

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021, AT 7:00 P.M.**

Members present: Beth A. Taylor, Cathy D. Pattison, Mark J. Bloomfield

Members absent: Holly E. Atkins, Gary L. Gillman

Others present: Town Manager T. Brian Freeman, Town Clerk Sharon G. Corvin, Town Attorney Michelle Workman Clayton, Lucas Arnold, Mike Forrest, Patrol Officer Cody Thomas

**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 Vice-Mayor Pattison.

**RE: CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of July 12, 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 Bloomfield to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of July 12, 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. Against: None.

**RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She noted that there are no citizens attending the meeting who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period, therefore, she would proceed with the agenda.

**RE: OLD BUSINESS**

Town Manager Freeman advised that he did not have anything to report to the Council under Old Business, however, later in the meeting, he did have some New Business to report.

**RE: STAFF REPORTS**

Town Manager Freeman presented the Staff Reports. The Staff Reports were entered into the record as follows:

- A. In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) created a Small Business Recovery Assistance Program through their Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The Town was very fortunate to have received two rounds of funding through this competitive grant process and, to date, has supported 103 small businesses throughout Wytheville and Wythe County with over \$740,000 in rent and mortgage relief. The DHCD has indicated that additional Small Business Recovery Assistance funding may be available, so the Town is pursuing an additional \$200,000 and will provide the DHCD with the necessary

documentation and a letter of support relative to the funding request. If awarded, the funding will be utilized to further the rent and mortgage relief assistance program for eligible Wytheville and Wythe County businesses.

- B. The Crossroads Regional Industrial Facility Authority (CRIFA) was established through the Virginia Regional Industrial Facilities Act by Wythe County, the Town of Wytheville and Bland County. The formation of this organization allowed the three governments to invest in facilities for industrial development and to recoup the benefits of this joint investment through a shared distribution of the machinery and tools tax from the host locality. This year, we are pleased to announce that CRIFA has declared a dividend to the Town of Wytheville, and Town Treasurer Michael Stephens has received a check in the amount of \$221,022.15. The Staff Reports are attached and made part of these minutes.

Mayor Taylor explained that the Town of Rural Retreat opted out of the CRIFA program when it first started, therefore, that is why Rural Retreat is not listed. Town Manager Freeman advised that the Town of Wytheville only invested a little over \$60,000 in machinery and tools tax that was generated by the companies who were originally part of CRIFA, therefore, this amount is a nice dividend.

#### **RE: NEW BUSINESS**

Under New Business, Town Manager Freeman reported the following:

1. The Homestead Museum Advisory Board will meet on Thursday, July 29, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., at the Homestead property.
2. The Joint IDA will meet on Thursday, July 29, 2021, at 3:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.
3. Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated (DTW) will meet on Monday, August 9, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., at the DTW office on Main Street.

#### **RE: APPOINTMENTS – WYTHEVILLE BUILDING CODE APPEALS BOARD**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the reappointment of a member to the Wytheville Building Code Appeals Board to fill the expiring term of Mr. David E. Schmidt (term expires July 26, 2021). Mayor Taylor noted that Mr. Schmidt is eligible for reappointment and has indicated a willingness to serve again, if reappointed. A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Vice-Mayor Pattison to reappoint Mr. David E. Schmidt as a member to the Wytheville Building Code Appeals Board for a five year term (term expires July 26, 2026). Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to reappoint Mr. Schmidt. 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. Against: None.

#### **RE: APPOINTMENTS – WYTHEVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the reappointment of a youth member to the Wytheville Recreation Commission to fill the expiring term of Mr. Dylan Jones (term expires August 1, 2021). Mayor Taylor noted that Mr. Jones is eligible for reappointment and has indicated a willingness to serve again, if reappointed. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilman Bloomfield to reappoint Mr. Dylan Jones as a youth member to the Wytheville Recreation Commission for a one year term (term expires August 1, 2022). Mayor

Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to reappoint Mr. Jones. 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. Against: None.

**RE: APPOINTMENTS – WILLOW BROOK JACKSON/UMBERGER HOMESTEAD MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the appointment of a member to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Mr. James Hartlage (term expires July 31, 2023). A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Vice-Mayor Pattison to appoint Mr. David Sharitz as a member to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board to fill the unexpired term of Mr. James Hartlage (term expires July 31, 2023). Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to appoint Mr. Sharitz. 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. Against: None.

**RE: PROPOSED REVISION TO CEMETERIES SECTION OF TOWN CODE**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to set a public hearing to consider an amendment to Chapter 5, Cemeteries, Section 5-6. Monument Work and Markers, of the Town Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia. Town Manager Freeman explained the proposed foundation depth revision to the Council. Discussion ensued regarding the cemetery grave monuments. Mayor Taylor remarked that if the Council concurs, a public hearing will need to be set to consider amending the Town Code. Councilman Bloomfield advised that he would like more information regarding this matter. Town Clerk Corvin explained that Director of Public Works Peoples has discussed the revision with representatives of Grubb Funeral Home and Barnett Funeral Home, and both are in favor of amending the Town Code section. It was the consensus of the Council to obtain more information and to table the setting of the public hearing to consider an amendment to Chapter 5, Cemeteries, Section 5-6. Monument Work and Markers, of the Town Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, until the August 9, 2021, Town Council meeting.

**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.).

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Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

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Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk