

# The Mayor's Corner

BY MAYOR BETH A. TAYLOR  
July 2022



I welcome the opportunity to talk to you regarding your ideas and concerns. I can be reached by phone, mail or email.

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## DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

I believe we have hit the "DOG DAYS OF SUMMER." Do you ever wonder what that means? The Dog Days of Summer are July 3rd to August 11th, which is supposed to be the most oppressive time of Summer. The phrase is a reference to the fact that, during this time, the sun occupies the same region in the sky as Sirius, the brightest star visible from any part of the Earth and part of the constellation Canis Major, the Greater Dog. Therefore, Sirius is sometimes called the "Dog Star." In the Summer, Sirius rises and sets with the sun. On July 23rd specifically, it is in conjunction with the Sun and because the star is so bright, the ancient Romans believed it actually gave off heat and added to the sun's warmth, accounting for the long stretch of sultry weather. They referred to this time as "dies caniculares," or "dog days."

### Let's Review our Hot Weather Tips for Pets:

- Keep pets inside when possible.
- Limit outdoor exercise to early morning or evening.
- Provide extra cool water sources.
- Consider dog booties for hot pavement. (Hold your barefoot to the ground for seven seconds, if it's too hot for bare feet, it's too hot for bare paws.)
- Never chain a pet. Never leave your pet in a vehicle unattended.
- Trim long haired animals.
- Take extra precaution if your pet is older, obese, or short nosed.
- Virginia State law requires all dogs must be given adequate shelter during extremely hot weather, dogs cannot be tethered outside if temperature is 85 or above. Dogs should be inside when temp is 90 or above.



## Upcoming Events

- **After Hours Summer Concert Series** continues on Friday, August 5 at Withers Park. Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
  - **Wytheville Wine Festival** will be held on Saturday, August 13, beginning at 2:00 p.m. in Withers Park.
- Check out the Events tab at [VisitWytheville.com](http://VisitWytheville.com) for the latest information about all the events happening in our area!



## Important Information from Your Police Department

On January 4th, I swore in five non-certified police officers. They had six weeks training at the Police Academy and graduated June 16th, then three months of additional on-the-job training.

- Officer Aaron Williams: voted Class President, awarded Top Gun in firing range and setting the Academy's record for highest score and received the prestigious Academy Director's academic award.
- Officer Bradley Hurley: Honor Guard
- Officer Robert Doyle
- Officer John Khachane: Honor Guard
- Officer Ernie Williams II



# Important Information from Your Fire & Rescue Department

With these oppressive days of summer comes the fear of heat stroke and heat exhaustion. What is the difference? Heat exhaustion is when the body loses excessive amounts of water and salt from sweating. Heat stroke is when the body is unable to regulate internal body temperature. Symptoms of heat exhaustion include general weakness, increased heavy sweating, lightheadedness and/or increased heart rate. Treatment for heat exhaustion is to hydrate with water or sports drinks, remove yourself from the heat, remove excess layers of clothing or take a cool shower. Symptoms of heat stroke include the inability to sweat, hot, red, or dry skin, elevated body temperature or loss of consciousness. Treatment: CALL 911, move to a shaded area, use a cold wet compress, and circulate air to speed cooling. DO NOT HESITATE TO CALL 911. Please slowdown and recognize the strain you are putting on your body.

## Council Actions

### June 13, 2022:

*Conducted the following public hearings:*

- 1) Considered a proposed real property tax increase due to the reassessment value of real properties and later in the meeting set the Real Property tax Rate at \$.185 / \$100. (Was \$.195/\$100.)
  - 2) Considered the request from 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 at 555 Peppers Ferry Road, Wytheville, VA. Later in the meeting, upon recommendation of the planning commission, issued a Special Exception Permit to Riley Construction Inc. to construct the 17,000 to 20,000 square feet of storage units on their property.
  - 3) Considered amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to add article XXIV-solar energy facilities. Later in the meeting, Adopted Ordinance No. 1412, an ordinance amending and reenacting ordinance, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance to add article XXIV-solar energy
  - 4) Considered amending and reenacting Ordinance 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to repeal and replace Article XXI – Regulating Outdoor Advertising in site of public streets in the Town of Wytheville, VA, (Sign Ordinance.) Later in the meeting, adopted Ordinance No. 1413, Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to repeal and replace Article XXI-Regulating Outdoor Advertising in site of public streets in the Town of Wytheville, VA, (Sign Ordinance), on first and final reading.
  - 5) Considered Ordinance No. 1410 the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal year 2022-23. Later in the meeting, Council approved Ordinance No. 1410, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2022-23 on second, but not yet final, reading.
- Council adopted and presented a resolution to Mr. Todd Wolford recognizing him for receiving the 2022 Mary Means Leadership Award.
  - Reappointed Councilwoman Holly Atkins as the member and Councilman Gary Gilman as the alternate member to the District Three Government Cooperative for a one-year term.
  - Reappointed Mr. David Taylor to the Smyth-Wythe Airport Commission for a four-year term.
  - Reappointed Mr. Terry Beamer to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board for a five-year term.
  - Reappointed Mr. David Taylor to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board for a five-year term.
  - Approved utilizing Emergency Procurement Procedures for the Industry Road/Chapman Road Sewer Project and the Wytheville Community Center Roof Replacement Project and authorized the Town Manager to execute the contracts.
  - Set a public hearing for the June 27, 2022, Town Council Meeting to consider the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget.
  - Set a public hearing for July 11, 2022, 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 in a B1 Business District.

### June 13, 2022:

- Conducted a public hearing to consider appropriations to the Fiscal Year 2021-22 budget which consisted of the following: \$31,000 in CARES fund budget; \$1,305,000 in the General Fund budget; \$100,000 in the Wastewater Fund; \$1,500 in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Fund; \$2,000 in the Park Amenities Fund; and \$15,000 in the Perpetual Care Fund.
- Approved the appropriation to the Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 1410, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2022-23, on third and final reading.
- Adopted a resolution amending the New River Regional Water Authority Member Service Agreement regarding amendments for the expansion capacity allocation.