

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2006, AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

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, Police Officer Chris Irvin, Justin Harmon with Wytheville Enterprise, Dale Hartley, Gerald Holt, Linda Holt, Police First Sergeant Joel Hash, Police Sergeant Dewey Clemons, Patrol Officer John Claypool, Chief Harry Ayers, Patrol Officer Heath Hyatt, Investigator Wade Whisman, Patrol Officer Joe Posillico, Fire Engineer Kathy Anderson, Captain Rick Arnold

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 Vice-Mayor King followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Jones.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Crewe presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 9, 2006, and the request of the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce to conduct the annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. and to close the municipal parking lot. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Jones to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 9, 2006, and the request of the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce to conduct the annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. and to close the municipal parking lot. 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., H. Judson Lambert. Against: None.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Crewe stated the next item on the agenda is Citizens' Period.

Mayor Crewe noted he would like to recognize Sheriff Gerald S. Holt with Roanoke County to make a presentation to the Police Department for their reaccreditation. He indicated that, obviously, there are several of the Town Police Officers attending this meeting. Mayor Crewe advised that on behalf of the Town Council, he would like to congratulate the Police Department on what they are about to receive, and he acknowledged that it is extremely hard work that the whole department has done, and the Council is proud of them. He thanked Sheriff Holt for attending the meeting. He acknowledged Mrs. Holt and advised that the Council is also glad to have her attending the Council meeting. Sheriff Holt noted that it is his pleasure to be attending the Council meeting. He indicated that he is the Sheriff of Roanoke County, which is a few miles north of Wytheville. Sheriff Holt advised that he is attending the meeting representing the Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission to recognize Chief Ayers and his staff of the Wytheville Police Department. He requested Chief Ayers and his staff to come forward for the presentation. Sheriff Holt noted that this is for the reaccreditation of the Wytheville Police Department. He stated that the Wytheville Police Department came before the Virginia Law Enforcement Professional Standards Commission on May 25, 2006, and has met the requirements set forth by the said Commission, and it is, therefore, certified as a reaccredited agency of the Virginia Law Enforcement Accreditation. Sheriff Holt advised that he would like to congratulate the Police Department for all of the hard work they have put into this. He remarked that they are second to none, and the Town of Wytheville can be extremely proud of the professionalism that is exhibited by their Police Department. Sheriff Holt noted that the Commission does recognize the support that any law enforcement agency gets from their locality, the government, the Town Manager, and the Council. He pointed out that without the Council's support, it would be very difficult for any department to accomplish this. Sheriff Holt indicated that the Council should take credit for assistance with the Police Department. He advised he is very much impressed just with the rapport he saw waiting for the Council meeting to begin between the officers and Council personnel coming in and the Town Manager. Sheriff Holt remarked that with this, it is his pleasure to recognize Chief Ayers and his staff for the

