



MINUTES

WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2025 AT 6:00 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING - 150 EAST MONROE STREET
WYTHEVILLE, VA 24382

1. 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 Sherry Corvin, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Holeyton, Town Attorney Paul Cassell, Chief Deputy Clerk Brandi Jones, Assistant Computer Operations Manager Jeff Hooper, Police Chief Joel Hash, Police Officer Kyle Counts, Kenneth M. Rowlett, Jody Richard, Becky Harrison, Jennifer Corvin, Zach Robinson, Robin Fasano, Lynn Arnold, Stacy Terry, Charles Cornett, Trevor Rogers, Rick Rogers, Todd Mills, Angela Porter, Tim Jones, Joe Upcauge, Tim Monahan, Gary Dean, Mike Scheneman, Jim Cohen, Bret Cockram, Alyssa Robinson, Randal Hamm, Debra Dillow, Thomas Dillow, Dwayne Murrell, Clayton Waller, 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: STATEMENT FROM MAYOR BETH TAYLOR

Mayor Taylor advised that she has a statement she would like to make before starting the meeting. She stated that the Town Council has been considering different ways to keep citizens and employees safe. Mayor Taylor commented that the Council appreciated all the comments expressed by the citizens about the firearms ordinance. She noted that, at the last meeting, the Town Council listened to these concerns that were expressed and removed the firearms ordinance from the agenda. Mayor Taylor stated that the ordinance will not be considered again, and it will not be placed on another Town Council meeting agenda during her tenure as Mayor of the Town of Wytheville.

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 as presented.

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

6. RE: CONSENT AGENDA

A. RE: MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 27, 2025

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of October 27, 2025. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

7. 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 would like to address the Council during Citizens' Period. She requested that citizens come to the podium and state his/her name and address for the recording of the minutes to address the Council during Citizens' Period. Mayor Taylor inquired if Mr. Joe Upcavage could please come to the podium to address the Council.

Mr. Joe Upcavage was recognized and stated that he resides on Cinnamon Run in Wythe County. He stated that he would like to address the Council regarding the Second Amendment. Mr. Upcavage commented that he understands the proposed gun ordinance will not be considered again. He explained that the Council has been discussing public safety, however, taking away a citizen's attempt to protect themselves is not public safety. Mr. Upcavage commented that he would like to say that he does not agree with this, and that it should never have been considered. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Upcavage for his comments.

Mr. Randal Hamm was recognized and stated that he resides on Wytheview Drive in Wytheville. He stated that he spoke at the October 27, Town Council meeting addressing the proposed gun ordinance. Mr. Hamm noted that he reviewed the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request response that was shared by Mr. Stacy Terry, and that he feels foolish for accepting the Town Council's responses to citizens' inquiries. He reviewed the FOIA request that was shared by Mr. Terry and continued to discuss his displeasure with the Town Council's response to the proposed gun ordinance at the last Town Council meeting. Mr. Hamm inquired of Councilman Hand if he reviewed the email that was sent by Interim Town Manager Corvin on September 25, 2025, with the Town Manager Updates that included the proposal of adding the gun ordinance to the October 27, meeting agenda. Councilman Hand stated that he did not review the email, and that he never saw it until the agenda was released and that he asked for it to be resent to him, at that time. Mr. Hamm inquired of the Council regarding how each of them would reconcile their statements following the FOIA request. Councilwoman Atkins stated that she has not seen the FOIA request that has been shared by Mr. Terry. She noted that she feels like everything she said at the October 27, Town Council meeting was accurate, and that she did not lie. Councilwoman Atkins explained that she read the Town Manager's Updates, and that she thinks she should be able to discuss peoples' concerns. She advised that she did not see the proposed gun ordinance in its entirety until the day the Council meeting packet was released. Councilwoman Atkins commented that she is okay with listening to all sides of peoples' concerns. She continued to explain that she did not know that the proposed gun ordinance was going to be discussed at the October 27, Council meeting until she received her Council meeting agenda and packet when it was released the Thursday before the October 27, Council meeting. Councilwoman Atkins stated that, for the past few weeks, she has been told to pick a side. She commented that she is not here to pick a side, and that she was elected to listen to the community and hear their side. Councilwoman Atkins advised that people are saying that the proposed gun ordinance was brought up by her. She explained that she was not the person who brought this topic up to be placed on the agenda, and that from her understanding, it was an inquiry from the Wytheville Farmers' Market. Councilwoman Atkins noted that she agreed to the proposed gun ordinance being placed on an agenda, because she wanted to listen to the Interim Town Manager's and the Town Attorney's input regarding the matter. She commented that she did not know at which meeting the proposed gun ordinance would be discussed. Councilwoman Atkins reiterated that everything she said at the October 27, Council meeting was accurate to the best of her knowledge. Mr. Hamm inquired if any of the other Council members would like to reconcile their statements. Mayor Taylor stated that in the beginning, the Town Council was mainly interested in trying to keep citizens safe during events, etc. Mr. Hamm noted that since the October 27, Council meeting and the release of the FOIA request, he now has concerns regarding the Council's ability to be honest with citizens due to its written and public statements. He explained that he would like to know how restricting firearms on Town property is supposed to increase public safety. Mr. Hamm inquired of Vice-Mayor Johnson regarding how she would like to reconcile her verbal statement about not

intentionally supporting infringing upon constituent's Constitutional rights, and her written statement in response to Interim Town Manager Corvin's request for feedback in the Town Manager Updates. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she has no intention of infringing upon anyone's rights. She advised that there was a concern from the Wytheville Farmers' Market, and that her response was to that concern to keep people safe. Mr. Hamm inquired if any other Council members would like to discuss why they withdrew their support of the proposed gun ordinance once the agenda was released. Councilman Hand stated that when he saw the email the first time, he sent an email to the rest of the Council asking how this topic made it on the meeting agenda. Mr. Hamm inquired whether the Council would like to share any more information that may provide additional transparency or citizen understanding that was previously withheld. Mayor Taylor stated that she believes the FOIA response request includes everything that was available to the citizens. Mr. Hamm stated that the FOIA response states that some information was withheld due to Attorney Client privileges. There being no further discussion, Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Hamm for his comments.

Mr. Kenneth Rowlett was recognized and stated that he resides on South 12th Street in Wytheville. He noted that he would like to address the Council regarding the proposed gun ordinance and the Wytheville Farmers' Market. Mr. Rowlett inquired of the Council about what crime was committed at the Farmers' Market to suggest that Town citizens were at risk of harm, which was then switched to the concern for Town parks, to begin the process of developing the proposed gun ordinance. He then continued to express his concerns and confusion regarding how the proposed gun ordinance was developed and why it was developed. Police Chief Hash stated that the situation with the Town parks was his idea, because the Police Department deals with a lot of homelessness and drug issues. He noted that, however, he is not very familiar with the Farmers' Market situation. Mr. Rowlett inquired about what happened at the Farmers' Market for the gun ordinance to be brought up. Interim Town Manager Corvin explained that Staff received an email from the Farmer's Market inquiring if the Town had an ordinance prohibiting firearms at the Farmers' Market. She noted that Staff performed research regarding this request and developed an ordinance that came directly from the Virginia State Code that covered everything from events, Town parks, Town property, etc. Discussion continued regarding the situation at the Wytheville Farmers' Market and how the proposed gun ordinance was developed in hopes of providing additional public safety on Town property. Interim Town Manager Corvin stated that she is not sure what happened at the Farmers' Market to prompt them to ask the question about a gun ordinance. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Rowlett for his comments.

Ms. Robin Fasano was recognized and stated that she resides on West Spiller Street in Wytheville. She addressed the Council regarding the response to Mr. Stacy Terry's FOIA request and what was included in the response. Ms. Fasano stated that she saw a screenshot of the October 27, Town Council meeting agenda posted online, and that it stated the proposed gun ordinance was going to be considered on first and final vote. She explained that she feels like the proposed gun ordinance was being prepared between September 25, and October 27. Councilwoman Atkins advised that she did see the September 25, Town Manager Updates and the section regarding the idea of a proposed gun ordinance, however, it did not include at which meeting this ordinance would be reviewed and discussed. Ms. Fasano reviewed her concerns regarding the development of the proposed gun ordinance, it being considered on first and final vote, the agenda preparation process and Council member responses to the September 25, Town Manager Updates. She then continued to discuss her concerns and displeasure with the Town Council. Mayor Taylor thanked Ms. Fasano for her comments.

Mr. Stacy Terry was recognized and stated that he resides on Havens Road in Wytheville. Mr. Terry stated that citizens want three things from their government and local officials which are accountability, transparency and the truth. He noted that he had a great conversation with Councilman Hand on October 24, and that Councilman Hand was honest with him. Mr. Terry explained that he did not like how Interim Town Manager Corvin was thrown under the bus. He commented that 20 minutes into the October 27, Council meeting, Councilwoman Atkins advised that she was in the Closed Meetings where public safety was discussed. Discussion was held regarding the Closed Meetings that were held regarding security. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Terry for his comments.

Mr. Jim Cohen was recognized and stated that he resides on Cove Road in Wytheville. He stated that he would like to address some of the things that he has witnessed while attending the Council meetings over the last few years. Mr. Cohen explained that integrity

is very important for the Council to have. He noted that he is concerned by the instant reaction to just one citizen who brings their complaints to the Council. Mr. Cohen advised that the citizens need leaders to tell people "No" on certain things. He then continued to discuss his concerns with the Council. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Cohen for his comments.

8. RE: RECESS

It was the consensus of the Council to take a brief recess. (6:53 p.m.)

RE: RECONVENE

It was the consensus of the Council to reconvene the meeting. (7:01 p.m.)

9. RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD (CONTINUED)

Councilwoman Atkins advised that she would like to make a statement regarding the minutes from the October 27, 2025, Town Council meeting before moving forward with the agenda. She advised that she would like the minutes to reflect that she was quoted stating the following in the October 27, 2025, Town Council meeting minutes "she does not recall firearms being discussed in any Closed Meeting."

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

A. RE: RESOLUTION – CDBG MONROE STREET HOUSING PRODUCTION PROJECT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider adopting a resolution authorizing the Interim Town Manager/Town Manager to execute all appropriate documents for the administration of the CDBG Monroe Street Housing Production Project. She noted that Interim Town Manager Corvin will give the Council additional information on this topic. Interim Town Manager Corvin stated that this resolution authorizes the Town Manager or Interim Town Manager to sign and submit all the appropriate documents for the administration of the Monroe Street Housing Production Project. Mayor Taylor proceeded to read the resolution, which is attached and made part of the minutes. She inquired if there was a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the Interim Town Manager/Town Manager to execute all appropriate documents for the administration of the CDBG Monroe Street Housing Production Project.

Motion made by Councilman Hand, Jr., 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.

11. RE: REPORTS

A. RE: UPCOMING MEETINGS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is upcoming meetings. Chief Deputy Clerk Jones presented the upcoming meetings, as follows:

1. Due to the Veterans Day holiday, the Town of Wytheville Municipal Offices will be closed, and all services will be curtailed on Tuesday, November 11, 2025.
2. The Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority will meet on Wednesday, November 12, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., at the Housing Authority Office.
3. The Wytheville Tree Advisory Committee will meet on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 8:30 a.m., in Conference Room A.
4. The Wytheville Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.
5. The Downtown Wytheville, Inc. (DTW) Board will meet on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., at the DTW office.

6. The New River Regional Water Authority will meet on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at the Water Authority Plant in Austinville.

7. The District III Board will meet on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., at the Marion Office.

8. The Homestead Museum Advisory Board will meet on Friday, November 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at the Jackson House.

9. The next regular scheduled Wytheville Town Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

12. RE: OTHER BUSINESS

A. RE: COUNCIL MEMBER TIME

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Council Member Time. She inquired if Councilman Hand had anything he would like to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilman Hand stated that he did not have anything to discuss at this time.

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

Mayor Taylor stated that she would like to request removing the tabled Town Council Rules of Procedure item, so that it can be added to another agenda. She inquired if there was a motion to remove the tabled Town Council Rules of Procedure item, so that it can be added to another agenda.

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: Vice-Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman Atkins, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilman Hand, Jr.

Mayor Taylor presented the Community Buzz: Exciting Updates from the Wytheville Town Council, as follows:

1. Congratulations to the Wytheville Community Center on being the official training and fitness facility for the Blue Ridge Bobcats hockey team.

2. Thank you to all the citizens who attended the 2025 Trunk or Treat event - your participation made it a great success with hundreds in attendance!

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

Mayor Taylor inquired if Vice-Mayor Johnson had anything she would like to discuss during Council Member Time. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she would like to extend her thanks to the Hometown Heroes and Veterans, since Veterans Day is near. She noted that she would like to thank each and every Veteran that has served our country. Vice-Mayor Johnson explained that she is grateful and thankful for our Veterans.

13. RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting. (7:12 p.m.)

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Brandi N. Jones, Chief Deputy Clerk