

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2003, AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

Members absent: None

Others present: Town Manager C. Wayne Sutherland, Jr., Assistant Town Manager Stephen A. Moore, Town Clerk Sharon P. Hackler, Town Attorney Robert P. Kaase, Marsha Tobelmann with Wytheville Enterprise, Patrol Officer Phillip Shuler, Grant Throckmorton, Kenny Suthers, Danny Suthers, Kevin Suthers, Josh Yates, D. N. Pruitt, Jim Hartlage, Jared Horton, Rusty Beamer, Brandon Wolford, Steve Fedtke, Evan Compton, Kevin Wheeler, Jacob Gardner, Zack Sisti, Thomas Crowgey, Tyrus Gardner, Richard Crowgey, Bill Gravley, Eric Camden, Laura Teed, Ben Caudill, Joe Gardner, Jesse Irvin, Robert Barcliff, Timothy A. Perry, II, Matt Shaver, Kenneth Rich, Margie Peel

RE: CALL TO ORDER, QUORUM, INVOCATION, PLEDGE

Mayor Crewe called the meeting to order and established that a quorum of Council members was present. The invocation was given by Councilman Weisiger followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice-Mayor King.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Crewe presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 10, 2003, and the request of the George Wythe Band Boosters for waiver of fee for use of the Community Center and Park on May 5, 2003, for a concert and dinner. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Weisiger to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 10, 2003, and the request of the George Wythe Band Boosters for waiver of fee for use of the Community Center and Park on May 5, 2003, for a concert and dinner. 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., William B. Weisiger, Charles G. Crockett. Against: None.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. He noted the first item under Citizens' Period is the reason that the Council is blessed to have so many students attending this meeting, and it is the adoption and presentation of a resolution to the George Wythe High School Football Team. He read the resolution to those attending the meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Councilman Crockett to adopt the resolution commending the George Wythe High School Football Team for an outstanding season and for becoming State champions. 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., William B. Weisiger, Charles G. Crockett. Against: None. Mayor Crewe remarked that he knows he speaks not only for Council, but the entire community and not just the Town of Wytheville, and everyone appreciates all that the football team has done, and he hopes that this resolution is one more small token for an outstanding effort the football team has made year round. He noted he would like to present the resolution to the football team. Mayor Crewe indicated that Town staff could take a group picture with him presenting the resolution. He advised that he has the framed resolution that can be hung at the school or wherever the school desires for it to be displayed. Mayor Crewe stated that he also has individual copies of the resolution for the coaches and for all the players. He reiterated that the Council is proud of the football team, and they appreciate all that they have done to bring credit to the community and to themselves. Mayor Crewe noted that the football team has an outstanding reputation that will go with them wherever they go from now on. He stated they earned this reputation on and off the football field because of the way they have conducted themselves. Mayor Crewe advised that he thinks the football team showed a lot of character all of the way through everything. He noted that the easiest thing to do is for the football players to form a group, and Town staff will take a picture. Mayor Crewe congratulated the football team and presented the resolution to them. He thanked the football team and the coaches for attending the meeting.

RE: OLD BUSINESS

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is Old Business. Town Manager Sutherland stated he did not have any items of Old Business to report to the Town Council.

RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice-Mayor King, reporting for the Budget and Finance Committee, stated that as the Council discussed several weeks ago, Wythe County Community Hospital has offered to commit up to \$2.5 million towards the construction of the new community center provided that certain features desired by the Hospital would be included in the project. She advised that as the Committee has reported, the Town's architects are making the necessary revisions to the plans that would accommodate these requests. Vice-Mayor King noted that in an effort to make sure that the project will move forward, the Town contacted the Hospital by letter and explained that the Council was proceeding with having architectural revisions performed and requested that the Hospital Board review these concepts and take some action to formalize the arrangement. She advised that the Town has now received a letter from the Community Hospital noting that the Hospital Foundation Board of Directors agreed with the content of the Town's letter, contingent upon a similar approval by the Town Council. Vice-Mayor King remarked that, hopefully, by the next meeting of Council, the Committee will have a document prepared that can be adopted by both the Council and the Hospital Foundation Board that sets out all the terms of the agreement. She stated that again, the Committee would note the Town's appreciation to the Hospital for their continued commitment to move this project forward. Vice-Mayor King noted that in a related topic, the Committee continues to review financing alternatives for the project. She advised that the Committee anticipates that at the next meeting of Council, the Committee will offer an ordinance increasing the meals and motel tax effective July 1. Vice-Mayor King indicated that the Committee's rationale for adoption of a rate increase now with a future implementation date would be to give local restaurants and motels the opportunity to prepare for the rate change. Mayor Crewe noted that there is no Council action required at this time. Vice-Mayor King stated that is correct.

Vice-Mayor King also reported that last week, the Budget and Finance Committee heard a presentation from Mr. Mel Sheridan, who is the administrator for the state's Wireless E-911 Board. She noted that the purpose of Mr. Sheridan's visit was to provide the Town information on funding that is available from the commonwealth for equipment and other expenses associated with handling emergency wireless calls. Vice-Mayor King explained that Mr. Sheridan also gave the Committee an overview of the state regulations that pertain to dispatchers, who receive emergency phone calls. She stated that Mr. Sheridan noted that the state collects taxes each month on every cell phone in the commonwealth. Vice-Mayor King advised that all of these tax funds have been placed in a fund and are being used to assist communities with programs capable of responding to wireless 911 phone calls. She noted that Mr. Sheridan stated that there are two basic phases of implementation for wireless cellular calls. Vice-Mayor King advised that the first phase will involve equipment that will identify the general vicinity of a wireless phone call. She stated that under this arrangement, the location of the cellular signal is translated to being within a certain proximity of a particular cell phone tower. Vice-Mayor King remarked that under this phase, the exact location of an emergency cellular phone call is not known, but it gives emergency personnel a good indication of the general vicinity of the call. She stated that in the second phase of responding to emergency cellular phone calls, the cellular signal actually has a global positioning designation, and the responding dispatch will know exactly the location of the cell phone call. Vice-Mayor King indicated that having said all this, there are certain funding mechanisms available to the Town to implement these new programs. She stated that Mr. Sheridan advised that the Town was eligible for about \$30,000 in grant funds this year (fiscal year 2002-2003), and would be eligible for approximately \$80,000 in the upcoming budget year. Vice-Mayor King noted that the Committee thinks it is worthwhile to proceed with making application for both of these funding mechanisms, and has asked Director of Public Safety Albert Newberry to proceed with these applications. She stated that, obviously, these funds and implementation of these programs will be discussed in more detail during the Town's budget preparation cycle. Mayor Crewe advised that he would note that in the budget summary he received today from the Virginia Municipal League, and noted he forwarded it to all of the Council, this is the wireless 911 fund that had a big reduction to place money in the general fund. He remarked if the Committee recalls, this fund was one of the items that Mr. Sheridan advised that was expected to be cut when he was at the meeting. Town Manager Sutherland noted that he thought the amount was \$500,000. A copy of the Budget and Finance Committee Report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Weisiger, reporting for the Public Works Committee, stated that at the last meeting of Council, the Mayor gave an overview of a meeting he and Town Manager Sutherland had attended where Fluor Virginia made a presentation on the proposal it had made to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for improvements to the Interstate 81 corridor through Virginia. He noted that Fluor Virginia and Star Solutions both submitted proposals to the Commonwealth Transportation Board in response to the request for proposals from the state for improvements to the interstate corridor under the Public-Private Transportation Act. Councilman Weisiger stated that at the last Council meeting, it was unclear what direction the commonwealth would take, and it was agreed that the Council would submit a letter encouraging the Transportation Board to continue its review of these proposals. He explained that Mayor Crewe did, in fact, submit such a letter, and also pointed out that there were other factors the Transportation Board should consider in its evaluation such as expense of the project, timeliness of the completion, and in the Town's particular situation, careful consideration of the Wytheville to Fort Chiswell corridor, and, also, to acknowledge the I-74 corridor coming through Virginia. Councilman Weisiger stated that the commonwealth has now chosen to proceed with negotiations on both proposals. He advised that the Commonwealth Transportation Board has indicated that they hope to select one of the alternatives by late March, and then continue with more detailed negotiations. Councilman Weisiger remarked that the Committee might note that regardless of which proposal is selected by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, both scenarios propose a toll on cars using the I-81 corridor. He advised that currently, state law does not permit tolls on cars and would require legislative action by the General Assembly next year. Councilman Weisiger stated that certainly it appears that the commonwealth is serious about entering a public-private partnership, and, no doubt, there will be many meetings and discussions in the future. Mayor Crewe advised that he thinks the Committee is correct in their thinking on this matter, and the Council can watch this for future development.

Councilman Weisiger also reported that with regard to the Department of Transportation, the Town has now received notice that the annual Pre-Allocation Hearing will be held in Abingdon on Tuesday, March 4, at 9:30 a.m. at the Virginia Highlands Community College. He advised that each year, the Transportation Board updates the Six-Year Program and solicits comments from citizens and governments at this meeting. Councilman Weisiger indicated that the Town has participated in this activity for many years, and has several identified needs. He advised that certainly, a priority with the Town would be the continuation of the new service road serving the community center to be moved up in the program. Councilman Weisiger noted if any member of Council is interested in attending this meeting or would like for the Committee to submit different projects, to please let them know, and they will include them. Mayor Crewe advised that one of the things the Council may think about doing, in view of their conversations with the County, is the upgrade to the exit at the interchange located at the State Police headquarters. He noted this interchange is not in the Town's program because it is not in the Town limits, but he is sure the County will have it in their program, and the Town may desire to talk to the County about this. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Crewe advised that he previously rushed through Citizen's Period due to the presentation of the resolution to the football team. He inquired if there are persons present who wish to address Council. Mayor Crewe noted he did not have anyone who had signed up to speak to Council, but if there is someone who desires to address the Council, they will be glad to hear from him or her. There being no one desiring to address the Council, Mayor Crewe proceeded with the agenda.

RE: WALL OF HONOR CIVIC MONUMENT HONOREES

Mayor Crewe asked Vice-Mayor King to preside over the next agenda item, and noted he would be happy to leave the room. Vice-Mayor King stated it was not necessary for Mayor Crewe to leave the room. She noted the next agenda item is the recommendation of the Wall of Honor Committee regarding honorees to the Civic Monument. Vice-Mayor King stated that the Wall of Honor Committee would recommend that the names of Dr. John P. "Jack" Baumgardner and Mayor Trenton G. Crewe, Jr. be approved for inclusion on the Civic Monument. She noted that this recommendation has, likewise, been forwarded to the Wythe County Board of Supervisors for their consideration. Vice-Mayor King reiterated that the Wall of Honor Committee would recommend the approval of Dr. Baumgardner and Mayor Crewe to the Civic Monument. She inquired if there is any discussion. A motion was made by Councilman Weisiger and seconded by Councilman Jones to approve the names of Dr. John P. "Jack" Baumgardner and Mayor

Trenton G. Crewe, Jr. for inclusion on the Civic Monument. Vice-Mayor King 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: Jacqueline K. King, John W. Jones, Jr., William B. Weisiger, Charles G. Crockett. Against: None. Abstention: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr. Mayor Crewe thanked the Council for their vote, and noted he appreciates it more than the Council knows. Vice-Mayor King advised that she will turn the meeting back over to Mayor Crewe.

RE: A-95 REVIEWS

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is the consideration of an A-95 Review of the Max Meadows Fire Department, Inc. for the purchase of firefighting equipment to provide fire protection for the community. He noted the second A-95 Review was presented at this meeting which is for District Three Public Transit for the new bus service, and it is through the Small Urban and Rural Section Manager's request. Mayor Crewe advised that the Council can see what they have in their proposal. He indicated that there are the usual choices. A motion was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Councilman Weisiger to give a favorable review to both of the A-95 Reviews. 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., William B. Weisiger, Charles G. Crockett. Against: None.

RE: DISTRICT THREE -- FARMER'S MARKET

Councilman Weisiger inquired if Town Manager Sutherland has heard anything from District Three about the Farmer's Market. He noted he thinks that each locality had an option of supporting or not supporting the Farmer's Market. Councilman Weisiger stated he will discuss this more with Town Manager Sutherland in the Public Works Committee meeting in the morning. Town Manager Sutherland stated he has not heard from District Three regarding this matter. Councilman Weisiger advised that District Three may not have yet sent out the information. He advised that he will forewarn Town Manager Sutherland that this information is coming.

RE: SNOW REMOVAL

Mayor Crewe stated he knows that the Town had a lot of personnel who worked long hours and overtime last weekend with the weather problems that the town had, and he appreciates all of their efforts and thinks they did an outstanding job.

RE: DRAINAGE PROBLEM

Mayor Crewe advised that he would like to refer a matter to the Public Works Committee to review a drainage problem at 1095 West Monroe Street, and he will talk to the Committee more about this on the basis of a few telephone calls he received over the weekend. He noted that there was water everywhere, several streets were closed, and things were under water in lots of places. Mayor Crewe indicated that the Town was lucky, as far as he was aware, and there was no substantial damage done anywhere and no injury or substantial loss of property and no loss of life, unlike some of the Town's neighbors who did have some of those problems. Councilman Crockett inquired as to the address where there is a drainage problem. Mayor Crewe reiterated that the address is 1095 West Monroe Street. Councilman Jones inquired if this is the location that he previously received a call on. Mayor Crewe advised that it is Mr. Henry Spraker's address. Councilman Jones advised that he has received a call on this. Mayor Crewe indicated that Mrs. Spraker was the person that called him, but Mr. Spraker was also involved in the conversation as well.

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