

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, AUGUST 12, 2019, AT 7:00 P.M.**

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

Members absent: Jacqueline K. King

Others present: Town Manager C. Wayne Sutherland, Jr., Assistant Town Manager Stephen A. Moore, Town Clerk Sharon G. Corvin, Town Attorney Christopher R. Menerick, Patrol 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 Councilwoman Pattison.

**RE: CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of July 22, 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 Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Councilman Hand to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of July 22, 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, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Mark J. Bloomfield, Cathy D. Pattison. Against: None.

**RE: PUBLIC HEARING – ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT – BUFFER YARD SPECIFICATIONS**

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider revisions to the Zoning Ordinance, Article XVI–General Provisions, Section 16-16.5 Buffer Yard Specifications, regarding the types and numbers of trees/shrubs to be planted in a buffer yard. There being no citizens attending the meeting to address the Council during the public hearing, Mayor Taylor declared the public hearing closed and proceeded with the agenda.

**RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She noted that, again, there are no citizens attending the meeting to address the Council during Citizens' Period, therefore, she would proceed 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, August 14, 2019, at 7:00 a.m., in the Council Conference Room. He noted that for the remainder of August, the Work Sessions would be held on Wednesdays.
2. The New River Regional Water Authority will meet on Thursday, August 15, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Chambers.
3. The Joint Industrial Development Authority will meet on Thursday, August 22, 2019, at 3:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

**RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Councilwoman Pattison, reporting for the Budget and Finance Committee, stated that the Town Council was approached by Wythe County Community Hospital to consider the adoption of a resolution that would begin the process which allows them to receive certain payments for services provided by Medicaid. She noted that the General Assembly adopted legislation that would permit these types of reimbursements to local hospitals to occur. Councilwoman Pattison explained that the first step in this process is for the locality to adopt a resolution supporting the efforts of the hospital. She remarked that later in the meeting, the Council will consider such a resolution for adoption. Councilwoman Pattison expressed that the resolution that is being considered is not binding on the Town Council, but merely states that the Town is supportive of their efforts to move forward with this endeavor. She advised that when the resolution is

presented, it would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that it be adopted.

Councilwoman Pattison, also, reported that several situations have occurred recently at the Town's recycling facility that will require that the Council review its current regulations with regard to the Town's recycling efforts. She stated, first, the Town was notified by its disposal company that the Town was having certain contaminated materials in its system and, as such, there would be tipping fees associated with their disposal of the recyclables. Councilwoman Pattison noted that most of this type of action is merely something that the Town needs to go through as an educational process with people using the recycling center to understand what can and cannot be placed into the recycling facility. She explained that more recently, the Town has been experiencing people who are using the recycling facility merely as a trash disposal site. Councilwoman Pattison commented that the Town has people who are disposing of everything from car parts to normal daily trash into the recycling containers. She remarked that the facility is currently open 24 hours per day and available for citizens to conduct their recycling efforts. Councilwoman Pattison stated that, clearly, trash and other contaminants cannot be allowed in the recycling operations. She noted that over the next few weeks, the Council will be looking at changes to the Town's regulations and, most likely, the Council will be developing a set standard for when the facility is open and closed. Councilwoman Pattison remarked that the Council has not made any definitive decisions yet, but it is clear that if the Town is going to continue with its recycling efforts, the Council will need to take the measures needed to assure that the recyclables are acceptable to the Town's vendor. 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 as the Town was working on the Wayfinding Sign Program, the Council observed that there were several locations throughout the town where there were signs for civic groups and church organizations on the Town's rights of way. He noted that generally speaking, any type of sign within the Town's right of way is not permitted, although it has been a practice through the years to allow directional signs for civic groups and churches within the Town's rights of way. Councilman Bloomfield commented that, often, these are not maintained and, at times, provide obsolete information. He stated that the Council had asked the Planning Commission to review this matter to determine how the Commission thought that the Council should proceed. Councilman Bloomfield remarked that after all was said and done, the Town believes that there should merely be a moratorium on any future signs being erected. He explained that as the existing signs are removed or become in a bad state of repair, the Public Works Committee would suggest that they just not be allowed to be replaced. Councilman Bloomfield advised that this is an administrative action that can be taken by the Town Manager without action by the Council. He expressed that the Public Works Committee believes that this is the best course of action at the current time to address offsite civic and church signs.

Councilman Bloomfield, also, reported that the Council had, also, asked the Planning Commission to review its current regulations with regard to Buffer Yard Specifications. He noted that the Planning Commission invited the Town's Tree Committee to be a part of this dialogue in looking at the Buffer Yard Specifications. Councilman Bloomfield remarked that as a result, there are now a variety of trees and other plantings that can be included as a part of the buffer yard foliage. He stated that the Council also thought that it was important to have a variety of species because, often, a specific species of tree or plant becomes diseased and not effective as a buffer material. Councilman Bloomfield advised that later in the meeting when this ordinance is considered, it would be the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the ordinance, with regard to Buffer Yard Specifications, be adopted on first and final reading and that these new specifications become effective immediately. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

#### **RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1367**

Mayor Taylor presented Ordinance No. 1367, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to amend Article XVI—General Provisions, Section 16-16.5 Buffer Yard Specifications, on first reading. A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Councilman Hand to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance No. 1367, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to amend Article XVI—General Provisions, Section 16-16.5 Buffer Yard Specifications, on first and final reading. Mayor Taylor 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: Beth A. Taylor, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Mark J. Bloomfield, Cathy D. Pattison

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1367 was adopted on first and final reading.

**RE: RESOLUTION – WYTHE COUNTY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**

Mayor Taylor advised the next agenda item is to consider a resolution supporting a Supplemental Medicaid Payment Program for Wythe County Community Hospital. A motion was made by the Budget and Finance Committee, which does not require a second, to adopt a resolution supporting the General Assembly to pass legislation that would establish a local provider assessment on Wythe County Community Hospital for a Supplemental Medicaid Payment Program. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was 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: Beth A. Taylor, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Mark J. Bloomfield, Cathy D. Pattison. Against: None.

**RE: ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:08 p.m.).

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Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

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Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk

## **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**AUGUST 12, 2019**

1. The Town Council was approached by Wythe County Community Hospital to consider the adoption of a resolution that would begin the process which allows them to receive certain payments for services provided by Medicaid. The General Assembly adopted legislation that would permit these types of reimbursements to local hospitals to occur. The first step in this process is for the locality to adopt a resolution supporting the efforts of the hospital. Later in the meeting, the Council will consider such a resolution for adoption. The resolution that is being considered is not binding on the Town Council, but merely states that we are supportive of their efforts to move forward with this endeavor. When the resolution is presented, it would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that it be adopted.
2. Several situations have occurred recently at our recycling facility that will require that we review our current regulations with regard to our recycling efforts. First, we were notified by our disposal company that we were having certain contaminated materials in our system and, as such, there would be tipping fees associated with their disposal of our recyclables. Most of this type of action is merely something that we need to go through as an educational process with people using the recycling center to understand what can and cannot be placed into the recycling facility. More recently, we have been experiencing people who

are using the recycling facility merely as a trash disposal site. We have people who are disposing of everything from car parts to normal daily trash into the recycling containers. The facility is currently open 24 hours per day and available for citizens to conduct their recycling efforts. Clearly, trash and other contaminants can not be allowed in our recycling operations. Over the next few weeks, we will be looking at changes to the Town's regulations and, most likely, we will be developing a set standard for when the facility is open and closed. We have not made any definitive decisions yet, but it is clear that if we are going to continue with our recycling efforts, we will need to take the measures needed to assure that our recyclables are acceptable to our vendor.

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Jacqueline K. King

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Cathy D. Pattison

## **PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT**

**AUGUST 12, 2019**

1. As we were working on the Wayfinding Sign Program, we observed that there were several locations throughout the town where there were signs for civic groups and church organizations on the Town's rights of way. Generally speaking, any type of sign within the Town's right of way is not permitted, although it has been a practice through the years to allow directional signs for civic groups and churches within the Town's rights of way. Often, these are not maintained and, at times, provide obsolete information. We had asked the Planning Commission to review this matter to determine how they thought that we should proceed. After all was said and done, we believe that there should merely be a moratorium on any future signs being erected. As the existing signs are removed or become in a bad state of repair, we would suggest that they just not be allowed to be replaced. This is an administrative action that can be taken by the Town Manager without action by the Council. We, as the Public Works Committee, believe that this is the best course of action at the current time to address offsite civic and church signs.
2. The Council had, also, asked the Planning Commission to review our current regulations with regard to Buffer Yard Specifications. The Planning Commission invited the Town's Tree Committee to be a part of this dialogue in looking at the Buffer Yard Specifications. As a result, there are now a variety of trees and other plantings that can be included as a part of the buffer yard foliage. We also thought that it was important to have a variety of species because, often, a specific species

of tree or plant becomes diseased and not effective as a buffer material. Later in the meeting when this ordinance is considered, it would be the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the ordinance, with regard to Buffer Yard Specifications, be adopted on first and final reading and that these new specifications become effective immediately.

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Joseph E. Hand, Jr.

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Mark J. Bloomfield