

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, MARCH 14, 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, Assistant Town Manager Elaine R. HOLETON, Town Clerk Sharon G. Corvin, Town Attorney Michelle Workman Clayton, Glenda Crockett-Eans, Kerry Eans, Police Chief Joel Hash, Patrol Officer Daniel Cassell

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 Gillman.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 28, 2022, and the various requests from the Wythe Arts Council, Ltd. regarding the Annual Chautauqua Festival. 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 Vice-Mayor Pattison to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 28, 2022, and the various requests from the Wythe Arts Council, Ltd. regarding the Annual Chautauqua Festival, 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 no citizens listed on the sign in sheet who stated that they would like to speak during the Citizens' Period, however, if anyone has changed their mind, now is the time to do so. There being none, she proceeded with the agenda.

RE: COMMITTEE REPORT

The Budget and Finance Committee Report was entered into the record as follows:

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 plan year. By March 25, 2022, it will be necessary for the Town of Wytheville to initiate the renewal and declare the percentage

of the plan offerings being covered by the Town and employee respectively. After careful consideration, it would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that the Town of Wytheville renew with The Local Choice with the same plan offerings and continue to pay the 92% blended rate for employee only insurance plans. It is also the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that the Town provide an additional \$250 monthly contribution toward insurance premiums for the plus one and family insurance plans for plan year 2022-23. A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to approve renewing the Town employee health insurance with The Local Choice with the same plan offerings, continue to pay the 92 percent blended rate for employee only insurance plans and pay \$250 monthly toward insurance premiums for the plus one and family insurance plans for 2022-23. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. Councilwoman Atkins stated that she was glad the Town could provide this benefit to its employees. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any further discussion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results: For: Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman. Against: None. Abstentions: Beth A. Taylor. The Budget and Finance Committee Report is attached and made part of these minutes. Mayor Taylor stated that she feels this is a great benefit to offer employees.

RE: STAFF REPORT

The Staff Report was entered into the record as follows:

- A. Like any other business, the Town of Wytheville must maintain insurance coverage for property, automobiles, general liability, workers' compensation and a variety of other areas at which Town employees and/or assets are at risk. Like most towns in Virginia, the Town of Wytheville utilizes Virginia Risk Sharing Association, or VRSA, for its comprehensive coverages, risk management program support, human resources, communications, law enforcement expertise and consulting. In the coming weeks, Town Staff will be working with VRSA on a policy renewal that will take effect on July 1, 2022. Staff will keep the Council informed as this process develops.

RE: NEW BUSINESS

Under New Business, Town Manager Freeman reported the following:

1. The Wytheville Tree Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 8:30 a.m., in Conference Room A of the Municipal Building.
2. The Board of Zoning Appeals will meet on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 11:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers.
3. The Joint Industrial Development Authority meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 24, 2022, at 3:00 p.m., has been canceled.
4. The next Town Council Work Session will be held on Monday, March 28, 2022, at 4:00 p.m., in the Council Conference Room followed by the regular Wytheville Town 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 appointment of a member to the Wytheville Planning Commission to fill the expired term of Mr. Kenny W. Ervin (term expired March 2, 2022). She stated that Mr. Ervin did not wish to be reappointed. Mayor Taylor advised that there are two applications to be considered for appointment to the Wytheville Planning Commission for a four year term (term expires March 2, 2026). A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilman Bloomfield to appoint Mr. David Schmidt for a four year term to the Wytheville Planning Commission (term 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: APPOINTMENTS – TOWN ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the appointment of the Town Manager, or his designee, as the Town of Wytheville Zoning Administrator. She stated that at the June 14, 2021, Town Council meeting, Town Manager Freeman was appointed as the Town Zoning Administrator. Mayor Taylor commented, however, the motion did not include that the Town Manager could appoint a designee to fill this position. She explained that the Town Manager believes it would be best for him to remain as the appointed Town Zoning Administrator and for him to be able to designate a Town staff person to fill this position. Mayor Taylor stated that if the Town Council desires to take action on this matter, it would require a motion and vote by the Town Council to appoint the Town Manager, or his designee, as the Town of Wytheville Zoning Administrator. Town Manager Freeman stated that there is a direct conflict with the timing being the same for the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, and the meeting with the New River Regional Water Authority. A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Councilman Gillman to appoint the Town Manager, or his designee, as the Town of Wytheville Zoning Administrator. 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: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (6:11 p.m.).

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk