

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2018, AT 7:00 P.M.**

Members present: Beth A. Taylor, Jacqueline K. King, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Mark J. Bloomfield, Cathy D. Pattison

Others present: Town Manager C. Wayne Sutherland, Jr., Assistant Town Manager Stephen A. Moore, Town Clerk Sharon G. Corvin, Town Attorney Christopher R. Menerick, Tasos Gogos, Whitley Lester, Donald Daugherty, Janet Sue Kirby, Police Officer Chastity Russell

**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 King.

**RE: CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 8, 2018. Mayor Taylor inquired if there is a motion to approve the minutes as presented or to somehow be amended. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilwoman Pattison to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 8, 2018, as presented. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to approve the minutes, as presented. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results: For: Beth A. Taylor, Jacqueline K. King, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Mark J. Bloomfield. Against: None. Abstentions: Cathy D. Pattison. Councilwoman Pattison abstained from voting due to her absence from the October 8, 2018, meeting.

**RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She noted that Mr. Tasos Gogos stated on the sign in sheet that he wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period, and Mr. Donald Daugherty stated that he is unsure if he wants to address the Council during Citizens' Period.

Mr. Tasos Gogos was recognized and stated that he would like to address the Council regarding his new business that will open at 1965 East Main Street in the old service station located beside of the Waffle House Restaurant. He noted that Mr. Bob Melton purchased the building and is remodeling the building as a restaurant. Mr. Gogos explained that he will be the restaurant operator. He commented that if a person is driving from Lithia Road and they wanted to crossover to his future restaurant, they would be required to turn right, go to the crossover located at LaQuinta Inn, make a U-Turn and come back to his restaurant because there is not a direct crossover. Mr. Gogos inquired if it would be possible for the Town to decrease the median in front of his restaurant so that vehicles coming from Lithia Road or the interstate would not have to make a U-Turn at LaQuinta Inn to return to his restaurant and the other businesses near him on that side of the road. Mayor Taylor inquired of Mr. Gogos if he is asking if where there is already a median, if the median could be reduced instead of making a new crossover. Mr. Gogos stated that is correct. He continued to explain to the Council his thoughts regarding the crossover at the Lithia Road and Main Street near his new restaurant. Mr. Gogos depicted on a map to the Council the location of the median and crossover that he is requesting to be shortened and widened by the Town Council. Councilwoman Pattison commented that the same problem happens at El Puerto Mexican Restaurant. She noted that if she is coming from town to eat at El Puerto, she has to do the same thing, which is to make a U-Turn at the intersection at the entrance to Lithia Road and go back toward town and into the restaurant's parking lot. Mr. Gogos remarked that if the median is widened, it would help that problem, too. Vice-Mayor King inquired of Mr. Gogos as to how much wider he thinks the median would need to be. Mr. Gogos remarked that the grassy median needs to be shortened by approximately 12 feet. Town Manager Sutherland stated that Council will discuss it further at the next scheduled Work Session. Mayor Taylor explained to Mr. Gogos that the Town Engineer and his staff have been to the site to assess the options from the Town's perspective. She remarked that in the same vicinity of the median, a culvert is located there, as well. Mayor Taylor commented that she wants Mr. Gogos to know that the Council is evaluating the request to see if it is feasible and to determine whether the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has a say in the decision or not. She stated that the Council will advise him in the future if his request is approved or not, but they want to make sure they have all their information correct before making a final decision. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Gogos for his comments.

Mayor Taylor recognized Mr. Donald Daugherty who stated that he lives at 535 West Union Street. He noted that he would like to address the Council regarding the trees that were discussed at the Council Work Session on October 9, 2018. Town Manager Sutherland explained that the discussion was regarding the Town seeking an arborist to evaluate the trees located at Eighth and Union Streets and to see how they could be pruned appropriately. Councilman Hand stated that the Town already has someone evaluating the trees to see if the trees need to be pruned or removed for safety. Mr. Daugherty commented that he hates to see the trees removed and prefers they are pruned. Discussion continued regarding the trees. Mayor Taylor stated that Council will contact Mr. Daugherty after they reach a decision regarding the trees. Mr. Daugherty thanked the Council for allowing him to speak. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Daugherty for his comments.

Mayor Taylor inquired if there are others who wish to address the Council. There being none, she proceeded with the agenda.

### **RE: OLD BUSINESS**

Under Old Business, Town Manager Sutherland reported the following:

1. Town Manager Sutherland stated that he would like to give a brief report in regard to the Community Shredding Event held on Saturday, October 20, 2018. He noted that he attended the event, and there were several citizens participating in the event, but he did not have the volume data to date.
2. The Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, October 23, 2018, at 7:00 a.m., in the Council Conference Room.
3. The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County will meet on Thursday, October 25, 2018, at 3:00 p.m., in Rural Retreat at the Rural Retreat Depot.
4. The Joint Governing Bodies meeting scheduled for Monday, October 29, 2018, has been canceled.

### **RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Councilwoman Pattison, reporting for the Budget and Finance Committee, stated that in the last fiscal year, the Council requested the Virginia Department of Fire Programs to assist the Town with an assessment of the fire services. She explained that there is clearly a growing trend in Virginia and across America for the meshing of Volunteer Fire Services with paid career firemen. Councilwoman Pattison commented that in this current year's budget, the Town has appropriated funding for the employment of a new Fire Chief. She noted that the mission of this new Fire Chief will be to blend the services of the career paid firefighters with the volunteer firemen to form a better functioning fire unit. Councilwoman Pattison stated that the Virginia Department of Fire Programs has now designated Friday, October 26, 2018, as the day that they will visit Wytheville to look at the Town's operations. She remarked that they are providing a team of people representing the Virginia Fire Services Board, Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services, Virginia Department of Forestry and the Virginia Department of Fire Programs. Councilwoman Pattison explained that they will assemble in Wytheville on Friday morning and meet with various Town representatives and representatives from the Fire Department. She stated that later that day, they will also have a Town Hall Meeting where they will receive comments with regard to expectations citizens may have for fire services. Councilwoman Pattison noted that the Council hopes that it will get a number of helpful ideas and concepts as it has discussions with these representatives throughout the day. She advised that sometime in the near future, there will be a new paid Fire Chief, and the Council will have more details on how the new model will be developed.

Councilwoman Pattison, also, reported that at the recent Virginia Municipal League Conference held in Hampton, Virginia, the Town of Wytheville was awarded a Certificate of Accomplishment of a Gold Level in the Healthy Eating/Active Living Program. She stated that this is more frequently known as the HEAL Program, and it is a collaboration between the Virginia Municipal League and the Innovation for Public Health Information located in Largo, Maryland. Councilwoman Pattison explained that the Town of Wytheville began participating in the HEAL Program last year, and to achieve the level of success that it did this year, it was required that the Town fulfill three new activities. She remarked that the Council discussed these, previously, in a Budget and Finance Committee Report noting that these consisted of programs with the Kidventure Program growing fruits and vegetables, as well as the Fruit Snack Program at McWane Pool. Councilwoman Pattison commented that the Council is very pleased that the Town of Wytheville was recognized for its efforts, and Council will continue in this next year to

look at ideas and concepts that will improve the health of the Town citizens. She stated that, certainly, the Council is open to any ideas that anyone may have that would be of benefit to the health of the community. A copy of the Budget and Finance Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

Councilwoman Pattison presented Mayor Taylor with the Certificate of Accomplishment.

#### **RE: PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Councilman Bloomfield, reporting for the Public Works Committee, stated that last year, the Council renamed portions of Sixth Street, Clay Street and Church Street as Reed Creek Mill Road. He noted that this was done in an effort to more accurately describe the location of this roadway. Councilman Bloomfield explained that on the west side of Reed Creek Mill Road, there has traditionally been a number of large trees that have acted as a barrier from going over a rather large cliff area. He commented that this property on the west end side of Reed Creek Mill Road has now been sold, and the current property owner is in the process of removing large amounts of debris from the property, including the trees along the roadway. Councilman Bloomfield noted that several residents have expressed their concern about the steep slopes adjacent to the road and have inquired about the potential for guardrail to be installed. He stated that the Public Works Committee agrees that guardrail along this portion of roadway may be beneficial, and Council has instructed the Public Works Department to obtain a quotation from a vendor on the cost of providing guardrail. Councilman Bloomfield stated that once the Town has received the quote, the Council will be in a position to determine if the Town can proceed with installing the guardrail. He noted that this is not a project that is in the current year's budget, but it is a safety issue and one that probably needs to be addressed in the very near future.

Councilman Bloomfield, also, reported that at the last Work Session, the Public Works Committee had a number of discussions about topics in the Town's cemeteries. He stated that the Town owns and maintains three cemeteries that include West End Cemetery, East End Cemetery and Oakwood Cemetery. Councilman Bloomfield explained that East End Cemetery and Oakwood Cemetery are both very old cemeteries, and both are without grave space owners who have any family still available for maintenance activities in the cemetery. He remarked that, currently, when a grave space is purchased in any of the cemeteries, 60 percent of the purchase price is placed in the Perpetual Care Fund, which is slated to be used for maintenance activities within the cemeteries. Councilman Bloomfield expressed that these funds are currently being held in a trust fund managed by Wells Fargo Bank, and Town staff is looking at getting these funds back from the trust fund such that they will be in the hands of the Council to use as needed for various activities in the three cemeteries. He stated that to accomplish this, there will be several amendments made to the Town Code. Councilman Bloomfield noted that one will eliminate the requirement that all 60 percent of the funds be placed in trust, and it will also identify Oakwood Cemetery as one of the cemeteries eligible to receive maintenance activities. He commented that the Public Works Committee has observed also both in Oakwood Cemetery and East End Cemetery that there are a number of very historic monuments that are in a bad state of repair. Councilman Bloomfield stated that the current regulations provide that the Town is not responsible for the maintenance of monuments, but some of these are very old and historically very important. He noted that the Public Works Committee believes that the Town Code should be amended to provide that upon the approval of the Town Council for certain historic monuments or historical monument preservation projects that these activities can be performed using perpetual care funding. Councilman Bloomfield explained that, finally, the Public Works Committee thinks that there are areas in all three cemeteries where new landscaping may be helpful to improve the aesthetics of the cemeteries. He stated, currently, the Public Works Committee is reviewing these and should have some recommendations in the very near future. Councilman Bloomfield noted that the Council wants the Town's cemeteries to be attractive and places of dignity. He commented that the Public Works Committee believes that certain changes to the Town's regulations, as described above, will be helpful as the Council goes forward. Councilman Bloomfield advised that it will probably take a month or so to get these regulations in place, but they should be before the Council in the very near future. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

Mayor Taylor inquired of Town Manager Sutherland if the Catholic Cemetery is included in the perpetual care fund, as well as the other three cemeteries. Town Manager Sutherland stated that the Catholic Cemetery is not included in the perpetual care fund. Mayor Taylor noted that she did not think it was, however, she wanted to clarify this for all citizens.

**RE: SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT REQUEST – MELTON AND ASSOCIATES PROPERTIES, LLC**

Mayor Taylor advised the next agenda item is to consider a recommendation from the Wytheville Planning Commission regarding the request of Melton and Associates Properties, LLC for a special exception permit to operate an Airbnb at 400 West Spiller Street, which is located on the northwest side of Spiller Street between Sixth and Eighth Streets, in an R-2 Residential Zoning District. She noted that the recommendation from the Planning Commission is to deny the request. Mayor Taylor advised that it will be necessary to set a public hearing to consider this request, which can be held at the Tuesday, November 13, 2018, Town Council meeting. Mayor Taylor inquired of the Council if there was any objection to scheduling the public hearing for the November 13, 2018, Town Council meeting. It was the consensus of the Wytheville Town Council to schedule a public hearing for the Tuesday, November 13, 2018, Town Council meeting, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Wytheville Municipal Building to consider the request of Melton and Associates Properties, LLC for a special exception permit to operate an Airbnb at 400 West Spiller Street, which is located on the northwest side of Spiller Street between Sixth and Eighth Streets, in an R-2 Residential Zoning District. Mayor Taylor advised that the public hearing will be held on November 13, 2018, and Town staff would advertise accordingly.

**RE: ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:24 p.m.).

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Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

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Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk