

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, JANUARY 11, 2010, 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, Chief Deputy Clerk Sherry G. Corvin, Town Attorney Robert P. Kaase, Police Officer Chris Irvin, Danny Gordon with WYVE/WXBX, Wayne Quesenberry with *Wytheville Enterprise*, Becky Grubb, Tracy Grubb

RE: CALL TO ORDER, QUORUM, PLEDGE

Mayor Crewe called the meeting to order and established that a quorum of Council members was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Jones.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Crewe presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 14, 2009. A motion was made by Councilman Lambert and seconded by Vice-Mayor King to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of December 14, 2009. 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: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. He noted no one signed up to speak to the Council during Citizens' Period. He inquired if anyone would like to address the Council during Citizens' Period. There being none, Mayor Crewe noted that the Council is glad to have citizens in attendance at the meeting and thanked them for attending.

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. Next Monday, January 18, 2010, the Town will observe the Martin Luther King holiday.
3. The Wytheville Industrial Development Authority will meet on January 20, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers.
4. The New River Regional Water Authority will hold its regular monthly meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. in the Council Chambers.
5. Councilman Jones stated he has already told Mr. Johnny Brewer and Director of Public Works Hackler that he thought the Town did an excellent job before Christmas when it snowed of getting the streets cleared. He noted he only had one person complain, and this person spends half her time in Florida, and she does not understand that once the roads get packed down by vehicles, it gets very hard to get it up. Mayor Crewe noted if there is not an opportunity to get the snow up before it is packed down, it is like concrete. Councilman Jones advised that the Public Works Department did a good job. Vice-Mayor King stated she agreed. Mayor Crewe indicated that the Town was very successful in getting the snow moved, and noted his appreciation of the hard work of the Public Works Department, and he thanked them for their efforts. He stated he echoes the sentiments of Councilman Jones.

RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Jones, reporting for the Budget and Finance Committee, reported that the Town has received a request from the HOPE, Incorporated Board requested reimbursement for the real estate property tax paid on their office facility located at 680 West Main Street. He noted that HOPE, Incorporated occupies the space formerly owned by the Appalachian Power

Company that was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. George Keck of Ceres, Virginia. Councilman Jones stated that it has been the practice of the Council in past years to reimburse HOPE, Incorporated the value of their real estate taxes. He advised that this year, the value of the real estate taxes was \$820.64. Councilman Jones remarked that HOPE, Incorporated, who currently owns the building, has paid these taxes but would seek a donation equivalent to that amount. He stated it would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that the Council honor the request of HOPE, Incorporated and make a donation to them in the amount of \$820.64. Councilman Jones advised that the Committee would note, however, that they would recommend that the Council impose the same caveat that has been approved in prior years. He stated that, specifically, that is at any time during the upcoming year, if the vacant parcel of land immediately adjacent to the HOPE, Incorporated building is sold, that the value of those taxes will be reimbursed to the Town. A motion was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Vice-Mayor King that the Council make a donation in the amount of \$820.64 to HOPE, Incorporated for the value of the real estate taxes, but if at any time during the upcoming year, the vacant parcel of land immediately adjacent to the HOPE, Incorporated building is sold, the value of those taxes will be reimbursed to the Town. 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 Jones also reported that the Town's auditors, Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates, have advised that they have completed their audit of the fiscal year 2008-2009 finances. He stated that the auditing standards for local governments have changed commencing with last year when it was required that a certified public accounting firm prepare financial statements that will be reviewed by the auditors. Councilman Jones noted that this year, the financial statement, or the so-called "pre-audit," was prepared by Goodman and Company, Certified Public Accountants. He explained that under the new standards, the audit report must be submitted to the governing body at a regular meeting. Councilman Jones indicated that the Town has requested the auditors to appear at the January 25 meeting of Council to deliver the audit report and to review any management concerns that were detected. Councilman Jones stated it is the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that the Council request Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates to be present at the next meeting of the Council to deliver the audit report for fiscal year 2008-2009. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any objection to inviting the auditors to the next Council meeting to present their report. There being none, it was the consensus of the Town Council to invite Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates to the January 25, 2010, meeting of the Town Council to deliver the audit report and to review any management concerns that were detected. A copy of the Budget and Finance Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes. [Click @ ^} dE](#)

RE: PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Weisiger, reporting for the Public Works Committee, reported that when the Town receives grants and/or loans from Federal or State agencies, the Town makes a number of assurances of their support for equal opportunities. He stated one of these areas of support involves the Town's endorsement of equal housing opportunities for all citizens. Councilman Weisiger noted that a resolution is required to be adopted on an annual basis which affirms the Town's support. He advised that later in the meeting, the Council will consider such a resolution, and it would be the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the resolution be adopted.

Councilman Weisiger also reported that at the November 9 meeting of Council, certain actions were taken to facilitate an effort by the Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority to construct 24 new dwelling units that are to be situated on a site bounded by Union, Jefferson, 12th, and 14th Streets. He explained that the project consists of 12 handicap housing units and 12 regular housing units. Councilman Weisiger stated that at the prior meeting, the Council authorized the Town Manager to execute all documents associated with the Housing Authority's application process. He remarked that secondly, the Council authorized the Town Manager to apply for Community Development Block Grant funding with the stipulation that the Housing Authority would prepare the grant application and handle the administration of the funds. Councilman Weisiger stated that finally, the Council authorized the waiving of 60 percent of the water and sewer tap fees associated with this project. He noted that all of these applications have now been submitted to the appropriate financial agencies, and it is anticipated that notification of the approval or disapproval of the grant fund applications should be received within about ninety days. Councilman Weisiger indicated that the Town hopes the Housing Authority is successful with these efforts because they have noted to the Town that there are far more eligible applicants on the waiting list for public housing than the amount of housing that is available. He pointed out that no action is required by the Council, but the Committee did want

to advise that all of the applications have been submitted as authorized by the Council. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes. Crewe@^}dE

RE: RESOLUTION – GEORGE WYTHE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is to consider a resolution recognizing the achievements of the George Wythe High School Football Team. A motion was made by Councilman Jones and seconded by Vice-Mayor King to adopt the resolution recognizing the achievements of the George Wythe High School Football Team. 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: RESOLUTION – FAIR HOUSING

Mayor Crewe stated the next agenda item is to consider a resolution endorsing the concept of providing fair housing. He noted that this came as a recommendation from the Public Works Committee that the Council enforce the concept of fair housing. A motion was made by Councilman Weisiger and seconded by Councilman Lambert to adopt the resolution endorsing the concept of providing fair housing. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the motion to adopt the resolution. He stated that it occurs to him that the word “enforce” in the last paragraph should be “endorse.” Town Manager Sutherland stated he believes that is correct. Mayor Crewe noted that this is an editorial comment. He inquired if there was any other discussion. 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: POST OFFICE

Mayor Crewe stated he thinks he would be remiss, since it is the Council’s first public meeting after the events at the Post Office on December 23, 2009, if he did not say, since he was personally involved in it at the Police Headquarters when it was going on, that he would like to commend all those responsible for the way they went about their job, the professionalism, and the successful resolution to the hostage situation. Mayor Crewe advised that it could have been a whole lot worse. He stated he would like to particularly congratulate the Police and Fire Departments on all of their efforts that evening that ended in a successful negotiation of the hostage situation.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded, and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:10 p.m.).

Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Mayor

Sherry G. Corvin, Chief Deputy Clerk

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

JANUARY 11, 2010

1. We have received a request from the HOPE, Incorporated Board requesting reimbursement for the real estate property tax paid on their office facility located at 680 West Main Street. HOPE, Incorporated occupies the space formerly owned by the Appalachian Power Company that was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. George Keck of Ceres, Virginia. It has been the practice of the Council in past years to reimburse HOPE, Incorporated the value of their real estate taxes. This year, the value of the real estate taxes was \$820.64. HOPE, Incorporated, who currently owns the building, has paid these taxes but would seek a donation equivalent to that amount. It would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that we honor the request of HOPE, Incorporated and make a donation to them in the amount of \$820.64. We would note, however, that we would recommend that we impose the same caveat that has been approved in prior years. Specifically, that is at any time during the upcoming year, if the vacant parcel of land immediately adjacent to the HOPE, Incorporated building is sold, that the value of those taxes will be reimbursed to the Town.
2. Our auditors, Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates, have advised that they have completed their audit of the fiscal year 2008-2009 finances. The auditing standards for local governments have changed commencing with last year when it was required that a certified public accounting firm prepare financial statements that will be reviewed by the auditors. This year, the financial statement, or the so-called "pre-audit," was prepared by Goodman and Company, Certified Public Accountants.

Under the new standards, the audit report must be submitted to the governing body at a regular meeting. We have requested the auditors to appear at the January 25 meeting of Council to deliver the audit report and to review any management concerns that were detected. It is the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that we request Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates to be present at the next meeting of Council to deliver the audit report for fiscal year 2008-2009.

Jacqueline K. King

John W. Jones, Jr.

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PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

JANUARY 11, 2010

1. When the Town receives grants and/or loans from Federal or State agencies, we make a number of assurances of our support for equal opportunities. One of these areas of support involves our endorsement of equal housing opportunities for all citizens. A resolution is required to be adopted on an annual basis which affirms our support. Later this evening, the Council will consider such a resolution, and it would be the recommendation of our Committee that the resolution be adopted.
2. At the November 9 meeting of Council, certain actions were taken to facilitate an effort by the Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority to construct 24 new dwelling units that are to be situated on a site bounded by Union, Jefferson, 12th and 14th Streets. The project consists of 12 handicap housing units and 12 regular housing units. At the prior meeting, the Council authorized the Town Manager to execute all documents associated with the Housing Authority's application process. Secondly, the Council authorized the Town Manager to apply for Community Development Block Grant funding with the stipulation that the Housing Authority would prepare the grant application and handle the administration of the funds. Finally, the Council authorized the waiving of 60 percent of the water and sewer tap fees

associated with this project. All of these applications have now been submitted to the appropriate financial agencies, and it is anticipated that notification of the approval or disapproval of the grant fund applications should be received within about ninety days. We hope that the Housing Authority is successful with these efforts because they have noted to us that there are far more eligible applicants on the waiting list for public housing than the amount of housing that is available. No action is required by the Council, but we did want to advise that all of the applications have been submitted as authorized by the Council.

William B. Weisiger

H. Judson Lambert