



MINUTES

WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2026 AT 5:30 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING - 150 EAST MONROE STREET
WYTHEVILLE, VA 24382

1. **RE: ATTENDANCE**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor Beth Taylor, Vice-Mayor Candice Johnson, Councilwoman Cathy Pattison, Councilwoman Holly Atkins, Councilman Joseph Hand, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Interim Town Manager Chris Slemph, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Holeyton, Town Clerk Brandi Jones, Town Attorney Paul Cassell, Town Treasurer Angela Pennington, Computer Operations Manager Ron Jude, Police Captain Kenny Akers, Police Corporal Kyle Counts, Police Officer Joseph Bowles, Heather Scheneman, Michael Scheneman, Diane DiBias, Aubrey Whitlow, Sr., Randy Hamm, Kerry Eans, Kevin Fox, 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 Councilwoman 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.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Johnson, Seconded by Councilwoman 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: Councilman Hand, Jr., Councilwoman Pattison, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Atkins, Vice-Mayor Johnson.

6. **RE: RECESS**

Mayor Taylor advised that the Council will hold a recess immediately following the Closed Meeting, if necessary.

7. **RE: CLOSED SESSION**

A. RE: CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 2.2-3711 (A)(1) - INTERVIEW OF AN APPLICANT FOR THE WALL OF HONOR COMMITTEE

Mayor Taylor advised that it would now be necessary to go into a Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, for the discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment, specifically regarding the interview of an applicant for the Wall of Honor Committee. She inquired if there was a motion to go into a Closed Session.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor 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 Johnson, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilman Hand, Jr. (5:32 p.m.)

8. RE: RECONVENE AND CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Taylor advised that a motion and second was necessary to return to open session; and, to adopt the following resolution certifying the business conducted in the Closed Session, as follows:

Resolution - Certification of Closed Session

Whereas, the Wytheville Town Council has convened a closed session on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and,

Whereas, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Wytheville Town Council that such closed session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Wytheville Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open session requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed session to which this certification resolution applies; and, (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Wytheville Town Council.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Johnson, Seconded by Councilwoman 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: Vice-Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman Atkins, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilman Hand, Jr. Voting Nay: None. Absent during vote: None. (5:46 p.m.)

9. RE: APPOINTMENT - WALL OF HONOR COMMITTEE

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Johnson and seconded by Councilman Hand, Jr. to appoint Aubrey Whitlow to the Wall of Honor Committee to fill the unexpired term of Maelene Watson, which will commence immediately and expires February 1, 2028. 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: Vice-Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman Atkins, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilman Hand, Jr.

10. RE: RECESS

It was the consensus of the Council to take a brief recess. (5:48 p.m.)

RE: RECONVENE

It was the consensus of the Council to reconvene the meeting. (6:00 p.m.)

11. RE: CONSENT AGENDA

A. RE: MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 11, 2026

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Wytheville Town Council held on Monday, May 11, 2026. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor 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 Johnson, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilman Hand, Jr.

12. RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. RE: PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE NO. 1464 - FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET ORDINANCE - STAFF REPORT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a public hearing to consider Ordinance No. 1464, the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance on second reading. She stated that before she opened the public hearing, Interim Town Manager Chris Slemp would present a Staff Report to the Council regarding this matter. Interim Town Manager Slemp briefly reviewed the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Summary, which included the proposed General Fund expenditures, Wastewater Fund expenditures, Water Fund expenditures and the total expenditures of all Town funds. He noted that the third reading of the budget would be held on June 8, 2026.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE NO. 1464 - FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET ORDINANCE

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to receive comments regarding Ordinance No. 1464, the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance. She inquired if there was anyone who wished to address the Council regarding the public hearing. Mayor Taylor noted that there was no one who wished to speak during the public hearing, therefore, she would declare the public hearing closed and proceed with the agenda.

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1464 - FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET ORDINANCE

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Town Council to approve Ordinance No. 1464, the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance, on second, but not final, reading. She inquired if there was a motion to approve Ordinance No. 1464, the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance, on second, but not final reading.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Johnson, Seconded by Councilman Hand, Jr. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. Councilwoman Pattison stated that she would like to discuss the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) that was included in the budget. She advised that the current inflation rate was 3.8 percent, and that it could potentially rise to 3.9 percent, at the beginning of next year. Councilwoman Pattison explained that the Council has proposed a three (3) percent COLA for Town employees, and that she would like for the Council to consider increasing the COLA to four (4) percent. Discussion was held regarding the potential increase in the inflation rate, the Council's opinions on reconsidering an increase to the COLA for Town employees and how a four (4) percent COLA would affect the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget. There being no further discussion, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote: Voting Yea: Councilman Hand, Jr., Councilwoman Pattison, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Atkins, Vice-Mayor Johnson.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pattison and seconded by Vice-Mayor Johnson to amend the original motion to approve Ordinance No. 1464, the Budget Ordinance for Fiscal year 2026-2027, by removing the three (3) percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Town employees and including a four (4) percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) in the budget, on second, but not final, reading. 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: Vice-Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman Atkins, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Pattison. Voting Against: Councilman Hand, Jr.

13. RE: PRESENTATIONS TO TOWN COUNCIL

A. RE: PRESENTATION - APRIL 2026 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the presentation of the April 2026 Town of Wytheville Financial Statement by Town Treasurer Angela Pennington. Town Treasurer Pennington presented information to the Council regarding the April 2026 Financial Statement, and the annual comparison of revenue, expenditures, meals tax, lodging tax and sales tax from the same time in 2025. Interim Town Manager Slemp stated that he would like to note that the Town still has several forms of reimbursement funds to receive which will help with the Town's revenue.

14. RE: NEW BUSINESS

A. RE: ANNUAL FIRE PREVENTION PARADE - WYTHEVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT REQUEST FOR STREET CLOSURES

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the request from the Wytheville Fire and Rescue Department to close portions of Main Street for the Annual Fire Prevention Parade on Saturday, October 10, 2026. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the request of the Wytheville Fire and Rescue Department to temporarily close intersections and stop the flow of traffic on Main Street from North and South 11th Streets to North and South 4th Streets on Saturday, October 10, 2026, from 6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m., for the purpose of conducting the Annual Fire Prevention Parade.

Motion made by Councilman Hand, Jr., 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 Johnson, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilman Hand, Jr.

B. RE: STAFF REPORT - AUTHORIZATION FOR WYTHEVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE LIFEPAK 15 CARDIAC MONITORS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item was a Staff Report by Interim Town Manager Chris Slemp requesting authorization for the Wytheville Fire and Rescue Department to purchase Lifepack 15 Cardiac Monitors. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the request of Interim Town Manager Chris Slemp to authorize the Wytheville Fire and Rescue Department to utilize the remaining Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) project funds in the amount of \$22,000 for the purchase of Lifepack 15 Cardiac Monitors.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Johnson, Seconded by Councilwoman 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: Vice-Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman Atkins, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilman Hand, Jr.

C. RE: STAFF REPORT - CURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a Staff Report by Interim Town Manager Chris Slemp regarding the current drought. Interim Town Manager Slemp stated that he had intentions of discussing the various levels of drought and potential mandatory water conservation restrictions. He noted that, however, it has since rained, and he has been discussing the situation with Public Utilities and Engineering staff and the National Weather Service. Interim Town Manager Slemp explained that the area was expected to have received between two (2) and three (3) inches of rain over the past few days, with more rain predicted through the rest of the week. He stated that Town staff is continuing to monitor this situation, and that no Council action is required, at this time, on this matter.

D. RE: REFER TO WYTHEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION - REZONE REQUEST FOR PROPERTY LOCATED AT 170 SOUTH 16TH STREET

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a Staff Report by Assistant Town Manager Elaine Holeton regarding the Council referring to the Wytheville Planning Commission a request submitted by Brandi Davis to rezone property located at 170 South 16th Street. Assistant Town Manager Holeton stated that the Virginia State Code requires the Town Council to refer any rezone applications to the Planning Commission. She noted that she is requesting for the Town Council to approve referring this rezone request to the Wytheville Planning Commission. Assistant Town Manager Holeton advised that the Planning Commission will review and consider this application and will refer its recommendation back to the Town Council. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to refer to the Wytheville Planning Commission, a request submitted by Brandi Davis to rezone property located at 170 South 16th Street from a B-1 Business with Conditions Zoning District to a B-1 Business Zoning District.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Johnson, Seconded by Councilman Hand, Jr. 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 Hand, Jr., Councilwoman Pattison, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Atkins, Vice-Mayor Johnson.

15. RE: OLD BUSINESS

A. RE: PRESENTAION AND REVIEW OF SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO THE 2026 TOWN COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a presentation and review of the suggested amendments to the 2026 Town Council Rules of Procedure by Town Attorney Paul Cassell. She stated that Town Attorney Cassell had not yet arrived to the Council meeting. Interim Town Manager Slep noted that Town Attorney Cassell had not made it to the Council meeting due to his required attendance at another meeting at this time. It was the consensus of the Council to table action on the amendments to the 2026 Town Council Rules of Procedure suggested by Town Attorney Cassell and to place this agenda item on the next regular meeting agenda.

16. RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She stated that there were no citizens listed on the sign-in sheet who wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period. Mayor Taylor noted that if any citizens were present who did not sign-in on the sign-in sheet and wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period, now would be the time to do so. There being none, she proceeded with the agenda.

17. RE: REPORTS

A. RE: STAFF TIME - INTERIM TOWN MANAGER CHRIS SLEMP

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Interim Town Manager - Staff Time. Interim Town Manager Slep stated that an economic development group visited Wytheville, toured the downtown area, and, he noted that they were very impressed. He commented that Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated also received a "shoutout" from the Governor of Virginia for the award they received. Interim Town Manager Slep thanked everyone who assisted in beautifying the Town.

B. RE: STAFF TIME - TOWN CLERK BRANDI JONES

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Town Clerk - Staff Time. Town Clerk Brandi Jones stated that she did not have anything to discuss at this time.

C. RE: STAFF TIME - ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER ELAINE HOLETON

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Assistant Town Manager - Staff Time. Assistant Town Manager Holeton stated that she did not have anything to discuss at this time.

D. RE: COUNCIL MEMBER TIME

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Council Member Time. She inquired if Vice-Mayor Johnson had anything that she would like to discuss. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she would like to thank Director of Public Information/Tourism Rosa Jude, the Wall of Honor Committee and the Police Department for their efforts on the Run for the Wall event. She noted that they worked very hard during extreme heat, and she would like to thank them for their hard work and efforts.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Councilwoman Atkins had anything that she would like to discuss. Councilwoman Atkins stated that the Run for Wall event was great, as well as the Memorial Day Ceremony that took place. She thanked the Town departments, that were involved in these events, for their hard work.

Mayor Taylor stated that over the years it has been tradition for the Mayor to represent the Town at the Veterans Day Memorial Ceremony, which is held at the Veterans Cemetery in Dublin, Virginia. She noted that she would ask the Town of Wytheville to continue this tradition in the future.

Mayor Taylor stated that she would like to remind everyone that the American Red Cross will soon be in town conducting a blood drive.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Councilwoman Pattison had anything that she would like to discuss. Councilwoman Pattison stated that she would like to thank Public Works for their hard work at the Recreation Center while it was closed for maintenance. She noted that she understands that 99 percent of the maintenance projects were completed and explained that the only thing they were not able to complete was the replacement of ceiling tiles. Councilwoman Pattison commented that ceiling tiles have been replaced at the Recreation Center every year. She inquired of Interim Town Manager Slemp if there are still issues with leaks. Interim Town Manager Slemp stated that he will need to look into this matter to know for sure why they are being replaced.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Councilman Hand, Jr. had anything that he would like to discuss. Councilman Hand, Jr. stated that he did not have anything to discuss at this time.

18. RE: RECESS

It was the consensus of the Council to take a brief recess. (6:36 p.m.)

RE: RECONVENE

It was the consensus of the Council to reconvene the meeting. (6:52 p.m.)

19. RE: CLOSED SESSION

A. RE: CLOSED SESSION PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 2.2-3711 (A)(1); AND, PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.2-3711 (A)(8)

Mayor Taylor advised that it would now be necessary to go into a Closed Session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia, discussion regarding the appointment of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of a public body, specifically relating to the Town Manager position; and, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia, consultation with legal counsel regarding matters related to the Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County. She inquired if there was a motion to go into a Closed Session.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Johnson, Seconded by Councilman Hand, Jr. 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 Hand, Jr., Councilwoman Pattison, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Atkins, Vice-Mayor Johnson. (6:53 p.m.)

20. RE: RECONVENE AND CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION

Mayor Taylor advised that a motion and second was necessary to return to open session; and, to adopt the following resolution certifying the business conducted in closed session, as follows:

Resolution - Certification of Closed Session

Whereas, the Wytheville Town Council has convened a closed session on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and,

Whereas, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Wytheville Town Council that such closed session was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Wytheville Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open session requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed session to which this certification resolution applies; and, (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed session were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Wytheville Town Council.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Johnson, Seconded by Councilman Hand, Jr. 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 Hand, Jr., Councilwoman Pattison, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Atkins, Vice-Mayor Johnson. Voting Nay: None. Absent during vote: None. (7:49 p.m.)

21. **RE: ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting. (7:50 p.m.)

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Brandi N. Jones, Town Clerk