

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2004, 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, Patrol Officer Chris Irvin, Danny Gordon with WYVE/WXBX, Stephanie Porter-Nichols with Wytheville Enterprise, Scott Wilson, Francelia Cox, Agnes Eades

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 Jones 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 March 8, 2004, and the request of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Wythe-Bland Region Master Gardener Association for a raffle permit for 2004. He noted the Master Gardener Association meets the criteria for the issuance of the raffle permit. Mayor Crewe noted the Association's letter has stated that use of the Community Center has been approved, and they are requesting a raffle permit for 2004. A motion was made by Councilman Weisiger and seconded by Councilman Jones to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 8, 2004, and the request of the Virginia Cooperative Extension Wythe-Bland Region Master Gardener Association for a raffle permit for 2004. 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: RESOLUTION – D. B. COX

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is the adoption and presentation of a resolution honoring Dr. D. B. Cox for his service to the Town. He noted that Mrs. Frankie Cox is attending the meeting. Mayor Crewe read the resolution to those attending the meeting. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Crockett to adopt the resolution honoring the life of Dr. D. B. Cox. 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 advised Mrs. Cox that it would be a great honor on behalf of the Town Council and the citizens to present the resolution to her. He stated that Dr. Cox will be sorely missed. Mayor Crewe noted that the Town also has copies of the resolution for their children. Mrs. Cox indicated that she knows Dr. Cox enjoyed his service on the Town Council and the Planning Commission. She noted that receiving this resolution is an honor on behalf of her and the children, and she thanked the Town Council for the resolution. Mayor Crewe thanked Mrs. Cox for attending the meeting.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. He noted he did not see anyone on the sign up sheets who indicated they desired to address the Council. Mayor Crewe inquired if there are persons present who wish to address Council during Citizens' Period. There being none, he proceeded with the agenda.

RE: OLD BUSINESS

Under Old Business, Town Manager Sutherland reported the following:

1. The Joint Governing Bodies will be meeting on March 29, 2004, in Rural Retreat.

RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice-Mayor King, reporting for the Budget and Finance Committee, stated that as they have stated previously, the Town recently received its renewal information from the Commonwealth's Local Choice Health Benefits Program. She advised that the Local Choice Health Benefits Program is the statewide program that provides health insurance coverage to both state and local employees. Vice-Mayor King explained that the State performs all of the procurement activities and administers the program. She noted this program is beneficial in that it offers smaller employers such as the Town of Wytheville an opportunity to participate in a large pool, which can help to hold premiums at a lower level than could be obtained by purchasing the insurance independently. Vice-Mayor King stated that this being said, the rate increase for the next fiscal year for the Town's health insurance program is approximately 10 percent. She advised that while this is a significant increase, totaling about \$59,782, the Town was fortunate to have a smaller rate increase than many other governmental entities. Vice-Mayor King stated it should be noted that the renewal will not change any services to be provided or any deductibles to be paid by the employee. She noted the decision that must be reached at this meeting is a declaration of the Town's intent to continue participation in the Local Choice Program and to identify specific programs in which the Town's employees will be eligible to participate. Vice-Mayor King explained that currently, the Town's employees are eligible to participate in either the Cost Alliance Program or the Key Advantage Program with Local Choice. She stated the Committee thinks participation in these two programs should be continued in the following year, modified to the extent that the Town offers what is known as the "blended" feature of each of these programs. Vice-Mayor King advised that the blended feature permits retirees of the Town to get healthcare coverage through the Town after their retirement. She explained that the total cost of this insurance for the retiree is paid by the retiree and does not add expense to the Town's insurance premiums. Vice-Mayor King stated the final topic the Committee would mention is that, currently, the Town pays 95 percent of the employees' share of the monthly premium. She noted since the Council is in the budgetary process, the amount of employer contribution will need to be reviewed. Vice-Mayor King stated that based on the Committee's review, it is the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that the Town declare its intent to continue participation in the Local Choice Health Benefits Program of the Commonwealth, and that the Town participate in the Blended Cost Alliance Program and the Blended Key Advantage Program. She stated that additionally, the Committee would also recommend that the Town Manager be authorized to execute all documents that may be needed for the renewal process. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Jones that the Town declare its intent to continue participation in the Local Choice Health Benefits Program of the Commonwealth, and that the Town participate in the Blended Cost Alliance Program and the Blended Key Advantage Program and that also the Town Manager be authorized to execute all documents that may be needed for the renewal process. Mayor Crewe indicated that he knows both Committees have reviewed this matter and discussed it. He 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.

