



MINUTES

WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 28, 2024 AT 5:00 PM

MUNICIPAL BUILDING - 150 EAST MONROE STREET
WYTHEVILLE, VA 24382

1. **RE: ATTENDANCE**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Beth Taylor, Vice-Mayor Cathy Pattison, Councilwoman Holly Atkins, Councilman Gary Gillman, Councilwoman Candice Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Town Manager Brian Freeman, Assistant Town Manager Elaine HOLETON, Town Clerk Sherry Corvin, Director of Public Utilities and Engineering Billy Anderson, Fire Chief Chris Slemp, Police Chief Joel Hash, Police Officer Cavin Newman, Downtown Wytheville, Inc. Executive Director Todd Wolford, Downtown Wytheville, Inc. Assistant Charlie Jones, Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Alison Pollard, Open Door Community Executive Director Jordan Stidham, Brian Reed, Jim Cohen, Dave Johnston, Rob Kern, Tammie Lowry, Mike Forrest, Alma Watson, Melissa McWhirter, Bob McWhirter, Chris Fox, Oscar Montgomery, Sherri Runnells, C.J. Patel, Glenda Crockett-Eans, Kerrington Crockett-Eans, Sanjai Patel, Others

2. **RE: CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order.

3. **RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Mayor Taylor advised that a quorum of Council members was present.

4. **RE: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Councilman Gillman.

5. **RE: APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the Approval of Agenda. Town Manager Freeman noted that due to there being no change in the matter, the agenda item designated for a Closed Meeting could be removed from the agenda at the pleasure of the Town Council. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve the amended meeting agenda to remove the Closed Meeting.

Motion made by Councilwoman Atkins, Seconded by Councilwoman Johnson. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote: Voting Yea: Councilwoman Johnson, Councilwoman Atkins, Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilman Gillman.

6. **RE: 6:00 P.M. SCHEDULED RECESS**

Mayor Taylor advised that for informational purposes, the agenda includes a 6:00 p.m. scheduled recess, if necessary.

7. **RE: CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of May 13, 2024. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 13, 2024, as presented.

Motion made by Councilman Gillman, Seconded by Councilwoman Atkins. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was

approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: Voting Yea: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilman Gillman, Councilwoman Johnson.

8. RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS, REQUESTS, RESOLUTIONS, COUNCIL DECISIONS

A. RE: MONROE STREET HOUSING PRODUCTION PROJECT - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PRESENTATION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for the Monroe Street Housing Production Project. She stated that Assistant Town Manager Holeton will give the Council more information regarding the CDBG application.

Assistant Town Manager Holeton noted that, last summer, Open Door Community approached Town staff regarding the possibility of applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to assist with funding for the proposed Monroe North Apartments. She then continued to give the Council some background information regarding the process of the CDBG. Assistant Town Manager Holeton stated that the grant application is due on June 12, 2024, and that the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (MRPDC), in partnership with Open Door Community, will complete most of the work in preparing the CDBG application. She commented that the purpose of the CDBG will be to obtain funds for civil engineering and the site work needed prior to the building construction. Assistant Town Manager Holeton advised that after the public hearing is held at this meeting, the Town Council will consider a resolution to support the CDBG application for the Monroe Street Housing Production Project.

RE: MONROE STREET HOUSING PRODUCTION PROJECT - PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for the Monroe Street Housing Production Project. She inquired if there were any citizens present who wished to address the Council during the public hearing. There being none, she declared the public hearing closed and proceeded with the agenda.

RE: RESOLUTION - MONROE STREET HOUSING PRODUCTION PROJECT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Town Council to approve a resolution supporting the Monroe Street Housing Production Project. She inquired if there was a motion to approve a resolution supporting the Monroe Street Housing Production Project.

Motion made by Councilwoman Johnson, Seconded by Councilwoman Atkins. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote: Voting Yea: Councilman Gillman, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilwoman Johnson.

B. RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1433, BUDGET ORDINANCE FY 24-25 - STAFF REPORT/PRESENTATION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider Ordinance No. 1433, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2024-25, on third and final reading. She stated that Town Manager Freeman will give the Council more information on this ordinance.

Town Manager Freeman thanked Town Treasurer Stephens, the Budget and Finance Committee and Assistant Town Manager Holeton for their help in assisting with the budget preparation for Fiscal Year 2024-25. He stated that the proposed budget for the Town of Wytheville for Fiscal Year 2024-25 lays out the financial plan for providing the high-quality services that residents, businesses and visitors have come to expect. He advised that to prepare for the financial year ahead, cautious revenue projections and modest operational increases have been included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget. Town Manager Freeman then continued to present the

various items and information that is included in the Town of Wytheville's Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget.

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1433, BUDGET ORDINANCE FY 24-25 - THIRD AND FINAL READING

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the consideration by Town Council to approve Ordinance No. 1433, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2024-25, on third and final reading. She inquired if there was a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1433, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2024-25, on third and final reading.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Pattison, Seconded by Councilwoman Atkins. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote: Councilwoman Johnson, Councilwoman Atkins, Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilman Gillman.

C. RE: WYTHEVILLE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider an appointment of a member to the Wytheville Tree Advisory Committee to fill a vacant position. She inquired if there was a motion to appoint Mr. Hunter Stuart to the Wytheville Tree Advisory Committee for a four (4) year term to fill a vacant position (term expires May 14, 2028).

Motion made by Councilwoman Johnson, Seconded by Councilwoman Atkins. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: Voting Yea: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilman Gillman, Councilwoman Johnson.

9. RE: PRESENTATIONS TO TOWN COUNCIL

A. RE: PRESENTATION TO TOWN COUNCIL - PRESENTATION OF THE TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE TREE WALK BROCHURE

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a presentation of the Town of Wytheville Tree Walk Brochure by Chairwoman Alma Watson of the Wytheville Tree Advisory Committee. She stated that Ms. Watson will now present more information to the Council regarding the Wytheville Tree Walk Brochure.

Ms. Alma Watson was recognized and stated that she is pleased to give this presentation on behalf of the Tree Advisory Committee. She noted that the Committee has been diligent in their efforts to present the first of, hopefully, many Town of Wytheville Tree Walk Brochures. Ms. Watson then presented information to the Town Council regarding how the Wytheville Tree Walk was developed from the Specimen Tree Program and the process of how the Tree Walk Brochure was created. She noted that the Tree Advisory Committee hopes to debut the Tree Walk Brochure during the Chautauqua Festival. The Town Council thanked Ms. Watson for her presentation.

B. RE: PRESENTATION TO TOWN COUNCIL - YOUTH ART PROJECT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a presentation by Mr. Oscar Montgomery regarding a youth art project. She stated that Mr. Montgomery will now give the Council some information regarding this art project.

Mr. Oscar Montgomery was recognized and stated that he is a youth ambassador for Downtown Wytheville, Inc. (DTW). He noted that he has worked with DTW, Inc. Executive Director Todd Wolford and Fire Chief Chris Slemm regarding the idea of painting some of the fire hydrants on Main Street. Mr. Montgomery reviewed the process of how this idea of painting the fire hydrants was developed and how they would like to incorporate students into this to make it a youth art project. He stated that their goal is to present the painted fire hydrants at the July 4th Celebration. The Town Council thanked Mr. Montgomery for his presentation.

10. RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She stated that there are several citizens listed on the sign-in sheet who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period. Mayor Taylor requested that citizens who signed in to speak to please come to the podium, state his/her address and to limit comments to three minutes unless speaking on behalf of a group and then individuals are allowed seven minutes.

Mr. Dave Johnston was recognized and stated that he would like to address the Council regarding his concerns about the Town's public alleyway located near his home and his concerns regarding the illegal drug problem in town. He then discussed his concerns regarding these matters with the Council, and he stated that he has also discussed these matters with organizations outside of the Town of Wytheville. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Johnston for his comments.

Mr. Matt Fiebieg was recognized and stated that he resides on North 8th Street in Wytheville. Mr. Fiebieg addressed the Town Council on behalf of Virginia Organizing the Wythe County Chapter regarding the development of a warming shelter during the winter months. He stated that thanks to the Wytheville Town Council, the task of sheltering the homeless in the winter months will be less stressful due to the allocation of \$10,000 in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget for the Open Door Community Warming Shelter Program. Mr. Fiebieg continued to briefly discuss the warming shelter program and expressed his gratitude to the Town Council. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Fiebieg for his comments.

Ms. Melissa McWhirter was recognized and stated that she resides on East Washington Street in Wytheville. Ms. McWhirter addressed the Council regarding the Town's Noise Ordinance. She noted that over the last three Saturdays, a commercial entity with commercial mowers, blowers and weed trimmers spent around four hours mowing two city blocks adjacent to her home on May 11, 2024; about 3 hours mowing on May 18, 2024; and, about six hours of nonstop mowing on May 25, 2024. Ms. McWhirter continued to express her concerns regarding the noise level of this mowing equipment and the violation of the Town's Noise Ordinance. Mayor Taylor thanked Ms. McWhirter for her comments.