reaccreditation program. Mayor Crewe thanked Sheriff Holt for taking the time to come to Wytheville for the presentation. Sheriff Holt advised that it was his pleasure to attend the meeting. Mayor Crewe noted that he is aware that this is no small accomplishment for the team and the Police Department, and the Town Council congratulates them, particularly on the reaccreditation. He advised that the first time to achieve the accreditation is tough, but the second time is tough also. Mayor Crewe indicated that he knows a lot of hard work went into the reaccreditation, and advised he knows there are a lot of details, files, and recordkeeping that were examined and very thoroughly questioned. He reiterated that the Council is proud of the Police Department. Mayor Crewe inquired if Chief Ayers would like to state anything, but noted he is not required to speak. Chief Ayers stated he would like to thank the Town Council for their support, and noted he appreciated Sheriff Holt making the long trip to Wytheville to make the presentation. Chief Ayers noted that he would like to thank the Police Department because without them doing their job, they would not receive the reaccreditation. He advised that he would like to thank the team. Chief Ayers noted that Captain Rick Arnold has a few words he would like to state. Captain Arnold indicated that the main point that he wanted to make with this reaccreditation is that there were 180 standards and 480 different issues that the Police Department had to address. He noted the assessment team that came in was very critical of everything they did, and they only found two things wrong with their files. Captain Arnold indicated that the Police Department thought this was fantastic because there were other agencies that were having 20 and 30 things they had to address during their accreditation. He reiterated that they were happy with only two things being found wrong. Captain Arnold advised that he would like to recognize Sergeant Clemons and Sergeant Hash for their hard work, as well as Officer John Claypool. He indicated that they picked Officer Claypool during the last six or seven months of the program to help run down things for them, and he did an excellent job. Captain Arnold advised that Sergeant Hash was the focus point during the whole four years because while they were all doing other things, he and Sergeant Hash would converse with each other during the four years about the files they needed to work on, and Sergeant Hash set up the files and the folders and started collecting the information that was going to need to be put into the folders when they did what they had to do. Captain Arnold remarked that for this, they are going to recognize Sergeant Hash, and he is now a First Sergeant for the department, which became effective last Wednesday. He noted one of First Sergeant Hash's main duties is to continue with the professional standards, and he will also be supplementing the supervision of evening shift. Mayor Crewe congratulated First Sergeant Joel Hash. He also expressed his congratulations to the entire department. He noted that the Council appreciates the Police Department's efforts. Mayor Crewe inquired if anyone else would like to speak. He noted that the Town Council is very proud of the Police Department. Mayor Crewe reiterated that he knows what kind of hard work this was and he saw some of the inspections, some of the questions that were asked, some of the things that they were looking at, and some of the things that went through going in and out of headquarters. Chief Ayers advised that he would also like to thank the other Town departments. He stated that he knows the Engineering Department did a lot of signs, as well as the Town shop, and everyone did a lot of things for them. Mayor Crewe noted that it was everyone working together, and stated that the Council appreciates the hard work. Chief Ayers reiterated his thanks to the other Town departments. Sheriff Holt indicated he would like to echo Captain Arnold's comments about only two standards that needed some adjustment. He remarked that this is highly unusual for any department going through the audit to only have two standards that need attention. Sheriff Holt pointed out that this is very, very unusual. He indicated that his department went through accreditation for the American Correction Association for their jail this past April, and he noted he thinks that out of 480+ standards, they had 16 they had to do some adjusting on. Sheriff Holt advised that this is pretty much normal, but for some reason, the Town of Wytheville really shined like a star. Mayor Crewe thanked Sheriff Holt for his comments and noted that the Council is proud of the Police Department. He reiterated his thanks to the Police Department and asked them to keep up the hard work. Mayor Crewe thanked Sheriff Holt for attending the meeting.

Mayor Crewe inquired if there were others who wish 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 will not meet on Tuesday, October 24, because Councilman Weisiger is out of town. The Budget and Finance Committee will meet on Thursday, October 26, of this week.
2. Next Monday evening, the Joint Governing Bodies will meet, and it is Wythe County's turn to host the meeting this year.

RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Jones, reporting for the Budget and Finance Committee, reported that for the past two meetings of Council, they have had a representative of the Friends of the Library who has been present to express concerns about funding problems which have resulted in the local library being closed on Mondays. He remarked that Wythe County met with representatives of the library board to seek a solution to the current problem. Councilman Jones advised that as they have indicated earlier, this topic will be addressed at the Joint Governing Bodies meeting next Monday evening, but it does appear that a method of dealing with the problem has been determined. He noted that the Town of Wytheville, along with the Town of Rural Retreat and the County of Wythe, will make cash contributions that will equal the required amount of funds that was identified by the library board to open the facility on Mondays. Councilman Jones explained that the amount of funding required of the Town of Wytheville will be approximately \$500 to be combined with funds from the County and Rural Retreat. He stated that Wythe County has advised it will make the exact calculation of funds required from each governing body, and it would be the Budget and Finance Committee's motion that the Council approve payment to the library provided that the final determined number is \$500 or less. A motion was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Vice-Mayor King that the Council approve payment to the library provided that the final determined number is \$500 or less to help keep the Wythe-Grayson Regional Library open on Mondays. 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., H. Judson Lambert. Against: None.

Councilman Jones also reported that by now, everyone should have received their real estate and personal property tax tickets for the year. He remarked that as the town citizens will note, the tax tickets this year are slightly different than those they have received from the Town in prior years, but resemble the tax tickets issued by Wythe County. Councilman Jones stated that this year, for the first time, the Town contracted with a private vendor to print the tax tickets, and this service also provides a return envelope for taxpayers if they should desire to use it. He remarked that the Committee would note that the Town's tax rate remains the same as it was the previous year. Councilman Jones explained that Town taxes are due on or before December 15. He noted that any citizen who has not received their tax tickets should contact the Treasurer's Office. Mayor Crewe remarked that he knows the Town has heard from some citizens who received their tax tickets, but advised he is unsure if the Town has heard from anyone who has not received their tax tickets. A copy of the Budget and Finance Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes. ([Attachment](#)).

RE: PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Lambert, reporting for the Public Works Committee, stated now that autumn has finally arrived and the leaves are turning and starting to fall, the Town has had several inquiries with regard to its annual leaf collection program. He advised that though the vast majority of leaves have not yet fallen, Town forces began last week to collect leaves at curbside as they are deposited. Councilman Lambert noted that, obviously, over the next several weeks, the volume of leaves that will be collected will increase, and the collection efforts will be oriented to a street-by-street collection. He remarked that with regard to the leaf collection program, the Committee thinks it is important to remind town citizens about the policies of leaf collection. Councilman Lambert noted that in the leaf collection program that will be occurring over the next few months, citizens should rake leaves up to the side of the street, but not onto the edge of the street. He explained that the accumulation of large quantities of leaves in the street tends to create traffic hazards. Councilman Lambert advised that the Committee would also remind citizens that on some days, there are large volumes of brush and debris at curbside beyond leaves, and sometimes Town crews may be a day or two behind in collecting all of these wastes. He noted that any citizen who has specific questions should contact the Town Office. Mayor Crewe requested that anyone who has questions to please let the Town know. He indicated that, again, he has seen a lot of leaves piled in the street. Mayor Crewe noted that the Town is trying to remind people to take the leaves to the curb but not out into the street.

Councilman Lambert also reported that the Committee thought it may be helpful to give the Council an update on activities of the New River Regional Water Authority. He noted that the Authority has continued to move forward on the construction of a four million gallon per day water treatment facility at Austinville. Councilman Lambert indicated that the new treatment facility will process water that is drawn from the New River and will provide water to Wythe County, Carroll County and the Town of Wytheville. He explained that over the summer, the site for the facility has been acquired, and there are only a few remaining easements that need to be obtained. Councilman Lambert remarked that the Authority has received a loan of \$13,900,000 from the Virginia Resources Authority that will be used for the development of these new water

treatment facilities. He stated that this past week, the Authority interviewed firms who will perform all of the computer and other monitoring systems that will be required in the new facility. Councilman Lambert indicated that the new water treatment facility will necessarily need to have lines of communication with all pump stations, storage tanks, and the Wytheville Water Treatment facility. He noted that currently, it is anticipated that advertisements for the construction of the new water treatment facility will be issued on November 5, and, at present, it is anticipated that the bids for the new water treatment facility will be opened December 19. Councilman Lambert indicated that the construction of the new facility will require twenty to twenty-four months once the contract is awarded. He stated that at this time, there are no additional actions that need to be taken by the Council, but the Committee did want to provide the Council with an overview of the progress to date. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes. ([Attachment](#)).

RE: APPOINTMENT – RECREATION COMMISSION

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is to consider the recommendation of the Recreation Commission for an appointment of a youth member. He noted that the Recreation Commission recommends the appointment of Benjamin Irvin to a one year term that will expire September 30, 2007. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Jones to appoint Benjamin Irvin as a youth member to the Recreation Commission for a one year term. 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., H. Judson Lambert. Against: None.

RE: PLANNING AND ZONING CONFERENCE

Councilman Jones stated he would like to thank the Council for allowing the Planning Commission members to attend their training on October 8, 9, 10. He noted that the conference offered excellent sessions. Mayor Crewe remarked that the Council appreciates the Planning Commission members attending the conference.

RE: VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

Vice-Mayor King noted that the Virginia Municipal League meeting in Virginia Beach was also good. Mayor Crewe stated that the Council received a lot of good information at this meeting.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:20 p.m.).

Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Mayor

Sharon P. Hackler, MMC, Clerk of Council

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

OCTOBER 23, 2006

1. For the past two meetings of Council, we have had a representative of the Friends of the Library who has been present to express concerns about funding problems which have resulted in the local library being closed on Mondays. Wythe County met with representatives of the library board to seek a solution to the current problem. As we had indicated earlier, this topic will be addressed at the Joint Governing Bodies meeting next Monday evening, but it does appear that a method of dealing with the problem has been determined. The Town of Wytheville, along with the Town of Rural Retreat and the County of Wythe, will make cash contributions that will equal the required amount of funds that was identified by the library board to open the facilities on Mondays. The amount of funding required of the Town of Wytheville will be approximately \$500 to be combined with funds from the County and Rural Retreat. Wythe County has advised that it will make the exact calculation of the funds required from each governing body, and it would be our motion that we approve payment to the library provided that the final determined number is \$500 or less.
2. By now, everyone should have received their real estate and personal property tax tickets for the year. As town citizens will note, the tax tickets this year are slightly different than those they have received from the Town in prior years, but resemble the tax tickets issued by Wythe County. This year, for the first time, the

Town contracted with a private vendor to print the tax tickets, and this service also provides a return envelope for taxpayers if they should desire to use it. We would note that the Town's tax rate remains the same as it was the previous year. Town taxes are due on or before December 15. Any citizen who has not received their tax tickets should contact the Treasurer's Office.

Jacqueline K. King

John W. Jones, Jr.

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PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

OCTOBER 23, 2006

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William B. Weisiger

H. Judson Lambert