

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, JUNE 10, 2019, 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, Garnett Miller, Jr., Becky Grubb, Pat Snapp, Patty U. Hall, Chief Rick Arnold, Patrol Lieutenant John Claypool, Patrol Corporal Troy Cockram, Patrol Officer Darren Umberger, Patrol Officer Jonathan Lackey, Patrol Officer Dallas Shumate

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 Councilwoman Pattison.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of May 28, 2019. Mayor Taylor inquired if there is a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented or to somehow be amended. A motion was made by Councilwoman Pattison and seconded by Councilman Hand to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of May 28, 2019, 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, Jacqueline K. King, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Mark J. Bloomfield, Cathy D. Pattison. Against: None.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She stated that the sign in sheet indicated that there is one citizen listed who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period.

Ms. Patty Hall was recognized and stated that she lives at 154 Peachtree Lane in Wytheville. She commented that as she stated in her letter to the local newspaper on June 8, 2019, that she was very shocked and disappointed with the Town Council concerning the Wytheville Volunteer Fire Department. Ms. Hall remarked that she had five questions to ask the Council. She inquired of the Council if the paid Fire Chief position was posted publicly before hiring Fire Chief Brade and were the Wytheville Volunteer Fire Department members informed of the new position. Ms. Hall inquired of the Council, if not, why were they not informed of the new position. She commented that she felt it is usually better to promote within the department. Town Manager Sutherland stated that he could answer Ms. Hall's questions. He advised that the Fire Chief position was posted publicly and statewide in newspapers, on the Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) website, etc. Town Manager Sutherland reiterated that the position was advertised everywhere. Ms. Hall noted that the low number of volunteers might be because these men and women work eight to twelve hour shifts to which they receive compensation. She remarked that the volunteers are all heart, but they still need a paycheck. Mayor Taylor commented that she was unsure what Ms. Hall was inquiring regarding her remark. Ms. Hall explained that in the newspaper, it stated that the Wytheville Volunteer Fire Department had a low rate of volunteers. She inquired of the Council if this could be because the volunteers have regular jobs where they work eight to twelve hours a day, which limits the amount of volunteer work that they can perform. Mayor Taylor advised that she is sure that is true, however, the State regulations require volunteer fire departments to maintain certain standards, etc. She stated that the Wytheville Volunteer Fire Department has done an excellent job in trying to recruit new members over the past few years, however, the recruitment has simply been unsuccessful. Mayor Taylor noted that it is not just in Wytheville, it is statewide and nationwide that volunteer fire departments are declining in members. She commented that so many volunteer fire departments are seeing a low volume in recruits. Mayor Taylor remarked that she cannot speak for other volunteer fire departments regarding low response times, which is what she thinks Ms. Hall is inquiring about. Ms. Hall inquired of the Council how they can disband or terminate a person who has never been sufficiently paid. She inquired if the volunteers were not paid, how can the Council disband them because they have been with the Wytheville Volunteer Fire Department for so many years. Mayor Taylor advised that it is written in the Town Code that the Wytheville Town Council can disband the Volunteer Fire Department for certain reasons. She noted that the particular reason the Council voted to disband the Wytheville Volunteer Fire Department was due to the unsuccessfulness of their recruitment, in which they have tried but have been unsuccessful. Mayor Taylor continued to address Ms. Hall's inquiry.

Town Manager Sutherland advised that the Wytheville Volunteer Fire Department is the only volunteer fire department in Wythe County that receives compensation, and the other five volunteer fire department members do not receive compensation. He stated that the Town of Wytheville pays its Volunteer Fire Department members per call, and none of the other fire departments have done that. Town Manager Sutherland remarked that so Ms. Hall is aware, this is not an unprecedented case. He explained that the Wythe County Board of Supervisors took a similar action regarding the Speedwell Volunteer Fire Department several years ago because of the same issues. Ms. Hall inquired of the Council if they plan to build a top-notch Fire Department, do they think they will be able to recruit dedicated volunteers after the disbandment. Mayor Taylor stated that is correct. She noted that the Town Council believes that the Town has made advances and will continue with a development plan for its Fire Department, as well as for Volunteer Fire Department members. Mayor Taylor commented that the Council feels very strong about accomplishing this. She remarked that Fire Chief Brade stated that maybe by late summer or early fall, he will be in the position to start accepting applications for volunteerism. Ms. Hall inquired of the Council if they have tried to work through these problems or do they simply want to disband the Wytheville Volunteer Fire Department. She inquired of the Council if they feel there is no other solution other than to disband the Wytheville Volunteer Fire Department. Mayor Taylor explained that over the last 18 months or more, there have been efforts to try to help the volunteers increase their membership. She noted that there have been other efforts to help the volunteers, internally, and the volunteer department has been unsuccessful, at this point. Town Manager Sutherland commented that he would follow up with regard to what Mayor Taylor just explained. He advised that the Max Meadows Volunteer Fire Department and several other Wythe County Volunteer Fire Departments are at this same juncture. Town Manager Sutherland noted that the Max Meadows Volunteer Fire Department has publicly stated that its fire department is in trouble and if they did not get some paid staff, they would fold. He reiterated that the issue is countywide. Ms. Hall remarked that the article in *The Wytheville Enterprise* stated that the Town Council might rescind their decision. She inquired of the Council if they foresee this in the future. Councilman Bloomfield commented that it may have been written as such in the article, but that is not what the Council intends to do. Ms. Hall remarked that the Council might be able to revamp the Volunteer Fire Department and be able to start over with new volunteers. Town Attorney Menerick stated that in his opinion, the quote meant that the Town plans to reopen the Wytheville Fire Department to volunteers because the Town has a plan for volunteers to be a part of the Wytheville Fire Department. Ms. Hall thanked the Town Council for allowing her to speak. Mayor Taylor thanked Ms. Hall, and she proceeded with the agenda.

RE: OLD BUSINESS

Under Old Business, Town Manager Sutherland reported the following:

1. The next Council Work Session will be held on Wednesday, June 12, 2019, at 7:00 a.m., in the Council Conference Room. Town Manager Sutherland noted that there will not be a Council Work Session held on Tuesday, June 18, 2019.
2. The New River Regional Water Authority will meet on Thursday, June 20, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers. Town Manager Sutherland noted that Mr. Truitt and Ms. Montgomery, both members of the Water Authority, have both resigned their positions in Carroll County. He stated that he is unsure what this will mean for the Water Authority.

RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilwoman Pattison, reporting for the Budget and Finance Committee, stated that later in the meeting, the Council will consider, on third and final reading, the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020. She explained that as has been stated before, both the General Fund and the Water and Sewer Fund total approximately \$26.2 million. Councilwoman Pattison commented that there are no real estate or personal property tax increases included in the budget though there are several minor charges and fees that are increased. She remarked that the budget has been considered on two previous occasions with a public hearing held at the last meeting of Council. Councilwoman Pattison stated that to this point, no one has made comments with regard to the budget. She advised that it would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that when the budget is considered on third and final reading, that it be and made effective July 1, 2019.

Councilwoman Pattison, also, reported that in relation to the ending of the current budget year, the Council has established a public hearing to be held at the June 24, 2019, meeting of Council. She explained that State law requires that any time the appropriations within a budget exceed those amounts which were adopted by one percent, then a public hearing is required to consider those changes. Councilwoman Pattison stated that during this past year, the Town has

experienced many large capital outlay projects that necessarily have required the expenditure of funds beyond what was budgeted. She noted that Town Treasurer Michael Stephens is preparing a spreadsheet showing all of the changes that will need to be considered. Councilwoman Pattison advised that there is no action required of the Council at this time, but the Budget and Finance Committee did want everyone to be aware that it will be necessary that the Town have a public hearing to consider a budget amendment at its next meeting of Council. A copy of the Budget and Finance Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Bloomfield, reporting for the Public Works Committee, stated that the Department of Museums is working with the Department of Tourism, the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce and Wythe County to coordinate the Sixth Annual Road Market Sale sponsored by the Route 21 Market Group. He explained that the goal of the three day event, which will take place on July 26, 27 and 28, is to have yard sales and sidewalk sales taking place along Route 21 starting in Harmony, North Carolina, and ending here in Wytheville, Virginia. Councilman Bloomfield noted that publicity is designed to encourage shoppers to travel the entire 100 miles and stop along the way to spend time and money in each community. He remarked that in Wythe County, the Council anticipates that, once again, there will be a good response from businesses and residents located on Route 21 from Speedwell through Wytheville. Councilman Bloomfield remarked that to enable town residents and businesses to fully participate in this three day event, the Public Works Committee feels an action is appropriate. He commented that the action would be to relax the regulations pertaining to yard sales to allow them to be held for that three day period. Councilman Bloomfield expressed that the sales will begin at the Route 21 entrance corridor, continue along Main Street, turn left at Tazewell Street and continue on to the E. Lee Trinkle Regional Visitors Center. He advised that the Public Works Committee want to support the efforts to increase the tourism on the Route 21 corridor and would recommend that the action, as described above, be approved. A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Councilman Hand to approve extending the yard sale regulations sales such that they can be held for three days for the 100 Mile Road Market Sale scheduled for July 26-28, 2019. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to approve extending the yard sale regulations sales. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Beth A. Taylor, Jacqueline K. King, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Mark J. Bloomfield, Cathy D. Pattison. Against: None.

Councilman Bloomfield, also, reported that as the Town goes through its Wayfinding Program and looks at creating a better signage system throughout the community, the Public Works Committee has observed that there are certain signs within the Town's rights of way. He noted, normally speaking, these are directional signs which are permitted under certain conditions to be located on the rights of way with the understanding that they must be removed if required by the Town. Councilman Bloomfield explained that the Public Works Committee believes that in most circumstances it is best not to let the number of signs proliferate within the community, especially when the Town is working hard to make its signage system attractive. He stated that the Council would ask that the Planning Commission review the sections of the Zoning Ordinance that allow directional and other signs on the Town's rights of way and to give consideration to eliminating those portions of the Zoning Ordinance. Councilman Bloomfield commented that once the Planning Commission has had an opportunity to review this matter, then the Town Council can also consider this concept. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: APPOINTMENTS – DISTRICT III GOVERNMENTAL COOPERATIVE

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the reappointment of a member and alternate member to the District III Governmental Cooperative to fill the expiring term of Councilman Bloomfield and Councilman Pattison, respectively (terms expire June 30, 2019). A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Hand to reappoint Councilman Bloomfield as the member and Councilwoman Pattison as the alternate member to the District III Governmental Cooperative for a one-year term ending June 30, 2020. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion regarding the reappointments to the District III Governmental Cooperative. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Beth A. Taylor, Jacqueline K. King, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Mark J. Bloomfield, Cathy D. Pattison. Against: None.

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1361

Mayor Taylor presented Ordinance No. 1361, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2019-20, on third and final reading. A motion was made by Councilwoman Pattison and seconded by Vice-Mayor King to adopt Ordinance No. 1361, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2019-20, on third and final reading. Mayor Taylor 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: Beth A. Taylor, Jacqueline K. King, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Mark J. Bloomfield, Cathy D. Pattison

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1361 was adopted on third and final reading.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:15 p.m.).

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 10, 2019

1. Later this evening, the Council will consider on third and final reading the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2019 – 2020. As has been stated before, both the General Fund and the Water and Sewer Fund total approximately \$26.2 million. There are no real estate or personal property tax increases included in the budget though there are several minor charges and fees that are increased. The budget has been considered on two previous occasions with a public hearing held at the last meeting of Council. To this point, no one has made comments with regard to the budget. It would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that when the budget is considered on third and final reading, that it be approved and made effective July 1, 2019.
2. In relation to the ending of the current budget year, we have established a public hearing to be held at the June 24, 2019, meeting of Council. State law requires that any time the appropriations within a budget exceed those amounts which were adopted by one percent, then a public hearing is required to consider those changes. During this past year, we have experienced many large capital outlay projects that necessarily have required the expenditure of funds beyond what was budgeted. Town Treasurer Michael Stephens is preparing a spreadsheet showing all of the changes that will need to be considered. There is no action required of the Council at this time, but we did want everyone to be aware that it will be necessary that we have a public hearing to consider a budget amendment

at our next meeting of Council.

Jacqueline K. King

Cathy D. Pattison

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

JUNE 10, 2019

1. The Department of Museums is working with the Department of Tourism, the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce and Wythe County to coordinate the Sixth Annual Road Market Sale sponsored by the Route 21 Market Group. The goal of the three day event, which will take place on July 26, 27 and 28, is to have yard sales and sidewalk sales taking place along Route 21 starting in Harmony, North Carolina, and ending here in Wytheville, Virginia. Publicity is designed to encourage shoppers to travel the entire 100 miles and stop along the way to spend time and money in each community. In Wythe County, we anticipate that, once again, there will be a good response from businesses and residents located on Route 21 from Speedwell through Wytheville.

To enable town residents and businesses to fully participate in this three day event, we feel an action is appropriate. The action would be to relax the regulations pertaining to yard sales to allow them to be held for that three day period. The sales will begin at the Route 21 entrance corridor, continue along Main Street, turn left at Tazewell Street and continue on to the E. Lee Trinkle Regional Visitors Center. We want to support the efforts to increase the tourism on the Route 21 corridor and would recommend that the action, as described above, be approved.

2. As we go through our Wayfinding Program and look at creating a better signage system throughout our community, we have observed that there are certain signs

within the Town's rights of way. Normally speaking, these are directional signs which are permitted under certain conditions to be located on the rights of way with the understanding that they must be removed if required by the Town. We believe that in most circumstances it is best not to let the number of signs proliferate within our community, especially when we are working hard to make our signage system attractive. We would ask that the Planning Commission review the sections of the Zoning Ordinance that allow directional and other signs on the Town's rights of way and to give consideration to eliminating those portions of the Zoning Ordinance. Once the Planning Commission has had an opportunity to review this matter, then the Town Council can also consider this concept.

Joseph E. Hand, Jr.

Mark J. Bloomfield