

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021, AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

Members absent: Holly E. Atkins

Others present: Town Manager T. Brian Freeman, Town Clerk Sharon G. Corvin, Town Attorney Michelle Workman Clayton, Glenda Crockett-Eans, Deputy Chief Gary Davenport

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 Bloomfield.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of September 27, 2021; the request of the Wythe County Public Schools Foundation for Excellence to conduct a SANDMAN Extreme Half Marathon and a MLK 5K Run on Saturday, January 15, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.; and, the request of Spiller Elementary School to close the block of streets around the school (Tazewell, Pine, Third and North Streets) on Thursday, November 11, 2021, from 9:30 a.m. to approximately 10:00 a.m. to conduct a Veterans Day Parade. 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 Councilman Bloomfield to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of September 27, 2021; the request of the Wythe County Public Schools Foundation for Excellence to conduct a SANDMAN Extreme Half Marathon and a MLK 5K Run on Saturday, January 15, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.; and, the request of Spiller Elementary School to close the block of streets around the school (Tazewell, Pine, Third and North Streets) on Thursday, November 11, 2021, from 9:30 a.m. to approximately 10:00 a.m. to conduct a Veterans Day Parade, 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, Gary L. Gillman. Against: None.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She stated that there are no citizens listed on the sign in sheet who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period, therefore, she would proceed with the agenda.

RE: STAFF REPORTS

Town Manager Freeman presented the Staff Reports, and they were entered into the record as follows:

- A. The Virginia Municipal League has recognized the Town of Wytheville with the 2021 Innovation Award for Communications for the "Wytheville Christmas Show" video produced last year. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the mandates set forth by the Governor's Office regarding gatherings, the Wytheville Town Council had to make the

hard decision to not hold its popular annual Christmas Parade and weekend of holiday events in 2020. There was a need to creatively make the situation festive and enjoyable, all while staying safe and healthy. The Wytheville Christmas Show was designed to allow the community to come together virtually, and to invite friends and relatives near and far, to take a few moments away from the stress and sadness of 2020 to smile. Citizens “needed a little Christmas,” and the Wytheville Christmas Show video was created to fill that need. It was released on YouTube and via social media. The 40-minute presentation included performances and interesting segments from some of the most talented people in the community. It was a little taste of the festivities that would normally have been experienced live and in person during the holiday season. We would like to recognize Director of Public Information and Tourism Rosa Lee Jude and her staff, along with all the participants and volunteers, who made this video possible, as well as thank Mayor Beth A. Taylor and Councilman Mark J. Bloomfield for traveling to the VML Annual Conference, last week, to accept the award on behalf of the Town.

- B. Now that autumn is here, we have had several inquiries about the annual Leaf Collection Program, and we wanted to inform our citizens that the Town’s Public Works Department will begin collecting leaves around the first of November. Initially, leaves will be collected as they are placed at curbside, but as the volume of leaves increases, they will be collected on a street-by-street method.

We remind citizens to please rake the leaves to the edge of the curb or to the edge of the street, but not into the street. Piles of leaves in the street can impede traffic and can create traffic hazards. Town crews will be working diligently to remove all leaves in a timely manner, but at the peak of leaf season, it will take longer to get to all neighborhoods. We would like to thank our citizens, in advance, for their patience and for following these basic rules of our Leaf Collection Program.

- C. Several weeks ago, the Wytheville Police Department launched a Public Awareness and Enforcement Campaign called “Obey the Sign or Pay the Fine” to target excessive speeding in noted problem areas throughout the town. The program has utilized social and print media to increase awareness, along with covert speed detection and data collection equipment, a digital “speed trailer” attached to a marked police car and stationary radar patrols to calm traffic, assess the magnitude of the problem and to enforce posted speed limits. The Wytheville Police Department will continue to utilize these tools to keep our streets safe for motorists and pedestrians, and Town staff is exploring other traffic calming measures where warranted.
- D. Citizens should be on the lookout for their 2021 Real Property and Personal Property Tax tickets that were mailed last week. Citizens are reminded that taxes are due on December 5th each year, and they are encouraged to remit payments early to avoid possible delays in the postal system. If you have any questions or concerns with your tax assessments, please contact the Wythe County Commissioner of the Revenue at (276) 223-6015. The Staff Reports are attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: NEW BUSINESS

Under New Business, Town Manager Freeman reported the following:

1. The next Council Work Session will be held on Monday, October 25, 2021, at 4:30 p.m., in the Council Conference Room.

2. The Wytheville Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, October 14, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.
3. The New River Regional Water Authority will meet on Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., at the Water Plant in Austinville.
4. Town Manager Freeman advised that he would like to take a moment to acknowledge Town Treasurer Michael Stephens and the Town of Wytheville Treasurer's Office Staff for receiving accreditation from the Treasurer's Association of Virginia for the fifth year in a row. Town Manager Freeman congratulated Town Treasurer Stephens and his staff for achieving this award of excellence. Mayor Taylor congratulated the Town staff, as well.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:07 p.m.).

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk