

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 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., Town Clerk Sharon G. Corvin, Town Attorney Christopher R. Menerick, Bob McWhirter, Gary White, Melissa McWhirter, Patrol Sergeant Lonnie Anders, 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 Councilman Bloomfield.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 14, 2019, and the request of George Wythe High School DECA to conduct a 5K December Color Run on Saturday, December 7, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented or to somehow be amended. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Bloomfield to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 14, 2019, and the request of George Wythe High School DECA to conduct a 5K December Color Run on Saturday, December 7, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., 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 inquired if there were any citizens who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period.

Mr. Bob McWhirter was recognized and stated that he and his wife, Melissa, reside at 340 East Washington Street in Wytheville. He noted that, normally, he airs his grievances on Twitter, but he does not seem to be getting a lot of feedback, therefore, he decided to attend a Town Council meeting. Mr. McWhirter commented that he has a small list to address the Council about. He remarked that his first item to address is in regard to the Town's Recycling Center hours. Mr. McWhirter continued to express his displeasure with the current Recycling Center hours and staffing of the Center. He inquired of the Council if someone could explain to him why the hours are restricted, if the Center is not manned during the restricted hours of operation. Mr. McWhirter stated that his second item to address is in regard to street sweeping and leaf collection. He continued to express his displeasure with the street sweeping and leaf collection provided by the Town. Mr. McWhirter commented that he reviewed the budgets, and in 2016, the line item for the street cleaning was \$41,000; in 2017, it was \$54,000; and, in 2019, it is \$111,000. He inquired that if the budget is increasing, and so significantly this year, then why are the services decreasing. Mr. McWhirter stated that the Mayor's water bill insert discusses how citizens need to keep their yards clean, but the Town's own rights of way and streets remain covered in debris. He noted that when he inquired of the Mayor on May 13, 2019, she was not sure if the street sweeper was operational, and she noted that Director of Public Works John Bishop would contact him. Mr. McWhirter commented that he never heard from Mr. Bishop. He stated that his third item that he would like to address with the Council is in regard to important communications. Mr. McWhirter expressed his frustration to the Council with the Town's lack of communication during the recent water issues. He commented that the Town needs to use all methods of communication during an emergency to contact citizens including Facebook, Twitter, etc. Mr. McWhirter thanked the Council for allowing him to speak during Citizens Period. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. McWhirter for his comments.

Mayor Taylor stated that she would like to address a few of Mr. McWhirter's comments. She noted that she did receive Mr. McWhirter's email, and she has not had a chance to respond to the email. Mayor Taylor explained that there is a reason why the Recycling Center gates are closed now, which is a combination of different things. She noted that citizens are beginning to place their daily trash in the bins, and companies are placing automobile parts, etc. in the bins, all of which someone must remove. Mayor Taylor stated that the rules have changed for the Town's vendors who take the recyclables elsewhere, which is why they have changed the amount and types of plastic that is allowed in the bins, etc. She continued to explain to Mr. McWhirter that the Town is in the process of hiring an attendant to work at the facility. It was noted that there will be two attendants working at the facility, as opposed to one. Discussion

continued regarding the Town's Recycling Center and its operation. Mayor Taylor stated that in regard to the issue with the water boil notice, the event took place on a holiday. Mayor Taylor explained that Town staff contacted the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) regarding the water issue on Monday, but due to the holiday, the individual who answered the telephone at the VDH office did not know what the procedure was for the circumstance, and they recommended that Town staff dial E-911. She remarked that Town staff proceeded to complete the repair of the water pipes, etc. Mayor Taylor commented that the next day, the representative from the VDH contacted Town staff to advise that a precautionary water boil notice would need to be issued. She stated that, fortunately, Town staff had already been testing the water, and the tests were showing negative signs of bacteria. Mayor Taylor continued to explain the notification process to Mr. McWhirter. She noted that Council has discussed how the Town can better prepare for emergency situations and notification of situations. Mayor Taylor commented that the precautionary water boil notification has not happened in 40 years, and, evidently, the VDH changed their regulations without notifying the communities of the new protocol, etc. Town Manager Sutherland stated that in regard to Mr. McWhirter's concern about the street sweeper budget increasing and the services decreasing, the Town purchased a new street sweeper and leaf bagger. He noted that was the reason for the significant increase in the budget. Town Manager Sutherland advised that, each day, Town staff should be sweeping the streets and he noted that he would check with the Public Works Department to see the reason the streets near Mr. McWhirter's home are not being swept. Mr. McWhirter commented that he has seen the street sweeper only once this year on East Washington Street near his home. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. McWhirter for addressing the Town Council.

Mr. Gary White was recognized and stated that he resides at 1015 Mountain View Drive in Wytheville. He noted that for the past six years, he has complained to Town staff regarding the lack of paving on Mountain View Drive, from 13th Street to Cove Road. Mr. White remarked that the street has not been paved in a long time, and he can prove that it has been at least 26 years because there is a patch in the street where he hooked onto the Town sewer. He continued to express to the Council that this area of town needed to be paved because it had been patched many times and is very rough. Mr. White noted that the noise from passing vehicles and trailers is extreme, even indoors, because the road is so rough. He commented that the quality of life continues to go down because of the noise. Mr. White expressed that for the past six years, he has inquired as to why this street has not made it on the list to be paved, but he has yet to receive an answer. Mayor Taylor explained the process of selection for the paving of the Town's roads. Discussion continued regarding the paving of the road located near Mr. White's house. Mr. White thanked the Council for allowing him to speak. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. White for his comments.

Mayor Taylor noted that there were no other citizens attending the meeting who wished 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 Tuesday, October 29, 2019, at 7:00 a.m., in the Council Conference Room.
2. The Public Works Committee will meet on Wednesday, October 30, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., in the Council Conference Room.
3. The next Town Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 12, 2019, at 7:00 p.m., due to the Veterans Day holiday on Monday, November 11, 2019.

RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilwoman Pattison, reporting for the Budget and Finance Committee, stated that the Budget and Finance Committee is pleased to announce that Atmos Energy has provided a \$5,000 donation to the Wytheville Fire Department. She explained that the Town's accounting system requires that these funds be placed into the General Fund, but the Fire Department has requested that these funds be transferred to their department. Councilwoman Pattison noted that since the donation was made on behalf of the Wytheville Fire Department, the Budget and Finance Committee thinks it is appropriate for the Fire Department to receive the donation. She advised that it would be the motion of the Budget and Finance Committee that the Council authorize the Town Treasurer to allocate the \$5,000 donation from Atmos Energy to the Wytheville Fire Department. A motion was made by Councilwoman Pattison and seconded by Vice-Mayor King to authorize the Town Treasurer to allocate a \$5,000 donation from Atmos Energy to the Wytheville Fire Department. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on

the motion to allocate the funds to the Fire Department. 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.

Councilwoman Pattison, also, reported that the Council thought it might be helpful to report that the Town of Wytheville was recognized, at the Virginia Municipal League Conference held in Roanoke last month, by the HEAL Cities and Town Campaign for the Mid-Atlantic. She explained that as the Council has reported many times, the nature of this program is to provide policies and practices that create a healthy, prosperous community where people can make healthy choices for nutritious foods and to be physically active. Councilwoman Pattison noted that during the past year, the Town of Wytheville has made many strides in providing additional opportunities for walking and other exercise venues. She remarked that two of the more popular activities included "Hike the Appalachian Trail" and "Walk with the Mayor." Councilwoman Pattison commented that at the conference in Roanoke, the Town received the Platinum Level recognition. She expressed that this designation means that the Town has committed to providing for a healthy community, and, also, that it has continued its efforts over at least a three year period to fulfill the goals of this program. Councilwoman Pattison advised that there is no action that needs to be taken by the Council, but the Budget and Finance Committee thought it was informational for the Town's citizens to know that the Council has taken these steps toward providing for a healthy community, and the Town's efforts have been recognized. 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 each year, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) requires that all bridges and large drainage structures be inspected for safety purposes. He noted that Town staff, again, inspected the bridge on 20th Street that crosses the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Councilman Bloomfield remarked that this is a very old structure dating back to the mid-1920's. He explained that the super structure is owned by the Railroad Company, and the decking and hand railings belong to the Town of Wytheville. Councilman Bloomfield remarked that over the years, the Town has taken many actions to increase the safety of the bridge, and, from time to time, the Town has raised and lowered the allowable weight limit that can be on the bridge. He stated, this year, the report noted certain deficiencies that the Town will need to correct. Councilman Bloomfield noted that it, also, noted that the Town would need to lower the weight restrictions until other subsequent actions are taken. He commented that the Council realizes that this is a large infrastructure project that will need to be addressed as the Town goes forward. Councilman Bloomfield remarked that the Council has directed the Public Works Department to take the actions described in the inspection report, and, the Council has also asked the Engineering Department to start a preliminary study on the construction of a new bridge at this location. He explained that the other access to this side of town is located off Railroad Avenue from Grayson Road. Councilman Bloomfield stated that the Public Works Committee is also looking at the connection of Madison Street, between Reed Creek Mill Road and South 14th Street. He noted that there is about a one and a half block length of roadway along Madison Street that has not yet been developed. Councilman Bloomfield remarked that the Committee believes that this, combined with the Railroad Avenue access and the improvement of the 20th Street Bridge, would greatly improve access to the southside of town. He advised that there is no other action needed to be taken by the Council at this time, but the Committee did want everyone to be aware that these conditions exist, and the Town is exploring solutions that can be taken as it goes forward.

Councilman Bloomfield reported that at the last meeting of Council, the Council conducted a public hearing to receive comments on a resolution to issue a quitclaim deed for a portion of roadway located at the intersection of Chapman Road and Echo Valley Road. He stated that this portion of roadway was abandoned a number of years ago by way of a recorded plat, but the new property owner is seeking a more legal conveyance of that roadway. He noted that later in the meeting, the Council will consider a resolution conveying the property, approving the issuance of a quitclaim deed to Mr. Warren Ragsdale and Mr. Samuel Murdoch as trustees for Edgemont Center, Inc. and advising that the Council agrees that this is appropriate. Councilman Bloomfield advised that when this action is before Council, it would be the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that Council approve the resolution and quitclaim deed for Mr. Warren Ragsdale and Mr. Samuel Murdoch.

Councilman Bloomfield, also, reported that as an item that came up this last week, the Public Works Committee would like to note that the Town is giving attention to providing public notices for emergencies. He explained that as most everyone is aware, there was a situation last week where the Town was required to issue a boil water notice. Councilman Bloomfield remarked that this notice was required by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), after the system had

already been repaired. He stated that the whole situation was unnecessary, but it did point out the need to focus on the Town's communications with citizens. Councilman Bloomfield advised that going forward, the Council plans on studying the best mechanisms by which the Town can provide timely information to its citizens about emergency situations. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

Councilman Bloomfield commented that at the last Council Work Session, the Wythe County Emergency Services Coordinator, Curtis Crawford, attended the meeting and discussed the emergency texting option, managed by the County, with the Council. He noted that the Town and County have already started working on getting information to citizens about emergency situations.

RE: APPOINTMENTS – WYTHEVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the appointment of a member to the Wytheville Recreation Commission to fill the expiring term of Mr. David Harrison (terms expire December 31, 2019). She explained that Mr. Harrison is not eligible for reappointment. Mayor Taylor inquired if there is a recommendation to fill the expiring term of Mr. Harrison on the Recreation Commission. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Bloomfield to appoint Ms. Mary Katherine Claypool to the Wytheville Recreation Commission for a three year term commencing January 1, 2020, and expiring December 31, 2022. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to appoint Ms. Claypool to the Wytheville Recreation Commission. 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. 1371 – DOG PARK

Mayor Taylor presented Ordinance No. 1371, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to amend Article III - Definitions, to add Section 3-25A Dog Park; and to amend Article XII – Industrial District M-1 and Article XIII – Industrial District M-2 to add the use of dog park, on second reading. She noted that, as the Council will recall, there was some discussion about possibly incorporating the dog park rules from the city of Radford into the ordinance. Mayor Taylor inquired if there is a motion to accept the ordinance as presented or to somehow be amended. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed Dog Park Ordinance. A motion was made by Councilwoman Pattison and seconded by Councilman Hand to approve Ordinance No. 1371, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to amend Article III - Definitions, to add Section 3-25A Dog Park; and to amend Article XII – Industrial District M-1 and Article XIII – Industrial District M-2 to add the use of dog park, on second, but not final, reading and to add the dog park regulations from the City of Radford. Discussion continued regarding the regulations and if all of them should be added to the ordinance. Councilwoman Pattison and Councilman Hand agreed to amend their motion to adopt the ordinance on second, but not final, reading without the dog park rules. Mayor Taylor 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: Beth A. Taylor, Jacqueline K. King, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Mark J. Bloomfield, Cathy D. Pattison

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1371 was approved on second, but not final, reading.

RE: RESOLUTION – CONVEYANCE OF PROPERTY

Mayor Taylor advised the next agenda item is to consider a resolution authorizing the conveyance of a portion of real property located at the intersection of Chapman Road and Echo Valley Road, which is located to the immediate south of Chapman Road and to the immediate west of Echo Valley Road, to Mr. Warren Ragsdale and Mr. Samuel Murdoch, as trustees for Edgemont Center, Inc. A motion was made by Councilman Bloomfield and seconded by Councilman Hand to adopt a resolution authorizing the conveyance of a portion of real property located at the intersection of Chapman Road and Echo Valley Road, which is located to the immediate south of Chapman Road and to the immediate west of Echo Valley Road, to Mr. Warren Ragsdale and Mr. Samuel Murdoch, as trustees for Edgemont Center, Inc. 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, Jacqueline K. King, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Mark J. Bloomfield, Cathy D. Pattison. Against: None.

RE: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Vice-Mayor King stated that she would like to remind citizens that this weekend, daylight saving time ends. She expressed to citizens to not forget to set the clocks back one hour.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:29 p.m.).

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk