

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2003, AT 7:00 P.M.**

Members present: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, John W. Jones, Jr., Charles G. Crockett

Members absent: William B. Weisiger

Others present: Town Manager C. Wayne Sutherland, Jr., Assistant Town Manager Stephen A. Moore, Town Clerk Sharon P. Hackler, Town Attorney Robert P. Kaase, Stephanie Porter-Nichols with Wytheville Enterprise, Philip Tobelmann, Amanda Ingoe, Erin Craft, Ty Hall, Arthur Johnson, Brandi Sawyers, Tia Braxton, Philip I. Whisman, II, Philip J. Wilson

RE: CALL TO ORDER, QUORUM, INVOCATION, PLEDGE

Mayor Crewe called the meeting to order and established that a quorum of Council members was present. He advised that Councilman Weisiger is out of town and will not be attending the meeting. The invocation was given by Councilman Jones followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Crockett.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Crewe presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 13, 2003, and the request of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life for issuance of a raffle permit for 2003. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Crockett to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of January 13, 2003, and the request of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life for issuance of a raffle permit for 2003. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, John W. Jones, Jr., Charles G. Crockett. Against: None.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. He inquired if there are persons present who wish to address Council during Citizens' Period. There being none, Mayor Crewe proceeded with the agenda.

RE: OLD BUSINESS

Under Old Business, Town Manager Sutherland reported the following:

1. An A-95 Review has been given to each Council member at this meeting. This A-95 Review was received on Friday, and Mount Rogers Mental Health is seeking federal funds for the purchase of several 13-passenger vans. As the Council will note, the front sheet on the A-95 Review package states that no local match funds are required as a part of this funding request. This is why there is no project budget attached, as is normally, with this A-95 Review. The Council also received a letter from Mr. Wally Cline outlining the use of the vehicles they wish to purchase. Mayor Crewe advised that Mount Rogers will be purchasing four 13-passenger vans. A motion was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Vice-Mayor King to give a favorable review to the A-95 Review for Mount Rogers. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, John W. Jones, Jr., Charles G. Crockett. Against: None.
2. The Town received a letter today from the Board of Directors of the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce seeking the Council to take some kind of action denoting February as Chamber of Commerce Month. The letter also states that the Chamber of Commerce would like to hang a banner on Main Street, which Town staff can take care of. Since this is the Council's last meeting before February, it may be in order, if the Council concurs, for the Mayor to issue a proclamation. Mayor Crewe indicated that he received an e-mail regarding the Chamber of Commerce Month, and it is his understanding that it is nationwide. He explained that the Council could adopt a resolution, but if no one on Council has any problems, he can issue a proclamation declaring February as Chamber of Commerce Month. Vice-Mayor King suggested that Mayor Crewe issue a proclamation declaring February as Chamber of Commerce

Month. Mayor Crewe inquired if this is acceptable to everyone on Council. It was the consensus of the Council for Mayor Crewe to proclaim February as Chamber of Commerce Month. Mayor Crewe advised that he would request Town staff to prepare the proclamation, and noted there is a sample proclamation that the staff can use as a guide.

3. Town Manager Sutherland advised that he and Mayor Crewe attended the Virginia Municipal League Legislative Day, and noted that Mayor Crewe may wish to provide some other information. He indicated it was interesting in that the Governor spoke to the group, and, probably, if there was a theme, it would be that there is no money available from the State. Town Manager Sutherland advised that the Council could discuss for hours what is happening in Richmond, but the end result is that no money is available. Mayor Crewe remarked that another issue is that there is no money, and the budget amendments have already been offered. He explained that today is the last day for the regular Legislators to propose budget amendments, but members of the House and Senate Finance Committees can still make suggested amendments later. Mayor Crewe remarked if he is remembering correctly, the deficit is close to \$3 billion, and there is about \$7 billion in proposed amendments to put back into the budget, and \$3 billion came out. He advised that not everyone's request is going to be granted in the State budget, and it is going to be an interesting time to see who receives funding.

RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice-Mayor King, reporting for the Budget and Finance Committee, stated that the Committee is reviewing the offer made by the Wythe County Community Hospital Foundation Board to donate up to \$2.5 million toward the construction of the new Community Center. She advised that as the Council may recall, the Hospital Foundation Board determined that it was not economically feasible for them to proceed with the construction of the wellness facility but did want to assist the Town with its efforts to provide wholesome recreational and wellness facilities for the community. She advised there were a number of factors that the Hospital Foundation Board considered when determining the amount of money that it would donate. Vice-Mayor King advised that the \$2.5 million donation includes \$1 million toward the construction of the pool complex and an additional \$1.5 million for other features. She remarked that the other identified features are the addition of two racquetball courts, maintaining the length of the elevated walking track, funds for the construction of the childcare area, and areas and/or equipment to be used for physical fitness purposes. Vice-Mayor King indicated that in addition, the Hospital would make available funds to compensate for the additional architectural expenses the Town would incur for these revisions. She stated that a further stipulation by the Hospital Foundation Board would be that all Wythe County and Bland County citizens be treated in the same fashion as citizens of the Town of Wytheville for the purposes of user fees. Vice-Mayor King indicated that the Council regrets that the Hospital found it unfeasible to continue with their wellness facility. She noted the Council believes that the Town and the Hospital working together could have created one of the most outstanding facilities anywhere in the area. Vice-Mayor King stated, however, that the Council understands the Hospital's position and respects their decision to abandon the project. She remarked that additionally, the Council is extremely grateful that the Hospital continues to be supportive of the Town's facility and is willing to fund the components that were to be shared by the Town and Hospital, as well as the other amenities the Hospital is willing to add to the Town's facility. Vice-Mayor King stated that, obviously, the Town needs to obtain from its architects accurate estimates on what the proposed amendments will cost. She advised that once the Committee has this information, they would be in a better position to make a recommendation. Vice-Mayor King noted that also, the Committee has asked the staff to review the operational and maintenance expenses that will be associated with these additional facilities. She remarked that the Committee would anticipate that they will have this information in the next week. Vice-Mayor King stated that the Committee will share it with the Hospital Foundation Board. She indicated that thereafter, the Committee should be in a position to make a recommendation concerning the Foundation's proposal. Town Manager Sutherland indicated that with regard to the stipulation of Wythe County and Bland County residents being treated the same as Town citizens, he thinks, and noted Town staff will clarify this with the Hospital before the Town and Hospital meet, that the Hospital made no reference to user fees. He continued that he thinks the Hospital is stating that the facility is openly available to Wythe and Bland County residents, the same that it is open and available to Town citizens, but this was without reference to fees. Town Manager Sutherland indicated that this may answer some of the questions that have been posed. He reiterated that the Town will obtain a clarification on this before the meeting.

Vice-Mayor King also reported that the Town has received a request from the Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority asking that the Town waive the Authority's payment in lieu of taxes for the next two fiscal years. She remarked that the Housing Authority, as a public

entity, does not pay real estate taxes to the Town. Vice-Mayor King indicated that under the memorandum of understanding establishing the Housing Authority, it was agreed that the Authority would make an annual payment, not taxes, to the Town in consideration of the public services provided by the Town to the Authority. She stated, for example, all Housing Authority properties abut Town streets and have public water and sewer available to them. Vice-Mayor King explained that Housing Authority properties have all services available to them, as does every other residential property in town. She noted the Committee would like to continue to review the request by the Housing Authority. Vice-Mayor King advised that initially, the Committee thinks that each fiscal year should be considered separately and not as a single action. She noted that in addition, the Committee has requested the Housing Authority to provide the Committee with financial information that would help them understand the financial difficulty that might be imposed by not waiving these payments in lieu of taxes. Vice-Mayor King indicated that once the Committee has received this information, they will share it with the Council and make a recommendation.

Vice-Mayor King reported that Wythe County, Carroll County, and the Town of Wytheville have met for the past several years to discuss the potential for a regional water system. She noted that Wythe County is currently in the process of designing a water treatment facility along the New River, and over the past two years, both the County and the Town have been installing certain pipelines that will ultimately allow the two systems to be connected. Vice-Mayor King indicated that for the same period of time, Carroll County has expressed its interest in obtaining water from this new system. She noted that seemingly, Carroll County has a significant need for a new source of water. Vice-Mayor King advised that Wythe County has requested that each governing body appoint one elected official and one appointed official to a Committee to continue the study of the regional water system. She stated it would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that Councilman Charles Crockett of the Public Works Committee and Town Manager Wayne Sutherland serve as the appointees from the Town to this study committee. Vice-Mayor King inquired of Councilman Crockett if it is acceptable to him to serve on this committee. Councilman Crockett stated that is correct. Mayor Crewe advised that the Public Works Committee discussed this in their meeting on Tuesday. Councilman Crockett advised that he has attended these regional water meetings before, and the appointment is acceptable to him. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Jones to appoint Councilman Charles Crockett and Town Manager Wayne Sutherland to serve on the Regional Water Study Committee. It was the consensus of Council to appoint Councilman Charles Crockett and Town Manager Wayne Sutherland to serve on the Regional Water Study Committee. Town Manager Sutherland advised that Town staff will advise Wythe County tomorrow of these appointments. A copy of the Budget and Finance Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Crockett, reporting for the Public Works Committee, stated that the Committee received a letter from Dr. Wes Asbury, Chief of Medical Staff at Wythe County Community Hospital, with a signed petition requesting that the traffic signal at Fourth Street and Ridge Road be evaluated. He advised that according to the letter from Dr. Asbury, the medical staff is appreciative of the installation of the left turn signal at this location, but felt that the wait to make a left-hand turn was excessive. Councilman Crockett noted that evaluating this request, the Committee thinks a potential solution would be to leave the signal permitting an exclusive left-hand turn and then going to an all green phase where vehicles turning left would yield to oncoming traffic. He remarked that this would be a situation similar to the arrangement proceeding south on Fourth Street at Monroe Street. Councilman Crockett stated that the Committee has asked Town staff to gather information on the cost associated with these revisions in order that they can review it at their next meeting and make a recommendation. Mayor Crewe indicated that his understanding from the Committee's discussion is that the signal would still be a left-hand turn only light and a person cannot continue straight in the left lane. Councilman Crockett stated that this is correct, and this is the way the Committee understood the request.

Councilman Crockett also reported that the Town has been contacted by Mr. Rodney Coleman who is the designated plant manager for the new facility being constructed off of Nye Road. He indicated that the site on which the new Pepsi facility will be located will be served by a new roadway currently being constructed by the Town. Councilman Crockett stated that Mr. Coleman inquired as to what the name of this new access road would be, and noted that the Pepsi Corporation would request that the roadway's name have the word Pepsi in it. He noted that the Town contacted Mr. Coleman, and he suggested naming the street Pepsi Way. Councilman Crockett advised that Mr. Coleman added, though, that any name the Council chose with the word Pepsi in it would be satisfactory to the Corporation. He stated it is the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the new roadway serving the Pepsi facility

be named Pepsi Way. Mayor Crewe advised that the Budget and Finance Committee discussed this, and it is his understanding that it is the consensus of Council that Pepsi Way would be a fine choice, if that is what Pepsi wants the roadway to be named. He noted he did not think that Council action is needed on this matter, but the Council will adopt the Committee report by consensus so the roadway can be named Pepsi Way. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: RESOLUTIONS - GEORGE WYTHE HIGH SCHOOL BOYS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM, GEORGE WYTHE HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY TEAM, AND GEORGE WYTHE LADY MAROONS BASKETBALL TEAM

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is to consider the resolutions honoring the George Wythe High School Boys Cross Country Team, the George Wythe High School Girls Cross Country Team, and the George Wythe Lady Maroons Basketball Team. He proceeded to read the resolutions to those in attendance at the meeting. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Crockett to adopt the resolutions honoring the George Wythe High School Boys Cross Country Team, the George Wythe High School Girls Cross Country Team, and the George Wythe Lady Maroons Basketball Team. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, John W. Jones, Jr., Charles G. Crockett. Against: None.

Mayor Crewe stated he knows he speaks for all of Council when he states how much the Council appreciates the students' efforts in what they have done, especially attending the meeting. He then proceeded to present the resolutions to the teams. Mayor Crewe explained that there is a framed copy of each resolution, and copies of the resolutions for the team members. He presented the resolution to the George Wythe High School Boys Cross Country Team. Mayor Crewe stated when he was training for the marathon, he had the opportunity to run with the students. He proceeded to present the resolution to the George Wythe High School Girls Cross Country Team. Mayor Crewe then presented the resolution to the George Wythe Lady Maroons Basketball Team. He stated the Council likes to recognize the students when they do something well, and, obviously, these teams have had a great year. Mayor Crewe congratulated the coaches and the teams. He stated the Council appreciates the coaches and team members attending the meeting and bringing such credit to the Town. Mayor Crewe noted that Town staff will be taking a photograph of the teams.

RE: APPOINTMENT – WALL OF HONOR

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is the notification of an appointment to the Wall of Honor Committee to fill the expiring term of Mr. Robert Fowlkes whose term expires February 11, 2003. He noted that at the February 10 meeting, the Council will need to make an appointment to the Wall of Honor Committee to fill this term. Mayor Crewe advised that this recommendation will come from the Wall of Honor Committee, and the Council will be acting on this recommendation at their next meeting. Councilman Crockett inquired if Mr. Fowlkes is eligible for reappointment. Vice-Mayor King advised that Mr. Fowlkes is eligible for reappointment, and he has stated he would serve again. She explained that this recommendation has not yet come from the Sports Hall of Fame Committee to the Wall of Honor Committee. Vice-Mayor King advised that the Sports Hall of Fame Committee failed to get the recommendation to the Wall of Honor Committee before their last meeting.

RE: AIRPORT COMMISSION

Councilman Crockett advised that several months ago, the Town received an A-95 Review from the Airport Commission. He noted that the Council asked for additional clarification on the request. Town Manager Sutherland stated the Town called Mount Rogers, and the Town was supposed to call back on a specific date to arrange a meeting. Vice-Mayor King stated this was the gentleman that kept calling her. Town Manager Sutherland noted that is correct and advised that he finally made contact with this gentleman who noted that the Town could disregard the matter since there was no funding available. He stated the gentleman noted he should have called the Town and told them that no funding was available. Mayor Crewe remarked that he would guess that the Town will probably hear about this matter again. Town Manager Sutherland indicated that he thought this request may have been tied to the decline in VDOT aviation funds.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:25 p.m.).

Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Mayor

Sharon P. Hackler, CMC, Clerk of Council

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