

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, JUNE 28, 2021, AT 7:00 P.M.**

Members present: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, 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, Town Treasurer Michael G. Stephens, Vicky Richardson, Barbara Sharitz, Sue Copley, Tracy Haga, Liz Green, Karen Shelton, Breanne Hubbard, Patricia VanHoy, Officer Miller

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 Councilman Gillman.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 14, 2021. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented or to somehow be amended. A motion was made by Councilman Gillman and seconded by Vice-Mayor Pattison to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 14, 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, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman. Against: None.

RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS – AMENDMENTS TO 2020-21 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider the amendments to the 2020-21 Fiscal Year Budget. She continued to review the proposed amendments to the 2020-21 Fiscal Year Budget with the Council. Mayor Taylor inquired if there were any citizens attending the meeting who wished to address the Council during this public hearing. There being no one who wished to address the Council during the public hearing, Mayor Taylor declared the public hearing closed and proceeded with the agenda. She advised that she would reserve the right to revisit this agenda item, if anyone arrived later during the meeting who wished to address the Council regarding the public hearing.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD – PRESENTATION OF PROCLAMATION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the presentation of a proclamation to representatives of the Mount Rogers Health District and the Wythe County Health Department for their efforts in helping to combat the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. She noted that she would read the proclamation and then ask the representatives to come forward for the presentation and to have a photo taken.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus caused a worldwide pandemic that brought sickness and death to countless citizens of the United States and other countries; and,

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the first case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus in the United States on January 21, 2020, in the state of Washington; and,

WHEREAS, thereafter, thousands of citizens in many states experienced the effects of this virus, including Virginia, which confirmed its first case of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus on March 7, 2020, in Fairfax County; and,

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, Wythe County had its first confirmed case of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus; and,

WHEREAS, the Virginia Department of Health, the Mount Rogers Health District and the Wythe County Health Department began their vigilant efforts to educate Wythe County citizens on how to protect themselves and their families from contracting the virus and how to help stop its spread, and, currently, the number of Coronavirus cases in Wythe County is in a downward trend; and,

WHEREAS, once the Coronavirus vaccines were available, the Wythe County Health Department began its dissemination efforts, and, to date, over approximately 7,000 residents have been fully vaccinated and over 9,000 Wythe County residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, would like to commend the Wythe County Health Department for their endeavors in fighting this pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED that I, Beth A. Taylor, Mayor of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, do hereby recognize the Wythe County Health Department for its tireless efforts in helping to end this virus and caring for the citizens of our area.

Dr. Karen Shelton and other members of the Mount Rogers Health District and the Wythe County Health Department were recognized and presented with the proclamation recognizing the agencies for their efforts to combat the 2019 Novel Coronavirus. Dr. Shelton thanked the Town Council for the proclamation. A photo was taken, and Mayor Taylor thanked Dr. Shelton and the others for attending the meeting.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Taylor inquired if there are others attending the meeting who desired to address the Council during Citizens' Period. There being none, she stated if anyone arrived later during the meeting who wished to address the Council, she would reserve the right to reopen Citizens' Period.

RE: OLD BUSINESS

Town Manager Freeman advised that he did not have anything to report to the Council under Old Business, however, he did have some New Business to report, later in the meeting.

RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilwoman Atkins reported for the Budget and Finance Committee. The Budget and Finance Committee report was entered into the record as follows: Earlier in the meeting, the Council held a public hearing to discuss budget amendments for our current fiscal year. State law requires that appropriations exceeding one percent of the approved budget be adjusted by way of budget amendments.

Each of the following funds exceeded the one-percent threshold:

- **General Fund** in the amount of \$1,475,000
- **Homestead Endowment Fund** in the amount of \$32,000
- **Wastewater Fund** in the amount of \$138,000
- **Water Fund** in the amount of \$106,000
- **Total Perpetual Care Fund** in the amount of \$2,200
- **CDBG Fund** in the amount of \$13,000
- **Cares Fund** in the amount of \$701,450

The Council will need to consider amending the 2020-21 Fiscal Year Budget to appropriate these amounts and to authorize Town Treasurer Michael Stephens to make line-item transfers as are necessary to balance various departmental budgets. Mayor Taylor inquired if there is a motion to amend and appropriate the 2020-21 Fiscal Year Budget. A motion was made by Councilwoman Atkins and seconded by Councilman Gillman to approve the following amendments to the 2020-21 Fiscal Year Budget: General Fund in the amount of \$1,475,000; Homestead Endowment Fund in the amount of \$32,000; the Wastewater Fund in the amount of \$138,000; the Water Fund in the amount of \$106,000; the Perpetual Care Fund in the amount of \$2,200; the CDBG Fund in the amount of \$13,000, and, the Cares Fund in the amount of \$701,450, and authorized the Town Treasurer to make line item transfers as necessary to balance various departmental budgets. 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, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

The Budget and Finance Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Gillman reported for the Public Works Committee. The Public Works Committee report was entered into the record as follows: The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is proposing a reconfiguration of the northbound I-77, Exit 41 interchange. If approved, the modifications will realign the northbound ramps with Nye Road and improve traffic flow and safety in the area. Features of the proposed project include, but are not limited to;

- the addition of an extended deceleration lane approaching the exit;
- reconfiguration of the exit and entrance ramps to align with Nye Road;
- signalization of the intersection of Nye Road, Peppers Ferry Road and the I-77 northbound ramps;

- reconstruction of Peppers Ferry Road from the overpass to a point about 400 feet from the intersection with Granite Acres Road;
- addition of left turn lanes on Peppers Ferry Road at the Nye Road/I-77 ramp intersection; and,
- creation of an extended acceleration lane at the northbound I-77 onramp.

A public hearing is set for the project to be held from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on July 15, 2021, at the Wytheville Meeting Center, and all interested citizens are encouraged to attend. Later in the meeting, the Council will consider a resolution that approves and supports the Exit 41 Improvements Project. It would be the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the Town Council adopt the resolution.

In the coming months, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) will begin making repairs to the Cove Road bridge crossing the interstate. The repairs are expected to take several months and will necessitate a complete bridge closure for a six-week period. The closure is anticipated to begin in early September of 2021. During the closure, motorists will be detoured onto Holston Road to North Fourth Street. Residents and motorists utilizing the impacted area should anticipate increased periods of heavy traffic and likely delays. The Public Works Committee will provide additional information on this project as it becomes available. The Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: NEW BUSINESS

Under New Business, Town Manager Freeman reported the following:

1. On Saturday, July 3, 2021, the 4th of July Downtown Festival will take place in downtown Wytheville from 3:00 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. Fireworks will follow.
2. On Monday, July 5, 2021, the Town of Wytheville Municipal Offices will be closed and services curtailed in observance of the Independence Day holiday.
3. The Wytheville Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, July 8, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.
4. Downtown Wytheville, Inc. will meet on Monday, July 12, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., in their Conference Room on Main Street.

RE: APPOINTMENTS – BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the appointment of an alternate member to the Wytheville Board of Zoning Appeals (term expires September 10, 2026). A motion was made by Councilman Gillman and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to recommend to the Circuit Court the appointment of Ms. Patricia Austin as an alternate member to the Wytheville Board of Zoning Appeals (term expires September 10, 2026). Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to appoint Ms. Austin. 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: RESOLUTION – EXIT 41 IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Mayor Taylor stated the next item is to consider adopting a resolution endorsing the Exit 41 Improvements Project. A motion was made by Councilman Gillman and seconded by Vice-Mayor Pattison to adopt a resolution endorsing the Exit 41 Improvements Project. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being no discussion, 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

ABSTENTIONS: None

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:20 p.m.).

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 28, 2021

- A. Earlier in the meeting, the Council held a public hearing to discuss budget amendments for our current fiscal year. State law requires that appropriations exceeding one percent of the approved budget be adjusted by way of budget amendments.

Each of the following funds exceeded the one-percent threshold:

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Mark J. Bloomfield

Holly E. Atkins

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 28, 2021

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Cathy D. Pattison

Gary L. Gillman