

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, MAY 10, 2021, 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, Town Attorney Michelle Workman Clayton, Town Treasurer Michael G. Stephens, Paeton Phillippi, Nichole Phillippi, David Phillippi, Johnny Beamer, Bradley Vaught, Leslie Woodzels, Kelly Blankenship, Reece Vaught, Deborah Crigger, Joshua Crigger, Marshall Kimry, Daniel Goode, Daniel Suthers, Christina Jackson, Stephen Jackson, Don Goode, Sarah Goode, Ray Blevins, Benson Blevins, Lisa Vaught, Peyton Coe, Millicent Rothrock with *The Wytheville Enterprise*, Police 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 Councilwoman Atkins.

**RE: CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the budget work session and the regular meeting of April 26, 2021. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented or to somehow be amended. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilman Gillman to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the budget work session and regular meeting of April 26, 2021, 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: PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE REGARDING MT. ROGERS CIGARETTE TAX BOARD**

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider a proposed ordinance which would approve the creation of a joint entity to be known as the Mt. Rogers Cigarette Tax Board and bestowing on such entity all powers necessary for the performance of its duties as provided by law. Mayor Taylor inquired if there were any citizens attending the meeting who wished to address the Council during this public hearing. There being no one who wished to address the Council during the public hearing, Mayor Taylor declared the public hearing closed and proceeded with the agenda.

**RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD – PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION – GEORGE WYTHE HIGH SCHOOL GOLF TEAM**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the adoption and presentation of a resolution to the George Wythe High School Golf Team and the George Wythe High School Girls' Cross

Country Team. She inquired of the Council if there is a motion to adopt the resolutions recognizing these athletic teams. A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to adopt resolutions recognizing the George Wythe High School Golf Team and the George Wythe High School Girls' Cross Country Team. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to adopt the resolutions. 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.

Mayor Taylor noted that she would read the George Wythe High School Golf Team's resolution and then ask the team to come forward for the presentation and to have a photo taken.

## **RESOLUTION**

**WHEREAS**, the George Wythe High School Golf Team made the Town of Wytheville proud when they won the Region 1C Tournament Championship title; and,

**WHEREAS**, the George Wythe High School Golf Team then advanced to the Virginia High School League (VHSL) Class 1 State Golf Tournament held at the Pete Dye River Course where they earned their third straight Class 1 State Championship with a winning score of 304; and,

**WHEREAS**, Peyton Coe, a Senior at George Wythe High School, brought great credit upon the Golf Team and himself by firing a 3-under par 69 to earn the individual title of VHSL Class 1 State Golf Champion; and,

**WHEREAS**, the George Wythe High School Golf Team had several outstanding golfers who placed in the top ten in the State Tournament, and they include Benson Blevins who placed second; Daniel Goode who placed third; and, Paeton Phillippi who tied for tenth; and,

**WHEREAS**, the players and coaches of the George Wythe High School Golf Team, through their outstanding display of athletic ability and sportsmanship, have reflected great credit upon the school and upon the Town.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Town Council of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, officially commends the George Wythe High School Golf Team, its Head Coaches, Johnny Beamer and Danny Suthers, and other high school officials for the outstanding accomplishment of the Golf Team.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that copies of this resolution be presented to the George Wythe High School Golf Team, the coaches, other school officials and the news media.

Mayor Taylor noted that the George Wythe High School Girl's Cross Country Team was unable to attend this meeting for the presentation of their resolution.

### **RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She noted that she would proceed in the order of those citizens listed on the sign in sheet who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period.

Ms. Leslie Woodzel was recognized and stated that she resides at 380 West Madison Street in Wytheville. She noted that she wished to address the Council regarding Stan's Pallets, which is a local business located on Fourth and Madison Streets. Ms. Woodzel continued to express her concerns regarding Stan's Pallets, the business polluting the air with the incinerator it uses in its parking lot and numerous other issues regarding this business. She thanked the Council for allowing her to address them during Citizens' Period and inquired if anyone had any questions for her. Councilwoman Atkins inquired of Ms. Woodzel if the railroad goes through the area where she is describing. Ms. Woodzel stated that is correct. Mayor Taylor thanked Ms. Woodzel for her comments.

Mr. Marshall Kimrey was recognized and stated that he resides at 305 West Railroad Avenue in Wytheville. He noted that he wished to address the Council regarding Stan's Pallets, as well. Mr. Kimrey continued to express his complaints regarding the pallet business including the smoke from the burning of the pallets, the nails in the street, the pallets stacked around the business, etc. Discussion continued regarding the appearance, hours of operation, etc. of the pallet business. Town Manager Moore stated that he feels there are some measures that can be taken regarding the Town Code and Zoning Ordinance to help alleviate the situation. Mr. Kimrey thanked the Council for allowing him to speak. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Kimrey for his comments. Councilwoman Atkins inquired of Town staff as to who is in charge of the Town's air quality control. Town Clerk Corvin advised that the Town Code states that the Town Manager can be the air quality control officer.

Ms. Kelly Blankenship was recognized and stated that she resides at 325 West Railroad Avenue in Wytheville. She noted that she wished to address the Council regarding Stan's Pallets. Ms. Blankenship commented that when she moved to this address in 2015, the quality of life was not like it is now. She explained that since the new owners have taken over, the business has become noisier, smokier, etc. Ms. Blankenship continued to express her frustrations with the pallet business. Discussion ensued regarding the debris, pollution, etc. coming from the business. She thanked the Council for allowing her to speak. Mayor Taylor thanked Ms. Blankenship for her comments.

There being no one else who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period, Mayor Taylor proceeded with the agenda.

### **RE: OLD BUSINESS**

Town Manager Moore advised that he did not have anything to report to the Council under Old Business.

### **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 Town of Wytheville has been invited to join the Mount Rogers Cigarette Tax Board. The Board is proposed to be comprised of 11 member counties and towns in our region, and it has been formed to enforce and collect cigarette taxes in each member locality. An agreement has been drafted that establishes the Board and sets out the responsibilities of the localities and the powers and duties of the Board. While each locality can set the tax rate within their locality, the Board enforces and collects tax for the locality. The locality is then reimbursed by the Board minus the proportionate share of the Board's operational cost. It would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that later in the meeting, when the Council considers an

ordinance for the formation of the Mount Rogers Cigarette Tax Board, bestowing upon it all the necessary powers for the performance of its duties that the ordinance be adopted on first and final reading and that the Mayor be authorized to execute the agreement.

The Budget and Finance Committee has been meeting to develop the budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22, and we preliminarily presented our work to the Council in a Work Session. As with the Budget last year, we had to work with significantly reduced projected revenues due to COVID-19. This budget proposes to reduce appropriations to "bare bone" in almost all categories and proposes only two capital projects. One is Heritage Walk Phase III, 80 percent of which is funded through VDOT Transportation Alternative Grants, and the other is the Dog Park. A grant application has been submitted for the Dog Park and the proposed funding will be used as a match if the grant is funded. If it is not, the appropriation will be established as the initial payment to a sinking fund for this project. While departments have been operating with fewer people as freezes on hiring have been implemented over the past year for many positions, management has strived to keep services at the same level as previous years, and some things such as the After Hours Summer Concert Series and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration have been put back in the budget, as well as a two percent increase for employees' salaries. Revenues are realistic projections based on what was collected last year and are proposed to be supplemented by several tax increases:

- Real Estate Tax proposed to increase 5.5 cents from 15.5 cents per \$100 to 21 cents per \$100
- Personal Property Tax proposed to increase 10 cents from 28 cents per \$100 to 38 cents per \$100
- Machinery & Tools Tax proposed to increase 5 cents from 28 cents per \$100 to 33 cents per \$100
- Cigarette Tax proposed to increase 25 cents per pack to 40 cents per pack

Revenues are also proposed to be further supplemented by several fee increases:

- Refuse Collection is projected to increase from \$100 to \$150 per year for the 33 gallon container and from \$50 to \$75 per year for the 13 gallon container.
- Water rates are increased with the flat rate increasing \$1 per customer and a 3% to 10% increase on the consumption rate based on the use.

The budget, if adopted, is balanced and totals revenues of \$24,463,481 and expenditures of \$24,463,481, however, even with the tax increase, it relies on \$1,876,006 of revenue from reserves. The second reading of the budget and the public hearing will be held at the May 24, 2021, Town Council meeting. Following any questions and discussions, it would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that when the Budget Ordinance, which contains the departmental budgets, is considered later in the meeting that it be adopted on the first of three readings. 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 Truliant Federal Credit Union, the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce and the Town of Wytheville have been working on scheduling a shredding event since last spring, but COVID-19 ultimately precluded the several dates projected. We are glad to announce that with the easing of COVID-19 restrictions, we have a new date and time, which is Saturday, June 5, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at the Wytheville Municipal Building Parking Lot (150 East Monroe Street). A very informative flyer has been developed by the Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jennifer Atwell that informs citizens of the event and the requirements. Please note that white paper, colored paper, envelopes, newspapers, paper with staples and paper clips are acceptable, but binder clips, plastic binders, plastic bags, food wrappers, paper plates, napkins, trash, etc. cannot be accepted. We thank our partners, Truliant and the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce, and we hope that all our citizens will be able to utilize this valuable service. We are also glad to note that we are planning another shredding event in the fall, tentatively scheduled for October 16, 2021.

Over the past several weeks, Town Attorney Michelle Workman Clayton and County Attorney Scot Farthing have been working on the draft of a new Fire/EMS Mutual Aid Agreement. The intent of the agreement is to generally set out the protocols and limit liability when Fire and Rescue Departments request the aid of another agency during an emergency. The new agreement replaces one that had become obsolete due to changes in the Fire and Rescue Departments in our region. This agreement and the approving resolution are attached for review. The resolution supports and approves the Fire and Rescue Department participating in the Mutual Aid Agreement, and it authorizes the Mayor to execute the Agreement. It would be the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the Council adopt this resolution that authorizes the Mayor to execute the attached agreement. 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 Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 7:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.
2. The Tree Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 8:30 a.m., in Conference Room B of the Municipal Building.
3. The Wytheville Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, May 13, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.
4. The Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority will meet on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 12:00 p.m. at the Housing Authority Office.
5. The New River Regional Water Authority will meet on Thursday, May 20, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. at the Water Plant in Austinville.
6. The Wythe County Public Library has requested a waiver of fees for use of Withers Park on Friday, May 14, 2021, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to conduct story walks and promote literacy. Discussion ensued regarding the request. A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Vice-Mayor Pattison to approve the request from the Wythe County Public

Library for waiver of fees for use of Withers Park on Friday, May 14, 2021, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., and on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to conduct story walks and promote literacy. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to approve the waiver of fees. Councilman Bloomfield inquired if there would be other activities related to this project that would potentially require fees. Discussion ensued regarding the event and clarification for future events such as this. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any further discussion, 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. 1394**

Mayor Taylor presented Ordinance No. 1394, an ordinance approving the creation of a joint entity to be known as the Mt. Rogers Cigarette Tax Board and bestowing on such entity all powers necessary for the performance of its duties as provided by law, on first reading. A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to adopt Ordinance No. 1394, an ordinance approving the creation of a joint entity to be known as the Mt. Rogers Cigarette Tax Board and bestowing on such entity all powers necessary for the performance of its duties as provided by law, on first and final reading. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to adopt the ordinance on first and final reading. 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

Ordinance No. 1394 was adopted on first and final reading.

**RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1395**

Mayor Taylor presented Ordinance No. 1395, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2021-22, on first reading. A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to adopt Ordinance No. 1395, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2021-22, which includes the departmental budgets, on first, but not final, reading. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to adopt the ordinance on first, but not final, reading. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results:

FOR: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield, Gary L. Gillman

AGAINST: Holly E. Atkins

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1395 was adopted on first, but not final, reading.

**RE: RESOLUTION – FIRE/EMS MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to adopt a resolution approving the Fire and Rescue Department's participation in a Fire/EMS Mutual Aid Agreement. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilman Gillman to adopt a resolution approving the Fire and Rescue Department's participation in a Fire/EMS Mutual Aid Agreement and to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to adopt the resolution. 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: BUDGET OVERVIEW**

Town Manager Moore advised that if anyone is interested, Town staff can provide a copy of an overview of the Town's proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-22.

**RE: ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:40 p.m.).

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Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

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Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk

## **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**MAY 10, 2021**

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Mark J. Bloomfield

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Holly E. Atkins

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**MAY 10, 2021**

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Cathy D. Pattison

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Gary L. Gillman