

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022, AT 6:00 P.M.**

Members present: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield (electronically), Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman

Members absent: Mark J. Bloomfield

Others present: Town Manager T. Brian Freeman, Town Clerk Sharon G. Corvin, Town Attorney Michelle Workman Clayton, Planning Director John Woods, Police Chief Joel Hash, Police Lieutenant Tommy Lester, Ron Jude, Mike Forrest, James Cohen, Del Crigger, Fred Riley, Jesse Ashburn, Lisa Kneer, Larry Sharitz, John Merideth, TJ Merideth, Millicent Rothrock with *The Wytheville Enterprise*

**RE: CALL TO ORDER, QUORUM, PLEDGE**

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order and established that a quorum of Council members was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Mayor Pattison.

**RE: APPROVAL FOR MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE ELECTRONICALLY**

Mayor Taylor advised that Councilman Bloomfield desired to participate electronically in the meeting from his home due to a personal illness. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve Councilman Bloomfield to participate electronically in the Town Council meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Gillman and seconded by Vice-Mayor Pattison to approve Councilman Bloomfield to participate electronically in the Town Council meeting. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to approve Councilman Bloomfield participating electronically in the Council meeting. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman. Against: None.

**RE: CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of May 23, 2022. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented or to somehow be amended. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilman Gillman to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of May 23, 2022, as presented. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to approve the consent agenda, as presented. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman. Against: None.

**RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS – REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider a proposed real property tax increase due to the reassessment value of real properties. Town Manager Freeman advised that he had a few items to share with the Council during this public hearing. He reviewed a PowerPoint presentation with the Council regarding the proposed real property tax increase due to the reassessment value of real properties. He noted

the amount of revenue that could be received due to the reassessments. Mayor Taylor inquired if there were citizens who desired to speak during the public hearing.

Ms. Lisa Kneer was recognized and stated that she resides at 875 West Spiller Street in Wytheville. She noted that her property taxes increased two months ago, which she thought was her Town taxes. Ms. Kneer inquired if she was mistaken. Town Manager Freeman stated that this is the only proposed tax increase for the Town of Wytheville at this time. Councilman Gillman remarked that Wythe County had a property reassessment. Town Manager Freeman stated that is correct, and that Ms. Kneer probably received her Wythe County reassessment a few months ago. He continued to explain the process to Ms. Kneer. Ms. Kneer inquired of Town Manager Freeman if there was a reason why taxes are due at Christmas time. She noted that she understood the end of the fiscal year, however, it makes it hard on people when taxes are due in December near the Christmas holiday. Town Manager Freeman stated that the Town does allow citizens to make payments or prepay their taxes. Discussion continued regarding tax payments. Mayor Taylor advised that she would inquire of Town Treasurer Stephens regarding the Town's payment plan options, and she will contact Ms. Kneer to give her some options. She inquired if there was anyone else who wished to address the Council during this public hearing. Ms. Kneer inquired of Mayor Taylor if there would be another time for her to speak during Citizens' Period. Mayor Taylor stated that is correct. She thanked Ms. Kneer for her comments.

Mr. Mike Forrest was recognized and stated that he resides at 630 Withers Road in Wytheville. He inquired of Town Manager Freeman if the reassessment for the Town has increased 18.6 percent and the tax rates have stayed the same. Mr. Forrest remarked that in his opinion, the income should have come up 18.6 percent due to property taxes. Town Manager Freeman stated that is correct, if it stays at \$0.195. Mayor Taylor advised that is correct if the tax rate stays the same because the Town Council has not voted on this item at this time. Mr. Forrest inquired of the Council if there are plans to approve a net zero tax. Town Manager Freeman advised that this is the time for open discussion regarding this item because once the public hearing closes, the Council will not vote immediately. Councilman Bloomfield inquired if Mr. Forrest could define what he means by a net zero tax. Town Manager Freeman advised that Mr. Forrest is referring to the statutory ad that was advertised, and a discussion continued regarding the net zero tax. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Forrest for his comments.

Mayor Taylor advised that there was one comment submitted by Ms. Georgia Crockett of 565 East Monroe Street, Wytheville, Virginia, regarding the increase. Ms. Crockett's comments were entered into the record as follows:

*Strongly against proposed property tax increase for the following general reasons: current inflation, current tax rate should be sufficient (budget should be adjusted/reduced to match it; not other way around. Whole purpose of budgeting), additional economic burden on elderly, no improvements made only repairs does not justify increasing tax rate. Some home properties are already impeded upon & surrounded by rental properties which are not well maintained, including trash accumulation for month/months at a time before hauled off, constant foot traffic, disturbance by those they rent to (resulting in police &; animal control being called), as well as dogs running at large. NO.*

Mayor Taylor inquired if there were any other questions or comments. There being none, Mayor Taylor declared the public hearing closed and proceeded with the agenda.

**RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS – RILEY CONSTRUCTION, INC. SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT**

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider the request of Riley Construction, Incorporated for a Special Exception Permit to construct approximately 17,000 to 20,000 square feet of additional storage units on their property located at 555 Peppers Ferry Road, Wytheville, Virginia, which is located on the east side of Peppers Ferry Road between Community Boulevard and Hedgefield Lane, in a B-1 Business District. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was anyone who wished to address the Council during this public hearing. She inquired if anyone from Riley Construction, Inc. would like to speak at this time. Mr. Fred Riley noted that if anyone had any questions, they would be happy to answer the questions. Mayor Taylor inquired of the Council if there were any questions or comments for anyone attending on behalf of Riley Construction, Inc. Mayor Taylor advised that there were two comments that were received regarding this request. She advised that one comment was submitted by Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority Executive Director Randy Martin, which was entered into the record as follows:

*Dear Brian,*

*I have recently received two phone calls in reference to a "screen" of trees between our Freedom Lane development and All Star Storage (old Alco building). The first call (May 5th) was from Mr. Woods at the Town office. I was questioned about an agreement that I had in 2016/2017 concerning trees being planted between Freedom Lane and Alco (Dale Cregger). As I stated to Mr. Woods, I did not remember (right off) of an agreement for anything in relation to trees to be planted. I know we didn't put anything in writing or we would have it on file. The second call, today, was from Dale Cregger at All Star Storage so I went up and spoke with him. As we were talking, do remember he and I discussing the fence I wanted to build and that he allowed me to move my fence up the hill (for appearance and ease of mowing) onto their property and the AEP right-of-way (which I had approval from AEP). I don't understand what the issue really is at this point, however, I do know that Dale and the entire group have been great neighbors, as I have inconvenienced them numerous times by having shipments to WRHA delivered to their warehouse. Don't get me wrong, trees have their place and are beautiful if maintained properly, however, I knew who our neighbors were going to be when we chose the location and that was one of the main factors in our decision. If I could choose today between trees and the fence we have, I would still choose the fence. I thank you for your time and am at your convenience to discuss this — if needed.*

*Sincerely,  
Randy Martin  
Executive Director/CEO*

Town Manager Freeman advised that he discussed the letter with Ms. Melissa Delby, Assistant Director of the Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (WRHA), regarding the Riley Construction, Inc. request. He noted that he explained to the WRHA that the tree screen was actually a condition of a current Riley Construction, Inc. Special Exception Permit that they already had, which had little to do with the WRHA. He commented that the trees that were requested by the Wytheville Planning Commission at their May 12, 2022, meeting, of Riley Construction, Inc., have since been added, therefore, that issue has been addressed. Mayor Taylor thanked Town Manager Freeman for his clarification.

Mayor Taylor advised that the second comment was submitted by Mr. William J. Smith of 208 West Main Street, Suite A, Wytheville, Virginia, which was entered into the record as follows:

*Planning Commission Members,*

*With respect, I object to granting further special exceptions at 555 Peppers Ferry Rd. for the same reasons I did previously when the first exceptions were granted several years ago. Additional nonconforming activities will further violate ordinance conditions and regulations in a very large portion of the B-1 zone and the Entrance Corridor Overlay on Peppers Ferry Rd. Allowances for these types of special exceptions have, and will continue if granted, to undermine the intent and specific language of the ordinances that were adopted to protect that area. Granting of special exceptions of this magnitude are not fair to those in the immediate area and elsewhere in town who are being strictly held to ordinance standards by Town Council and its administration.*

*Sincerely,  
William J. Smith*

Mayor Taylor inquired if there were any other questions or comments. There being none, Mayor Taylor declared the public hearing closed and proceeded with the agenda.

### **RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS – SOLAR ENERGY FACILITIES**

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to add Article XXIV – Solar Energy Facilities, and to amend the following sections to add the use of Solar Energy Facilities: Article V – Agricultural District A-1; Article IX – Medical Arts District MA-1; Article X-Business District B-1; Article XI – Business District B-2 (General); Article XI-A – Business District B-2 DT General Business District - Downtown; Article XII – Industrial District M-1; Article XII-M-Industrial District M-1M; Article XIII – Industrial District M-2. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was anyone who wished to address the Council during this public hearing.

Ms. Lisa Kneer was recognized and stated that she resides at 875 West Spiller Street in Wytheville. She inquired of the Council if the areas discussed for the Solar Energy Facilities would be allowed to cover large areas of land. Planning Director Woods explained that this ordinance addresses a number of ranges and sizes of facilities, and, potentially, there could be some larger facilities that would be allowed by a Special Exception Permit within an Agricultural or Industrial Zoning District in town. Ms. Kneer inquired of Planning Director Woods if he was referring to the size of a large farm when he stated large solar facilities. Planning Director Woods stated that is correct. He noted that, currently, there is a project under construction that connects the town and the county near the Pepsi Bottling Group, which is approximately 150 acres of land. Ms. Kneer explained that she is for solar energy, but, a lot of times when people discover solar energy, they do not look at the ramifications of what they are doing to the large areas. She continued to express her concerns of what could happen to the large areas of land from solar energy farms. Mayor Taylor thanked Ms. Kneer for her comments.

Mayor Taylor inquired if there were any other questions or comments. There being none, Mayor Taylor declared the public hearing closed and proceeded with the agenda.

### **RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS – SIGN ORDINANCE**

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to repeal and replace Article XXI – Regulating Outdoor Advertising in Sight of Public Streets in the Town of Wytheville, Virginia (Sign Ordinance). Mayor Taylor inquired if there was anyone who wished to address the Council during this public hearing. She inquired if Town staff

had anything that they wished to discuss during this public hearing. There being none, Mayor Taylor declared the public hearing closed and proceeded with the agenda.

**RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS – FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 BUDGET**

Mayor Taylor advised that the public hearing to consider Ordinance No. 1410, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2022-23, was advertised to be held at 7:00 p.m., however, at this time, it is not 7:00 p.m. Mayor Taylor explained that at 7:00 p.m. the Council will revisit this item on the agenda, therefore, at this time, she will proceed with the agenda.

**RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD – WOLFORD RESOLUTION**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the adoption and presentation of a resolution recognizing Mr. Todd Wolford, Executive Director of Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated, for receiving the 2022 Mary Means Leadership Award. Mayor Taylor inquired if there is a motion to adopt the resolution recognizing Mr. Wolford for receiving the 2022 Mary Means Leadership Award. A motion was made by Councilman Gillman and seconded by Vice-Mayor Pattison to adopt a resolution recognizing Mr. Todd Wolford, Executive Director of Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated, for receiving the 2022 Mary Means Leadership Award. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to adopt the resolution. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman Against: None.

Mayor Taylor invited Mr. Wolford to come forward for the presentation of the resolution and to have a photo taken. She proceeded to read the resolution.

**RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Todd Wolford was hired as the Executive Director of Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated in February 2016, and he has worked diligently to promote and revitalize downtown Wytheville, and he has been instrumental in bringing businesses to the downtown area, including breweries and restaurants; and,

**WHEREAS**, Todd has directed many projects including the Evolution Wytheville business plan competition, Invest Youth Scholarship Program and Small Business Saturday events, and he helped administer the Small Business Development Assistance Grant and the Façade Program, which aid downtown businesses; and,

**WHEREAS**, some of Todd's successful downtown events include the Fourth of July festivities, Zombie Run, Christmas Parade and cruise ins, which bring hundreds of citizens and visitors to downtown; and,

**WHEREAS**, Todd is an active leader in the Virginia Main Street network and the Southwest Virginia region, and he was selected to represent the State of Virginia on the Appalachian Regional Commission Leadership Institute (2020-21 cohort); and,

**WHEREAS**, in December 2021, Todd received a Virginia Main Street Revitalization Award, and a scholarship to attend the 2022 Main Street Now Conference; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Housing Community and Development Virginia Main Street Program staff nominated Mr. Todd Wolford for the Main Street America Mary Means

Leadership Award, and this nomination was supported by letters of recommendation from community leaders; and,

**WHEREAS**, Main Street America presented Todd with the 2022 Mary Means Leadership Award, which is the organization's top honor that recognizes outstanding leaders for their role in comprehensive preservation-based commercial district revitalization; and,

**WHEREAS**, Todd is deserving of recognition for his efforts and for promoting the Town of Wytheville, especially the downtown area.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, officially commends Mr. Todd Wolford for receiving the Mary Means Leadership Award for his exceptional work and his dedication to downtown Wytheville and its prosperity.

Mayor Taylor congratulated Mr. Wolford on his award. She thanked him for attending the meeting, and she proceeded with the agenda.

**RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD – MCWHIRTER EMAIL**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is an email received from Mr. Bob McWhirter regarding the Noise Ordinance. She stated that the email has been requested to be read during Citizens' Period and made part of the official meeting record. The email from Mr. McWhirter was read by Mayor Taylor and entered into the record as follows:

*Hiya!*

*Me again.*

*I'd like to ask the mayor and council to perhaps take up the issue of noise. Wytheville is not a great place to live when sirens, helicopters and lawn mowers are assaulting us all throughout the day.*

*I understand sirens are needed for public safety. Though it seems like some policy may have recently changed inspiring every police car and fire truck to begin shrieking as they leave the station.*

*I also understand that helicopter ferrying COVID and wreck patients to and from our hospital is for the public good. (149 wythe residents have lost their lives to COVID after all).*

*But commercial lawn-mowing services in the historic district, or really any residential area, seems particularly egregious after 7pm. As spring arrives and we want to enjoy "the only one!" Wytheville, not having to listen to a guy on a mower also running a leaf blower might increase our quality of life.*

*Perhaps the glove factory people also want a quiet rural environment in the evenings. I ask that you read this letter into the record at the next town council meeting, please.*

*Bob*

**RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She inquired if there were any citizens attending the meeting who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period.

Ms. Lisa Kneer was recognized and stated that she resides at 875 West Spiller Street in Wytheville. She stated that this is the fourth time she has attended a Council meeting to request the installation of signs stating that all dogs must remain on a leash in the town. She explained that she would like to note that there have been other towns who have had dog attacks in parks because of dogs not being on leashes, therefore, she wanted to bring this to the Council's attention. Ms. Kneer inquired of Town Manager Freeman as to where her request stands for the signs. Town Manager Freeman advised that the signs were ordered two weeks ago, and, unfortunately, like everything else, it will take a while for the signs to arrive. He explained that as soon as they arrive, the signs will be installed in the parks. Ms. Kneer inquired as to what the fine is in town for not having a dog on a leash. Town Manager Freeman stated that he did not know without reviewing the Town Code, however, he will research this. Ms. Kneer inquired if a public announcement could be made when the signs were erected. Town Manager Freeman stated that there are several different avenues that the Town can help with letting citizens, visitors, etc. know about the leash law. He noted that the Wytheville Police Department, the Town's social media sites, the Town's water bill, an article in *The Mayor's Corner*, etc. are all ways to remind citizens, visitors, etc. about the Town's leash law.

Ms. Kneer stated that she wanted to bring something else to the Council's attention so that people are aware. She noted that she was walking on Tazewell Street and noticed a black widow spider, which she killed immediately. Ms. Kneer commented that black widows are not common to this area. Ms. Kneer noted that she felt it could be because of the store that it was located near, and she commented that the spider(s) could be coming in through the potting soil at the store. She stated that she has alerted the Health Department. She continued to express her concerns regarding the black widow spider. Mayor Taylor thanked Ms. Kneer for her comments.

Mayor Taylor inquired if there were others who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period. There being none, she proceeded with the agenda.

### **RE: NEW BUSINESS**

Under New Business, Town Manager Freeman reported the following:

1. The Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority will meet on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 12:00 p.m., at the Housing Authority Office.
2. The New River Regional Water Authority will meet on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., in Austinville.
3. The Town of Wytheville Municipal Offices will be closed and all services curtailed on Monday, June 20, 2022, in observance of Juneteenth.
4. The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County will meet on Thursday, June 23, 2022, at 3:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.
5. The next Council Work Session will be held on Monday, June 27, 2022, at 4:00 p.m., in the Council Conference Room followed by the Council meeting at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

6. There are two items that will need emergency procurement in June. Town staff is conducting emergency procurement for both items because staff determined an immediate emergency need and there are supply issues resulting from the Covid-19 Pandemic and petroleum supply costs complicate the need. The two emergency procurement items include the awarding of the contract for the Industry Road Sewer Force Main and Lithia Road Pump Station and the Wytheville Community Center roof. The Industry Road sewer line ruptures reported to DEQ have reached the need for an immediate repair due to the frequency of sewer spillage that could endanger public health. The Wytheville Community Center roof repair is necessary because leaks, ceiling tile issues and potential structural damage could cause further damage to public property and potential public safety issues. For both projects, the Town Code and the State guidelines for emergency procurement will be followed. Town staff would request that the Town Council approve using the emergency procurement procedures for these projects and authorize the Town Manager to execute the contracts. Town Manager Freeman advised that both would require a motion and vote by the Council. Mayor Taylor inquired of the Council if there is a motion to approve utilizing Emergency Procurement Procedures for the Industry Road/Lithia Road Project and the Wytheville Community Center Roof Replacement Project and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contracts. Mayor Taylor advised that the two projects would need to be made in the form of two motions. A motion was made by Councilman Gillman and seconded by Councilman Bloomfield to approve utilizing Emergency Procurement Procedures for the Industry Road/Lithia Road Project and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to approve utilizing Emergency Procurement Procedures for the Industry Road/Lithia Road Project and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition, by roll call vote:

FOR: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Mayor Taylor inquired if there is a motion to approve utilizing Emergency Procurement Procedures for the Wytheville Community Center Roof Replacement Project. A motion was made by Councilman Gillman and seconded by Councilman Bloomfield to approve utilizing Emergency Procurement Procedures for the Wytheville Community Center Roof Replacement Project and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract. She inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to approve utilizing Emergency Procurement Procedures for the Wytheville Community Center Roof Replacement Project and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote:

FOR: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Gary L. Gillman

AGAINST: Holly E. Atkins

ABSTENTIONS: None



Mayor Taylor advised that the motion is approved with a 4-1 vote.

**RE: APPOINTMENTS – SMYTH-WYTHE AIRPORT COMMISSION**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the reappointment of Mr. David Taylor to the Smyth-Wythe Airport Commission (term expires June 30, 2022). A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to reappoint Mr. David Taylor for a four year term to the Smyth-Wythe Airport Commission (term expires June 30, 2026). Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results: For: Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman. Against: None. Abstention: Beth A. Taylor. Mayor Taylor abstained from the vote because Mr. David Taylor is a family member.

**RE: APPOINTMENTS – WILLOW BROOK JACKSON/UMBERGER HOMESTEAD MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the reappointment of Mr. Terry Beamer to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board (term expires July 31, 2022). A motion was made by Councilman Gillman and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to reappoint Mr. Terry Beamer for a five year term to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board (term expires July 31, 2027). Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman. Against: None.

**RE: APPOINTMENTS – WILLOW BROOK JACKSON/UMBERGER HOMESTEAD MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the reappointment of Mr. David Taylor to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board (term expires July 31, 2022). A motion was made by Councilman Gillman and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to reappoint Mr. David Taylor for a five year term to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board (term expires July 31, 2027). Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results: For: Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman. Against: None. Abstention: Beth A. Taylor. Mayor Taylor abstained from the vote because Mr. David Taylor is a family member.

**RE: APPOINTMENTS – DISTRICT III GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATIVE**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the reappointment of Councilwoman Holly Atkins as the member and Councilman Gary Gillman as the Alternate Member to the District III Governmental Cooperative (terms expire June 30, 2022). A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilman Bloomfield to reappoint Councilwoman Holly Atkins as the member and Councilman Gary Gillman as the alternate member for a one year term to the District III Governmental Cooperative (term expires June 30, 2023). Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman. Against: None.

**RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1412**

Mayor Taylor presented Ordinance No. 1412, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to add Article XXIV – Solar Energy Facilities, and to amend the following sections to add the use of Solar Energy Facilities: Article V – Agricultural District A-1; Article IX – Medical Arts District MA-1; Article X-Business District B-1; Article XI – Business District B-2 (General); Article XI-A – Business District B-2 DT General Business District - Downtown; Article XII – Industrial District M-1; Article XII-M-Industrial District M-1M; Article XIII – Industrial District M-2, on first reading. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilman Bloomfield to adopt Ordinance No. 1412, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to add Article XXIV – Solar Energy Facilities, and to amend the following sections to add the use of Solar Energy Facilities: Article V – Agricultural District A-1; Article IX – Medical Arts District MA-1; Article X-Business District B-1; Article XI – Business District B-2 (General); Article XI-A – Business District B-2 DT General Business District - Downtown; Article XII – Industrial District M-1; Article XII-M-Industrial District M-1M; Article XIII – Industrial District M-2, on first and final reading. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote:

FOR: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield

AGAINST: Gary L. Gillman

ABSTENTIONS: Holly E. Atkins

Councilwoman Atkins abstained from voting because she did not feel like she knew enough information about the proposed ordinance. Mayor Taylor advised that Ordinance No. 1412 was adopted on first and final reading.

**RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1413**

Mayor Taylor presented Ordinance No. 1413, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to repeal and replace Article XXI – Regulating Outdoor Advertising in Sight of Public Streets in the Town of Wytheville, Virginia (Sign Ordinance), on first reading. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilman Gillman to adopt Ordinance No. 1413, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to repeal and replace Article XXI – Regulating Outdoor Advertising in Sight of Public Streets in the Town of Wytheville, Virginia (Sign Ordinance), on first and final reading. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote:

FOR: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Gary L. Gillman

AGAINST: Holly E. Atkins

ABSTENTIONS: None

Mayor Taylor advised that Ordinance No. 1413 was adopted on first and final reading.

**RE: RILEY CONSTRUCTION, INCORPORATED SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT REQUEST**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the issuance of a Special Exception Permit to Riley Construction, Incorporated to construct approximately 17,000 to 20,000 square

feet of additional storage units on their property located at 555 Peppers Ferry Road, Wytheville, Virginia, which is located on the east side of Peppers Ferry Road between Community Boulevard and Hedgefield Lane, in a B-1 Business District. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to issue a Special Exception Permit to Riley Construction, Incorporated to construct approximately 17,000 to 20,000 square feet of additional storage units on their property located at 555 Peppers Ferry Road, Wytheville, Virginia, which is located on the east side of Peppers Ferry Road between Community Boulevard and Hedgefield Lane, in a B-1 Business District, with the following stipulations: 1.) A vegetative screen shall be provided and maintained between the site and Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority site; 2.) Existing vegetative screening along the adjoining hotel site shall be maintained; 3.) Trees and shrubs along the east property line must be maintained in place to provide screening or replaced with new screen plantings if cut or destroyed; and, 4.) Failure to comply with these conditions shall be grounds for rescinding this Special Exception Permit. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition, by roll call vote:

FOR: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

**RE: FISCAL YEAR 2021-22 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to set a public hearing to consider appropriations to the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget. She noted that the public hearing could be set for June 27, 2022. A motion was made by Councilman Gillman and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to set a public hearing for the Monday, June 27, 2022, Town Council meeting at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building to consider appropriations to the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman. Against: None.

**RE: LARRY SHARITZ SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT RENEWAL**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to set a public hearing to consider a recommendation from the Wytheville Planning Commission to renew a Special Exception Permit for Mr. Larry Sharitz to operate an auto repair shop and to add the use to operate an auto welding shop at 140 Hillcrest Road, which is located on the north side of Hillcrest Road between Cove Road and the Town Corporate Limits, in a B-1 Business District. She noted that the public hearing could be set for July 11, 2022. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to set a public hearing for the Monday, July 11, 2022, Town Council meeting at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building to consider renewing a Special Exception Permit for Mr. Larry Sharitz to operate an auto repair shop and to add the use to operate an auto welding shop at 140 Hillcrest Road, which is located on the north side of Hillcrest Road between Cove Road and the Town Corporate Limits, in a B-1 Business District. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman. Against: None.

**RE: RECESS**

It was the consensus of the Council to take a short recess. (6:50 p.m.)

**RE: RECONVENE**

The Town Council reconvened the meeting. (7:00 p.m.)

**RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS – FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 BUDGET**

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider Ordinance No. 1410, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2022-23. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was anyone who wished to address the Council during this public hearing. Town Manager Freeman stated that he would review some additional information for the public to help with some questions that citizens may have for the Council. He reviewed the FY 2022-23 Budget In Brief. Town Manager Freeman stated that he would now answer any questions that anyone may have regarding the budget. Mayor Taylor inquired of Town Manager Freeman regarding the extraction equipment for the Fire and Rescue Department, and if the Town only has one piece of equipment. Town Manager Freeman advised that the Town, currently, has hydraulic equipment, however, what the Fire and Rescue Department has been faced with numerous times on Interstate 81 is vehicles that have gone over the embankment. He explained that the hydraulic equipment will work, however, it is much heavier, bulkier, etc. Town Manager Freeman continued to explain the reasoning behind the need for the extraction equipment for the Fire and Rescue Department. Mayor Taylor inquired of Town Manager Freeman if the Town would trade in the hydraulic equipment. Town Manager Freeman stated that as far as he is aware, this would be the adding of new battery powered extraction equipment. Mayor Taylor inquired regarding the AD equipment and if this is to be used for only one EMS unit. Town Manager Freeman stated that he would need to inquire with Fire Chief Brade about this issue. Discussion continued regarding the budget. Mayor Taylor inquired if there were any other questions or comments. There being none, Mayor Taylor declared the public hearing closed and proceeded with the agenda.

**RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1410 – FISCAL YEAR 2022-23 BUDGET**

Mayor Taylor presented Ordinance No. 1410, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2022-23, on second reading. She stated that a public hearing was held at the Town Council meeting on June 13, 2022, regarding the Budget Ordinance, and the ordinance is before the Town Council on second reading. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilman Gillman to approve Ordinance No. 1410, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2022-23, on second, but not final reading. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote:

FOR: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Gary L. Gillman

AGAINST: Holly E. Atkins

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1410 was approved on second, but not final, reading.

**RE: REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASE**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider a real property tax increase due to the reassessment value of real properties. She inquired if there is a motion to set the tax rate. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilman Gillman to lower the Real Property Tax Rate from the current rate of \$.195 and to set the Real Property Tax Rate at \$.185 for the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote:

FOR: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Gary L. Gillman

AGAINST: Holly E. Atkins

ABSTENTIONS: None

**RE: ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:27 p.m.).

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Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

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Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk