AUGUST 10, 2026 MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Rich Creek Town Council was held on Monday, August 10, 2026 at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers, located at 250 Old Virginia Avenue, Rich Creek, VA with the following individuals present:

Paul Morrison, Mayor	Mikhail Mann, Vice-Mayor	William Kantsios, Council
Chris Thornton, Council	Chris Wickline, Council	Phillip Hunt, Council
Richard Cox, Town Manager	Steve Buckland, RCPD	Kevin Smith, Supt. of PW
Warren Wilson, RCVFD	Mason Boggess, RCVFD	Kim Kantsios
Sherry Cox	Lorie Dixon	Merv Swartout
Tommy Kantsios	Marva Boggess	Rickie Miller
Helen Swartout	Alleta Morrison	Chasity Wilson
Samuel Roberson	Jason Cromer	

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order, followed by an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Kantsios moved to approve the minutes of the July 13th & August 3rd, 2026 meeting minutes, as presented and the motion was seconded by Mr. Wickline. The motion passed unanimously (5-0) by the following voting YES: Mr. Mann, Mr. Thornton, Mr. Kantsios, Mr. Wickline, and Mr. Hunt.

RICH CREEK VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Council reviewed the Rich Creek Volunteer Fire Department report, and a brief discussion was held concerning recent accidents and the status of VDOT's review of the intersection along Rt. 460. Mr. Cox reported that the matter remains open and the Town is awaiting additional information from VDOT.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Samuel Roberson addressed Council regarding traffic safety on North Street and requested consideration of reducing the speed limit from 25 mph to 15 mph. He also requested consideration of additional safety signage due to children and residents with mobility limitations using the street. There was discussion regarding the process required to reduce the speed limit, including coordination with VDOT, possible traffic/speed studies, signage requirements, adoption of an ordinance, and a public hearing. Alternative traffic-calming measures were discussed, particularly the use of a dynamic speed-control/radar feedback sign similar to the signs currently being used on Main Street. Mr. Cox said it has been observed, since the installation of the signs, that there has been an increase in driver compliance. He said additional police presence and the possibility of obtaining a temporary portable speed sign were also discussed. Mr. Cox said he will explore funding and options for installing a dynamic speed-control sign on North Street. Council also discussed the possibility of requesting VDOT approval for an additional pedestrian crosswalk near the Island Street area to improve pedestrian safety. No formal action was taken regarding a reduction in the North Street speed limit.

OLD BUSINESS

UPDATE ON THE NEW FIRE HALL UPDATE

Council received an update regarding the new fire hall project and the August 3, 2026 Fire Hall Committee meeting. The project is approximately 50% complete, consisting primarily of the exterior shell and pad. Work is now focused on funding and completing Phase II. Responsibilities have been assigned for local fundraising, congressional and governmental funding efforts, and contacting major donors. Site work and utility connections will continue as funding becomes available. Council discussed the increasing cost of

completing the project and possible alternatives should anticipated congressional funding is not secured. Some of the options discussed included private investments, conventional financing, bonding, and additional grant opportunities. Mr. Cox reported that preliminary discussions have occurred with a financial institution, although any borrowing would require the appropriate legal and public-hearing process. He said the committee is also seeking a meeting with Congressman Griffith regarding potential funding for the project. Mr. Mann said Delegate Ballard has offered assistance and support for the Town's funding efforts. Mr. Cox said letters of support from residents, organizations, and supporters of the fire department are needed for inclusion with funding applications and presentations. The Clerk will publicize the request for letters of support. **Mr. Kantsios made a motion to authorize the use of fire department donations as they are received for expenses associated with the new fire hall project, up to $50,000, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Mann. The motion passed unanimously (5-0) by the following voting YES: Mr. Mann, Mr. Thornton, Mr. Kantsios, Mr. Wickline, and Mr. Hunt.**

DISCUSSION REGARDING VDOT-PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNAGE

There was discussion regarding the recently installed pedestrian and dynamic speed-control signage and Mr. Cox reported on improved driver compliance with the speed limit. He said a traffic study continues and VDOT remains involved in addressing traffic and pedestrian-safety concerns.

FOLLOW-UP ON REQUEST TO REMOVE MINIMUM WATER CHARGES

Mr. Cox provided an update on the request received at the last meeting concerning the removal or forgiveness of the minimum water/sewer charges when a resident is temporarily absent from a residence. Mr. Cox advised that water-rate requirements and bond covenants require rates to be administered consistently and that eliminating minimum charges through a general policy could create financial and administrative concerns. Council agreed that unusual circumstances, such as an extended hospitalization, nursing-home stay, or rehabilitation stay, the water/sewer charges may be reviewed individually. No action was taken to change the existing water/sewer rate policy.

NEW BUSINESS

CONSIDERATION TO USE ISLAND STREET PROPERTY AS PART OF A TRUCK PARKING CLUB

Mr. Cox presented information for Council to consider using a portion of the Island Street property for commercial truck parking through a third-party parking service. He said the proposal for the parking service would advertise and manage reservations while sharing parking revenue with the Town. He said the property would remain available for sale, with provisions allowing the arrangement to be terminated with proper notice. The Council discussed the potential benefits, including additional Town revenue and increased business for nearby establishments and there were concerns involving traffic, intersection safety, noise from idling vehicles, security, liability, hazardous-material loads, access for larger trucks, and the effect on nearby residents. The possibility of limiting parking to smaller commercial vehicles or hot-shot drivers was discussed, along with other potential uses of the property, including electric-vehicle charging stations. The Council agreed that Mr. Cox continue researching the proposal, including safety, noise, traffic, access, security, and other potential impacts, and to report back to Council before any final decision is made.

TOWN ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

TOWN MANAGER REPORT-RICHARD COX

Mr. Cox reported on several ongoing projects and activities, including:

- Preliminary floodplain maps indicate approximately 52 structures may be removed from the floodplain, with no structures currently shown as being added. The maps remain subject to the public-comment and appeals process.
- Recent severe weather resulted in localized flooding along Woodland Road and Rt. 219, primarily associated with blocked drainage areas and debris.
- June water-loss rate-17.5%.
- The Supt. of Public Works will be addressing an identified water leak near the intersection of Old Virginia Avenue and Rt. 219.
- Funding is being sought for design work associated with the Rt. 219 water-erosion project.
- Mr. Cox reported water testing was completed with acceptable results and the number of water meters failing to read was reduced substantially.
- PFAS testing is beginning as required by DEQ.
- The Town is seeking a contractor to complete the required five-year cleaning of the Island Street wet well.
- Mr. Cox reported he has submitted a grant application to fund the new lighting for Officer Broyles' police vehicle. He reported the USDA grant request to fund the purchase of a new police cruiser for Chief Buckland was denied.
- A new brush hog, utility locator, and blower were purchased for public works and OSHA training is being scheduled.

Mrs. Alleta Morrison provided an update on the recent events:

- The Christmas in July was successful and received positive feedback from the community and surrounding areas.
- Planning is underway for Autumnfest on Main Street, scheduled for Saturday, September 12, 2026, with additional community activities planned for Sunday, September 13 at the community center. Mrs. Morrison reported volunteers are needed for event setup, vendor assistance, parking, activities, and general event operations and said community organizations and students are encouraged to participate.
- Fundraising activities include ornament sales, a raffle for a Blackstone grill & supplies or a gift-card basket.

POLICE REPORT-STEVE BUCKLAND

- Activity report was presented for review.
- Chief Buckland reported that the Pembroke Police Department will be assisting the Town with law-enforcement needs during Autumnfest.

GILES COUNTY PSA BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT-WILLIAM KANTSIOS

Mr. Kantsios said there had been no meeting held since the previous Council meeting; therefore, there was nothing to report at that time. He informed the Council that the PSA Director, Kevin Belcher had submitted his resignation effective July 31, 2026.

TREASURER'S REPORT-PAMELA KANTSIOS

- The Treasurer's Report was presented.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS

Mr. Kantsios moved to approve the bills presented in the amount of $77,614.20, and to authorize an

additional $3,000 for outstanding bills not yet received, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Hunt. The motion passed unanimously (5-0) by the following roll call vote: Mr. Mann, YES; Mr. Thornton, YES; Mr. Kantsios, YES; Mr. Wickline, YES; and Mr. Hunt, YES.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Thornton was recognized as the winner of the Town logo design contest and was presented with a $25 gift card.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

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Paul Morrison, Mayor Pamela Kantsios, Town Clerk