

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, JUNE 25, 2018, AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

Members absent: Beth A. Taylor

Others present: Town Manager C. Wayne Sutherland, Jr., Town Clerk Sharon G. Corvin, Town Attorney Christopher R. Menerick, Michelen Morin, Jennifer Morin, Paul Morin, Cathy Pattison, Kay Mangus, Rush Jackson, Marie B. Bishop, John W. Jones, Jr., Bonnie R. Wright, Bob Gordon, Dawn Taylor, Charles G. Crockett, Mark Sechrest, Jon Puvak, Jeffrey Kyle, Michael G. Stephens, Scot Davis, Denise Davis, Brad Utter, Millicent Rothrock of *The Wytheville Enterprise*, Mike Gangloff of *The Roanoke Times*, Police Officer Troy Cochram

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 June 11, 2018, and the request of Wytheville Community College to conduct a "WCC Spring for Scholarships" 5K Run/Walk on Friday, September 28, 2018, at 6:00 p.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 Hand and seconded by Vice-Mayor King to approve the first item on the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of June 11, 2018, as presented. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to approve the first item on the consent agenda. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results: For: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, Joseph E. Hand, Jr. Against: None. Abstention: Thomas F. Hundley. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is a motion to approve the second item on the consent agenda consisting of the request of Wytheville Community College to conduct a "WCC Spring for Scholarships" 5K Run/Walk on Friday, September 28, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., as presented. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Hundley to approve the request of Wytheville Community College to conduct a "WCC Spring for Scholarships" 5K Run/Walk on Friday, September 28, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., as presented. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to approve the request of the College to conduct a 5K Run/Walk. 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. Against: None.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING – AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE

Mayor Crewe advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider an amendment to the Town of Wytheville Zoning Ordinance, Article XXI, Regulating Outdoor Advertising in Sight of Public Streets in the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, Article III, Table of Permitted Size, Number, Height and Location of Signs. Mayor Crewe continued to explain the proposed amendment to the Council. He noted that there is no one listed on the sign in sheet who stated that they wished to address the Council during this public hearing, however, if anyone has changed their mind and wished to speak, now is the time to do so. Mayor Crewe advised that he would reserve the right to revisit the public hearing, if someone comes in later during the meeting who wished to address the Council. There being no one to speak regarding the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance, Mayor Crewe declared the public hearing closed and proceeded with the agenda.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING – APPROPRIATIONS TO THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2017-18

Mayor Crewe advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider various appropriations to the budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18. He continued to explain to the Council what the appropriations include in the amendment, which were to include an amendment to the Water Fund budget of \$235,000; an amendment to the General Fund of \$1,403,000; and, an amendment to the Homestead Endowment Budget of \$25,000. He noted that there is no one listed on the sign in sheet who stated that they wished to address the Council during this public hearing, however, if anyone has changed their mind and wished to

speak, now is the time to do so. Mayor Crewe advised that he would reserve the right to revisit the public hearing, if someone comes in later during the meeting who wished to address the Council. There being no one to speak regarding the appropriations to the budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18, Mayor Crewe declared the public hearing closed and proceeded with the agenda.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Crewe advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. He stated that Mr. John Jones noted on the sign in sheet that he wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period, therefore, he would ask Mr. Jones to come forward to the podium.

Mr. John W. Jones, Jr. was recognized and stated that he had a long list of items to address, however, he realizes that all of the citizens attending the meeting did not come to hear him speak. He commented that he realizes that most everyone attending the meeting is attending to hear about the proposed special exception permit for the Loretto Historic Mansion, LLC. He advised that he would like to thank the Wytheville Town Council for the passage of the Hazardous Duty Supplement program (LEOs). Mr. Jones commented that he thought it was well thought out and well done. He remarked that he felt that it meant that the Town Council, Town Management and the Department Heads involved worked out a good solution. Mr. Jones commented that with that being said, he would like to remind the Town Council that the Town does not want to go back on any of the conditions that were agreed to by the Police Department regarding the LEOs program because it is an expensive program, and the Town Council was able to work it out so that it was not very expensive for the Town by making the necessary changes and being able to pay for the program within the budget. He reiterated that he hopes that the Council will keep this in mind. Mr. Jones stated that his second and major purpose for attending the Council meeting is that he had told Mayor Crewe that he was going to attend this meeting because he personally wanted to thank Mayor Crewe for his service as Mayor. He noted that he had the privilege of serving with Mayor Crewe for 18 years on the Town Council, and he learned a great deal while working with Mayor Crewe. Mr. Jones remarked that Mayor Crewe listened very well, he was great in reasoning out the disagreements the Council encountered and worked with a lot of different people. He noted that, last week, he and Mr. Charles Crockett were discussing when Mayor Crewe was President of the Virginia Municipal League (VML), how he was able to get all of his Mayor duties, the duties of VML President and all of his legal practice duties accomplished. Mr. Jones remarked that he and Mr. Crockett thought that sometimes Mayor Crewe's legal work might have suffered, and noted that he does not know, but they often wondered. Mr. Jones commented that he feels that the citizens need to know how much of Mayor Crewe's time, and probably some of his money, that was given to this town. He noted that it will be difficult to replace him, but he is sure the Council will move on. Mr. Jones reiterated that he wanted to personally thank Mayor Crewe for his efforts as the Mayor and for the strides that the Town made while he was Mayor. He noted that he read the article that Mayor Crewe wrote in the Town newsletter and one thing stood out, which was that Mayor Crewe was very unassuming. Mr. Jones commented that Mayor Crewe was not on the Town Council to try to get any type of recognition or to get clients. He noted that Mayor Crewe served as Mayor for the citizens of the Town of Wytheville, and he thinks that everyone should appreciate the fact that is why Mayor Crewe was on the Town Council. Mr. Jones thanked Mayor Crewe for his time as Mayor. Mayor Crewe thanked Mr. Jones for his kind words.

Mayor Crewe advised that Mr. Jon Puvak stated on the sign in sheet that he wished to address the Council regarding the Loretto Historic Mansion, LLC. He asked that Mr. Puvak come forward to the podium to address the Council so that the minutes could be properly recorded.

Mr. Jon Puvak was recognized and stated that he is an attorney with Gentry Locke located in Roanoke, Virginia. He noted that he is attending the meeting on behalf of the Dawn Taylor family. Mr. Puvak commented that he would like to briefly address the Council regarding the Loretto Historic Mansion, LLC matter. Mr. Puvak continued to express his thoughts regarding the additional requests made by the Morins that were addressed at the June 11, 2018, Town Council meeting, for the Loretto Historic Mansion, LLC special exception permit request. He noted that his client feels that the recommendation from the Wytheville Planning Commission is a reasonable recommendation, and Ms. Taylor is content with the recommendation and hopes that the Town Council will uphold the recommendation, if they choose to approve the special exception permit. He thanked the Town Council for allowing him to speak. Mayor Crewe thanked him for addressing the Council.

Mayor Crewe noted that no one else indicated on the sign in sheet that they wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period, therefore, he would proceed with the agenda.

RE: OLD BUSINESS

Under Old Business, Town Manager Sutherland reported the following:

1. The Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, June 26, 2018, at 7:00 a.m., in the Council Conference Room.
2. The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County will meet on Thursday, June 28, 2018, at 3:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.
3. The Town of Wytheville Municipal Offices will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, 2018, in observance of the Independence Day holiday, and all services will be curtailed.

RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice-Mayor King, reporting for the Budget and Finance Committee, stated that the budget for Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019 has been presented to the Council on two previous occasions, and, at the last meeting of Council, there was a public hearing and there was no one present to make comments with regard to the budget as it is proposed. She noted that at the Work Session this week, the Council reviewed the budget document again, and reviewed several minor changes within the document and chose not to make any revisions to the numbers as they are now published. Vice-Mayor King advised that having said that, it is the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that when the Fiscal Year 2018 - 19 Budget is considered later in the meeting that it be approved on third and final reading, and that it become effective July 1, 2018.

Vice-Mayor King, also, reported that earlier in the evening, there was a public hearing held to consider amending the budget for Fiscal Year 2017 - 18. She explained that in general, the revisions to the budget reflect the appropriations funded for projects that had not been included in the budget or the addition of grant funds to be used for such projects. Vice-Mayor King stated that there are, basically, three categories where the budget will need to be amended, the Water Fund Budget, the General Fund and the Homestead Endowment Budget. She noted that attached is a report outlining the various line items and categories that are being revised. Vice-Mayor King explained that all of these categories reflect activities that have occurred during the year where the project exceeded its original anticipated expense or for which additional work had occurred, or, in some cases, where projects were performed that had not been initially included in the budget for the prior year. She advised that it would be the motion of the Budget and Finance Committee that the Council amend and appropriate the 2017 - 18 budget in the following fashions: the Water Fund Budget be amended by \$235,000, the General Fund be amended by \$1,403,000 and the Homestead Endowment Budget be amended in the amount of \$25,000. She advised that these amendments are required by the Town's auditors to reflect the changes that have occurred during the year. Vice-Mayor King stated that there are no negative connotations associated with making these revisions. A motion was made by the Budget and Finance Committee, which does not require a second, to approve revising the Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget in the following amounts: Water Fund Budget in the amount of \$235,000; General Fund in the amount of \$1,403,000; and, the Homestead Endowment Budget in the amount of \$25,000. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to amend the 2017-18 Fiscal Year Budget. 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. Against: None. 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 earlier in the meeting, the Council conducted a public hearing to consider revisions to the Town's Sign Ordinance with regard to projecting signs. He noted that the Sign Ordinance currently has a provision that restricts projecting signs to a projection from the building face to 42 inches, or not to project over the rights of way to a point that is 18 inches from the back of the curb. Councilman Hundley explained that projecting signs are those which are mounted on the building face and extend perpendicular to the building out over the rights of way. He commented that when the Town began work on the Downtown Revitalization Project, it became important that storefronts be improved and made more dynamic to attract more business back to the downtown area. Councilman Hundley remarked that signs need to be graphic representatives of the goods and services available in the building and could become exciting artwork that adds to the dynamics of the downtown storefronts. He explained that it is also necessary for the signs to be large enough to be easily read from the street to attract passersby into the stores. Councilman Hundley stated that historically, projections have exceeded the 42 inches and are

not currently allowed in the ordinance, with examples such as the pencil at the Wytheville Office Supply building and the Counts Drug neon sign. He noted that later in the meeting when the ordinance is considered, the Public Works Committee would recommend that the Council approve the revision on first and final reading. Councilman Hundley stated that the Council continues to support the restriction that would not allow the sign to extend beyond 18 inches from the curb. He commented that, otherwise, the Public Works Committee would move for the adoption of the revision to the Sign Ordinance.

Councilman Hundley, also, reported that the Town continues to see more and more advertising signs, including political signs, that are being located in the Town's rights of way. He noted that the Town's regulations prohibit advertising signs to be located within the Town's rights of way. Councilman Hundley explained that the Public Works Committee knows that this situation will only be compounded this fall as the Town heads into another political season. He commented that it is the belief of the Public Works Committee and the Town Council that the Town needs to take a proactive stand to prohibit the proliferation of these signs within the Town's rights of way. Councilman Hundley expressed that the Council has requested for the Police Department to take an active role in removing any signs that are located within the Town's rights of way. He stated that anyone that would have a question with regard to the location of the rights of way should contact the Municipal Office and make an inquiry. Councilman Hundley noted that generally speaking, as a rule of thumb, the Town's rights of way can be judged by the location of power poles, water meters and other utilities that are routinely placed along a right of way line. He commented that, in any event, the Public Works Committee wanted to give everyone sufficient notice that the Town will start to remove all signs that are located within the Town's rights of way. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: HUNDLEY TENURE ON TOWN COUNCIL

Councilman Hundley stated that he would like to say that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the citizens of the Town of Wytheville for the past eight years. He commented that he is very pleased to have served on the Town Council in the town where he was born and raised. Councilman Hundley remarked that he is very pleased of the progress that has been made. Mayor Crewe advised that Councilman Hundley has been a huge part of the progress that has been made, and he thanked him for his service to the Town.

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

Mayor Crewe advised that the next agenda item is to consider an appointment of a member to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board to fill the resignation of Mrs. Seawillow Jackson. He explained that Mrs. Jackson's term was for a lifetime, and all other Board appointments are for a term of five years. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is a motion concerning the appointment of a member to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Hundley to accept the resignation of Mrs. Seawillow Jackson from the Willow Brook/Jackson Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board and to appoint Ms. Kay Mangus to fill Mrs. Jackson's unexpired term, and Ms. Mangus' appointment is to run the term of her mother's life. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to appoint Ms. Mangus to the Willow Brook/Jackson Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board. 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. Against: None.

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1339

Mayor Crewe presented Ordinance No. 1339, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2018-19, on third reading. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is a motion concerning Ordinance No. 1339. A motion was made by the Budget and Finance Committee, which does not require a second, to adopt Ordinance No. 1339, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2018-19, on third and final reading. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to adopt the ordinance on third and 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.

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1339 was adopted on third and final reading.

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1340

Mayor Crewe presented Ordinance No. 1340, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, Article XXI – Regulating Outdoor Advertising in Sight of Public Streets in the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, Article III, Table of Permitted Size, Number, Height and Location of Signs, on first reading. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is a motion concerning Ordinance No. 1340. Mayor Crewe explained the ordinance to the Council and noted this ordinance is regarding projecting signs. A motion was made by the Budget and Finance Committee, which does not require a second, to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance No. 1340, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, Article XXI – Regulating Outdoor Advertising in Sight of Public Streets in the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, Article III, Table of Permitted Size, Number, Height and Location of Signs, on first and final reading. Mayor Crewe 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: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, Thomas F. Hundley, Joseph E. Hand, Jr.

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1340 was adopted on first and final reading.

RE: SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT – LORETTO HISTORIC MANSION, LLC

Mayor Crewe advised that the next agenda item is to consider the issuance of a special exception permit to Loretto Historic Mansion, LLC to conduct indoor activities including meetings, conferences, educational seminars, tours and recitals at 205 Loretto Drive, which is located on the west side of Loretto Drive between Peppers Ferry Road and Mountain View Drive, in an R-1 Residential District. He noted that the matter was tabled at the last meeting. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Hundley to issue a special exception permit to Loretto Historic Mansion, LLC to conduct indoor activities including meetings, conferences, educational seminars, tours and recitals at 205 Loretto Drive, which is located on the west side of Loretto Drive between Peppers Ferry Road and Mountain View Drive, in an R-1 Residential District, with the following stipulations: 1.) All activities shall be held indoors of the Loretto Mansion, with a maximum of 50 people attending meetings, corporate and governmental conferences, educational seminars and recitals; 2.) All house tours shall be with a maximum of 50 guests and shall be organized through the Wytheville Convention & Visitors Bureau; 3.) The property shall be maintained in the same manner as it has been maintained in the past, with attention to the residence and outbuildings, landscaping, detention pond and outflow structures; 4.) The volume of parking shall be limited to specific areas and these areas shall be screened from the adjacent neighborhoods with landscaping according to the Buffer Yard Regulations. The parking for smaller meeting and conferences shall be defined and located with permanent paving and landscaping; 5.) The hours of all indoor activities shall be limited to Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; 6.) The appearance and character of the property shall remain unchanged and the property shall maintain the appearance of a private residence; 7.) The Special Exception Permit shall be granted for a period of one year, with a provision for renewal annually; 8.) The Special Exception Permit shall be granted only to the Loretto Historic Mansion, LLC so that any change in ownership shall require an application for a Special Exception Permit; and, 9.) Failure to comply with these conditions shall be grounds for rescinding this Special Exception Permit. Mayor Crewe clarified that the motion is to approve Option 1 for the special exception permit. Vice-Mayor King stated that is correct. She noted that she would like to remind everyone that the Council sends the Planning Commissioners to school to be Certified Planners and to make the right decisions regarding items such as this. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any further discussion on the motion to approve the special exception permit. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results: For: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, Thomas F. Hundley. Against: Joseph E. Hand, Jr.

Mayor Crewe advised that the Special Exception Permit has been granted for one year.

RE: VICE-MAYOR JACQUELINE K. KING

Vice-Mayor King stated that she would like to thank Councilman Hundley for his loyalty and serving on the Wytheville Town Council for eight years. She noted that she has truly enjoyed getting to know him and serving with him. Vice-Mayor King commented that Councilman Hundley has been a gentleman. Vice-Mayor King stated that for the past 26 years, she has served on the Town Council with Mayor Crewe. She noted that she has been Mayor Crewe's Vice-Mayor for approximately 24 of those 26 years, and she has really enjoyed serving with him, as well. Vice-Mayor King thanked Mayor Crewe and Councilman Hundley for their service to the Town of Wytheville.

RE: MAYOR TRENTON G. CREWE, JR.

Mayor Crewe stated that it has been an honor, blessing and privilege serving on the Town Council. He noted that he has enjoyed serving with Councilman Hundley, and Councilman Hundley has served admirably and has done a lot for the Town of Wytheville. Mayor Crewe remarked that he appreciates all of the kind comments that have been directed to him. He commented that he is only 20 percent of the Town Council, and, unless he has two other people who will vote with him, he cannot get a motion passed. Mayor Crewe reiterated that serving on the Council has been a blessing to him and his family, and he considers it to be one of the highest honors that he has ever received. He expressed that he will miss being Mayor, but he knows the Town will do well. He wished the Councilmembers the best of luck.

RE: COUNCILMAN JOSEPH E. HAND, JR.

Councilman Hand stated that he would also like to thank Mayor Crewe, and noted that it has been an honor to serve on the Town Council with Mayor Crewe for the past two years. He commented that his fondest memory was the Spirit Tour. Councilman Hand remarked that he has learned a lot and listened to Mayor Crewe, and he really appreciates everything the Mayor has done for him. He stated that Councilman Hundley is his best friend. He noted that he has enjoyed being on the Town Council with Councilman Hundley. Councilman Hand commented that it has also been an honor serving with Councilman Hundley. He remarked that he will miss Councilman Hundley terribly.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:25 p.m.).

Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Mayor

Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 25, 2018

1. The budget for Fiscal Year 2018 - 2019 has been presented to the Council on two previous occasions, and, at the last meeting of Council, there was a public hearing and there was no one present to make comments with regard to the budget as it is proposed. At the Work Session this week, the Council reviewed the budget document again, and reviewed several minor changes within the document and chose not to make any revisions to the numbers as they are now published. Having said that, it is the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that when the Fiscal Year 2018 - 19 Budget is considered later in the meeting that it be approved on third and final reading, and that it become effective July 1, 2018.
2. Earlier in the evening, there was a public hearing held to consider amending the budget for Fiscal Year 2017 - 18. In general, the revisions to the budget reflect the appropriations funded for projects that had not been included in the budget or the addition of grant funds to be used for such projects. There are, basically, three categories where the budget will need to be amended, the Water Fund Budget, the General Fund and the Homestead Endowment Budget. Attached is a report outlining the various line items and categories that are being revised. All of these categories reflect activities that have occurred during the year where the project exceeded its original anticipated expense or for which additional work had occurred, or, in some cases, where projects were performed that had not been

initially included in the budget for the prior year. It would be the motion of the Budget and Finance Committee that the Council amend and appropriate the 2017 – 18 budget in the following fashions. We would recommend that the Water Fund Budget be amended by \$235,000, the General Fund be amended by \$1,403,000 and the Homestead Endowment Budget be amended in the amount of \$25,000. These amendments are required by the Town’s auditors to reflect the changes that have occurred during the year. There are no negative connotations associated with making these revisions.

Jacqueline K. King

Beth A. Taylor

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 25, 2018

1. Earlier in the meeting, the Council conducted a public hearing to consider revisions to the Town's Sign Ordinance with regard to projecting signs. The Sign Ordinance currently has a provision that restricts projecting signs to a projection from the building face to 42 inches, or not to project over the rights of way to a point that is 18 inches from the back of the curb. Projecting signs are those which are mounted on the building face and extend perpendicular to the building out over the rights of way. When the Town began work on the Downtown Revitalization Project, it became important that storefronts be improved and made more dynamic to attract more business back to the downtown area. Signs need to be graphic representatives of the goods and services available in the building and could become exciting artwork that adds to the dynamics of the downtown storefronts. It is also necessary for the signs to be large enough to be easily read from the street to attract passersby into the stores. Historically, projections have exceeded the 42 inches and are not currently allowed in the ordinance, with examples such as the pencil at the Wytheville Office Supply building and the Counts Drug neon sign. Later in the meeting when the ordinance is considered, we would recommend that the Council approve the revision on first and final reading. We do continue to support the restriction that would not allow the sign to extend beyond 18 inches from the curb. Otherwise, the Public Works Committee would move for the adoption of the revision to the Sign Ordinance.

2. We continue to see more and more advertising signs, including political signs, that are being located in the Town's rights of way. Our regulations prohibit advertising signs to be located within the Town's rights of way. We know that this situation will only be compounded this fall as we head into another political season. It is the belief of the Public Works Committee and the Town Council that we need to take a proactive stand to prohibit the proliferation of these signs within the Town's rights of way. We have requested for the Police Department to take an active role in removing any signs that are located within the Town's rights of way. Anyone that would have a question with regard to the location of the rights of way should contact the Municipal Office and make an inquiry. Generally speaking, as a rule of thumb, the Town's rights of way can be judged by the location of power poles, water meters and other utilities that are routinely placed along a right of way line. In any event, we wanted to give everyone sufficient notice that we will start to remove all signs that are located within the Town's rights of way.

Thomas F. Hundley

Joseph E. Hand, Jr.