

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2004, AT 7:00 P.M.**

Members present: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, John W. Jones, Jr., William B. Weisiger, H. Judson Lambert

Members absent: None

Others present: Town Manager C. Wayne Sutherland, Jr., Town Clerk Sharon P. Hackler, Assistant Town Manager Stephen A. Moore, Town Attorney Robert P. Kaase, Patrol Officer Chris Irvin, Stephanie Porter-Nichols with Wytheville Enterprise, H. S. Ingo, Edwin Wilson, Douglas Cassell, Ernest 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. The invocation was given by Councilman Weisiger followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Lambert.

**RE: CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Crewe presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 8, 2004. 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 November 8, 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, H. Judson Lambert. Against: None.

**RE: PUBLIC HEARING – WILSON/PARCELL SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT**

Mayor Crewe stated the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider the request of Mr. Ernest Wilson, on behalf of Charles and Karen Parcell, for a special exception permit for an accessory structure on a lot without a primary residence at 450 Tremough Drive, which is located on the south side of Tremough Drive between North Fourth Street and the end of Tremough Drive, in an R-2 Residential District. He noted in the package, the Council has the minutes and the recommendation from the Planning Commission. Mayor Crewe advised that the Council will consider this matter later in the agenda. He stated he is not suggesting that anyone has to, but if anyone would like to speak, the Council will be glad to hear from anyone who would like to address the Council on this issue. Mayor Crewe advised that there are several citizens attending the meeting regarding this matter.

Mr. Edwin Wilson was recognized and stated he owns the property next to the lot in question. He remarked that he can understand Mr. Ernest Wilson wanting to rezone the property so it can be sold, and as he spoke to the Planning Commission, he would like to see or have some assurance that there will not be any more buildings or anything else added to that property and it will be properly maintained until there is a residence built on it. Mr. Wilson advised he does not want to see the property become a place to store equipment. He remarked that if the land is sold, there is property there that will have to be stored somewhere. Mr. Wilson thanked the Council for listening to his concerns. Mayor Crewe thanked Mr. Wilson for his comments and advised he thinks Mr. Wilson will hear those issues addressed. He noted that Mr. Wilson is aware of the Planning Commission's recommendation that had some stipulations to address those concerns. He explained that this will be coming before the Town Council, and they will consider it later in the meeting. Mayor Crewe stated that Mr. Wilson's concerns are valid, and they have been addressed heretofore, and noted he thinks these concerns will also be addressed at this Council meeting.

Mayor Crewe inquired if there are others who wish to address the Council during the public hearing. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

**RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD**

Mayor Crewe noted the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. He remarked that on the sign up sheet, he did not see anyone who had indicated that they wanted to address the Council, unless he missed someone. Mayor Crewe advised that Mr. H. S. Ingo had indicated that he desired to address the Town Council, and the Council will be glad to hear from him.

Mr. H. S. Ingo was recognized and stated he lives at 450 West Ridge Road, which is near the hospital. He advised that there is a property that has not been maintained that borders his land in the back. Mr. Ingo indicated that in the five years he has been back in Wytheville, it has not been mowed one time. He remarked that it has become an animal refuge. Mr. Ingo stated the reason he is attending the meeting is mainly because the other night, he had a fox in the backyard that came off of this property. He pointed out that he has two small children that are ages two and five that play in their yard. Mr. Ingo stated he has a lot of concern for them being out in the yard without one of their parents. He noted he also has two elderly neighbors that are in their 80's that do not move too well. Mr. Ingo explained that his concern is the animal may be rabid. He noted they have had foxes, obviously, and possums, skunks, and groundhog problems that they have met with animal control regarding, and Mr. Scott has been very helpful in trying to take control of this problem. Mr. Ingo advised that they have had deer in the past year in this area, and it is grown up. He noted it is the old Simmerman place that is grown up and has not been mowed. Mr. Ingo noted that they mowed the top part of the property toward the hospital, but it has not been maintained at all. He advised that as he has stated, since the five years he has been in Wytheville, he knows it is a problem his mother has dealt with since she owned the property, and that has been over 20 years. Mr. Ingo advised that a doctor in town owns the property. He stated he would like to see something done in order for them to be able to keep the animals out. Mr. Ingo noted that they tried to maintain their property, and they do have outbuildings that something could get up underneath and dig a hole, which it has in the past. He advised that they had a groundhog, and stated his next door neighbor is a relative, the Cappybargers' house, and they have had wharf rat problems this past year that were coming from out of the field. He noted there are some old structures that sit on this property that animals are going into and coming back out. Mr. Ingo summarized that they have a major animal problem in their backyard. Mayor Crewe requested Mr. Ingo to give him his address again. Mr. Ingo answered that he lives at 450 West Ridge Road. Vice-Mayor King stated that Mr. Ingo lives two houses down from the location of Dr. Amanda Brewer-Smith. Mayor Crewe inquired if Mr. Ingo stated the property is on the backside of his land. Mr. Ingo stated that is correct, and this land borders the back of his property. Vice-Mayor King noted that she believes Dr. Deal owns this land. Mr. Ingo stated that is correct. Town Manager Sutherland stated it is between the hospital and Mr. Ingo's property. Mayor Crewe remarked that he was thinking if it does not have a street, it would face the hospital, and it actually comes to the hospital drive. Mr. Ingo noted that there is a right of way between the Cappybargers and Amanda Brewer-Smith's property. He stated that as he has noted, the fox concerned him more than the other animals. Mr. Ingo stated that with the other animals, Mr. Scott has been helpful taking care of them. He noted they have not stopped the animals, obviously, but when there is a fox in the backyard, this gets him a little more concerned. Town Manager Sutherland inquired if the Public Works Committee can review the matter. Mayor Crewe advised that the Public Works Committee could review this situation. He noted that, obviously, Mr. Ingo is aware of where the property is located and has been there, but noted if he remembers correctly, it is rather steep in the back, and inquired if there is an issue with the grade of it. Mr. Ingo interjected that the land is flat. Town Manager Sutherland noted there is flat and steep land and advised that there are also large trees on the property. Mayor Crewe advised that one time the Town had an issue with a drainage pond. Town Manager Sutherland explained that Cedar Run goes through this property, and there are some topography problems, but the Town can view the property. Mayor Crewe stated that the Town will view the property, and the Council appreciates Mr. Ingo bringing this matter to the Council's attention. Mr. Ingo thanked the Council for their consideration of this matter. Town Manager Sutherland informed Mr. Ingo that the Public Works Committee will not meet again until December 7. Mr. Ingo noted that is acceptable. Mayor Crewe noted that the Public Works Committee members, who are seated to his right, are Councilmen Weisiger and Lambert. He remarked that they would normally meet on Tuesday, but they are not meeting tomorrow because of the Thanksgiving holiday. Mr. Ingo noted that he understands, and he just wanted to bring the Council's attention to this matter and this has been his first opportunity, and remarked that he appreciates the Council's help. Mayor Crewe thanked Mr. Ingo for attending the meeting and for bringing this matter to the Council's attention.

Mayor Crewe inquired if there are others who wished to address the Town 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 Public Works Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee will not be meeting this week, which is November 23 and November 25. Likewise, next week, the two Committees will not be meeting since it is the fifth week of a month, which is November 30 and December 2. The Municipal Offices will be closed on Thursday and Friday of this week for the Thanksgiving holidays.

2. Next Monday evening, the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce will hold their annual dinner meeting followed by the Joint Governing Bodies meeting. On their itinerary, the Joint Governing Bodies meeting is scheduled for 8:00 p.m. Councilman Weisiger noted if anyone is only going to attend the Joint Governing Bodies meeting, it is scheduled for 8:00 p.m. Town Manager Sutherland stated this is the tentative scheduled time for the meeting.
3. The annual Christmas parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 4, 2004.
4. Mayor Crewe noted he has a very nice thank you letter addressed to the Town Council from Town Clerk Hackler to express her appreciation for the recognition the Council gave her for achieving her Master Municipal Clerk designation. He stated this thank you letter is available for anyone who would like to see it. Mayor Crewe thanked Town Clerk Hackler for her letter.

#### **RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Councilman Jones, reporting for the Budget and Finance Committee, stated that at the last meeting of Council, there were several changes to fees associated with the use of the Town water and sewer systems. He stated as the Council will recall, these changes involved an increase in the rates for consumption of water and sewer, changes to connection fees, increases in the "on/off" charges, and the imposition of an availability fee. Councilman Jones advised that as the Council will recall, the availability fee will be imposed on multiple family dwelling units where the developer chooses to master meter the water consumption in lieu of individual meters for each dwelling unit. He explained what was intended, and was not clear in the Committee's last report, is that, likewise, an availability fee would be imposed for each additional sewer line beyond one. Councilman Jones stated that imposition of availability on the sewer is completely similar to the procedures the Committee outlined last week with regard to availability fees where an availability fee of \$2,500 would be imposed unless the developer chose to install individual sewer lines to each dwelling unit. He advised that the Committee regrets if their report was not clear, but it was the intent that the availability fee be imposed on both water and sewer. Mayor Crewe advised that he believes from the discussions that the Public Works Committee held is this was their understanding that this was the way it was to be, but if anyone has any disagreements, they could discuss those. Town Manager Sutherland remarked that he would note for the Budget and Finance Committee that Councilman Lambert had suggested that the Town do some other types of calculations, and they will be reviewing those in December. Mayor Crewe stated that addressing the issue that is coming from the Budget and Finance Committee, he believes everyone understood it was imposed on both water and sewer, and he does not think there is any disagreement about that so the Town can go forward on that basis until they make the other calculations.

Councilman Jones also reported that in recent years, the use of cremations for deceased persons has become more widely used than ever before. He explained that as a result, the Town has received a number of inquiries with regard to how many cremain vaults can be placed in a grave space or niche at the mausoleum. Councilman Jones advised that the Committee has reviewed this matter and would recommend that the following be considered as an amendment to the Cemetery regulations under Section 5-3(a). He noted that the proposed amendments are as follows: "All interments in a grave space may have only one of the following: (1) One full-sized vault (adult or child more than one year old) and one cremain vault, exclusive of the mausoleum; (2) Two cremain vaults, inclusive of the mausoleum; (3) Two infant (child less than one year old) vaults, inclusive of the mausoleum; (4) One infant vault and one cremain vault, inclusive of the mausoleum." Councilman Jones remarked that if the Council concurs, the Committee would suggest that this matter be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of Council and considered in ordinance form. He stated that also, the Committee thinks it may be worthwhile to forward this proposed amendment to the local funeral directors to determine if they have any additional input that the Committee may need to consider. Mayor Crewe remarked that his understanding of the Public Works Committee meeting is that they are in agreement with this. Councilman Weisiger stated that is correct. Mayor Crewe advised that the Council will place this matter on the next meeting agenda as proposed. A copy of the Budget and Finance Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes. ([Attachment](#)).

#### **RE: PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Councilman Weisiger, reporting for the Public Works Committee, reported that the New River Regional Water Authority met on Thursday afternoon, and they thought it may be helpful to the Council to give an update on the matters before the Authority. He stated the Authority continued to discuss the resolution that had been received from the Carroll County Board of Supervisors indicating its desire to withdraw from the Authority. Councilman Weisiger

indicated that as the Council knows, the Authority was created jointly among the Counties of Wythe and Carroll and the Town of Wytheville, and the intended purpose of the regional water authority was to provide future water supplies to all three localities. He explained that Carroll County indicated that its reasons for wanting to withdraw from the Authority were financially related, and, also, because they were negotiating with the City of Galax to obtain water from them. Councilman Weisiger advised that withdrawal of any of the entities from the Authority requires the approval of all three participating jurisdictions as well as approval by the Authority itself. He noted that Carroll County has now indicated its willingness to reconsider its former position to the extent that it would remain a member of the Authority and merely not be an immediate participant in the water plant expansion. Councilman Weisiger explained that under this scenario, Carroll County would have the opportunity to obtain water from the Authority after it funded the improvements needed to the system to accommodate their needs. He stated the Committee would suspect that these discussions with Carroll County will be ongoing for a number of months. Councilman Weisiger remarked that secondly, the Authority heard an update about the engineering plans for the water treatment plant and the associated transmission lines. He advised it appears that the Authority's engineering firm, Peed & Bortz, should have the design for the water treatment plant completed by late summer of 2005. Councilman Weisiger stated that sometime thereafter, assuming that loan and/or grant funds can be obtained, the water treatment plant could be placed to bid as early as next fall. He advised this may be somewhat optimistic given the current environment with some of the state and federal funding agencies. Councilman Weisiger stated that since the Committee serves as members on the Authority, they will continue to give the Council updates on the Authority's actions.

Councilman Weisiger also reported that a project that is related to the Town's work on the New River Regional Water Authority is the extension of the water line along Chapman Road from a point near Edgemont Center eastwardly to the corporate limit lines. He advised that this section of line will be the final section of line to connect both the Town's and County's water systems. Councilman Weisiger stated this project also involves the extension of a water line beneath I-81 to the south side of Progress Park. He remarked that the Town made application to the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission for grant funds for engineering services, and, fortunately, the Town's request was approved. Councilman Weisiger noted that the Planning District Commission has awarded funds equivalent to the engineering fees for this project. He stated that the Town has now negotiated and executed a contract with the engineering firm of Peed & Bortz to design this section of line. Councilman Weisiger advised that the Town would anticipate that the design will be completed within the next few months, and the Town would be in a position to bid the project by spring of 2005. He remarked that the Town has also made application to Rural Development for project funding, which will be in the magnitude of \$800,000. Councilman Weisiger stated that this and many of the other improvements the Town has been making to its water system are integral to the plan for a regional water system. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes. ([Attachment](#)).

#### **RE: APPOINTMENTS– RECREATION COMMISSION**

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is consideration of the recommendation of the Wytheville Recreation Commission regarding the appointments to the Recreation Commission to fill the expiring terms of Mr. Alan Wilder, Mr. Danny Sowers, and Ms. Kelly Sisti whose terms expire December 31, 2004. He noted the Council has in their packet the information from the Recreation Commission that recommends the reappointment of Mr. Danny Sowers and Ms. Kelly Sisti and the appointment of Mr. David Harrison to the Recreation Commission. Mayor Crewe advised that the Council has the letter, and these members' terms expire at the end of December. He noted the Council can wait to make the appointments or they can make them at this meeting. Mayor Crewe remarked that the Council has another meeting before their terms expire. Vice-Mayor King stated that as the liaison for the Recreation Commission, she would make a motion to reappoint Mr. Danny Sowers and Ms. Kelly Sisti and appoint Mr. David Harrison to the Recreation Commission. The motion was seconded by Councilman Weisiger. Mayor Crewe advised that these appointments would be for three-year terms. 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, H. Judson Lambert. Against: None.

#### **RE: APPOINTMENTS – WYTHEVILLE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is the consideration of appointments to the Wytheville Industrial Development Authority to fill the expiring terms of Mr. Lewis Shelton and Mr. Jimmy Smith whose terms expire December 12, 2004. He advised that Mr. Shelton is not eligible for reappointment. A motion was made by Councilman Jones to reappoint Mr. Jimmy Smith and appoint Ms. Nancy Hawk to the Wytheville Industrial Development Authority.

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, H. Judson Lambert. Against: None.

**RE: SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT – WILSON/PARCELL**

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is the issuance of a special exception permit for an accessory structure on a lot without a primary residence at 450 Tremough Drive, which is located on the south side of Tremough Drive between North Fourth Street and the end of Tremough Drive, in an R-2 Residential District. He noted that so the audience will be aware and to address Mr. Edwin Wilson's concerns, this is not a rezoning, but it is a special exception permit. He advised the recommendation from the Planning Commission is that the special exception permit be granted with five stipulations. Mayor Crewe noted the first stipulation is the Town confirm that the new lot line would be placed so the other accessory structure and the residence are conforming with respect to setbacks, etc. He explained that he thinks the reason for this is, if the Council noticed in the plat they received, the building seems to be very close to the lot line. Mayor Crewe advised that the second stipulation is the special exception permit is granted only to Charles and Karen Parcell and is nontransferable. He noted this special exception permit would not apply to any subsequent purchaser. Mayor Crewe remarked that the third stipulation is the Council reserves the right to review the property annually to assure that the accessory structure is kept in good condition and there is not an accumulation of junk or debris around the structure. He noted the fourth stipulation is the accessory building cannot be expanded without the approval of a special exception permit. Mayor Crewe explained that the building will have to stay the exact same size without any increase. He noted the fifth stipulation is that failure to comply with these conditions shall be grounds for rescinding this special exception permit. Mayor Crewe summarized that this is the recommendation from the Planning Commission. A motion was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Councilman Weisiger to approve the issuance of a special exception permit for an accessory structure on a lot without a primary residence at 450 Tremough Drive, which is located on the south side of Tremough Drive between North Fourth Street and the end of Tremough Drive, in an R-2 Residential District, with the stipulations as recommended by the Wytheville Planning Commission. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the motion. He noted that what he was pointing out, and if he understands Mr. Edwin Wilson's concerns, stipulations #3 and #4 address those concerns. Mayor Crewe advised that if the Council grants the recommendation, the Parcels would have a special exception permit, but they cannot enlarge the accessory structure and it has to be kept in good condition. He noted they will not be allowed to permit debris, etc. to accumulate around the structure. Mayor Crewe stated he thinks these stipulations are in the special exception permit to address the concerns that Mr. Edwin Wilson raised. Councilman Jones pointed out that the Town will be checking the property at least yearly. Mayor Crewe advised that is correct, and this is so it will not go undetected. He inquired if there is any other discussion on the motion. Mayor Crewe also noted that the Council will give anyone in the audience an opportunity to discuss this matter at this time. He stated he thinks the Council has addressed these concerns, but he wants to ensure that everyone has been given an opportunity to be heard. There being no further discussion, 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, H. Judson Lambert. Against: None.

**RE: DISPENSING WITH DECEMBER 27, 2004, MEETING**

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is to consider dispensing with the regular meeting of December 27, 2004, due to the Christmas holidays. He noted the second meeting is the Monday after Christmas, and, in the past, the Council has dispensed with the second meeting in December. Mayor Crewe inquired if anyone has a problem with dispensing with the December 27 meeting. He noted that if necessary, the Council can call an emergency meeting. It was the consensus of the Council to dispense with the December 27, 2004, Council meeting.

**RE: CAPITOL CHRISTMAS TREE CELEBRATION**

Mayor Crewe stated he would reiterate that the Town had a nice presentation this evening while the Capitol Christmas Tree was in town. He noted he would commend Director of Public Information/Tourism Rosa Jude for all her efforts with the celebration. Mayor Crewe stated he would also like to thank Mr. Kenneth Johnson who designed the Town ornament that was really pretty and well received.

**RE: COMMUNITY CENTER BID OPENING**

Mayor Crewe stated he believes everyone received the information, but last week, Town

staff opened the bids for the new Community Center. He remarked that he thinks it is a fair statement that the bids were within the realm of projections and not out of line with what the Town expected. Mayor Crewe remarked that the bids ranged from a low of \$13,723,000 to a high of \$17.8 million. He stated there were seven competitive bids, and that was a good thing. Mayor Crewe noted that the Council thinks the bids were in the realm of reasonableness. Councilman Weisiger inquired if the Town has awarded the bid. Town Manager Sutherland noted that the bid has not been awarded. He explained that the process will now have evaluation requirements. Town Manager Sutherland advised that the bids were "clean" and this bidder was clearly the low bidder, and the architects will have to go through a tabulation and assess their bid to ensure it is in proper form, etc., and make a recommendation to the Town. He noted that all of this information has to be sent to Rural Development, and reiterated that there is a process the Town will have to follow. Town Manager Sutherland stated that Mayor Crewe is correct in that the bids were very competitive. He remarked that there were four contractors within a few hundred thousand dollars of each other. Town Manager Sutherland summarized that there were very competitive bids. Mayor Crewe advised that Rural Development was present when the bids were opened, so the process is ongoing. He reiterated that Rural Development was involved when the bids were opened.

**RE: VETERANS DAY CEREMONY**

Councilman Jones advised that the Veterans Day Ceremony was excellent, and there was a very good speaker. Mayor Crewe stated the speaker did a very good job, and the Town was glad to have him.

**RE: ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting. (7:30 p.m.).

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Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Mayor

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Sharon P. Hackler, MMC, Clerk of Council

## **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**NOVEMBER 22, 2004**

1. At the last meeting of Council, there were several changes to fees associated with the use of the Town water and sewer systems. As you will recall, these changes involved an increase in the rates for consumption of water and sewer, changes to connection fees, increases in the “on/off” charges, and the imposition of an availability fee. As you will recall, the availability fee will be imposed on multiple family dwelling units where the developer chooses to master meter the water consumption in lieu of individual meters for each dwelling unit. What was intended, and was not clear in our last report, is that, likewise, an availability fee would be imposed for each additional sewer line beyond one. Imposition of availability on the sewer is completely similar to the procedures we outlined last week with regard to availability fees where an availability fee of \$2,500 would be imposed unless the developer chose to install individual sewer lines to each dwelling unit. We regret if our report was not clear, but it was the intent that the availability fee be imposed on both water and sewer.
2. In recent years, the use of cremations for deceased persons has become more widely used than ever before. As a result, we have received a number of inquiries with regard to how many cremain vaults can be placed in a grave space or niche at the mausoleum. We have reviewed this matter and would

recommend that the following be considered as an amendment to the Cemetery Regulations under Section 5-3 (a). The proposed amendments are as follows:

*All interments in a grave space may have only one of the following:*

1. *One full-sized vault (adult or child more than one year old) and one cremain vault, exclusive of the mausoleum*
2. *Two cremain vaults, inclusive of the mausoleum*
3. *Two infant (child less than one year old) vaults, inclusive of the mausoleum*
4. *One infant vault and one cremain vault, inclusive of the mausoleum*

If the Council concurs, we would suggest that this matter be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of Council and considered in ordinance form. Also, we think it may be worthwhile to forward this proposed amendment to the local funeral directors to determine if they have any additional input that we may need to consider.

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Jacqueline K. King

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John W. Jones, Jr.

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**NOVEMBER 22, 2004**

1. XXXRecently, our Committee received an inquiry seeking to restrict parking on Main Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets to a 2-hour limit. Currently, the 2-hour parking limits on Main Street extend from 6<sup>th</sup> Street to 5<sup>th</sup> Street. We have reviewed this inquiry and find that virtually all of the commercial establishments on East Main Street between 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets have off-street parking facilities. There are also several residences along Main Street who do not have any off-street parking. In reviewing the matter, we do not believe that current conditions warrant these new restrictions, and, therefore, it would be the recommendation of our Committee that we not restrict parking in this area at the present time. We do think, however, that commercial establishments in this area would be well served to install directional signs noting that they have off-street parking available to their customers.
2. At the last meeting of Council, a concerned citizen inquired about the practice of the Town to dispose of brush and leaves collected in the pick up programs by burning these materials at the old landfill. Our Committee has begun a review of our current practices and has, in fact, been making contacts with other communities to determine the procedures they use in the disposal of brush and leaves. Thus far, we have found that communities are doing a variety of things, though many communities continue to dispose of their brush by the use of fire. There are a number of alternatives available, such as

chipping the materials, mixing chippings with sewage sludge, creating mulch, etc., but all of these are relatively expensive to operate and would require additional equipment and labor. We also have been made aware of certain devices that are used where burning programs are conducted. This equipment essentially involves the use of a rather large fan unit that intensifies the burning of the brush to the point where it minimizes any smoke that is generated by the burning. We have asked our Public Works Department to gather information about this type of equipment. We would note, also, that we plan to contact other communities, but have found that some communities limit the amount of brush that they collect while some communities impose a charge for the collection of brush. We think our brush/leaf collection program is one of the most valued services to our citizens and would not want, in any way, to limit this program. In any event, our Committee will continue to study the alternatives that we have available for the disposal of brush and leaves.

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William B. Weisiger

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H. Judson Lambert