

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 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 Clerk Sharon G. Corvin, Town Attorney Michelle Workman Clayton, Donna Leonard, Glenna Crockett, Kerry Eans, Chief Deputy Gary Davenport

**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 September 13, 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 Councilman Gillman and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of September 13, 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: NATURAL GAS FRANCHISE BID OPENING**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to accept bids pursuant to §15.2-2101(B) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for a natural gas franchise, privilege, lease or right, and open all received bids, which has been advertised accordingly. She noted that the current natural gas franchise with Atmos Energy expires October 14, 2021. Mayor Taylor continued to explain the bid opening process. Mayor Taylor advised that the Town has received only one bid, which was from Atmos Energy for \$500. She explained that action on this matter will be taken later in the meeting when the Council considers Ordinance No. 1402.

**RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She noted that there is one citizen attending the meeting who stated on the sign in sheet that they wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period. Ms. Donna Leonard was recognized, and she stated that she resides at 530 East Monroe Street in Wytheville and wished to address the Council regarding the speeders and high traffic on East Monroe Street. Ms. Leonard commented that she had seen a note in her water bill from Mayor Taylor stating that the speeding and traffic complaints in town have been turned over to the Public Safety Department. Mayor Taylor advised that the complaints have been turned over to the Wytheville Police Department. She noted that earlier during the Council Work Session meeting, Wytheville Police Department Lieutenant Bryan Bard reported regarding the areas of concern throughout town. Ms. Leonard continued to discuss her thoughts regarding the ways she felt the traffic problems could be handled on East Monroe Street. A brief

discussion ensued regarding the request for more stoplights on East Monroe Street, and it was noted that the Town cannot install stoplights without VDOT's approval, which requires the Town to meet signal warrants. Discussion continued regarding Ms. Leonard's traffic concerns on East Monroe Street and what the Town is doing to correct the issues. Ms. Leonard thanked the Council for allowing her to speak during Citizens' Period, and Mayor Taylor thanked Ms. Leonard for her comments. Mayor Taylor inquired if there were others who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period. There being none, Mayor Taylor proceeded with the agenda.

## **RE: STAFF REPORTS**

Town Attorney Clayton presented the Staff Reports, and they were entered into the record as follows:

- A. We are pleased to announce that a shredding event has been scheduled for Saturday, October 16, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Wytheville Municipal Building parking lot. The shredding event is a joint effort of the Town of Wytheville, Truliant Federal Credit Union, Wythe County and the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce. Town and County citizens will be able to have their documents shredded safely and securely during the event. We would remind citizens that the unacceptable shredding items include binders and binder clips; plastic bags; garbage bags; food wrappers; paper plates, cups and napkins; and, trash. Anyone needing more information should contact the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce by calling (276) 223-3365 or by emailing [chamber@wytheville.org](mailto:chamber@wytheville.org).
- B. In 1998, the General Assembly dispensed with the car tax, and to compensate localities for the loss in revenues generated by the personal property tax, the State agreed to pay the localities a portion of the tax based on the local tax rate and the assessed value of the vehicles. This rate is adjusted annually. During the budget preparation, Town Treasurer Michael Stephens inserts the rate from the prior year, and when the new rate is established, he requests the Council to adopt the newly computed rate. After receiving the 2020-21 tax assessments, Town Treasurer Stephens would request that the Council establish the personal property tax reimbursement rate at 36.80 percent. It will require an action by the Town Council to adopt this new personal property tax reimbursement rate. A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to establish and adopt the personal property tax reimbursement rate at 36.8 percent. 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. The Staff Reports are attached and made part of these minutes.

## **RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1402**

Mayor Taylor presented Ordinance No. 1402, an ordinance of the Council of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, to accept the highest bid and establish criteria, procedures and standards by which the Town will grant and enforce a natural gas franchise, on second and final reading. She explained that the natural gas franchise bids were opened earlier in the meeting, and the Town Council will now accept the highest bid and award the natural gas franchise. She inquired if there is a motion to amend the ordinance to include the name of the natural gas franchise grantee and to adopt the ordinance on second and final reading. A motion was made by Councilman Gillman and seconded by Vice-Mayor Pattison to amend and adopt Ordinance No. 1402, an ordinance of the Council of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, to accept the highest bid and establish criteria,

procedures and standards by which the Town will grant and enforce a natural gas franchise and, to name the franchise grantee as Atmos Energy Corporation, on second and final reading. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to amend and adopt the ordinance on second 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. 1402 was amended and adopted on seconded and final reading.

**RE: LIVE STREAM TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Mr. Kerry Eans was recognized and stated that he resides at 50 Lee Circle in Wytheville. He remarked that when the Council meetings were broadcast live, there were lots of viewers who watched the Council meetings. He inquired of the Council as to why the Town Council meetings cannot be live streaming via Zoom. Mr. Eans remarked that it is always a good idea to keep citizens informed with the changes of the community. He noted that Zoom is common now for most people, and maybe this is a way to help inform the citizens of Wytheville of changes, etc. Mr. Eans continued to express his thoughts regarding live streaming the meetings via social media. Mayor Taylor noted that this idea has been mentioned several times, and the Computer Operations Department performed a study for the Council to give the percentage of Town and County citizens who were watching the meetings. She noted that the study showed that most of the people watching the Council meetings were not citizens of the Town or County. Mr. Eans remarked that maybe the numbers would grow, if the Council would reconsider live streaming the meetings. He thanked the Council for allowing him to speak, and the Council thanked Mr. Eans for his comments.

**RE: ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:22 p.m.).

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Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

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Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk