

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2020, AT 7:00 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 Stephen A. Moore, Assistant Town Manager T. Brian Freeman, Town Clerk Sharon G. Corvin, Mike Forrest, Patrol Officer Chastity Russell

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 Bloomfield.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Taylor advised that the request of Members of the Community to conduct a Martin Luther King, Jr. Day March on Sunday, January 17, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. has been withdrawn by Mr. Kerry Eans who submitted the request on behalf of the Members of the Community. Mayor Taylor noted that Members of the Community hopes to be able to conduct the March in the future in a safer environment. Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 23, 2020. 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 Bloomfield and seconded by Vice-Mayor Pattison to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 23, 2020, as presented. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to approve the consent agenda. 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: PUBLIC HEARINGS – CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) for renewing the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity during 2021 for 276 Town Express, LLC for the operation of taxicabs. She stated that there are no citizens attending the meeting listed on the sign in sheet who wish to address the Council regarding this public hearing, therefore, she would declare the public hearing closed and proceed with the agenda.

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 wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period. Mayor Taylor inquired of the citizens attending the meeting if anyone had changed their minds and wished to address the Council at this time. There being none, she proceeded with the agenda.

RE: OLD BUSINESS

Under Old Business, Town Manager Moore advised that he did not have anything to report to the Council. He noted that he would have some New Business items to address.

RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Bloomfield reported for the Budget and Finance Committee. The Budget and Finance Committee report was entered into the record as follows: The CARES Act has provided a significant amount of funding for COVID-19 related relief for the Town. These funds are Federal funds channeled through the State and the County and are to be dedicated to meeting expenses related to responding to or mitigating the COVID-19 public health emergency. Guidelines for the use of these funds were set by the Federal government, and the Town has been careful to use these funds accordingly by having auditors review the proposed expenditures. One of the eligible expenses is Hazard Duty Pay for public safety employees involved in responding to the public health emergency. We have established a rate, timeframe and maximum amount that would be paid to our Police Department and Fire and Rescue Department employees. Checks for the Hazard Duty Pay will begin going to these employees in the next two weeks, with most checks being in the amount of \$2,000, minus withholdings. We are pleased to be able to provide this benefit to these Town employees, however, we would like to explain that the funding is only permissible for this distinct set of employees. The Town Council would like to make it very clear that we greatly appreciate *all* the Town's dedicated employees who have continued to work through the pandemic. Unfortunately, the Town's financial position has been negatively impacted due to losses of revenue caused by the pandemic. Unlike some other local governments, we sincerely regret that, *at this time*, the Town Council will not be able to supplement the salaries of all other employees from the General Fund.

HOPE, Incorporated or Helping Overcome Poverty's Existence is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that focuses on various housing and food insecurity related programs in Wythe, Bland, Carroll, Grayson and Smyth Counties and the City of Galax. HOPE, Inc. has submitted, for review, site plans for the creation of 12 apartment units in the 700 block of Fairview Road. In conjunction with the plan review submittal, HOPE, Inc. has requested that the Town provide a partial waiver of the water and sewer availability fees and building permit fees associated with the project. Fee reductions can be counted as matching leverage with HOPE's other funding partners and increase the economic viability of the project and HOPE's ability to provide these much-needed programs. It is the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that HOPE, Incorporated be granted a 30 percent reduction in water and sewer availability fees and building permit fees for this project. A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to approve the request of HOPE, Incorporated for a 30 percent reduction in water and sewer availability fees and building permit fees for their development of 12 residential units in the 700 block of Fairview Road. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to approve the request of HOPE, Incorporated for a reduction in water and sewer availability fees and building permit fees for their development on Fairview Road. 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. A copy of the Budget and Finance Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice-Mayor Pattison reported for the Public Works Committee. The Public Works Committee report was entered into the record as follows: The Public Works Committee would like to remind

citizens of the upcoming brush collection dates and encourage the disposal of Christmas trees during these regularly scheduled brush collection periods. Brush will be collected December 28 2020 through January 1, 2021, and, again, between January 25, 2021 through January 29, 2021. Brush pick up for your area will, generally, occur on the same day as your normal trash collection. Public Works crews will continue collecting discarded Christmas trees throughout the month of January, but we encourage citizens to place their trees out in conjunction with the established brush collection schedule. Trees placed for pick up outside of the provided schedule will take longer to collect. Residents can assist the Town with the efficient delivery of this service by placing their trees at the street in front of their property, but out of the street right of way and by following all other brush collection guidelines. A complete copy of the guidelines can be found on the Town's website at www.wytheville.org. Should you have any other questions, please call Director of Public Works Chris Peeples at (276) 223-3357.

For a number of years, Wytheville's Public Works Department has worked diligently to monitor and care for the trees on Town properties and Town rights of way. Recently, we received notice from Senator Mark Warner that Wytheville has received the honor of being designated a "Tree City USA" Community for the second consecutive year. He acknowledged that it serves as a tribute to Wytheville's commitment to maintaining a vibrant and sustainable urban forestry program. The award is given by the Virginia Urban Forest Council in conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation. Trees are important to Wytheville because they beautify our community, reinvigorate our neighborhoods and clean our air and our drinking water. Caring for and planting trees creates a brighter and healthier future for all our citizens. The Wytheville Town Council would like to thank our employees for the work and commitment that made this award possible, and we proudly announce to our citizens that Wytheville has again achieved this recognition. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: NEW BUSINESS

Under New Business, Town Manager Moore reported the following:

1. The next Council Work Session will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at 7:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers. He noted that he will try to monitor the weather conditions, and if there is a significant amount of ice or snow, he will try to contact each Council member regarding whether the meeting will be canceled or rescheduled. Town Manager Moore remarked that the meeting could be rescheduled to Thursday, if everyone concurs. It was the consensus of the Council to not reschedule the Work Session to Thursday, and to wait to see what the weather does on Wednesday before canceling or rescheduling the meeting.
2. The New River Regional Water Authority meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2020, has been canceled.
3. The Council Work Sessions scheduled for Tuesday, December 22, 2020, and Tuesday, December 29, 2020, have been canceled.
4. Due to the Christmas holiday on Thursday, December 24, 2020, and Friday, December 25, 2020, the Town Municipal Offices will be closed and all services curtailed.
5. The Wytheville Town Council meeting scheduled for Monday, December 28, 2020, has been canceled.

RE: CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider renewing the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity during 2021 for 276 Town Express, LLC for the operation of taxicabs. She noted that the Town normally reviews the company for current insurance and vehicle inspections. Mayor Taylor inquired if there is a motion to renew the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for 276 Town Express, LLC for the operation of taxicabs during 2021. A motion was made by Councilman Gillman and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to renew the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity during 2021 for 276 Town Express, LLC for the operation of taxicabs. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion in regard to renewing the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. 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 (7:13 p.m.).

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER 14, 2020

1. The Public Works Committee would like to remind citizens of the upcoming brush collection dates and encourage the disposal of Christmas trees during these regularly scheduled brush collection periods. Brush will be collected December 28 2020 through January 1, 2021, and, again, between January 25, 2021 through January 29, 2021. Brush pick up for your area will, generally, occur on the same day as your normal trash collection. Public Works crews will continue collecting discarded Christmas trees throughout the month of January, but we encourage citizens to place their trees out in conjunction with the established brush collection schedule. Trees placed for pick up outside of the provided schedule will take longer to collect. Residents can assist the Town with the efficient delivery of this service by placing their trees at the street in front of their property, but out of the street right of way and by following all other brush collection guidelines. A complete copy of the guidelines can be found on the Town's website at www.wytheville.org. Should you have any other questions, please call Director of Public Works Chris Peebles at (276) 223-3357.
2. For a number of years, Wytheville's Public Works Department has worked diligently to monitor and care for the trees on Town properties and Town rights of way. Recently, we received notice from Senator Mark Warner that Wytheville has received the honor of being designated a "Tree City USA" Community for the second consecutive year. He acknowledged that it serves as a tribute to Wytheville's

commitment to maintaining a vibrant and sustainable urban forestry program. The award is given by the Virginia Urban Forest Council in conjunction with the Arbor Day Foundation.

Trees are important to Wytheville because they beautify our community, reinvigorate our neighborhoods and clean our air and our drinking water. Caring for and planting trees creates a brighter and healthier future for all our citizens.

The Wytheville Town Council would like to thank our employees for the work and commitment that made this award possible, and we proudly announce to our citizens that Wytheville has again achieved this recognition.

Cathy D. Pattison

Gary L. Gillman

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER 14, 2020

1. The CARES Act has provided a significant amount of funding for COVID-19 related relief for the Town. These funds are Federal funds channeled through the State and the County and are to be dedicated to meeting expenses related to responding to or mitigating the COVID-19 public health emergency. Guidelines for the use of these funds were set by the Federal government, and the Town has been careful to use these funds accordingly by having auditors review the proposed expenditures. One of the eligible expenses is Hazard Duty Pay for public safety employees involved in responding to the public health emergency. We have established a rate, timeframe and maximum amount that would be paid to our Police Department and Fire and Rescue Department employees. Checks for the Hazard Duty Pay will begin going to these employees in the next two weeks, with most checks being in the amount of \$2,000, minus withholdings.

We are pleased to be able to provide this benefit to these Town employees, however, we would like to explain that the funding is only permissible for this distinct set of employees. The Town Council would like to make it very clear that we greatly appreciate *all* the Town's dedicated employees who have continued to work through the pandemic. Unfortunately, the Town's financial position has been negatively impacted due to losses of revenue caused by the pandemic. Unlike some other local governments, we sincerely regret that, *at this time*, the Town Council will not be able to supplement the salaries of all other employees

from the General Fund.

2. HOPE, Incorporated or Helping Overcome Poverty's Existence is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that focuses on various housing and food insecurity related programs in Wythe, Bland, Carroll, Grayson and Smyth Counties and the City of Galax. HOPE, Inc. has submitted, for review, site plans for the creation of 12 apartment units in the 700 block of Fairview Road. In conjunction with the plan review submittal, HOPE, Inc. has requested that the Town provide a partial waiver of the water and sewer availability fees and building permit fees associated with the project. Fee reductions can be counted as matching leverage with HOPE's other funding partners and increase the economic viability of the project and HOPE's ability to provide these much-needed programs. It is the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that HOPE, Incorporated be granted a 30 percent reduction in water and sewer availability fees and building permit fees for this project.

Mark J. Bloomfield

Holly E. Atkins