



MINUTES

WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 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, Councilman Gary Gillman, Councilwoman Candice Johnson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

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, Police Chief Joel Hash, Fire and Rescue Chief Chris Slemp, Lieutenant Bryan Bard, Planning Director John Woods, Parks and Recreation Director Josh Sharitz, Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated Executive Director Todd Wolford, Officer Ernie Williams, III, Officer Damien Thompson, Patricia Austin, Richard Johnson, Jim Cohen, Betsy Trevillian, Reene Walters, Sanket Patel, Nick Patel, Rajesh Patel, Sanjay Patel, Kirby Lambert, Bill Smith

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 Councilwoman Johnson.

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.

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, Councilman Gillman, 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**

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of August 14, 2023. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of August 14, 2023, as presented.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Pattison, Seconded by Councilman Gillman. 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: PRESENTATIONS TO TOWN COUNCIL

A. RE: PRESENTATION REGARDING TRAVEL BALL TOURNAMENTS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a presentation by Parks and Recreation Director Josh Sharitz regarding travel ball tournaments. Director Sharitz reminded the Council that the reason he was asked to attend the meeting to discuss this item was because, over the years, there have been numerous discussions of encouraging and/or the development of a travel sports complex. He noted that he is attending the Council meeting to provide the Council with information, budgetary numbers, etc. for the Council's consideration so the Council is aware of what comes with the development and/or the establishment of a process that would allow for the hosting or development of a travel sports complex. Director Sharitz reviewed the Parks and Recreation Department's current facilities, how they are able to utilize those facilities and the population that those facilities serve for the youth and adult athletics programs. He noted that when it comes to travel ball facilities, lighting and permanent restroom facilities that can provide both water and sewer are very important. Director Sharitz shared with the Council some of the local facilities that are used for travel ball or travel tournaments including Randolph Park in Dublin, Abingdon Sports Complex - The Meadows in Abingdon and Huckleberry Park and Kiwanis Park in Christiansburg. Director Sharitz commented that he thought it was important for the Council to understand what the Parks and Recreation Department currently offers, how the facilities are utilized and who utilizes them on a regular basis, but, also, discuss what type of facility would be required on a regular basis to host travel ball tournaments and the requirements associated with hosting travel ball tournaments. He discussed what would be required to develop a park to host travel tournaments including land, staffing, funding, revenue, sanctioning, etc. Director Sharitz inquired if there were any questions for him. Mayor Taylor stated that she thinks Director Sharitz answered the questions and/or concerns of the citizen and Council members who had questions regarding travel ball facilities. She inquired if there were any questions for Director Sharitz. Councilman Gillman inquired if Director Sharitz had discussed with Wytheville Community College's Dr. Dean Sprinkle about combining the College field and the Town together. Director Sharitz stated that the problem is that the area at the College is still not large enough for a travel ball facility. He explained the cost of the lighting per field, as well as restrooms, parking, etc. Councilwoman Atkins inquired if this type of facility would include a splash pad and disc golf. Director Sharitz stated that what he presented to the Council was only for sports infrastructure. Discussion ensued regarding the number of fields that need to be included in a travel ball facility to make it appealing. Mayor Taylor inquired if there were any further questions or comments for Director Sharitz. There being none, 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.

Mr. Richard Johnson was recognized and stated that he resides at 425 Loretto Drive in Wytheville. He noted that he was attending the meeting to address the Council regarding the veteran's meeting space. Mr. Johnson commented that he is a veteran, and he would like to know what the agreement is between the American Legion and the Town regarding the meeting space at the old community center. He stated that his concern is that the Town is trying to remove the veterans from their meeting space. Mr. Johnson thanked the Council for allowing him to speak. Mayor Taylor stated that the Council is not trying to remove the veterans from their meeting space and that Town Manager Freeman can help answer some of Mr. Johnson's questions. Town Manager Freeman commented that the Town has met with American Legion Commander Maelene Watson and other members of the American Legion, as well as members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), on multiple occasions since back in the spring. Town Manager Freeman advised that there is zero effort from the Town to remove either organization from the meeting room. He discussed the 2009 lease agreement between the Town and the veterans, as well as how he felt the meetings had been going with the veterans. Town Manager Freeman invited Mr. Johnson to attend the next meeting that is to be held with the veterans. Mr. Johnson

thanked Town Manager Freeman. Councilwoman Johnson inquired of Town Manager Freeman if he could please notify her when the Town meets with the veterans again because she would like to attend that meeting. Town Manager Freeman stated that he would notify Councilwoman Johnson of the next meeting. Discussion ensued regarding Councilwoman Atkins' attendance at the last veterans lease agreement meeting, as well as Commander Watson and Mr. Kern addressing her regarding the construction of the veterans' meeting space. Councilwoman Atkins thanked the Public Works Department for their work on that space, as well as Town Manager Freeman for taking care of this before the Chautauqua Festival began.

Ms. Reese Walters was recognized and stated that she resides at 305 Spring Meadow Drive in Wytheville. She noted that she is attending the meeting to address the Council regarding the mowing of the town. Ms. Walters expressed to the Council her concerns regarding the mowing at the intersection of Washington and South 22nd Streets. Mayor Taylor inquired if Ms. Walters is referencing private property or town property. Ms. Walters stated town property. She inquired if the Town's Mowing Ordinance had changed. Town Manager Freeman advised that the Town would not be subject to the ordinance, even if there was a change. Assistant Town Manager Holeyton commented that the Mowing Ordinance was amended in the spring, however, it would not have changed the responsibility of the Public Works Department to maintain the Town's rights of way. She stated that this has been an unusually wet summer, the ground has not dried as quickly and that the Public Works Department has struggled to keep up with mowing responsibilities due to these issues. Ms. Walters inquired if the property she is referring to will continue to not be mowed. Town Manager Freeman stated that he will address this matter with Public Works Director Chris Peebles. A brief discussion continued regarding the mowing concerns that Ms. Walters discussed with the Council. Mayor Taylor thanked Ms. Walters for her comments.

Mr. Nick Patel was recognized and stated that he resides at 165 Malin Drive in Wytheville, and that he is representing the Holiday Day Inn Express & Suites. He noted that he is attending the meeting to address the Council regarding the possible Lodging Tax increase. Mr. Patel advised that he is against the tax increase, as well as the multiple hotel owners that he represents. He stated that he feels the current tax rate is a fair rate. Mr. Patel continued to express his concerns regarding the possible Lodging Tax increase with the Council. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Patel for his comments.

Mr. Kirby Lambert was recognized and stated that he resides at 295 Chapman Road. He noted that he was attending the meeting to address the Council regarding traffic concerns on Main Street and Monroe Street. Mr. Lambert expressed his concerns regarding the traffic on Main and Monroe Streets, and he thanked the Council for allowing him to speak. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Lambert 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: RESOLUTION - VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (VDOT) TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT APPLICATION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the consideration of a resolution for a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Transportation Alternatives Grant application for the Peppers Ferry Road Sidewalk Gap Project. Planning Director Woods presented an overview of the areas that consists of the Peppers Ferry Road Sidewalk Gap Project and noted that there is, currently, no existing sidewalk. He commented that there are many disabled individuals who live in the area that would like to be able to access the Recreation Center and the Meeting Center. Planning Director Woods advised that Staff has applied for funding through the VDOT Transportation Alternatives Program to construct a sidewalk that would allow these individuals to access those facilities. He then briefly discussed the construction of the new sidewalk. Planning Director Woods advised that VDOT requires that a resolution be approved by the Town Council for this grant application. Vice-Mayor Pattison inquired if the Town would be financially responsible for this project. Planning Director Woods stated that the Town would be responsible for 20 percent of the construction cost. Vice-Mayor Pattison inquired about how long the stretch of sidewalk will be when it is constructed. Planning Director Woods noted that he

believes there will be around 800 feet of sidewalk constructed. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve a resolution for a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Transportation Alternatives Grant application for the Peppers Ferry Road Sidewalk Gap 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: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilman Gillman, Councilwoman Johnson.

B. RE: RESOLUTION - VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (VDOT) TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES GRANT APPLICATION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next item on the agenda is the consideration of a resolution for a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Transportation Alternatives Grant Application for the Peppers Ferry Road ADA Sidewalk Upgrade Project. Planning Director Woods stated that this project will improve accessibility of existing sidewalks on Peppers Ferry Road. He noted that some citizens are having problems trying to access the Veterans Affairs office, pharmacies, etc. due to the existing sidewalks not meeting the ADA standards. Discussion was held regarding the improvement project in more detail. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve a resolution for a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Transportation Alternatives Grant Application for the Peppers Ferry Road ADA Sidewalk Upgrade Project.

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 results, by roll call vote: Voting Yea: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilman Gillman, Councilwoman Johnson.

C. RE: APPOINTMENT - WILLOW BROOK JACKSON/UMBERGER HOMESTEAD MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD

Mayor Taylor advised that the next item on the agenda is to consider the appointment of a member to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board to fill the expired term of Ms. Jean Lester (term expired July 31, 2023). She stated that the two applications to consider for appointment are those of Mr. James Spraker and Ms. Betsy Trevillian. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to appoint Mr. Spraker or Ms. Trevillian to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board to fill the expired term of Ms. Jean Lester for a five-year term (term expires July 31, 2028).

A motion was made by Councilwoman Johnson and seconded by Councilman Gillman to appoint Mr. James Spraker to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board for a five-year term (term expires July 31, 2028). Mayor 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.

D. RE: APPOINTMENT - WILLOW BROOK JACKSON/UMBERGER HOMESTEAD MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the appointment of a new member to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board (term expires July 31, 2028). She inquired if there was a motion to appoint Ms. Betsy Trevillian to the Willow Brook Jackson/Umberger Homestead Museum Advisory Board for a five-year term (term expires July 31, 2028).

Motion made by Councilwoman Johnson, Seconded by Councilman Gillman. 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.

E. RE: PROPOSED WEIGHT INCREASE FOR HEAVY TRUCK TRAFFIC

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the consideration of the request from GoRail to support a group letter to oppose increasing the weight limit for heavy trucks. Town Manager Freeman stated that GoRail is a nationwide advocacy group that supports the increased utilization of rail networks. He commented that GoRail has asked that the Town oppose H.R. Bill 3372 which proposes to increase the weight limit of heavy trucks from 80,000 pounds to 91,000 pounds. Town Manager Freeman continued to discuss the request from GoRail to support a group letter opposing H.R. Bill 3372. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve the request from GoRail for the Town Council to support sending a group letter of opposition regarding H.R. Bill 3372 opposing the increased weight limit for heavy trucks.

Motion made by Councilman Gillman, Seconded by Vice-Mayor Pattison. 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.

F. RE: RESCHEDULE/CANCEL OCTOBER 10, 2023, TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the consideration by the Town Council to reschedule/cancel the October 10, 2023, Town Council meeting due to a conflict with the Virginia Municipal League Conference. Town Manager Freeman advised that the 2023 Virginia Municipal League Conference will be held from October 8, 2023, through October 10, 2023. He stated that he and two other Council members will be attending the conference and will not be available. Town Manager Freeman briefly explained the options that the Town Council has for rescheduling the October 10, 2023, Town Council meeting. He advised that if the Council preferred, they could cancel that Town Council meeting. Town Manager Freeman noted that, however, there is one complication when it comes to cancelling the meeting. He noted that one of the USDA bonds that the Town is pursuing still required that a public hearing be held. Town Manager Freeman commented that there is a very specific criteria that has to be met when advertising the public hearing and scheduling the public hearing relative to the advertisement. He stated that scheduling a Special Town Council Meeting for Wednesday, October 11, 2023, would be the best option available to meet the public hearing advertising and scheduling requirements. Town Manager Freeman advised that Staff has reached out to bond counsel to make sure this date would accommodate all the requirements, however, Staff did not hear back from them before the Town Council meeting. He stated that he would recommend that the Council cancel the October 10, 2023, Town Council meeting and allow Staff to come before the Council again at the next Town Council meeting to possibly schedule a Special Meeting for October 11, 2023. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to cancel the Tuesday, October 10, 2023, Town Council meeting due to the date conflicting with the Virginia Municipal League Conference.

Motion made by Councilwoman Atkins, Seconded by Councilman Gillman. 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, Councilman Gillman, Councilwoman Johnson.

G. RE: SCHEDULING OF WORK SESSION TO DISCUSS A HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (HSIP) APPLICATION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider scheduling a Work Session for 4:00 p.m. on September 11, 2023, to discuss a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) application regarding traffic calming on Peppers Ferry Road/Monroe Street. Town Manager Freeman stated that he would recommend scheduling a Work Session to review the HSIP application further. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to schedule a Work Session for 4:00 p.m. on Monday, September 11, 2023, to discuss a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) application regarding traffic calming on Peppers Ferry Road/Monroe Street.

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, Councilman Gillman, Councilwoman Johnson.

H. RE: MOUNTAIN EMPIRE AIRPORT RUNWAY PAINTING PROJECT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider allocating funds for the Mountain Empire Airport Runway Painting Project. Town Manager Freeman noted that the Town has received a request from Mountain Empire Airport for restriping of the runway and taxiway. He commented that this request is a result of a recent Virginia Department of Aviation inspection that noted a deficiency in the paint markings. Town Manager Freeman stated that the State is paying for 80 percent of the cost, and Mountain Empire Airport is requesting that the remaining 20 percent be split between the four member localities. He advised that the Town's cost would be \$1,320.50, and it is anticipated that all of the member localities will participate in this project. Town Manager Freeman stated that he recommends that the Town of Wytheville honor the request of Mountain Empire Airport. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to appropriate \$1,320.50 to the Mountain Empire Airport Runway Painting Project.

Motion made by Councilman Gillman, Seconded by Vice-Mayor Pattison. 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, Councilman Gillman, Councilwoman Johnson.

11. RE: REPORTS

A. RE: STAFF REPORT(S)

Town Manager Freeman presented his Staff Report, as follows:

HERITAGE WALK: Town Manager Freeman stated that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has authorized the bid advertisement for Heritage Walk Phase III. He noted that it is also a Transportation Alternatives Grant Program that is an 80 percent and 20 percent split. He advised that the bids will be opened on September 28, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

CAT SHELTER: Town Manager Freeman stated that after minor renovations, the Cat Shelter has reopened. He noted that Staff is scheduled to meet with some of the Town's volunteers to discuss how their relationship and the operations of the facility can be improved to move forward.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT: Town Manager Freeman stated that the Parks and Recreation Department has taken possession of a new 15 passenger van and has already put it into service. He noted that Parks and Recreation Director Sharitz and his Staff have extended their thanks and appreciation to the Town Council for making this happen through the budget process. Town Manager Freeman advised that the two old buses have been decommissioned, and that the Town is holding on to them for a little while to see if there are any repurposing opportunities.

OPEN DOOR CAFÉ MEETING: Town Manager Freeman stated that he will be meeting with a group this week at the Open Door Café to continue the discussion regarding homelessness and the efforts to establish a warming shelter in Wytheville.

HALLER-GIBBONEY ROCK HOUSE: Town Manager Freeman advised that the Haller-Gibboney Rock House Museum will have a Grand Re-Opening and a 200th Birthday Celebration on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., and that the Museum will offer free tours until 1:00 p.m.

B. RE: UPCOMING MEETINGS

Town Clerk Corvin presented the upcoming meetings, as follows:

1. The Town of Wytheville Municipal Offices will be closed, and all services curtailed on Monday, September 4, 2023, in observance of the Labor Day Holiday.

2. The next Town Council Work Session will be held at 4:00 p.m., on Monday, September 11, 2023, prior to the regularly scheduled Town Council meeting at 5:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building.

12. RE: OTHER BUSINESS

A. RE: LODGING TAX DISCUSSION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the discussion regarding the Lodging Tax. Town Manager Freeman reviewed some information from the most recent budget preparation with the Council and information regarding the Lodging Tax and its importance in Town revenues. Mayor Taylor commented that increasing the Lodging Tax would help the Town in some areas during the next budget cycle, however, she feels as if there are some unknown factors that could affect the Town negatively with a Lodging Tax increase. Councilwoman Johnson inquired if the Lodging Tax would be nine percent if the Town increased the tax rate based off of the recommendation that was made by Davenport during the financial study. Town Manager Freeman stated that is correct, and that a one cent increase would make about \$240,000 in new revenue based on gross receipts from the previous year. Councilwoman Johnson inquired if Town Manager Freeman could send the information containing the sales volume from the previous year to the Council. Town Manager Freeman stated that he would get this information to them. Councilwoman Johnson advised that she suggests that the Town Council discuss this matter further at a future meeting once the Council members receive the information regarding sales volume. Councilwoman Atkins noted that she wanted to confirm that Davenport suggested that the Lodging Tax be raised by one cent by 2025. Town Manager Freeman stated that is correct. Councilwoman Johnson stated that she believed that Davenport recommended that all tax rates should be increased by 2025, and that she is looking at the fairness aspect for the citizens. Town Manager Freeman inquired if the Council would like the Staff to bring this matter back to the Council at a future meeting. A brief discussion was held regarding whether or not the Council wants to discuss this matter again at a future meeting. It was the consensus of the Council to review this matter again at the next Town Council meeting once the Council members receive additional information regarding sales volume, relative to the Lodging Tax.

B. RE: COUNCIL MEMBER TIME

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Council Member Time. She 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.

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 stated that she did not have anything to discuss during Council Member Time.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Councilwoman Atkins had anything to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilwoman Atkins stated that a citizen addressed her regarding a stop sign near Route 21 and Dr. Taylor's Veterinary Clinic. She noted that the citizen told her that it is really hard to see if anything is coming by the Veterinary Clinic before pulling out. Councilwoman Atkins inquired if Staff could possibly trim some trees in that area to increase visibility. Town Manager Freeman stated that he will look into this matter.

Councilwoman Atkins stated that a citizen addressed her regarding speeding on Fairview Road. She advised that it is not improving, and inquired if there could be a speed sign placed in the area. Town Manager Freeman stated that he will check on this matter.

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 during Council Member Time.

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.) (1) To discuss the 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 Councilman Gillman, 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, Councilman Gillman, Councilwoman Johnson. (6:49 p.m.)

- B.** Mayor Taylor advised that it was necessary to certify the closed meeting. She noted that it was also necessary to reconvene into open session. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to certify the closed meeting held pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A.) (1.) To discuss the 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 Councilman Gillman. The motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote: Voting Yea: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilman Gillman, Councilwoman Johnson. (8:39 p.m.)

14. RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed a motion was made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting. (8:40 p.m.)

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Sharon G. Corvin, CMC, Town Clerk

STAFF REPORT
AUGUST 28, 2023

- VDOT has authorized Bid Advertisement for Heritage Walk Phase III. We will open the bids on September 28th at 2pm here at the Municipal Building.
- After some minor renovations, the cat shelter has reopened. We are scheduled to meet with our volunteer partners this week to discuss our relationship and the operations of the facility and how they can be improved moving forward.
- Parks & Recreation has taken possession of the new/used 15 passenger van and has already put it into service. Director Sharitz and his staff have extended their thanks and appreciation to the Council for helping make that happen. The Town's old buses have been decommissioned and we are looking to either repurpose or surplus them.
- I am meeting with a group tomorrow at 5 pm at the Open Door Café to continue the discussion on homelessness and their efforts to establish a warming shelter in Wytheville.
- Haller-Gibboney Rock House Museum will have a Grand Re-Opening and 200th Birthday Celebration on Wednesday, September 13 at 10 AM. The Museum will offer free tours until 1 PM! This historic landmark was built in 1823 and was the home of Dr. John Haller, Wytheville's first resident physician and became Wytheville's first museum in 1972.