Vice-Mayor King also reported that several years ago, state and federal laws were changed to the extent that drivers of vehicles of certain weights and classifications were required to obtain a Commercial Driver's License. She explained that one component of the Commercial Driver's License program is all drivers are randomly tested for drugs and alcohol. Vice-Mayor King stated that recently, in a discussion concerning various personnel policies, the Committee discussed the concept of extending the testing for drug and alcohol to all Town employees. She noted that this thought occurred to the Committee because regardless of whether an employee has a Commercial Driver's License or not, virtually all of the Town's employees are operating some type of equipment or are in sensitive situations in contact with the general public. Vice-Mayor King noted, therefore, it seemed to be a plausible idea that the Town's current drug and alcohol testing program would be expanded to include all employees. She advised that as the Council knows, the Town and all other local governments regularly make assurances that the Town is providing a drug free workplace. Vice-Mayor King remarked that certainly, the Town has made every effort to provide this type of environment, but expansion of this testing program will even better assure that the Town does not permit drugs and alcohol in the workplace. She noted that as such, the Committee has developed an ordinance which would amend the Personnel Regulations to implement this new program. Vice-Mayor King explained that the Committee is suggesting that the Council establish a threshold of 25 percent of all employees to be tested on an annual basis. She noted that also, the Committee is suggesting the implementation date of this new program should be July 1, 2004, since there are currently no funds budgeted for such a testing program. Vice-Mayor King stated it would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that the Personnel Ordinance be amended to include drug and alcohol testing for all employees, effective July 1, 2004, and that

the rules be suspended and the ordinance be adopted on first and final reading when it is presented later in the meeting. A copy of the Budget and Finance Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes. ([Attachment](#)).

RE: PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Crockett, reporting for the Public Works Committee, stated that several years ago, the General Assembly of Virginia passed legislation that started the deregulation of electric services in Virginia. He advised that while deregulation is an extremely complicated topic, the net result is everyone in Virginia, including local governments, would be subject to vast fluctuations in pricing based on market conditions. Councilman Crockett noted that currently, electric rates in Virginia are regulated by the State Corporation Commission, and the movement of deregulation would, for the most part, remove this oversight by the Commission. He indicated that through the years, most local governments have not been subject to the public tariffs as set by the Corporation Commission, but have operated under separate contractual arrangements with American Electric Power Company. Councilman Crockett explained that when this legislation was passed, the Virginia Municipal League and the Virginia Association of Counties (VML/VACo) formed a committee to negotiate with American Electric Power (AEP) with regard to municipal rates. He noted that initially, American Electric Power was resistant to any type of negotiations since it was in their best interest for rates to be paid by local governments to be based on market conditions. Councilman Crockett remarked, however, the deregulation process in Virginia has not gone as smoothly as was initially thought, and, subsequently, AEP expressed its willingness to negotiate municipal rates. He stated the VML/VACo committee retained attorneys and specialists in electric power service rates and negotiated with AEP for about two years. Councilman Crockett advised that this contract has now been finalized, and the new service rates are set forth in the attached document and are now back to the local governments for adoption. He stated the new contract will establish the rates for service through the year 2007. Councilman Crockett indicated that after that, the contract will either need to be renegotiated or the Town will be in a deregulated environment. He stated the new contract uses the rates established by the State Corporation Commission for public tariffs. Councilman Crockett noted the Corporation Commission sets these public tariffs based on a number of factors including expenses incurred by the company for the production and distribution of electricity and for fuel costs. He stated that clearly, the negotiated contract is to the Town's advantage because it establishes a threshold for the next three years. Councilman Crockett advised that as such, it is the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the Mayor and the Town Manager be authorized to execute contracts with American Electric Power for the Town's service rates for the next three years. A motion was made by Councilman Crockett and seconded by Councilman Weisiger that the Mayor and the Town Manager be authorized to execute contracts with American Electric Power for the Town's service rates for the next three years. Mayor Crewe advised that both Committees have reviewed this matter. He 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.

Councilman Crockett also reported that recently, the Town received an inquiry seeking the increase of the speed limit on Fairview Road from 35 miles per hour to 45 miles per hour. He advised that in the Town's evaluation of this inquiry, the Committee noted that the characteristics of the road were generally good, but there are a number of residential and commercial entrances along this section of roadway as well as two streets that intersect along this portion of roadway. Councilman Crockett explained that with this many entrances, there are a good many turning movements involving either vehicular traffic or truck traffic serving industrial sites, and, on some occasions, there are farm implements that use the roadway. He noted that the Committee also asked the Police Department to tabulate the accident data along this portion of street and found that over the past four years, there have been twelve accidents, ten of which have been minor and two of which have been major. Councilman Crockett stated that as such, the Committee did not feel that an increase in the speed limit along this portion of roadway was warranted. He noted that as a related item, the Committee has had a number of citizens appear before the Council to express concern about speeding at various locations throughout the town. Councilman Crockett advised that the Committee requested the Police Department to intensify the use of radar in various sections of town, and they have initiated this program. He stated that clearly, speeding in the corporate limits poses dangers and results in wrecks. Councilman Crockett noted that the Committee, again, wanted to alert citizens that the Police Department is actively running radar, and, in the interest of safety and not getting a ticket, the existing speed limit should be observed. Mayor Crewe advised that he hopes using radar will enable the Town to resolve some of the traffic problems in town. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes. ([Attachment](#)).

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1169 – PERSONNEL ORDINANCE AMENDMENT

Mayor Crewe presented Ordinance No. 1169, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 1028, generally known as Personnel Rules, Regulations, and Policies, of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, so as to include revisions to Section 2.7 (D), Substance Abuse Testing Policy, of the Ordinance, on first reading. He explained that this ordinance makes the Substance Abuse Testing Policy applicable to all Town employees. Mayor Crewe stated that 25 percent of the Town employees will be randomly tested each year, but the ordinance will not become effective until the next budget year, July 1, 2004. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Jones to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance No. 1169, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 1028, generally known as Personnel Rules, Regulations, and Policies, of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, so as to include revisions to Section 2.7 (D), Substance Abuse Testing Policy, of the Ordinance, on first and final reading. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the ordinance. 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

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1169 was adopted on first and final reading. Mayor Crewe stated this ordinance will not be effective until July 1, 2004, which is the beginning of next year's budget.

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1170 – COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Mayor Crewe presented Ordinance No. 1170, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 2, Administration, Section 2-197, Composition; Appointment and Term of Members; Reappointment of Former Members, and Section 2-211, Limitation of Term, of the Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, on first reading. He noted this will clean up the appointments section of the Town's regulations which is Section 2-197 and Section 2-211 of the Town Code regarding the limitation of terms. Mayor Crewe noted these revisions will make it clear that a person serving on one of the Town Committees can serve two full consecutive terms. He stated the glitch that the Council is aware of since both Committees have discussed it is that currently, for the Recreation Commission, the two successive terms would include portions of an unexpired term that was greater than 18 months. Mayor Crewe explained that if a person was serving 19 months by appointment, they could only serve one additional term, and noted this is different from the other Town committees. He advised if this ordinance is adopted, it would make the terms of the Recreation Commission members match the terms of all of the other Town Committees, and the two successive terms of the Recreation Commission would mean two full terms. Mayor Crewe stated he believes he has explained that correctly, but, if not, someone can correct him. Town Clerk Hackler advised that the explanation was correct. Mayor Crewe noted the recommendation is that the rules be suspended, and the ordinance be adopted on first and final reading. A motion was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Vice-Mayor King to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance No. 1170, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 2, Administration, Section 2-197, Composition; Appointment and Term of Members; Reappointment of Former Members, and Section 2-211, Limitation of Term, of the Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, on first and final reading. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the motion. Councilman Crockett stated he has a comment. He noted he understands that these positions are non-paid positions with the exception of the Planning Commission and inquired if that is correct. Mayor Crewe advised that the Planning Commission and the Airport Commission members receive payment. Councilman Crockett stated he is curious if since most of the positions are volunteer positions and are not compensated, why, in essence, the Town has a term limit established on the Committees. Mayor Crewe noted he thinks it originally came from some funding sources that the Town had once upon a time that had a requirement about not serving in perpetuity. He stated from time to time, and noted he thinks the Recreation Commission is a good example, the Town has had trouble getting people to serve on the Committees. Town Manager Sutherland explained that he cannot recall, but a number of years ago, the Council considered this because there were people who stated they were seeking to get on Committees and then the same people kept being reappointed to the position, and he thinks this is one of the reasons for the term limit. Mayor Crewe advised he believes Town Manager Sutherland is correct. Councilman Crockett stated he just wondered because there is no term limit on the Council members and the Mayor, and since these are appointed positions, it is interesting. Mayor Crewe advised that the voters can change the Council members and the Mayor. Councilman Crockett noted that others can choose not to run for reelection. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any further discussion on Ordinance No. 1170.

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

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1170 was adopted on first and final reading. Mayor Crewe noted this ordinance is effective immediately.

RE: APPOINTMENT – PLANNING COMMISSION

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is the consideration of an appointment of a member to the Wytheville Planning Commission to fill the expired term of Mr. William Bondurant whose term expired March 2, 2004. Mayor Crewe noted that Mr. Bondurant is not eligible for reappointment. He noted in the Council package, there are applications from the interested persons who are willing to serve. A motion was made by Councilman Jones to appoint Mr. Richard Martel to the Planning Commission. He explained that Mr. Martel has previously served on the Planning Commission, he is a certified Planning Commissioner, and it would be beneficial to have Mr. Martel return to the Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Weisiger. 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: U-TURNS ON MAIN STREET

Vice-Mayor King stated that she has discussed this with the Budget and Finance Committee, but she continues to receive complaints about U-turns on Main Street. She noted she has not seen this herself, but it has been brought to her attention that there are two double yellow lines down the middle of Main Street, and someone is going to get hurt making these U-turns. Vice-Mayor King indicated that she would like for the Council to review this matter. Mayor Crewe stated he believes when the Committee discussed it last week, they were going to do two things. He explained the Committee was going to ask the Police Department to see about the legality of the U-turns, and noted he thinks it is rather clear, but he will defer to the Town Attorney, and a U-turn in the middle of the block would be illegal, but not necessarily at an intersection, but reiterated it would be illegal in the middle of the block. Mayor Crewe noted this is only part of the problem, but the real problem as he sees it, and noted he thinks this is part of what Vice-Mayor King was explaining, is people turning left to park on the left hand side of the street, and they are not actually making a U-turn, but they are heading eastbound and are parking on the westbound side, or vice versa. He indicated that motorists are making a left hand 90-degree turn to pull into a parking space on the other side of the street, which is not a U-turn. Mayor Crewe stated the Committee is asking the Police Department to look into the legality of those traffic actions, and, secondly, they were asking the Police Department to see if there is a standardized or approved sign that may address the issue. Vice-Mayor King pointed out that this is something she thinks the Council needs to look into before someone gets hurt or there is an accident. Mayor Crewe noted the Council will pursue checking into this matter.

RE: RESOLUTION – STATE BUDGET

Mayor Crewe indicated he is not suggesting that the Council has to do this, and noted he thinks he has sent it to most of the Council, or they have seen copies of it. He noted that in following up on the comments that Councilman Jones made during the prayer, everyone is waiting anxiously for the Legislature to do something on the State budget. Mayor Crewe noted that, obviously, the State budget impacts the Town's budget. He remarked that cities and counties are probably impacted a lot more strongly than the Town because of the issue with the school systems, among other things. Mayor Crewe indicated that he has a resolution that was adopted by the City of Virginia Beach on March 9 that ends with three resolutions including: (1) that the City Council requests the General Assembly to adopt a budget that enables the Commonwealth to meet its funding responsibilities for basic citizen services and ease the burden on local governments; (2) that the City Council hereby expresses its support of the tax restructuring by the General Assembly that will make Virginia's tax system more responsive to the 21st Century economy and enable the State to meet its financial obligations; and, (3) the General Assembly is requested to adopt a budget as quickly as possible so the local budgeting process may move forward with some certainty. Mayor Crewe indicated that his understanding as of this afternoon is that the House is standing in recess until Saturday, and the Senate is in recess until

Wednesday. He explained that both sides have rejected the other's second budget bills, and each House has rejected the other House's budget, although both of them were different than the ones they rejected last week. Mayor Crewe indicated that the nine conferees are starting over again to try and work out the differences. He remarked that he does not know if any of the Council members feel that the Council needs to take some action, send a letter, adopt any resolution, or just sit back and wait, but he has this resolution available if anyone would like to review it or if the Council would like to consider it. Mayor Crewe indicated that he thinks all of the Council members share the concerns that it makes it difficult for the Council to move forward with the Town budget until they know what the State is going to do. Councilman Crockett advised that he thinks it would be worthwhile for the Council to adopt a similar resolution to what the City of Virginia Beach passed. He remarked he thinks it is critically important that the State adopts a budget. Councilman Crockett stated he thinks it is completely irresponsible that they have not adopted a budget, and he thinks it would be in the Town's best interest to adopt a resolution. He noted if it would be appropriate, he would make a motion that the Council adopt the same resolution regarding the State budget as the City of Virginia Beach with the exception of inserting the Town of Wytheville in the resolution wherever Virginia Beach is listed. The motion was seconded by Councilman Jones. Mayor Crewe inquired if the Council desired for him to read the resolution or if everyone has seen it. Councilman Jones stated he has seen the resolution. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the resolution. Councilman Jones remarked that he would like to add to what everyone has stated. He indicated that no one likes to see certain taxes raised, but if they do not adopt something similar to the Senate or the Governor's budget, what the House is proposing is going to hurt the citizens a lot worse in the long run than by rejecting the other two, simply because they are not going to fund K-12, higher education, etc. like they need to, and it is going to be up to the counties to have to pick up the difference. Councilman Jones pointed out that one of the things that a lot of people do not realize is that they blended the VRS rate for teachers, local governments, and the State to the same figure. Mayor Crewe advised that this really increased the local contribution. Councilman Jones stated that is correct because for teachers, the figure is going to stay the same, approximately 6.03, regardless of increases in the future. He advised this means that continually, the counties or the cities will have to pay more money to fund the VRS for their teachers versus what it used to be. Councilman Jones noted there are a lot of things that citizens do not realize that are going to come back to hurt them. He stated it may not hurt the Town as badly, but the Town citizens are also County citizens, and they pay County taxes, and this is going to hurt the Town citizens. Councilman Jones noted he hopes the Legislature will look long range and not look at the short term of someone wanting to get reelected, or a politician making a promise, etc., because there are some serious consequences. Mayor Crewe explained that he participated in a conference call two weeks ago, and in the conference call, one of the participants was Jerry Wolfe, the Mayor of the City of Bristol, and he made a comment that was in the *Wytheville Enterprise* and it has been in several other media around the State which summed this up rather well when he stated, "This is not a battle about whether or not taxes are going to be increased. It's a battle about whether or not the State is going to increase or whether the local governments are going to have to increase." He noted this depends on the actions of the Legislature, and he thinks Mr. Wolfe's comment was cogent in that discussion. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any further discussion on the resolution. 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.

Councilman Crockett inquired if this resolution could be faxed before Wednesday, and he thinks the Mayor stated they will reconvene on Wednesday. Mayor Crewe noted he would suggest that the Council send the resolution to the nine conferees, to VML, and to VACo. Councilman Crockett inquired if the Council needed another motion to send these faxes. Mayor Crewe remarked that unless someone objects, he thinks the Council can make the decision by consensus. Mayor Crewe suggested that the resolution also be faxed to the Governor since he has a budget in the fray as well. Councilman Crockett noted he thinks it would also be beneficial to send the resolution to the Governor. It was the consensus of the Council to fax the resolution to the nine conferees, VML, VACo, and Governor Mark Warner.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:35 p.m.).

Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Mayor

Sharon P. Hackler, CMC, Clerk of Council

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 12, 2004

1. We have received bids for our annual milling and paving program, which consists of about 12,933 square yards of milling and the application of 4,596 tons of asphalt. The low bidder, among four bidders, was the W. L. Contracting Company out of Chilhowie, Virginia. The bids are based on the price per square yard for milling and a price per ton for asphalt. Based on our estimates, the total bid for our improvements is \$209,578 out of the \$225,000 budgeted this year. As you know, this number may vary slightly depending on the estimated areas varying somewhat. The streets that will receive improvements are scattered in a number of locations throughout town, but the most visible locations that will be milled and repaved include Fourth Street between Monroe and Marshall Streets, Main Street between Fourth and Eleventh Streets, and Calhoun Street between Withers Road and the railroad. The notice to proceed has been issued to the contractor, and we would anticipate that they will mobilize to town within the next couple of weeks.
2. As we reported at the last meeting, we have asked the Police Department to increase its use of radar in an effort to reduce speeding around town. It appears that these efforts are working, and we plan to continue these levels of enforcement for the immediate future. We would also note that the new Parking Enforcement Officer is working diligently and continues to issue tickets for exceeding the parking limits, but also for handicap parking space violations. The other issue for which we

continue to search for a solution is vehicles that make u-turns in mid-block on Main Street to park in a space on the opposite side of the road from which they are traveling. This creates a dangerous situation, and we are looking for methods of enforcement that are available to us. All of this is just a matter of information for the Council, and no other action is needed.

William B. Weisiger

Charles G. Crockett

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BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

APRIL 12, 2004

1. Over the past two weeks, both Committees of the Council have reviewed the revenue side of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2004-05. Essentially, the revenues in the Town's budget consist primarily of broad categories such as local taxation, charges for services, revenue from the Commonwealth, loan proceeds, and funds generated from water and sewer services. The information we have available to date indicates that revenues received from local taxation are either remaining constant or showing some slight growth. Taxes in this broad category include real and personal property taxes, business license taxes, and meals and lodging taxes. We would note that the increase that was imposed on the meals and motel taxes in September is generating the funds that were predicted, and please also recall that these new funds are committed to the debt service on the new Community Center project. The revenues anticipated for local services such as permit fees, burial fees, etc. appear that they will remain fairly constant with the current year's numbers. Revenues that are to be received from the Commonwealth for categories such as police funds, fire funds, highway funds, and other various categories are unknown at this time. We would hope that these funds would at least be at levels similar to this year and not cut any further. The amount of money that we have received from the Commonwealth in the current budget is significantly less than has been received in prior years. Revenues from loans have not yet been totally identified in the budget, but, no doubt, will include revenues for projects such as the Community Center and other water and sewer improvements. Finally, we would note that the revenue from water and sewer services appears that it will be

similar to our current year level of funding. There have been significant improvements to our water and sewer system over the past few years, and, still, a number of improvements have yet to be made. Obviously, the revenues required for the water and sewer fund will need to be closely evaluated during this budget process.

Originally, we had scheduled a budget work session to consider revenues this evening, but since all of the Council has now had the opportunity to review the revenue side of the budget, and since Councilman Jones is not available this evening, we have chosen not to have the work session at this meeting. We will, however, have the work session on the appropriations side of the budget at the April 26 meeting of Council.

2. There are two activities coming up in which it appears that the Town will be a participant. The state of Virginia will observe the four hundredth anniversary of Jamestown in 2007, and the state is actively soliciting communities to be a part of this statewide celebration. The Town's participation in the Jamestown 2007 program would make us identified as a "Virginia 2007 Community." What this basically means is that we would be designated as an official community and would be involved in the yearlong celebration. The Town would be included in all of the press and public relations efforts that are going on nationally and internationally. Many of our neighboring communities have already declared their participation in the program. Though it does not require an official Council action, we would like the minutes to reflect our recommendation that we proceed with participating in this statewide activity.

Secondly, we would note that we have been contacted by the Capitol Holiday Tree

Steering Committee. Each November, the nation's Capitol Holiday Tree is cut from one of our national forests and taken to Washington, D. C. to be lit in a ceremony on the U. S. Capitol lawn. This year, for the first time, this tree will come from Virginia. The Capitol Holiday Tree Steering Committee is hoping to have a series of ceremonies across the state as the tree is transported to Washington. The Steering Committee has invited Wytheville to be one of the celebration stops along the route. The Steering Committee has also sent us a questionnaire so that they can determine if there are sufficient resources here that the entourage can stop overnight and protect the tree. We have responded to this questionnaire, and would imagine that we will be hearing from the Committee in the very near future. If Wytheville is chosen as a stopping point, we will necessarily need to plan some type of community celebration. We will bring more details to the Council once they are available.

Jacqueline K. King

John W. Jones, Jr.

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