

The Mayor's Corner

BY MAYOR BETH A. TAYLOR

July 2023



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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Did You Know

- For the safety of your furry pets, keep them on a leash wherever there is a lot of traffic, especially while crossing the street. Also, remember our pets' feet are as sensitive as ours and can burn on hot pavement. To avoid pet injury, you may need to walk them early in the morning or in the evening. Please carry water with you for your pet.



Chautauqua 2023

A big thank you to the Wytheville Arts Council for all their hard work in planning, fundraising, and executing Chautauqua for the thirty-ninth time.



- A Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Design Public Hearing to discuss and answer questions regarding two intersections in Wytheville, (I-81

Corridor Improvement Program Safety improvements northbound between exit 72 and mile marker 73.4), will be held on **July 11, 2023, from 4:00-6:00 p.m., at the Wytheville Meeting Center.** For more information about the program or leave feedback, visit www.publicinput.com/h7335.



- Water Water Everywhere: If you went to Chautauqua this year, you were reminded how certain areas of town are more sensitive to holding or pooling water, especially in our parks. But residents all over Town have storm water/ground water issues. Virginia Cooperative Extension/Virginia Tech/Virginia State University was present at the Farmers Market last week and was sharing information about Stormwater Management for Homeowners in "rain barrels". They also had information regarding Watershed Areas and Creating a Water-Wise Landscape. Contact www.ext.vt.edu.
Council Tidbit: According to section 13-2 of the Town Code, it is unlawful for any person to cause or permit the water from any roof or rain spout to pour or flow directly upon any sidewalk.

Information from our New Fire Chief Chris Slemp



The Wytheville Fire & Rescue Department is pleased to announce several members of their department have achieved new EMS Certifications that will enhance and continue to improve their services for the citizens of Wytheville and Wythe County.

New Paramedic Certifications: Captain Anthony Marshall, Firefighter David Ausmus, and Firefighter Jacob Henley

New Advancement EMT: Firefighter Dakota Phillips

In July and August, you will see the firetrucks at various businesses around town, they will be updating our incident "pre-plan" information on these locations.

Safety Tidbits from the Wytheville Police Department

Running Safety Tips



1. Don't wear headphones
2. Run against traffic so you can observe approaching vehicles
3. Always carry identification
4. Wear reflective clothing if you must run after dark

Source: rrca.org/education/rrca-general-running-safety-tips

This is a very active time of the year when people are out walking and running, and children are playing.

Here are a few **Running Safety Tips**: When running it's crucial to prioritize your wellbeing, stay visible by wearing reflective clothing, choose well-lit routes, and carry identification. Additionally, remember to hydrate adequately, warm up before you run and listen to your body to prevent injuries. Don't wear headphones and run against traffic so you can observe approaching vehicles.

Other Safety Tidbits:

If needing to cross the street proceed to a cross walk if available, but regardless, be sure you watch traffic (there are a lot of distracted drivers who are not seeing you), and please hold children's hands and teach them how to cross the street. If you are driving, PLEASE obey the speed limit. For the most part, here in Town, it is 25 miles per hour! Police are out there issuing tickets. If you are a passenger, remind the driver of their speed. Virginia law states NO handheld cell phone use while driving, hands-free methods are okay. There are fines that a violation of this section is a traffic infraction, punishable for first offense by a fine of \$125 and for a second or subsequent offense by a fine of \$250 (dated June 29, 2021). The Town of Wytheville has approximately eight thousand residents and is only 14.58 square miles. Please, there is no rush to get from one end of the Town to another.



Town of Wytheville Committee Vacancies

There are several Town of Wytheville committees that have current or upcoming vacancies:

- Board of Zoning Appeals • Building Code Appeals • Joint Industrial Development Authority (JIDA)
- Recreation Commission • Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board
- Wytheville Economic Development Authority (WEDA) • Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority

If you are interested in serving on one of these committees, please go online at www.wytheville.org/permits-applications and fill out an application.



Wytheville has a bright & vibrant future, full of growth. A new year gives us the opportunity to reach into the future for new & exciting projects. Please consider donating to your favorite department!

DONATE LAND • MAKE A MEMORIAL GIFT • MAKE A DEFERRED GIFT
DIRECT GIFT OF CASH OR SECURITIES (STOCKS & BONDS)
PLEDGE & BUILD YOUR LEGACY (MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION)

DONATE ONCE • DONATE MONTHLY • LEAVE IN YOUR WILL

You can choose the department you wish to support!
All donations are tax deductible!
Remember to ask your employer if they match employee donations!

For more information call the Town of Wytheville
Treasurers Office at 276-223-3333



Council Actions

June 12, 2023:

- Conducted a public hearing to consider the issuance and sale of a General Obligation Bond, in an amount not to exceed \$2,470,000, for improvements to water and sewer facilities and adopted the resolution authorizing issuance and sale of the General Obligation Bond and approved the execution and delivery of certain related documents.
- Approved the request of Downtown Wytheville Inc. to close Main Street between Fourth Street and Seventh Street, from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m., for the Downtown Wytheville July 4th Celebration & Street Festival.
- Approved the request of the Wytheville Treasurers Office for the Wytheville Police Department to provide traffic control on Tazewell Street on the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum property on Sunday, June 18, 2023, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. and from 9:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., for the State Treasurer's Meeting social event.
- Approved the Subdivision Variance Request for the Asbury Lane Subdivision.
- Approved the request from the Department of Museums for the Take a Break from the Interstate Road Market scheduled for July 28-30, 2023.
- Approved the request from HOPE Incorporated for the Wytheville Police Department to provide traffic control assistance on various streets in town for The Fast and Fiorini Metric Century Bike Ride event on Saturday, June 17, 2023, from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- Adopted an Ordinance No. 1423, an ordinance setting the Real Property Tax Rate now at \$.20 per \$100 valuation for the Town of Wytheville on first and final reading as amended (effective July 1, 2023).
- After a closed meeting to discuss the Town Attorney position, and after coming out of meeting and it was certified, Council requested the Town Manager to continue researching for an Attorney to provide legal services to the Town of Wytheville.

June 26, 2023:

- Conducted a public hearing to consider the request of HOPE, Incorporated to close a public alley running parallel to West Monroe Street and West North Street, between 14th and 16th Streets.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 1425, an ordinance discontinuing and vacating an alley running parallel to West Monroe Street, and West North Street, in between 14th and 16th Streets, in the Town of Wytheville, Virginia on first and final reading.
- Approved the request of Hope, Incorporated to waive the closure payment in the amount of \$14,229.00, the value of the alley that runs parallel to West Monroe Street and West North Street, between 14th St. and 16th Streets.
- Conducted a public hearing to consider appropriations to the Fiscal Year 2022-23 Budget.
- Approved amending the Fiscal 2022-23 Budget to include appropriations to the Park Amenities Fund Budget in the amount of \$2,100, the Perpetual Care Fund Budget in the amount of \$15,000, and the Wytheville EDA Fund in the amount of \$8,000.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 1422, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2023-2024, on third and final reading.
- Adopted Ordinance No 1424, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 12. Solid Waste Collection and Disposal, Article VI. Nuisance on Premises, Removal of Weeds, Mowing, Etc., and Clutter, Division 2. Removal of Weeds, Mowing, Etc., by amending Section 12-92. Excessive Vegetation, Overgrowth, and by adding Section 12.94. Mowing Exemptions, of the Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, on first and final reading.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 1426, an ordinance repealing and replacing Chapter 14. Taxation, Article IV. Cigarette Tax, of the code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, on first and final reading.
- Adopted a resolution recognizing the George Wythe High School Girls Tennis Team.
- Approved the issuance of a maximum of 50 hunting permits on Town-owned land on Sand Mountain.
- Approved closing the Town Municipal Offices on Monday, July 3, 2023, for the 4th of July Holiday.

The annual 100-Mile Road Market from Wytheville, VA to Harmony, NC is set for July 28-30

Signage is available for FREE at the following locations:

- Wytheville Department of Museums Office, 115 West Spiller Street, (Open M-F, 8a-5p)
 - Wytheville Visitor Center, 975 Tazewell Street, (Open M-Sun, 9a-5p)