Mr. Bob McWhirter was recognized and stated that he resides on East Washington Street in Wytheville. Mr. McWhirter stated that he is a bird enthusiast and explained some of the bird activities in which he participates. He addressed the Council regarding his concerns regarding the noise level of mowing near his home and the problems it causes while he is trying to enjoy the birds surrounding his home. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. McWhirter for his comments.

Mr. C.J. Patel was recognized and stated that he is the owner of the Comfort Inn on Holston Road. Mr. Patel advised that he, recently, met with Town Manager Freeman and Assistant Town Manager Holeton regarding his concerns about streetlight outages near his hotel. Discussion was held regarding the information he was provided by Town staff regarding the area of Holston Road and his hotel and Mr. Patel's continued concerns regarding the lack of lighting near his hotels and the safety of his customers. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Patel for his comments.

Mr. Brian Reed with the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (MRPDC) was recognized and stated that he would like to address the Council regarding the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for the Monroe Street Housing Production Project. He advised that the MRPDC is preparing the CDBG application, and they will be able to submit the application once the Town forwards them the approved resolution for this project. Mr. Reed continued to briefly discuss how the funds from the CDBG will be used for the Monroe Street Housing Project. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Reed for his information regarding the CDBG application.

Mayor Taylor inquired if there were any other citizens present who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period. There being none, she proceeded with the agenda.

11. RE: NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is New Business. Town Manager Freeman stated that he would like to present a plaque that the Town of Wytheville received from the Run for the Wall 34th Annual Run Board of Supervisors in appreciation for the support shown by the Town for the Southern Route of the Run for the Wall.

12. RE: REPORTS

A. RE: UPCOMING MEETINGS

Town Clerk Sherry Corvin presented the upcoming meetings, as follows:

1. The next regular scheduled meeting of the Wytheville Town Council will be held on Monday, June 10, 2024, at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

13. RE: OTHER BUSINESS

A. RE: PUBLIC HEARING - VDOT PROPERTY DONATION - STAFF REPORT/PRESENTATION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the request of the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) for the Town to donate a small parcel of property located at the intersection of Main Street and 12th Street. Director of Public Utilities and Engineering Billy Anderson briefly reviewed the request of VDOT for the Town to donate a small parcel of property with the Town Council. He stated that Town staff recommends that the Town Council schedule a public hearing to consider this request from VDOT. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to schedule a public hearing for the June 24, 2024, Town Council meeting to consider the request of VDOT for the Town to donate a small parcel of property located at the intersection of Main Street and 12th Street.

Motion made by Councilman Gillman, Seconded by Councilwoman Atkins. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: Voting Yea: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilman Gillman, Councilwoman Johnson.

B. RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1434, EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL - STAFF REPORT/ PRESENTATION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the review of Ordinance No. 1434, an ordinance to repeal Chapter 10, Planning and Development, Article IV. Erosion and Sediment Control, and to remove Article V. Impervious Land Area Stormwater Management, of the Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia. She stated that Assistant Town Manager Holeton will give the Council more information regarding this ordinance.

Assistant Town Manager Holeton stated that there is a brief Staff Report regarding Erosion and Sediment Control and the relationship that it has with the Town's current ordinance that is included in the Council members' meeting package. She then gave an overview of the information that is included in the Staff Report regarding Erosion and Sediment Control. Assistant Town Manager Holeton noted that there is no action required by the Council at this meeting regarding Ordinance No. 1434, and that the Council can contact her if they have any questions regarding the proposed ordinance.

C. RE: COUNCIL MEMBER TIME

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Council Member Time. She inquired if Councilwoman Johnson had anything to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilwoman Johnson stated that she did not have anything to discuss at this time.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Councilwoman Atkins had anything to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilwoman Atkins stated that she did not have anything to discuss at this time.

Mayor Taylor stated that she would like to thank Ms. Rosa Lee Jude with the Wytheville Meeting Center for all her hard work and for doing an excellent job preparing the Run for the Wall event.

Mayor Taylor stated that she would like to thank the Wall of Honor Committee for their hard work planning the annual Memorial Day Ceremony. She noted that, this

year, the Memorial Day Ceremony was held on a different day and at a different time than it has been in past years, however, the Ceremony was a great success.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Vice-Mayor Pattison had anything to discuss during Council Member Time. Vice-Mayor Pattison stated that she did not have anything to discuss at this time.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Councilman Gillman had anything to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilman Gillman stated that he did not have anything to discuss at this time.

14. RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed a motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. (6:11 p.m.)

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Clerk of Council