

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021, AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

Members absent: None

Others present: Town Manager Stephen A. Moore, Assistant Town Manager T. Brian Freeman, Town Clerk Sharon G. Corvin, Town Attorney Michelle Workman Clayton, Gary Gardner, Mike Forrest, Leonard Davis, Police Corporal Nathan 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 Vice-Mayor Pattison.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 8, 2021, and the request of the American Cancer Society for issuance of a raffle permit for 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 March 8, 2021, and the request of the American Cancer Society for issuance of a raffle permit for 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, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman. Against: None.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING – CONTINUITY OF GOVERNANCE ORDINANCE

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider readopting an Emergency Ordinance to Effectuate Temporary Changes in Certain Deadlines and to Modify Public Meeting and Public Hearing Practices and Procedures to Address Continuity of Operations Associated with Pandemic Disaster. She continued to explain the ordinance to 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.

RE: PUBLIC COMMENT SESSION – REVITALIZATION AREA

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a public comment session to consider the designation of a revitalization area for the part of town bounded generally by the following: Calhoun Street to the east, Jefferson Street to the southeast and 8th Street to the northwest. Mayor Taylor inquired if there were any citizens attending the meeting who wished to address the Council during this public comment session.

Mr. David Gardner was recognized and stated that he resides at 600 South 8th Street in Wytheville. He noted that he is attending the meeting to address the Council regarding the proposed revitalization area because his home is located on the hill above this area. Mr. Gardner expressed his concerns regarding the proposed revitalization area. Town Manager Moore addressed Mr. Gardner's concerns regarding the revitalization request. Discussion continued regarding the proposed revitalization area.

Mr. Mike Forrest was recognized and stated that he resides at 630 Withers Road in Wytheville. He noted that he had some questions regarding the proposed revitalization area. Town Manager Moore addressed Mr. Forrest's inquiries about the proposed revitalization area.

Mayor Taylor inquired if there were others who wished to address the Council regarding this public comment session. There being no one who wished to address the Council during the public comment session, Mayor Taylor declared the public comment session closed and proceeded with the agenda.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She noted that there is no one listed on the sign in sheet who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period, however, if anyone has changed their mind and wished to address the Council, now is the time to do so. There being no one who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period, Mayor Taylor proceeded with the agenda.

RE: OLD BUSINESS

Under Old Business, Town Manager Moore advised that he did not have anything to report to the Council. He noted that he would have some New Business items to address.

RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Bloomfield reported for the Budget and Finance Committee. The Budget and Finance Committee report was entered into the record as follows: The Town of Wytheville Public Works Department and the Tree Advisory Committee have worked methodically to monitor and care for the trees on the Town's properties and rights of way. These efforts have improved the tree stock on Town property and have resulted in Wytheville, again, being named a "Tree City USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation for 2020. In recognizing this accomplishment, Dan Lambe, President of the Arbor Day Foundation said, "Tree City USA communities see the impact an urban forest has in a community firsthand. The trees being planted and cared for by Wytheville are ensuring that generations to come will enjoy a better quality of life." The Wytheville Town Council would like to thank the Tree Advisory Committee and our dedicated employees whose work and commitment have made this award possible, and we would like to thank the Arbor Day Foundation for this prestigious recognition. We are proud to be a Tree City USA community.

Again, this year, Wytheville will provide space near the elevated water tower (the balloon tank), which is located on Cove Road, for the Community Garden. Garden plots are approximately 12' x 20' and will soon be plowed and ready for planting. Throughout the growing season, water for irrigation will also be available. To further Wytheville's Healthy Eating/Active Living (HEAL) initiative, the Wytheville Town Council has reduced the cost for a garden plot to \$12. For more information and to reserve your garden plot, please call Assistant Director of Tourism and Public

Information Deana Kelley at (276) 223-3505. The Budget and Finance Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice-Mayor Pattison reported for the Public Works Committee. The Public Works Committee report was entered into the record as follows: The COVID-19 Pandemic has been recognized as a public health emergency by the World Health Organization, the President of the United States, the Governor of Virginia and the Wythe County Director of Emergency Management. This was confirmed by the Wytheville Town Council in March 2020, and it resulted in significant changes in the way the Town Council conducted Town business. The State Code of Virginia allows communities to adopt emergency procedures for the continuation of government functions when it is unsafe to assemble a quorum in one location for public bodies including the Town Council, Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) and other local and regional boards and commissions. The present pandemic has emphasized the need for the Town Council to have emergency provisions in place which would allow these entities to conduct business during an emergency or disaster through electronic means without a quorum physically present at one location. There are specific requirements that must be followed if an emergency electronic meeting is to be implemented including notice to the media, solicitation and access through electronic means or in person at the meeting, the recording of the meeting through electronic means or otherwise. An emergency meeting arrangement can only be implemented and remain in force for six months. Upon rescission by the Town Council or automatic expiration, the emergency ordinance will terminate. The Town's present ordinance has expired, and, later in the meeting, the Council will consider readopting such an ordinance. It would be the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the continuity of government ordinance be readopted on first and final reading.

The Town of Wytheville Parks & Recreation Department will host a unique Easter Egg Hike & Hunt this year. The event will take place on Saturday, March 27, 2021, at the Crystal Springs Recreation Area located at 723 Pump Hollow Road in Wytheville. Hunt times range from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. An inclement weather date has been scheduled for Saturday, April 3, 2021. There is no cost to participate in this event, however, in the interest of public health and safety, space is limited. The pre-registration time ended March 21, 2021, however, you can still contact the Recreation staff to see if there may be time slot availability. Festivities will include a family hike, meeting the Easter Bunny and an Easter egg hunt. Social distancing and facemasks are required by all who attend. For more information, please contact the Wytheville Parks & Recreation Department at (276) 223-3378. The Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: NEW BUSINESS

Under New Business, Town Manager Moore reported the following:

1. Town Manager Moore advised that the Wytheville Police Department is requesting to close Spring Street, between 4th and Church Streets, on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. to conduct an April Child Abuse Awareness Month event. It was the consensus of the Council to approve the request of the Wytheville Police Department to close Spring Street, between 4th and Church Streets, on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. to conduct an April Child Abuse Awareness Month event.

2. The Budget and Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at 4:15 p.m., in the Council Conference Room of the Municipal Building.
3. The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County will meet on Thursday, March 25, 2021, at 3:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.
4. The next Council Work Session will be held on Wednesday, March 31, 2021, at 7:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.
5. The Wytheville Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

RE: APPOINTMENTS – TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the appointment of a member to the Tree Advisory Committee to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Larry Wilhite (term expires May 14, 2022). A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to appoint Ms. Alma Watson to the Tree Advisory Committee to fill an unexpired term, which expires May 14, 2022. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to appoint Ms. Watson to the Tree Advisory Committee. 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 – WYTHEVILLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the appointment of a member to the Wytheville Industrial Development Authority to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Gerald Langendorfer (term expires December 12, 2021). A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to appoint Mr. Bobby Angles to the Wytheville Industrial Development Authority to fill an unexpired term, which expires December 12, 2021. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to appoint Mr. Angles to the Wytheville Industrial Development Authority. 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 – WYTHEVILLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the appointment of a member to the Wytheville Industrial Development Authority to fill the unexpired term of Mr. John White (term expires December 12, 2023). A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Councilman Gillman to appoint Ms. Melissa Crockett to the Wytheville Industrial Development Authority to fill an unexpired term, which expires December 12, 2023. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to appoint Ms. Crockett to the Wytheville Industrial Development Authority. 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 the appointment of a member to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board (term expires July 31, 2026). She noted that Ms. Patricia Mangus was serving in her mother's position on the Board, however, the Rules for the Transaction of Business for the Board were revised, and it will now be necessary to appoint Ms. Mangus to serve on the Board. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilman Bloomfield to appoint Ms. Patricia Mangus to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board for a five year term, which expires July 31, 2026. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to appoint Ms. Mangus to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board. 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. 1392-A

Mayor Taylor presented Ordinance No. 1392-A, an ordinance readopting Ordinance No. 1392, an Emergency Ordinance to Effectuate Temporary Changes in Certain Deadlines and to Modify Public Meeting and Public Hearing Practices and Procedures to Address Continuity of Operations Associated with Pandemic Disaster, on first reading. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilman Gillman to adopt Ordinance No. 1392-A, an ordinance readopting Ordinance No. 1392, an Emergency Ordinance to Effectuate Temporary Changes in Certain Deadlines and to Modify Public Meeting and Public Hearing Practices and Procedures to Address Continuity of Operations Associated with Pandemic Disaster, on first and final reading. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to adopt the ordinance on first and final reading. 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

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1392-A was adopted on first and final reading.

RE: REVITALIZATION AREA

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the designation of a revitalization area for the part of town bounded generally by Calhoun Street to the east, Jefferson Street to the southeast and 8th Street to the northwest. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilman Gillman to approve the designation of a revitalization area for the part of town bounded generally by Calhoun Street to the east, Jefferson Street to the southeast and 8th Street to the northwest. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to approve the designation of the revitalization area. 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: PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION – CREMATORIALS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the recommendation from the Wytheville Planning Commission to set a public hearing to consider amending the following sections of the Zoning Ordinance to add crematoriums as an ancillary use to funeral homes: Article VII-A – Residential District R-2 FH, Section 7-1A Use Regulations; Article XI – Business District B-2 (General), Section 11-1 Use Regulations; Article XI-A – Business District B-2 DT General Business District – Downtown, Section 11-2A Use Regulations; and, Article XII – Industrial District M-1, Section 12-1 Use Regulations. It was the consensus of the Council to set a public hearing for the April 12, 2021, Town Council meeting to consider amending the following sections of the Zoning Ordinance to add crematoriums as an ancillary use to funeral homes: Article VII-A – Residential District R-2 FH, Section 7-1A Use Regulations; Article XI – Business District B-2 (General), Section 11-1 Use Regulations; Article XI-A – Business District B-2 DT General Business District – Downtown, Section 11-2A Use Regulations; and, Article XII – Industrial District M-1, Section 12-1 Use Regulations.

RE: CLOSED MEETING

Mayor Taylor stated that it will now be necessary for the Council to go into a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711 (A.) (1.) to discuss salaries for potential positions, including Town Manager and § 2.2-3711 (A.) (7.) to discuss litigation involving a zoning violation. A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Councilman Gillman to go into a closed meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711 (A.) (1.) to discuss salaries for potential positions, including Town Manager and § 2.2-3711 (A.) (7.) to discuss litigation involving a zoning violation. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to go into a closed 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, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman. Against: None. (7:39 p.m.)

Mayor Taylor noted that the Council will go back into open session to certify the closed meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Vice-Mayor Pattison that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which the certification resolution applies and that only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Wytheville Town Council. 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. A copy of the certification is attached and made part of these minutes. (8:59 p.m.)

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (9:00 p.m.).

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk