to Chief Gilbert, that is what it is.

Richard - It's not me.

Doug - Then give them a chance, let the public judge.

Mayor Crawford - I don't agree with letting the public judge.

Doug - I mean on what they are speaking on not make the final decision.

Doug - Rick what do you think?

Rick - I'm good with having them.

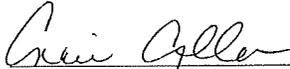
Rick - I make the motion to adjourn, Doug seconded the motion.

Doug - So we are going to have them both here on Monday?

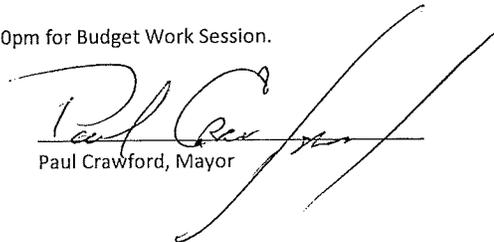
Mayor Crawford - Yes, we will decide on Monday how to handle.

Mayor Crawford- We have a motion and a second, any further discussion? All those in favor of the motion say "yes". All those that oppose say "no". Roll Call - Rick – Yes, Doug-Yes, Rod- Yes, Richard- Yes, Mary Ann – Yes Motion carries – 5/0

The meeting is adjourned until May 4 at 5:30pm for Budget Work Session.



Connie Allen, Town Clerk



Paul Crawford, Mayor