



MINUTES

WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2023 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, Councilwoman Candice Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councilman Gary Gillman

OTHERS PRESENT:

Town Manager Brian Freeman, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Holeyton, Town Clerk Sherry Corvin, Interim Town Attorney Paul Cassell, Computer Operations Manager Ron Jude, Wytheville Fire and Rescue Chief Chris Slem, Wytheville Police Chief Joel Hash, Building Official Tim Spraker, Planning Director John Woods, Police Corporal Jerrod Sadler, Patrol Officer Ernest Williams, Patrol Officer Josh Jones, Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated Executive Director Todd Wolford, Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated Administrative and Events Coordinator Charlie Jones, Jim Cohen, Nancy Martin, Kirk Chamberlain, Georgia Crockett, Tina Repass, Andrew Russell, Elizabeth Chaves, Clio Schurtz, Brandy Faulkner, Rhonda Cox, Beth Marinus, Lorraine Dunn, Jim Dunn, Keyana Baker, Jarrell Johannes, Kayla Marinus, Sharon Gallimore, Glenda Crockett-Eans, Kerrington Crockett-Eans, Kerry Eans, Stephen Holston, Others

2. **RE: CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order.

3. **RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

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

4. **RE: PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Mayor Pattison.

5. **RE: APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the Approval of Agenda. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the agenda as presented. A motion was made by Councilwoman Johnson and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to amend the agenda to include an additional line item under Closed Meeting, Line Item E, to discuss the salaries and performance of appointed employees, and to excuse the appointed employees from the Closed Meeting during the discussion so that only the Town Council is present. She noted that she did not want the appointed employees to feel uncomfortable or to feel like they were being forced to say something that they would rather not say during the discussion. Mayor Taylor inquired if Interim Town Attorney Cassell could remain during the Closed Meeting. Councilwoman Johnson stated that she did not have an issue with Mr. Cassell remaining in the room. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote: Voting Yea: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilwoman Johnson.

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

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

7. RE: CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of July 24, 2023. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Pattison and seconded by Councilwoman Johnson to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 24, 2023. She 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, Councilwoman Johnson.

8. RE: PRESENTATIONS TO TOWN COUNCIL

A. RE: PRESENTATION REGARDING THE FACADE PROGRAM

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a presentation by Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated Executive Director Todd Wolford regarding the Facade Program. Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated Executive Director Todd Wolford thanked the Town Council for inviting him to attend the meeting and stated that he attended a previous meeting to discuss the revamped version of the Facade Improvements Program. He advised that what is before the Council is the old design of the Facade Program. Executive Director Wolford reviewed the changes made to the Facade Improvements Program and explained the submittal and reimbursement process for the property owners to the Council. He noted that he would answer questions that the Council may have, but he wanted this program to be reimplemented because it is a really beneficial program for the Town. Mayor Taylor inquired if there are a limited number of spaces available to offer for the program. Executive Director Wolford stated that it is his understanding that the program has been budgeted \$75,000. He noted that the program offers reimbursement up to \$15,000. He commented that not all will spend up to that amount. Executive Director Wolford remarked that he wanted Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated to administer the program because Town staff does not have time to administer the program. Councilwoman Atkins inquired of Mr. Wolford if there were 10 business owners who apply for a spot, would it be available on a first come, first served basis. Mr. Wolford stated that it would be on a first come, first served basis. Discussion ensued regarding the future of the program and the announcement of the reimplementation of the program to the businesses including the four property owners who have already submitted applications. Mr. Wolford stated that Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated (DTW) will be working with Virginia Tech landscaping architecture students on Monday, August 28, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., and he would like to invite the Town Council and the Town Administration Staff to be a part of that process. He explained that DTW will be working to render a greenspace park in the heart of downtown on the property between The Paper Clip and the former Baldwin's building. Mr. Wolford continued to explain the project to the Council. Mayor Taylor inquired of Mr. Wolford where the Council would need to go for the August 28, 2023, event. Mr. Wolford stated that the Council would go the DTW Office on Main Street.

Town Manager Freeman inquired of the Council if they have seen and heard enough from Mr. Wolford's presentation of the Facade Program at this meeting to relaunch the program as presented or would they rather hear more information before proceeding. Councilwoman Atkins advised that, personally, she would like to have a hard copy of the updated version of the Facade Improvements Program so that she could review it. Executive Director Wolford stated that he could email Councilwoman Atkins a copy of the document. Councilwoman Atkins thanked Mr. Wolford. Councilwoman Johnson advised that she would also like a copy since she is new to the Council and was not at the last meeting where he presented the updated version of the Facade Program. Executive Director Wolford stated that it would not be a problem to email her a copy, as well. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Wolford for his presentation, and she proceeded with the agenda.

9. RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She stated that there were several citizens listed on the sign-in sheet who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period. She requested that when she called the name on the sign-in sheet for

that person to please come to the podium to speak and state his or her name and address for the recording of the minutes.

Ms. Georgia Crockett was recognized and stated that she resides at 565 East Monroe Street in Wytheville. She noted that she is attending the meeting to address the Council regarding homelessness in the town. Ms. Crockett commented that the house located next to her was a rental property, and the renter was allowing homeless people to come and stay with her on a nightly basis. She remarked that she always thought that the apartment complexes in town fell directly under the Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (WRHA), however, now she knows that is not the case. Ms. Crockett remarked that several of the complexes are managed by private companies, and their income cap falls approximately \$10,000 less than the WRHA's. She commented that she is not sure how this can be addressed, or if it can be addressed by the Council. She continued to express her concern regarding the income difference between the Housing Authority's properties and the private housing complexes. Ms. Crockett noted that there is a need for housing in the town. She thanked the Council for allowing her to speak. Mayor Taylor thanked Ms. Crockett for her comments.

Mr. Andrew Russell was recognized and stated that he resides in Wytheville. He advised that he would like to address the Council regarding more accessible housing. Mr. Russell commented that he has some of the statistics that indicate the cause and factors of homelessness he has studied from the United States Census Bureau. He continued to discuss the cause and factors of homelessness in the United States with the Council. Mr. Russell commented that HOPE, Incorporated reported that since July 1, 2023, the organization has had to deny 270 families or individuals housing because there was nowhere to house them due to budgetary constraints. He continued to break down HOPE's report to the Council and to note the need for housing. Mr. Russell thanked the Council for allowing him to speak. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Russell for his comments.

Mr. Kerrington Crockett-Eans was recognized and stated that he resides at 50 Lee Circle in Wytheville. He addressed the Town Council on behalf of the Wythe County Chapter of Virginia Organizing regarding the homeless having an accessible shelter during the cold winter months. He remarked that several months ago, HOPE, Incorporated, presented information and asked for assistance in establishing a warming shelter for extremely cold weather. Mr. Crockett-Eans commented that HOPE's pleas for assistance have been ignored by the Town Council. Mr. Crockett-Eans stated that the Wythe County Chapter of Virginia Organizing would challenge the Council to work on establishing a warming shelter in the community. He thanked the Council for allowing him to speak. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Crockett-Eans for his comments. She advised that she can only speak for herself, however, she thinks the Council would all agree that the Council did not ignore the issue when it was presented by HOPE, Incorporated. Mayor Taylor suggested that Town staff schedule a meeting with representatives of Virginia Organizing and HOPE, a representative of the Council, etc. to discuss the issue instead of at the Council meetings so that there is further discussion and shared ideas among each other. She inquired of Mr. Crockett-Eans if he would be interested in this type of meeting. Mr. Crockett-Eans stated that he would be interested. Mayor Taylor inquired of Town Manager Freeman if this would be possible. Town Manager Freeman stated that it would not be a problem. Councilwoman Johnson stated that she had a couple of questions for Ms. Glenda Crockett-Eans. She inquired if Ms. Crockett-Eans was the representative for Virginia Organizing. Ms. Crockett-Eans stated that is correct.

Ms. Glenda Crockett-Eans was recognized and stated that she resides at 50 Lee Circle. She noted that she is a representative of Virginia Organizing. Ms. Crockett-Eans explained that Virginia Organizing is not speaking on behalf of HOPE, Incorporated, but, rather, Virginia Organizing. She commented that Virginia Organizing has had several conversations with at least three of the Town Council members regarding this subject. Councilwoman Johnson stated that she agrees with Mayor Taylor regarding Town Manager Freeman scheduling a meeting with representatives of Virginia Organizing and HOPE, Incorporated Executive Director Andy Kegley for the Council to discuss their concerns, solutions, etc. Councilwoman Johnson thanked Ms. Crockett-Eans for her comments.

Mr. Stephen Holston was recognized and stated that he resides at 220 Meadows Lane in Wytheville. He advised that he would like to address the Council about a few items. Mr. Holston stated that he is a Town employee. He noted that about a month ago, while he

was mowing on Cove Road, he was involved in a hit and run accident. Mr. Holston stated that he appreciated the Town Council, Director of Public Works Chris Peeples and Supervisor Kevin Hackler during his health problems. He commented that the person who hit him and left the scene had no remorse, and it would be helpful if the Council would consider spending some money to place cameras where there is high traffic volume and to help catch traffic offenders, as well as help the Public Works Department with preparing roads during bad weather occurrences. Mr. Holston continued to address the Council regarding dangerous areas of town. He discussed the turn lane at East Main Street that turns onto Eleventh Street. Mr. Holston stated that from approximately 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., traffic backs up and prevents cars from turning. He continued discussing solutions to this problem with the Council. Discussion ensued regarding Mr. Holston's suggestions. Councilwoman Johnson suggested discussing these items in a Council Public Works Committee meeting. She thanked Mr. Holston for his comments.

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

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

A. RE: WYTHE ARTS COUNCIL/MILLWALD THEATRE REQUESTS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the consideration of applications from the Wythe Arts Council and from the Millwald Theatre to use the sidewalks on Main Street for an Apple Atcha Festival - Arts at the Crossroads Event on Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Assistant Town Manager Holeton reviewed the requests noting that the Safety and Events Committee recommended that both events be approved. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve the applications from the Wythe Arts Council and from the Millwald Theatre to use the sidewalks on Main Street for an Apple Atcha Festival - Arts at the Crossroads Event on Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Motion made by Councilwoman Johnson, Seconded by Councilwoman Atkins. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion regarding 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, Councilwoman Johnson.

B. RE: WYTHEVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT REQUEST - WYTHEVILLE FIRE PREVENTION PARADE

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the consideration of an application from the Wytheville Fire and Rescue Department for a rolling closure of Main Street for the annual Wytheville Fire Prevention Parade on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Assistant Town Manager Holeton reviewed the request noting that the Safety and Events Committee recommends that the request be approved. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve the application from the Wytheville Fire and Rescue Department for a rolling closure of Main Street for the annual Wytheville Fire Prevention Parade on Saturday, October 14, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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, Councilwoman Johnson.

Councilwoman Atkins stated that she does not like requiring applicants to submit 60-days prior to their events. She discussed why she would like the 60-day submittal deadline removed. Assistant Town Manager Holeton stated that the Council would be reviewing the policy at the next Town Council meeting, and she noted that the 60-day deadline has been removed. Councilwoman Atkins thanked Assistant Town Manager Holeton.

C. RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE WILLOW BROOK JACKSON/UMBERGER HOMESTEAD MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD RULES FOR TRANSACTION OF BUSINESS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the request of the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board to amend their Rules for Transaction of Business to increase the number of appointed Board members from five to six and to change the frequency of the meetings to bi-monthly. Town Manager Freeman reviewed the changes and requests with the Council. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve the request of the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board to amend their Rules for Transaction of Business to increase the number of appointed Board members from five to six and to change the frequency of the meetings to bi-monthly.

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

D. RE: RESOLUTION - VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SMART SCALE PROJECT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the consideration of a resolution supporting a Virginia Department of Transportation Smart Scale Project for the Monroe Street Detour. Planning Director John Woods stated that included in the Council package is a copy of the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) map that depicts the proposed detour during the project. He continued to review the project with the Council. Planning Director Woods advised that VDOT requires that since these are Town maintained streets, the Town Council must provide a resolution requesting the detour. Mayor Taylor inquired if there were any questions for Planning Director Woods. There being none, she inquired if there was a motion to approve the resolution supporting a Virginia Department of Transportation Smart Scale Project for the Monroe Street Detour.

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: Voting Yea: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilwoman Johnson.

E. RE: WYTHEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT REQUEST

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the request of the Wytheville Police Department to appropriate funds for Asset Forfeitures. Town Manager Freeman reviewed the request with the Council. He stated that the recommended Council action would be to appropriate the requested amount of \$3,194.10 to the Wytheville Police Department's budget. Mayor Taylor inquired if there is a motion to approve the request of the Wytheville Police Department to appropriate funds for Asset Forfeitures.

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: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilwoman Johnson.

F. RE: WYTHEVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT REQUEST

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the consideration of approving the Town applying for a grant through the Wythe-Bland Foundation for a Community Bicycle Safety Grant. Town Manager Freeman reviewed the request with the Council. He noted that it is his recommendation that the request be approved. Mayor Taylor inquired if there is a motion to approve the Town applying for a grant through the Wythe-Bland Foundation for a Community Bicycle Safety Grant.

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: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilwoman Johnson.

G. RE: REQUEST FOR ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION EVENT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the request for an allocation of \$5,000 for the Town's Volunteer Appreciation Event scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Wytheville Meeting Center. Assistant Town Manager Holeton briefly reviewed the request with Council. Vice-Mayor Pattison inquired if it would be possible to get a head count for this event. Assistant Town Manager Holeton stated that Town staff could provide an RSVP process. Discussion ensued regarding the event. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve the request for an allocation of \$5,000 for the Town's Volunteer Appreciation Event scheduled for Tuesday, October 24, 2023, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Wytheville Meeting Center.

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: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilwoman Johnson.

H. RE: REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE WYTHEVILLE REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the consideration of the reappointments of Ms. Gay Hawkins and Mr. Tommy Hundley to the Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority (terms expire September 8, 2023). Town Manager Freeman stated that the agenda information was self-explanatory. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve the reappointments of Ms. Gay Hawkins and Mr. Tommy Hundley to the Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority for four-year terms (terms expire September 8, 2027).

Motion made by Councilwoman Johnson, Seconded by Vice-Mayor Pattison. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. Councilwoman Atkins inquired of Mayor Taylor that since she serves on the Housing Authority Board if she is able to vote. Mayor Taylor advised that she is able to vote. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any further 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, Councilwoman Johnson.

I. RE: REAPPOINTMENT TO THE WYTHEVILLE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the consideration of the reappointment to the Wytheville Board of Zoning Appeals (term expires September 10, 2023). Town Manager Freeman reviewed the information with the Council. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to recommend to the Wythe County Circuit Court the reappointment of Mr. John Jones, Jr. to the Board of Zoning Appeals for a five-year term (term expires September 10, 2028).

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 in favor and there being no opposition: Voting Yea: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilwoman Johnson.

J. RE: APPOINTMENT TO THE WYTHEVILLE TREE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the consideration of an appointment to fill a vacancy on the Wytheville Tree Advisory Committee (term expires May 14, 2027). Town Manager Freeman reviewed the application of Mr. James Cohen with the Council, and he noted that the appointment is for a four-year term. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to appoint Mr. James Cohen to fill a vacancy on the Wytheville Tree Advisory Committee for a four-year term (term expires May 14, 2027).

Motion made by Councilwoman Johnson, Seconded by Councilwoman Atkins. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. She noted that Mr. Cohen has attended a Tree Committee meeting to make sure that he was interested in the Committee. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any further discussion. 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, Councilwoman Johnson.

K. RE: YOUTH APPOINTMENT TO THE WYTHEVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the consideration of a youth appointment to the Wytheville Recreation Commission (term expired August 1, 2023). Town Manager Freeman reviewed the application with the Council. Mayor Taylor inquired if the Council would like to schedule a Meet and Greet Session with the applicant. It was the consensus of the Council to not schedule a Meet and Greet Session. Mayor Taylor inquired if there is a motion to appoint Ms. Jessenia Cohen as a youth member to the Wytheville Recreation Commission (term expires August 1, 2024).

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 in favor and there being no opposition: Voting Yea: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilwoman Johnson.

L. RE: SCHEDULING OF WORK SESSION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider scheduling a Work Session for 4:00 p.m. for August 28, 2023, prior to the Town Council meeting to discuss the draft Town Street Closure Policy. Assistant Town Manager Holeyton stated that the policy is proposed by the Safety and Events Committee, and a Work Session will be needed to review the draft for consideration of adoption by the Council. Mayor Taylor inquired if there is a motion to schedule a Work Session for 4:00 p.m. for August 28, 2023, prior to the Town Council meeting to discuss the draft Town Street Closure Policy.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Pattison, 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 in favor and there being no opposition: Voting Yea: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilwoman Johnson.

11. RE: REPORTS

A. RE: STAFF REPORT(S)

Town Manager Freeman presented his Staff Report, as follows:

TOURISM SUMMIT: Town Manager Freeman updated the Council regarding the August 15, 2023, event held at the Wytheville Meeting Center by the Friends of Southwest Virginia. He noted the awards presented at the event, including several awards the Town of Wytheville Convention and Visitors Bureau received.

MOUNTAIN EMPIRE AIRPORT: Town Manager Freeman updated the Council regarding the annual Virginia Department of Aviation inspection of the Mountain Empire Airport. He explained the outcome of the inspection. He noted that the inspection is requiring some repairs and that the Airport is requesting the member jurisdictions to split the cost equally. Town Manager Freeman commented that no action is required of the Council at this meeting, however, he wanted to inform the Council that a request would be made in the future.

ROCK HOUSE MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE: Town Manager Freeman reminded the Council members of the Open House to be held on Friday, August 18, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

PARKS AND RECREATION BUS UPDATE: Town Manager Freeman updated the Council regarding the old buses at the Parks and Recreation Department. He noted that the buses would go to the surplus to receive the best pricing.

REFUSE TRUCK UPDATE: Town Manager Freeman provided an update regarding

the new Public Works Department refuse truck. He noted that it has been ordered, and it is anticipated that it will be available for service by January 2024.

B. RE: UPCOMING MEETINGS

Town Clerk Corvin presented the upcoming meetings, as follows:

1. The Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority will meet on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 12:00 p.m., at the Housing Authority Office.
2. The New River Regional Water Authority will meet on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at the Water Plant in Austinville.
3. Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated (DTW) will meet on Monday, August 21, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., at the DTW Office.
4. The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County will meet on Thursday, August 24, 2023, at 3:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.
5. The next Council Work Session will be held at 4:00 p.m., on Monday, August 28, 2023, prior to the regular scheduled Town Council meeting at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

12. RE: OTHER BUSINESS

A. RE: FOURTH STREET CIVIC CENTER LEASE AGREEMENT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the update regarding the Fourth Street Civic Center Lease Agreement. Assistant Town Manager Holeyton stated that she was handing out the document at this meeting, so the Council has time to review the draft agreement prior to taking action. She explained that there is no action needed by the Council at this meeting.

B. RE: COUNCIL MEMBER TIME

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Council Member Time. She 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 reported to the Council about the Southwest Virginia Mayor's Forum she attended.

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 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.

C. RE: MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Taylor advised that the Council has some miscellaneous reports in their packages including the July building permit information and the Smyth-Wythe Airport Commission information.

Mayor Taylor inquired if the Council would like to have a brief recess before going into the closed meeting. It was the consensus of the Council to not recess before the closed meeting.

13. RE: CLOSED MEETING

- A. Mayor Taylor advised that it will now be necessary for the Council to go into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A.) (7.) Consultation with legal counsel about possible litigation regarding clutter cases; Section 2.2-3711 (A.) (1.) Interview with candidate for Town Attorney position; Section 2.2-3711 (A.) (3.) Discussion regarding the acquisition/disposition of property used for a public purpose; and, Section 2.2-

3711 (A.) (1.) To discuss the performance and salaries of appointed employees. She inquired if there was a motion to go into a closed meeting.

Motion made by Councilwoman Johnson, Seconded by Vice-Mayor Pattison. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion regarding the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote: Voting Yea: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilwoman Johnson. (6:15 p.m.)

- B. Mayor Taylor advised that it was necessary to certify the closed meeting. She noted that after the closed meeting, it is also necessary to reconvene into open session by stating that the Town Council was now in session. Mayor Taylor inquired if there is a motion to certify the closed meeting held pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A.) (7.) Consultation with legal counsel about possible litigation regarding clutter cases; Section 2.2-3711 (A.) (1.) Interview with candidate for Town Attorney position; Section 2.2-3711 (A.) (3.) Discussion regarding the acquisition/disposition of property used for a public purpose; and, Section 2.2-3711 (A.) (1.) To discuss the performance and salaries of appointed employees, and that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification applies, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Pattison, Seconded by Councilwoman Atkins. The motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote: Voting Yea: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilwoman Johnson. (8:29 p.m.)

14. RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed a motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. (8:30 p.m.)

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk

STAFF REPORT

August 14, 2024

- **TOURISM SUMMIT**

From Press Release:

Tourism professionals representing communities across Southwest Virginia gathered on August 1st during the fourth annual Celebrate Tourism Summit held at the Wytheville Meeting Center. During the event, Friends of Southwest Virginia hosted the Southwest Virginia Tourism Awards Ceremony to celebrate the outstanding work within the tourism industry in Southwest Virginia.

In recognition of the incredible work and contributions in advancing the Southwest Virginia Tourism Industry, Friends of Southwest Virginia presented 38 awards in a number of categories that reflected tourism marketing, visitor services, special events, and tourism leadership. The Tourism Awards were open to tourism organizations, tourism and economic development individuals, and tourism-related businesses located within the 19 counties and four (4) independent cities of the Southwest Virginia region.

At the awards luncheon, Visit Wytheville, and its local business leaders took home multiple awards, including:

- * Best Visitor Guide

- * Best Long Video
- * Best Overall Destination Campaign

- * Outstanding Meeting Venue (more than 25k visitors) Wytheville Meeting Center

- * Outstanding Hotel of the Year Trinkle Mansion Bed & Breakfast

- * Outstanding One-Day Event Wytheville Wine Festival

- **Airport Request**

Every year, the Virginia Department of Aviation conducts an inspection of Mountain Empire Airport. This year, it was found that the markings on the runway and taxiway were in need of repainting.

The State has agreed to pay for 80% of the \$26,410 cost, leaving each of the member localities with a potential and \$5.28 local share. The airport is requesting that 4 member jurisdictions split these costs equally at \$1,320.50. After discussion with some of my colleagues, it is anticipated that the others will agree to pay for this. Marion has already taken action to appropriate the funds.

You do not need to take any action tonight, I just wanted to get this on your radar. We will bring this back to you for discussion and consideration on August 24th.

- **Street Closure Policy** – At your request we will have a work session on August 28th to revisit the Street Closure policy. If you wish to discuss anything related to that topic beforehand, please contact Ms. Holeton before August 28th.
- **Open House for Rock House** is this Friday August 18th at 5pm. Council Members should have gotten an invitation to that.
- **Old Buses**- Parks & recreation will work with public works to sell these at end of year and will pick the option with highest value.
- **Refuse Truck Ordered** – Anticipated to be delivered and ready for use by January of 2024