

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 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, Lieutenant Bryan Bard

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 October 12, 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 October 12, 2021, 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 attending the meeting, 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 Tree Advisory Committee of the Town of Wytheville has adopted a Specimen Tree Program to recognize trees with significance to Wytheville and the surrounding area. The trees will be scored based on various criteria including beauty, healthiness, location, history, etc. The Specimen Tree Program should help citizens engage, notice, appreciate and be inspired by trees throughout the town and surrounding area. Nominators may nominate a tree utilizing the Specimen Tree Nomination Form. Photo(s) should be included with the nomination form showing the tree and the location, as well as depicting any personal connection or historical significance. Smart phones can be utilized to determine latitude/longitude of the tree, if an address is not available. Information should be completed on the form as accurately as possible. The form is available online at www.wytheville.org or by contacting the Municipal Office at 276-223-3354.
- B. For any community to make progress, it is imperative that the population not languish and that access to quality homes be readily available. Aside from a few projects, Wytheville has experienced a decline in the creation of new housing stock for several years. This

leads to citizens seeking housing in markets outside of our community and taking with them a much-needed labor force and the much-needed consumer spending that fuels local businesses.

Several of our regional planning and economic development partners are working on housing studies that will, in time, provide valuable information to the Town. The Town of Wytheville is very much in support of these studies and will provide as much insight and assistance as possible, but the final products of these studies could be as much as two years away. With the announcement that Blue Star BGI will be bringing 2,400+ jobs to Wythe County, Wytheville's need for housing has become even greater. In response, the Wytheville Town Council has formed a new committee to explore and develop strategic initiatives related to the housing needs of the community. The initial focus of the committee will be in creation of targeted incentives programs to assist with the creation of new housing stock. However, the committee will have broad latitude to explore all housing related matters including, but not limited to, Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances, infrastructure needs and marketing of Wytheville as a place to live. This committee's work is not intended to replace the efforts being undertaken by our regional planning and economic development partners, but rather, it is intended to provide a more swift, localized response to our immediate housing development needs and make policy recommendations to the full Council relative to those. 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 Homestead Advisory Board will meet on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., at the Homestead property.
2. The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County will meet on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 3:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.
3. The Town of Wytheville Municipal Offices will be closed and all services curtailed on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, in observance of Election Day.
4. The next Council Work Session will be held on Monday, November 8, 2021, at 4:30 p.m., in the Council Conference Room.
5. Town Manager Freeman advised that he would like to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of the Wytheville Fire Department, Wytheville Police Department, the supporting agencies from Max Meadows and Rural Retreat and any others who responded that he may not be aware of in their efforts to save The Log House Restaurant in downtown Wytheville two weeks ago. He noted that their response time, efforts, expertise and willingness to put themselves at risk saved one of Wytheville's finest properties and long-time businesses, therefore, the Town would like to say thank you to everyone who participated and/or assisted in helping with the fire. Mayor Taylor remarked that on behalf of the Town Council, they agree with Town Manager Freeman's comments.
6. Mayor Taylor reminded the Council that each of them has been invited by the Homestead Advisory Board to attend the Homestead Advisory Board meeting on Thursday, October 28, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., for a special tour of the house.

7. Mayor Taylor stated that a Veterans Day Celebration will be held on Thursday, November 11, 2021, at 11:00 a.m., at the Wytheville Meeting Center, 333 Community Boulevard, Wytheville.

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