

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2008, 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., Assistant Town Manager Stephen A. Moore, Town Clerk Sharon P. Hackler, Town Attorney Robert P. Kaase, Police Officer Tommy Lester, Police Officer Bradley Boggs, Danny Gordon with WYVE/WXBX, Wayne Quesenberry with *Wytheville Enterprise*, John Manuel, E. F. Warren, Agnes Eades, Patricia Manuel, Patrick Umberger

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 May 27, 2008. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Lambert to accept the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of May 27, 2008. 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 – BUDGET ORDINANCE

Mayor Crewe stated the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider the Budget Ordinance for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, and ending on June 30, 2009. He noted there is no one on the sign up sheets who indicated they wanted to address the Council regarding the Budget Ordinance. Mayor Crewe inquired if there are persons present who wished to address the Council during the public hearing. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING – UMBERGER REZONING

Mayor Crewe stated the meeting, likewise, constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider the request of Patrick Umberger to rezone a portion of property located at 2045 West Lee Highway, which is located on the south side of West Lee Highway between West End Cemetery and Petunia Road, from R-1 Residential to B-2 Business. He noted he is not suggesting that Mr. Umberger has to speak, but if he would like to speak, the Council would be glad to hear from him. Mayor Crewe thanked him for attending the meeting.

Mr. Patrick Umberger was recognized and stated he is the property owner. He noted he would be glad to answer any questions anyone may have about the proposed rezoning. Mayor Crewe stated that the Council will ask questions later when this matter is considered on the agenda. He explained that, currently, the public hearing is to hear from anyone who has concerns, and the Council will address them later in the meeting. Mr. Umberger advised that the only thing he would like to bring up is in the ordinance, it is required that he plant a line of cypress trees from the lesser use property to the higher use property, if he develops it. He noted the only request he has is that two sides of this property already have existing tree lines of 25-30 feet trees, and it seems like a shame to saw down a 20-inch tree to plant a 5-inch tree. Mr. Umberger explained that there is a boundary on the southernmost side of the property that would require a new tree line, but on the east and the west sides, there are already existing trees, and he would like for the Council to take that into consideration. Mayor Crewe indicated that the Council will talk about that later in the meeting. He inquired if those trees are on Mr. Umberger's side of the property line. Mr. Umberger advised that the trees are actually on both sides of the property line, and he would be sawing down half of the tree line to the property line and leaving the other 20 foot trees and planting a new tree line. He noted he thought he would bring this up for any discussion that anyone would have on this. Mayor Crewe thanked Mr. Umberger for his comments and for attending the meeting. He noted the Council will probably be asking Mr. Umberger more questions later in the meeting.

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

RE: MANUEL SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT

Mayor Crewe stated the meeting also constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider the request of Patricia R. Manuel for a special exception permit to maintain horses on property located at 190 Hillcrest Road, which is located on the north side of Hillcrest Road between Cove Road and Great Oaks Road, in an R-2 Residential District. He noted that, again, there is no one on the sign up sheets who indicated they desired to address the Council regarding this issue. Mayor Crewe inquired if there are persons present who wished to address the Council during the public hearing. There being none, he declared the public hearing closed.

Mayor Crewe noted that if someone shows up later in the meeting, he will reopen these public hearings if they desire to speak regarding these topics.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING – TOWNHOUSE REGULATIONS

Mayor Crewe stated the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider revisions to Article XVIII, Townhouses, of the Town of Wytheville Zoning Ordinance. He inquired if there are persons present who wished to address the Council during this public hearing. There being none, Mayor Crewe declared the public hearing closed.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. He stated that, likewise, he did not see anyone who desired to address the Council during Citizens' Period. Mayor Crewe inquired if there are persons present who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period. He thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Mayor Crewe advised that all of these items for which public hearings were held will be considered by the Council later in the agenda in the form of ordinances, etc. There being no one who desired to address the Council during Citizens' Period, Mayor Crewe proceeded with the agenda.

RE: OLD BUSINESS

Under Old Business, Town Manager Sutherland reported the following:

1. Both Council Committees will meet on their regular day and time this week.
2. The New River Regional Water Authority would usually meet next Thursday, June 19, but it has been rescheduled to Wednesday, June 11, at 9:00 a.m. There were some conflicts, and the meeting had to be rescheduled.
3. As of today, the Town has heard from the Town of Rural Retreat and Wythe County, and there will not be a Joint Governing Bodies meeting on June 30, 2008. Vice-Mayor King inquired if Town staff has notified Director of Public Information Rosa Jude that the meeting has been cancelled. Town Manager Sutherland stated Ms. Jude has been notified.

RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Jones, reporting for the Budget and Finance Committee, reported that later in the meeting, the proposed budget for fiscal year 2008-2009 will be considered on second reading. He advised that as the Committee has indicated previously, there are no new taxes or user fees in the proposed budget with the exception that there is a ten percent rate increase for water users who consume more than 3.5 million gallons per billing cycle. Councilman Jones explained that these rate increases will not be effective until January 1, 2009. He stated the revenues in the General Fund and the Water and Sewer Fund equal the operational and personnel expenses in both of those categories. Councilman Jones advised that there are approximately \$3 million in capital outlay projects that will be performed utilizing funds in reserve accounts. He stated it would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that the budget be approved on second reading with final consideration of the budget being at the June 23 meeting of Council. Mayor Crewe stated the Council will be considering the Budget Ordinance later in the meeting.

Councilman Jones also reported that for a number of months, the Virginia State Police, Wythe County, Bland County, and the Town of Wytheville have discussed the potential for consolidating dispatch services. He noted that currently, the dispatching for each of these

entities is performed by the individual locality and all receive E911 calls and cellular E911 calls. Councilman Jones explained that as technology advances, the ability to handle emergency phone calls, especially cellular phone calls, requires continual updating of equipment. He noted that this equipment is very expensive, and it is logical that expenditures could be reduced if consolidation did occur and this expensive equipment could be shared among the participants. Councilman Jones remarked that under this concept, a new facility would be constructed on the campus of the Virginia State Police in Wytheville that would house the dispatching operations of the Virginia State Police as well as those of the two Counties and the Town. He noted that in this past General Assembly session, local legislators submitted a budget amendment requesting \$3.2 million for this new facility. Councilman Jones advised that, unfortunately, the General Assembly did not approve these additional funds. He remarked that the Town has received a letter from Colonel Steve Flaherty, Superintendent with the Virginia State Police, advising that his agency continues to believe that a consolidation is worthwhile, and they will continue their efforts in receiving funds from the General Assembly. Councilman Jones noted that Colonel Flaherty also asked that each locality acknowledge if they wanted to proceed with this consolidation concept. He stated the Committee believes it is worthwhile for the Town to continue in the discussions of a consolidated dispatching. He stated that with or without the Virginia State Police or Bland County, it seems apparent that Wytheville and Wythe County will want to consolidate their dispatches in an effort to provide more efficient services and to reduce both of their expenses. Councilman Jones indicated that the Committee has directed the Town Manager to be a cosignatory to a letter with County Administrator Cellell Dalton to advise Colonel Flaherty that both jurisdictions continue to be interested in the project and want to persist in making this project come to fruition. He advised that nothing is required on the Council's part at this time, but the Committee did want to bring everyone up to date on the progress of these discussions. Mayor Crewe inquired if this letter has been sent to Colonel Flaherty. Town Manager Sutherland answered that the letter has been sent. 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 as everyone is aware, the State of Virginia is facing a near crisis with transportation funding. He noted that Governor Timothy M. Kaine has called for a special session of the General Assembly to address transportation. Councilman Weisiger remarked that Virginia currently faces a shortfall in highway maintenance funding, which drains money each year from dollars intended for road construction. He stated that most of the highway maintenance funding goes to addressing safety issues, and reduces the repair and operation of bridges, tunnels, traffic signals, and street lights as well as installation of guardrails and rumble strips and plowing and paving all of Virginia's highway system. Councilman Weisiger advised that in the new Six-Year Improvement Program, to be approved this month by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, local construction projects funded from the secondary roads and urban road budgets will be slashed by 44 percent. He noted if the maintenance problem is addressed, then the transfers from the new construction budget would not occur, thereby providing more money for local projects. He stated that Wytheville, like all other communities, has seen a decline in maintenance funding, and, as well, has waited many years beyond six for a number of important construction projects. Councilman Weisiger noted that having said that, the Committee thinks it is worthwhile for the Council to adopt a resolution memorializing the General Assembly to take some type of statewide action that will correct transportation funding in Virginia. He stated the resolution is attached, and it would be the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the resolution be adopted and forwarded to the appropriate members of the legislature. A motion was made by Councilman Weisiger and seconded by Councilman Lambert to adopt a resolution memorializing the General Assembly to take some type of statewide action that will correct transportation funding in Virginia and that the resolution be forwarded to the appropriate members of the legislature. Mayor Crewe stated that in relevant part, the resolution supports the efforts of the Governor and the General Assembly to act swiftly and decisively to approve legislation addressing the transportation and funding crisis at the statewide, regional, and local levels, and that it is the Commonwealth's responsibility to impose new taxes and fees and not the local governments, and that this funding should be restricted to ensuring safe roads, relieving traffic congestion, maintaining and increasing transit investments, and promoting economic development. 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.

Councilman Weisiger also reported that work on the various components of the water projects of the New River Regional Water Authority continues to be completed at a good pace. He stated the water treatment facility, itself, is now approximately 70 percent complete while the water line crossing the New River is 100 percent complete, and the new raw water intake station is about

98 percent complete. Councilman Weisiger advised that the contractual completion date is established as May 30, 2009, but because of the good progress of the contractor, it would appear that the plant will be completed several months in advance of the original projected date. He stated there are also some other projects that have to be constructed as a part of this regional water system. Councilman Weisiger noted that a new groundwater storage tank has to be constructed at a location in Fort Chiswell, and a new water line needs to be extended from the water treatment plant to the Carroll County line. He stated the groundwater storage tank has been designed, but not yet bid. Councilman Weisiger remarked that the Authority has also submitted an application to the Tobacco Indemnification Commission seeking \$2.5 million in grant funds for this regional water project. He stated it is clear that this new regional water facility is an important component of any of the Town's future industrial development activities. Councilman Weisiger pointed out that without sufficient water supplies, the Town would not be in a position to recruit new industries. He advised that the Authority will not know the result of its grant application until approximately August of this year. Councilman Weisiger stated that finally, the Committee would note that on July 1, the membership of the Board will change slightly in that the term of Mr. Lambert will have expired, and under an agreement with Wythe County, this position will rotate back and forth between the Town and the County. Mr. B. G. "Gene" Horney will be seated on July 1. He advised that himself and Town Manager Sutherland will continue to serve on the Authority since their terms have not, as yet, expired. Mayor Crewe stated the Council is glad that the construction is ahead of schedule. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes. ([Attachment](#)).

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1229 – BUDGET ORDINANCE

Mayor Crewe presented Ordinance No. 1229, the budget ordinance for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2008, and ending June 30, 2009, on second reading. He stated the recommendation and the motion from the Budget and Finance Committee is that the Council adopt and appropriate the departmental budget on second, but not yet final, reading. A motion was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Vice-Mayor King to adopt and appropriate the departmental budget on second, but not yet final, reading. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the motion or the ordinance. Councilman Lambert noted he raised the question about paving at the last meeting, and inquired if anything has developed on that or if it is possible. Town Manager Sutherland answered that the paving company was finishing that morning following the Council meeting. Councilman Lambert inquired if there was no hope for more paving while they were in town. Town Manager Sutherland stated the paving was already completed. Mayor Crewe inquired if there are any other questions, comments, or discussion on Ordinance No. 1229, the Budget Ordinance for fiscal year 2008-09. 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

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1229 was adopted on second, but not yet final, reading.

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1230 – UMBERGER REZONING

Mayor Crewe presented Ordinance No. 1230, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to rezone from R-1 Residential to B-2 Business a portion of property located at 2045 West Lee Highway, which is located on the south side of West Lee Highway between West End Cemetery and Petunia Road (Patrick Umberger property). He stated the Council has the ordinance in front of them that includes the stipulations and the proffer. Mayor Crewe noted he is not sure how to answer Mr. Umberger's question about the existing tree lines. He stated he kind of shares Mr. Umberger's thoughts that two sides of the property already have an existing tree line, and it does not make sense to cut them down and put something else up. Town Manager Sutherland advised that Town staff agrees. He noted he thinks this was discussed during the Planning Commission meeting. Councilman Jones advised that is correct, and the Planning Commission concurs with leaving these two existing tree lines. Mayor Crewe noted that Town staff may want to fine tune the language in the ordinance. He stated it is in the ordinance that the buffer is required, but it is not a part of this proffer or a part of the ordinance. Mayor Crewe advised that it only states it has to comply with the Zoning Ordinance, and it is not a specifically set out provision. He noted that in other words, if the Council adopts the ordinance that is before them, as proposed, it would still allow the existing tree lines to be utilized as part of the buffer zone. Mayor Crewe inquired if he is missing something because this ordinance does not specify where the trees have to be or where the

vegetation has to be, but the ordinance simply states that it has to comply with the Zoning Ordinance, except the Council will change the zoning from R-1 Residential to B-2 Business, and the 2.5 acres will be conveyed to the Town. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Weisiger to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance No. 1230, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to rezone from R-1 Residential to B-2 Business a portion of property located at 2045 West Lee Highway, which is located on the south side of West Lee Highway between West End Cemetery and Petunia Road (Patrick Umberger property), on first and final reading. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on this ordinance. Councilman Jones stated he thinks it needs to be pointed out that regarding the 2.5 acres of property that Mr. Umberger is offering to the Town, the Town does not have any plans on selling that property, to the best of his knowledge. He noted he thinks it needs to be made clear that the Town plans on attaching it to the West End Cemetery. Town Manager Sutherland stated that is correct, and he has heard this, too. He noted he cannot imagine where this came from. Councilman Jones noted he did not know where these rumors came from, but he wanted to ensure that people understand that the Town does not have any intention of selling the property. Mayor Crewe stated with this discussion, it is, obviously, not part of what the Town is doing. He advised that he would guess the Town could sell the property at some later date, but there is, certainly, no intention of selling it or doing anything else with it, but simply that the property would be accepted as part of the proffer on this rezoning. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any other 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, H. Judson Lambert

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1230 was adopted on first and final reading. Mayor Crewe stated that the ordinance is now effective, and the Town will work out the details in the very near future. Mayor Crewe indicated that he is going to skip down on the agenda to Item L-1, and then he will come back to the other agenda items.

RE: SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT – MANUEL

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is to consider the issuance of a special exception permit to Patricia R. Manuel to maintain horses on property located at 190 Hillcrest Road, which is located on the north side of Hillcrest Road between Cove Road and Great Oaks Road, in an R-2 Residential District. A motion was made by Councilman Jones to approve the issuance of a special exception permit to Patricia R. Manuel to maintain horses on property located at 190 Hillcrest Road, which is located on the north side of Hillcrest Road between Cove Road and Great Oaks Road, in an R-2 Residential District, with the following terms and conditions: (1) Adequate and permanent fencing, gates and other structures suitable to contain the horses surround the property to be used for grazing; (2) Adequate shelter (barns, sheds or other structures) be in place to house the horses; (3) The maximum number of horses permitted to be maintained on the property is two (2); (4) Failure to maintain the horses in a humane and healthy manner is grounds for revocation of the special exception permit; (5) Issues with the neighbors regarding grading, fencing, property lines, etc. be reconciled; (6) The special exception permit shall be granted with the property; (7) Failure to comply with these conditions shall be grounds for rescinding this special exception permit. The motion was seconded by Councilman Weisiger. Mayor Crewe advised so that everyone knows, the seven conditions are: (1) Adequate and permanent fencing, gates and other structures suitable to contain the horses surround the property to be used for grazing; (2) Adequate shelter (barns, sheds or other structures) be in place to house the horses; (3) The maximum number of horses permitted to be maintained on the property is two (2); (4) Failure to maintain the horses in a humane and healthy manner is grounds for revocation of the special exception permit; (5) Issues with the neighbors regarding grading, fencing, property lines, etc. be reconciled; (6) The special exception permit shall be granted with the property; (7) Failure to comply with these conditions shall be grounds for rescinding this special exception permit. Mayor Crewe indicated that Item #5 has already happened if he understands correctly. He noted that for Item #6, this means that the property could be sold to some new owner and not limited to this owner, Ms. Manuel. Mayor Crewe inquired if there are any questions or comments. He stated he knows that Ms. Manuel is attending the meeting, and inquired if she has any questions she is wondering about. There being no questions, Mayor Crewe thanked Ms. Manuel for attending the meeting. He inquired if there is any other discussion on the special exception permit. 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. Mayor Crewe noted that the special exception permit is approved and effective immediately.

Mayor Crewe noted he will now resume with the proper order of the agenda.

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1231 – TOWNHOUSE REGULATIONS

Mayor Crewe presented Ordinance No. 1231, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to amend Article XVIII, Townhouses, on first reading. He stated the recommendation is that the ordinance be approved on first and final reading. A motion was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Councilman Weisiger to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance No. 1231, an ordinance amending Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to amend Article XVIII, Townhouses, on first and final reading. 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

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1231 was adopted on first and final reading. Mayor Crewe stated the ordinance is effective immediately.

RE: APPOINTMENT – SMYTH-WYTHE AIRPORT COMMISSION

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is to consider an appointment of a member to the Smyth-Wythe Airport Commission to fill the expiring term of Mr. John Benham whose term expires June 30, 2008. He noted that Mr. Benham is eligible for reappointment. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Lambert to reappoint Mr. John Benham to the Smyth-Wythe Airport Commission. 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: DEER POPULATION

Mayor Crewe noted that Mr. E. F. Warren has indicated he desired to speak to the Town Council on the deer population. Mr. Warren stated he has been talking to Animal Control Officer Bill Scott and inquired if the Town has any tentative plans. Mayor Crewe noted he can tell Mr. Warren what the Town is contemplating in areas of town where they know deer is a problem, and one is near Mr. Warren's neighborhood. He stated the Town is in the process, and Town Manager Sutherland can correct him if he is wrong, in getting the necessary approval from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to execute some deer harvesting that would be done with police officers. He noted this is part of what the Town is trying to work out, and inquired if he is missing something. Town Manager Sutherland advised that is correct, and the second component of this is under DGIF rules, they can stipulate that the feeding of deer within the corporate limits could be prohibited, and the Town could provide an ordinance that prohibits the feeding of deer. He pointed out if people are feeding the deer, it is drawing them into town. He noted that there are two parts to this matter, and the Town is considering eradicating some deer and making feeding the deer illegal. Mr. Warren stated that Ms. Cassell and Ms. Vaught this year do not have a garden so the deer will not have any tomatoes this year. Town Manager Sutherland advised that intentionally feeding them salt blocks, deer feed, etc. is what the ordinance would mean. Mayor Crewe advised that if a person is growing a garden, that is not intentionally feeding the deer, but if a person is putting out salt blocks and mineral blocks and trying to attract deer, that would be intentionally feeding them. He noted in looking at what the code enforcement form is talking about, what the Town is doing, by State regulations, involves deer population only, and no other animals. Mayor Crewe remarked that the only other regulations for animals are for the dog and cat requirements, but any other animal that is running loose, if it is a natural undomesticated animal, he guesses the Town deals with that as best as possible. He advised that if anyone has a pet, other than a dog or cat, there are ways to address it, but not too effectively, is his thought. Mayor Crewe stated if there is a wild animal running loose, the Town could try to address that, if the animal could be caught, but it is a matter of being in the right place at the right time with wild animals. Mr. Warren inquired if the Town considers deer to be wild. Mayor Crewe stated the Town is dealing with the deer, but the regulations concern deer only, and it would not cover raccoons, opossums, skunks, etc. He

indicated there are some areas in town where the Town has dealt with this, and the Town has trapped skunks, etc. Mayor Crewe stated this effort the Town is talking about through the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries would be limited to the deer population only and no other animal. Mr. Warren inquired when the citizens could expect to receive some relief on this because the burden is there. Town Manager Sutherland stated he thought this would be happening very soon. Mayor Crewe noted that the Town is hoping it will be within a matter of weeks, but the paperwork has to be completed, and the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has to approve it, but it is in the works. Mr. Warren advised that maybe people can put their gardens out. Mayor Crewe stated the Town is going to try this and see if it works, but it is worth a try. He advised that this is the best tool the Town could come up with to address it. Mr. Warren stated he hopes it works. Mayor Crewe advised that the Town thinks this will work, and other places have tried it with varying degrees of success. Councilman Weisiger noted that more deer may show up to replace the ones that have been eradicated. Mayor Crewe thanked Mr. Warren for his comments and for attending the meeting.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:45 p.m.).

Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Mayor

Sharon P. Hackler, MMC, Clerk of Council

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 9, 2008

1. Later this evening, the proposed budget for fiscal year 2008-2009 will be considered on second reading. As we have indicated previously, there are no new taxes or user fees in the proposed budget with the exception that there is a ten percent rate increase for water users who consume more than 3.5 million gallons per billing cycle. These rate increases will not be effective until January 1, 2009. The revenues in the General Fund and the Water and Sewer Fund equal the operational and personnel expenses in both of those categories. There are approximately \$3 million in capital outlay projects that will be performed utilizing funds in reserve accounts. It would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that the budget be approved on second reading with final consideration of the budget being at the June 23 meeting of Council.
2. For a number of months, the Virginia State Police, Wythe County, Bland County, and the Town of Wytheville have discussed the potential for consolidating dispatching services. Currently, the dispatching for each of these entities is performed by the individual locality and all receive E911 calls and cellular E911 calls. As technology advances, the ability to handle emergency phone calls, especially cellular phone calls, requires continual

updating of equipment. This equipment is very expensive, and it is logical that expenditures could be reduced if consolidation did occur and this expensive equipment could be shared among the participants. Under the concept, a new facility would be constructed on the campus of the Virginia State Police in Wytheville that would house the dispatching operations of the Virginia State Police as well as those of the two Counties and the Town. In this past General Assembly session, local legislators submitted a budget amendment requesting \$3.2 million for this new facility. Unfortunately, the General Assembly did not approve these additional funds. We have received a letter from Colonel Steve Flaherty, Superintendent with the Virginia State Police, advising that his agency continues to believe that a consolidation is worthwhile, and they will continue their efforts in receiving funds from the General Assembly. Colonel Flaherty also asked that each locality acknowledge if they wanted to proceed with this consolidation concept. We believe that it is worthwhile for the Town to continue in the discussions of a consolidated dispatching. With or without the Virginia State Police or Bland County, it seems apparent that Wytheville and Wythe County will want to consolidate their dispatches in an effort to provide more efficient services and to reduce both of our expenses. We have directed the Town Manager to be a cosignatory to a letter with County Administrator Cellell Dalton to advise Colonel Flaherty that both jurisdictions continue to be interested in the project and want to persist in making this project come to fruition. Nothing is required on the Council's part at this time, but we did want to bring everyone up to

date on the progress of these discussions.

Jacqueline K. King

John W. Jones, Jr.

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PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 9, 2008

1. As everyone is aware, the State of Virginia is facing a near crisis with transportation funding. Governor Timothy M. Kaine has called for a special session of the General Assembly to address transportation. Virginia currently faces a shortfall in highway maintenance funding, which drains money each year from dollars intended for road construction. Most of the highway maintenance funding goes to addressing safety issues, and reduces the repair and operation of bridges, tunnels, traffic signals, and street lights as well as installation of guardrails and rumble strips and plowing and paving all of Virginia's highway system. In the new Six-Year Improvement Program, to be approved this month by the Commonwealth Transportation Board, local construction projects funded from the secondary roads and urban road budgets will be slashed by 44 percent. If the maintenance problem is addressed, then the transfers from the new construction budget would not occur, thereby providing more money for local projects. Wytheville, like all other communities, has seen a decline in maintenance funding, and, as well, has waited many years beyond six for a number of important construction projects. Having said that, we think it is worthwhile for the Council to adopt a resolution memorializing the General Assembly to take some type of statewide action that will correct transportation funding in Virginia. The resolution is attached, and it would be the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the resolution be adopted and forwarded to the appropriate members of the legislature.

2. Work on the various components of the water projects of the New River Regional Water Authority continue to be completed at a good pace. The water treatment facility, itself, is now approximately 70 percent complete while the water line crossing the New River is 100 percent complete, and the new raw water intake station is about 98 percent complete. The contractual completion date is established as May 30, 2009, but because of the good progress of the contractor, it would appear that the plant will be completed several months in advance of the original projected date. There are also some other projects that have to be constructed as a part of this regional water system. A new groundwater storage tank has to be constructed at a location in Fort Chiswell, and a new water line needs to be extended from the water treatment plant to the Carroll County line. The groundwater storage tank has been designed, but not yet bid.

The Authority has also submitted an application to the Tobacco Indemnification Commission seeking \$2.5 million in grant funds for this regional water project. It is clear that this new regional water facility is an important component of any of our future industrial development activities. Without sufficient water supplies, we would not be in a position to recruit new industries. The Authority will not know the result of its grant application until approximately August of this year.

Finally, we would note that on July 1, the membership on the Board will change slightly in that the term of Mr. Lambert will have expired, and under an agreement with Wythe County, this position will rotate back and forth between the Town and County. Mr. B. G. "Gene" Horney, Jr. will be seated on July 1. Councilman Weisiger

and Town Manager Sutherland will continue to serve on the Authority since their terms have not, as yet, expired.

William B. Weisiger

H. Judson Lambert

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