

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2022, AT 6:00 P.M.**

Members present: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman

Members absent: None

Others present: Town Manager T. Brian Freeman, Town Clerk Sharon G. Corvin, Assistant Town Manager Elaine R. Holeyton, Town Attorney Michelle Clayton, Judith Knutson, Bill Knutson, Joan Ann Ebeling, Brandon Wolford, Daronda Copenhaver, Robbie Copenhaver, Irene Daugherty, Paul Cuvelier, Police Chief Joel Hash, Patrol Officer Zach Puckett

RE: CALL TO ORDER, QUORUM, PLEDGE

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order and established that a quorum of Council members was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Mark J. Bloomfield.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 14, 2022. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented or to somehow be amended. A motion was made by Councilman Gillman and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 14, 2022, as presented. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman. Against: None.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She noted that there are several people attending the meeting who completed the Appalachian Trail Program through the Department of Parks and Recreation. Mayor Taylor stated that Bill Knutson was the first participant to complete the program, and he walked a total of 3,319 miles. Mayor Taylor presented Certificates of Recognition to Robbie Copenhaver, Paul Cuvelier, Irene Daugherty and Bill Knutson. Mayor Taylor congratulated all the participants and thanked them for attending the meeting.

Mayor Taylor inquired if there are any others who wished to address the Town Council during Citizen's Period. There being none, she proceeded with the agenda.

RE: STAFF REPORT

The Staff Report was entered into the record as follows:

- A. In 2021, the Town conducted a system wide testing of the sanitary sewer system to identify areas of ground and surface water infiltration and illicit inflow connections. These are collectively referred to as Infiltration and Inflow, or INI. The INI study determined that approximately \$2M in repairs to the sewer lines, manholes, cleanouts and other parts of

the system were necessary to mitigate the INI. In December 2021, the Town received approval from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) that the total cost of the project was approved for a Virginia Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund at a rate of 0% for a 30 year term. We are still anticipating receiving 50% principal forgiveness for this project, meaning the Town will only be required to pay half of the total project amount. In the coming weeks, these terms will be finalized, and the project will move into the full design phase. We will update the Council and citizens as the project progresses.

Over the past year, the force mains associated with the Chapman and Lithia Road pump stations have undergone dozens of emergency repairs. These repairs are costly and disruptive to our operations. In response, we have obtained preliminary cost estimates for the replacement, and, in the coming weeks, staff will be advertising for the design phase of this work. Following completion of the design phase, we will move toward the bidding and construction phases. It is our hope and intent that the work be designed, bid and constructed in the current calendar year.

- B. The Town of Wytheville offers its employees insurance through The Local Choice, a state health benefits program established by the General Assembly in 1989. The Local Choice serves Wytheville, along with many other local governments and public school systems across the state. Each year, participating entities are evaluated and new rates for the upcoming year are established. The rate for each locality is established based on their usage of the policy through the year, as well as the combined rate with all other agencies across Virginia. The revised rates are then provided to each entity for their consideration during the insurance renewal period. The Local Choice notified the Town of a 7.7% increase for the 2022-23 coverage year, and, in the coming weeks, I will be working with the Town Council to evaluate the coverage options and determine the proportional share to be paid by the Town and the employee respectively. The insurance renewal deadline is March 25, 2022, and the employee open enrollment period will be May 2, 2022, through May 16, 2022.

RE: NEW BUSINESS

Under New Business, Town Manager Freeman reported the following:

1. The Town of Wytheville Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, March 10, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.
2. The next Council Work Session will be held on Monday, March 14, 2022, at 4:00 p.m., in the Council Conference Room followed by the Council meeting at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

RE: APPOINTMENTS – WYTHEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the reappointment of Mr. John W. Jones, Jr. to the Wytheville Planning Commission (term expires March 2, 2022). Mayor Taylor stated that Mr. Jones is eligible for reappointment and noted that he has indicated the willingness to serve again, if reappointed. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilman Gillman to reappoint Mr. John W. Jones, Jr. to the Wytheville Planning Commission for a four year term, which expires March 2, 2026. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there

being no opposition: For: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman. Against: None.

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1407

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider Ordinance No. 1407, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 2, Administration, Article II. Council, Division 3. Ordinances, by adding Section 2-67. Bonuses for Employees of Local Government, to the Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, on first reading. Mayor Taylor inquired if there is a motion to approve Ordinance No.1407. A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to adopt Ordinance No. 1407, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 2, Administration, Article II. Council, Division 3. Ordinances, by adding Section 2-67. Bonuses for Employees of Local Government, to the Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, on first and final reading. Mayor Taylor 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: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Mayor Taylor advised that Ordinance No. 1407 was adopted on first and final reading.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (6:13 p.m.).

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk