

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2017, AT 7:00 P.M.**

Members present: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, Thomas F. Hundley, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Beth A. Taylor

Others present: Assistant Town Manager Stephen A. Moore, Town Clerk Sharon G. Corvin, Town Attorney Christopher R. Menerick, Cliff Phillips, Kylei Smith, Madison Phillips, Shelly Smith, Debbie Moody, Frances Emerson, Angela Corvin, Chad Corvin, Elizabeth Beaver, Nathanael Beaver, Mike Beaver, Jackson Denti, Mitchell Denti, Rhonda Sechrest, Police Officer Chastity Russell

RE: CALL TO ORDER, QUORUM, PLEDGE

Mayor Crewe called the meeting to order and established that a quorum of Council members was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Mayor King.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Crewe presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 9, 2017; the request of Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated to conduct the Downtown Wytheville Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.; and, the request of the Wythe County Public Schools Foundation for Excellence to conduct a Sandman Extreme Run on Saturday, January 13, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. He inquired of the Council if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented or to somehow be amended. A motion was made by Councilman Hundley and seconded by Councilwoman Taylor to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 9, 2017; the request of Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated to conduct the Downtown Wytheville Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at 6:00 p.m.; and, the request of the Wythe County Public Schools Foundation for Excellence to conduct a Sandman Extreme Run on Saturday, January 13, 2018, at 9:00 a.m., as presented. Mayor Crewe 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: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, Thomas F. Hundley, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Beth A. Taylor. Against: None.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD – SMITHSONIAN YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND SKILL-BUILDING GRANT PROJECT TEAM PRESENTATION

Mayor Crewe advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. He noted that this is the reason for most of the citizens attending the meeting. Mayor Crewe remarked that, obviously, the Council thinks that the students attending the meeting have done something special, and he would ask that Ms. Frances Emerson, Director of Museums, come forward and explain to the Council the Smithsonian Youth Engagement and Skill-Building Grant Project.

Director of Museums Frances Emerson presented the Council with the video the project team produced named "How Mining and Railroads Shaped the Communities in Wythe County, Virginia." Director Emerson continued to explain the project to the Council. Vice-Mayor King thanked the project team for attending the Council meeting.

Mayor Crewe presented a resolution which read as follows:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Town of Wytheville Department of Museums applied for a \$5,000 grant from the Smithsonian Institution Museum on Main Street Program and received the funding; and,

WHEREAS, the mission of the Museum on Main Street Program is to provide access to small towns to the Smithsonian Institution to help them provide the youth with educational opportunities, such as research activities for storytelling about their community, and this helps to instill a sense of accomplishment and local pride; and,

WHEREAS, the Department of Museums chose the 4-H Edge Club to participate in this project and formed the Smithsonian Youth Engagement and Skill-Building Grant Project Team; and,

WHEREAS, the Project Team produced a video named "How Mining and Railroads Shaped The Communities of Wythe County, Virginia"; and,

WHEREAS, this team worked tirelessly to produce this video, which included researching history, conducting and filming interviews, writing scripts, performing video narrations, selecting the video music and editing the video; and,

WHEREAS, the Project Team is comprised of homeschooled students including Chase Arnold, Chloe Arnold, Nathanael Beaver, Lucas Corvin, Jackson Denti, Mitchell Denti, Joseph Dye, Joshua Dye, Madison Dye, Matthew Dye, Coyote Edwards, Elizabeth Gravely, Madison Phillips, Aaliyah Reynolds and Kylei Smith; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Kelsey Grimes, Extension Agent, 4-H Youth Development, worked closely with the Project Team members and provided great support and encouragement to ensure that they finished this educational and informative video that tells of our community's history; and,

WHEREAS, the Smithsonian Youth Engagement and Skill-Building Grant Project Team members, through their display of great academic ability and team efforts, have reflected great credit upon their team, the Department of Museums and the Town of Wytheville.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, officially commends the Smithsonian Youth Engagement and Skill-Building Grant Project Team for this outstanding accomplishment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be presented to Ms. Kelsey Grimes, members of the Smithsonian Youth Engagement and Skill-Building Grant Project Team and the news media.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, to be affixed this 23rd day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand seventeen.

Mayor Crewe inquired if there is a motion to adopt the resolution recognizing the project team. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilwoman Taylor to adopt a resolution recognizing the efforts of the Smithsonian Youth Engagement and Skill-Building Grant Project Team. He inquired if there is 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: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, Thomas F. Hundley, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Beth A. Taylor. Against: None. Mayor Crewe thanked the project members for attending the meeting. He inquired if any of the project members would like to address the Council at this time. There being none, Mayor Crewe requested the members of the project team to come forward for the presentation of the resolution and to have a photo taken.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Crewe advised that no one attending the meeting had signed up to speak during Citizens' Period, therefore, he would proceed with the agenda.

RE: OLD BUSINESS

Under Old Business, Assistant Town Manager Moore reported the following:

1. There will be no Council Work Session held on Tuesday, October 24, 2017. He noted that the next scheduled Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, October 31, 2017, at 7:00 a.m., in the Council Conference Room.
2. The Homestead Advisory Board will meet on Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., in Conference Room A.
3. The Joint Governing Bodies meeting scheduled for Monday, October 30, 2017, has been canceled. He noted that the next meeting will be held on Monday, January 29, 2018.
4. W&L Construction is scheduled to begin paving tomorrow evening, October 25, 2017, at approximately 5:00 p.m., weather permitting.
5. Halloween is Tuesday, October 31, 2017, and children 12 and under are permitted to trick-or-treat. He noted that the curfew begins at 9:00 p.m. on this evening.

6. Mayor Crewe stated that several months ago, Mr. A. J. McCoy inquired of the Town Council if he could perform an Eagle Scout Project to build a shelter over an existing concrete slab which is located on Town property. He noted that this would be installed at no expense to the Town. Mayor Crewe explained that the Council has never granted Mr. McCoy permission to perform the project. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is a motion to approve Mr. McCoy's request to perform his project. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Hand to approve Mr. A. J. McCoy performing an Eagle Scout Project to build a shelter over an existing concrete slab on Town owned property located between the Wytheville Presbyterian Church and the Wythe County Rescue Squad building. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the motion to approve Mr. McCoy's request. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, Thomas F. Hundley, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Beth A. Taylor. Against: None.

RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice-Mayor King, reporting for the Budget and Finance Committee, stated that Town Treasurer Mike Stephens advises that he now has all of the information from the Commissioner of the Revenue on personal property taxes, i.e. vehicles. She noted that as the Council knows, several years ago, the State changed the law with regard to procedures where car taxes were eliminated, and then the State reimburses communities a certain percent. Vice-Mayor King explained that when the budget was adopted this past year, the reimbursement that was established in the budget document was 55.70 percent, and, as the Council knew at that time, it was an estimate until the Commissioner actually provided the Town with all of the data for the year. She commented that it has now been determined that the reimbursement percentage from the State will need to be established at 61.30 percent. Vice-Mayor King advised that Town Treasurer Stephens would request, and the Budget and Finance Committee would recommend, that the Council take an action to establish the reimbursement percentage at the above described amount. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilwoman Taylor to establish the Personal Property Tax Relief Act percentage rate at 61.30 percent. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to establish the rate at 61.30 percent. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, Thomas F. Hundley, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Beth A. Taylor. Against: None.

Vice-Mayor King, also, reported that October is Fire Prevention Month, and the Council has asked the Town's Fire Department to implement programs that will institute a new opportunity to provide free smoke alarms for citizens who cannot afford them. She noted that according to the National Fire Protection Association, three out of five home fires happen from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Vice-Mayor King stated that smoke alarms save lives, and, if properly installed and maintained, this equipment plays a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. She explained that the Town of Wytheville Department of Public Safety wants to help prevent these situations by assisting citizens who may not have the financial ability to purchase a smoke alarm or obtain this piece of equipment for their homes. Vice-Mayor King remarked that, additionally, the Council has asked the Fire Department to have available literature and other planning tools that can be used by families to create an awareness of fire safety. She stated that if someone is a Town of Wytheville citizen who needs such assistance, please contact the Department of Public Safety at (276) 223-3300 for more information about this free program. A copy of the Budget and Finance Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Hundley, reporting for the Public Works Committee, stated that, given the circumstances that are occurring around the country, many communities, including the Town of Wytheville, are drafting and implementing policies to deal with picketing and demonstrations. He explained that this is a topic that the Council discussed in September, and, since that time, the Council has drafted language that would be included in the Town Code. Councilman Hundley stated that as the Council explained before, it is important to know that the Town in no way wants to develop regulations that infringe on anyone's rights or their freedom of speech, but the Council also realizes that these activities must be held in an orderly fashion and in a manner that does not endanger the demonstrators or the citizenry in general. He noted that the Council has asked Town Attorney Christopher Menerick to continue to review the draft of the ordinance and to identify standards that are being imposed in other Virginia communities. He advised that the Council anticipates that an ordinance regulating picketing and demonstrations will be on the November 13, 2017, agenda.

Councilman Hundley, also, reported that earlier in the meeting, the Council approved a request of Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated to conduct the annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. He stated that given that the construction activities in the downtown area are nearing completion, it seems that this may be a good opportunity to celebrate the completion of the construction to showcase the downtown area prior to the annual Christmas Parade. Councilman Hundley explained that Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated and Town staff are looking at programs that might occur on an annual basis, such as the lighting of the Christmas tree in Withers Park. He remarked that there are a number of activities being considered that will provide a fun filled evening, which will include the Christmas Parade. Councilman Hundley noted that the Public Works Committee will have more information about this program as it moves forward. He advised that there is no action required by the Council at this time, but the Council would like to invite everyone to participate in these downtown programs. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

Mayor Crewe stated that on behalf of the Town Council, he would like to congratulate Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated on their successful 2017 Zombie Run event and the Zombie Bash.

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1329

Mayor Crewe presented Ordinance No. 1329, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 13, Streets, Sidewalks and Improvements, Article II. Signs, Awnings, Etc., Over Sidewalks, Etc., Section 13-27. Signs, Awnings, Etc., Having Supports Implanted in Streets, Etc., of the Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, on second reading. A motion was made by Councilman Hundley and seconded by Councilman Hand to approve Ordinance No. 1329, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 13, Streets, Sidewalks and Improvements, Article II. Signs, Awnings, Etc., Over Sidewalks, Etc., Section 13-27. Signs, Awnings, Etc., Having Supports Implanted in Streets, Etc., of the Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, on second, but not final, reading. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to approve the ordinance on second but not final, reading. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition:

FOR: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, Thomas F. Hundley, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Beth A. Taylor

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1329 was approved on second, but not final, reading.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:37 p.m.).

Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Mayor

Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

OCTOBER 23, 2017

1. Town Treasurer Mike Stephens advises that he now has all of the information from the Commissioner of the Revenue on personal property taxes, i.e. vehicles. As the Council knows, several years ago, the State changed the law with regard to procedures where car taxes were eliminated, and then the State reimburses communities a certain percent. When the budget was adopted this past year, the reimbursement that was established in the budget document was 55.70 percent, and, as the Council knew at that time, it was an estimate until the Commissioner actually provided the Town with all of the data for the year. It has now been determined that the reimbursement percentage from the State will need to be established at 61.30 percent. Town Treasurer Stephens would request, and we recommend, that the Council take an action to establish the reimbursement percentage at the above described amount.
2. October is Fire Prevention Month, and we have asked the Town's Fire Department to implement programs that will institute a new opportunity to provide free smoke alarms for citizens who cannot afford them. According to the National Fire Protection Association, three out of five home fires happen from fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms save lives, and, if properly installed and maintained, this equipment plays a vital role in reducing fire deaths and injuries. The Town of Wytheville Department of Public Safety wants to help prevent these situations by assisting citizens who may not

have the financial ability to purchase a smoke alarm or obtain this piece of equipment for their homes. Additionally, we have asked the Fire Department to have available literature and other planning tools that can be used by families to create an awareness of fire safety. If you are a Town of Wytheville citizen who needs such assistance, please contact the Department of Public Safety at (276) 223-3300 for more information about this free program.

Jacqueline K. King

Beth A. Taylor

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

OCTOBER 23, 2017

1. Given the circumstances that are occurring around the country, many communities, including ourselves, are drafting and implementing policies to deal with picketing and demonstrations. This is a topic that we discussed in September, and, since that time, we have drafted language that would be included in the Town Code. As we explained before, it is important to know that the Council in no way wants to develop regulations that infringe on anyone's rights or their freedom of speech, but the Council also realizes that these activities must be held in an orderly fashion and in a manner that does not endanger the demonstrators or the citizenry in general. We have asked Town Attorney Christopher Menerick to continue to review the draft of the ordinance and to identify standards that are being imposed in other Virginia communities. We anticipate that an ordinance regulating picketing and demonstrations will be on the November 13, 2017, agenda.
2. Earlier in the meeting, the Council approved a request of Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated to conduct the annual Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 2, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. Given that the construction activities in the downtown area are nearing completion, it seems that this may be a good opportunity to celebrate the completion of the construction to showcase the downtown area prior to the annual Christmas Parade. Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated and Town staff are looking at programs that might occur on an annual basis, such as the lighting of the Christmas tree in Withers Park. There are a number of activities being considered that will

provide a fun filled evening, which will include the Christmas Parade. We will have more information about this program as we move forward. There is no action required by the Council at this time, but we do invite everyone to participate in these downtown programs.

Thomas F. Hundley

Joseph E. Hand, Jr.