



MINUTES

WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026 AT 6:00 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 Slemple, 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 Chastity Russell, Police Officer Jayden Selfe, Wytheville Farmers' Market Manager Katlyn Jackson, Donna Leonard, Glenda Salerno, Della Russell, Kevin Fox, Randal Hamm, Jr., Tommy Atkins, Heather Scheneman, Michael Scheneman, Glenda Crockett-Eans, Kerry Eans

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 Councilman Hand.

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: 7:00 P.M. RECESS**

Mayor Taylor advised that for informational purposes only, the agenda includes a 7:00 p.m. scheduled recess.

7. **RE: CONSENT AGENDA**

A. RE: MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 10, 2026

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Wytheville Town Council to approve the minutes of the regular Town Council meeting held on Monday, August 10, 2026. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

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 in favor, and there being no

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

8. RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She stated that there is one citizen listed on the sign-in sheet that would like to address the Council during Citizens' Period. Mayor Taylor inquired if Ms. Donna Leonard would come to the podium to address the Council.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Ms. Donna Leonard could please come to the podium to address the Council. Ms. Leonard was recognized and addressed the Council regarding the crosswalk and bump-outs located at the intersection of Seventh and Monroe Streets. She noted that this topic was on the agenda under New Business, Item B. Ms. Leonard stated that when the project was originally discussed, she was informed that it was part of a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Road Diet Project extending along Peppers Ferry Road and down Monroe Street. She explained that it was to be funded and approved by VDOT, rather than being an isolated Town initiative or a crosswalk installed at the request of a single party. Ms. Leonard continued to address her concern, and she noted that despite this understanding, the location has never been completed as an official crosswalk. She stated that she had heard explanations suggesting that the Town did not have the funds, which she views as inconsistent, if the work was supposed to be funded as part of a VDOT project. Ms. Leonard requested that the Council "go back to the beginning" by reviewing the original action and verbiage approving the project, confirming whether it was part of the VDOT Road Diet Project, and, if so, to work with VDOT to finalize the work as intended. The Council thanked Ms. Leonard for her comments.

9. RE: PRESENTATION TO TOWN COUNCIL

A. RE: WYTHEVILLE FARMERS' MARKET UPDATE AND UPCOMING PLANS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a presentation by Wytheville Farmers' Market Manager Katlyn Jackson regarding plans for the Wytheville Farmers' Market in the upcoming months. Wytheville Farmers' Market Manager Katlyn Jackson introduced herself and noted that she also teaches Adaptive Special Education at Bland County High School and stated that she has been in the Market Manager role for approximately three (3) months. Ms. Jackson stated that the Wytheville Farmers' Market has two (2) planned events: a Harvest Feast at the market, in partnership with the Millwald Theatre on Saturday, September 26, and a Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, October 3. She noted that the market must install a grease trap in order for a bakery vendor to continue cooking on-site, each Saturday, and that the estimated cost is approximately \$3,500. Ms. Jackson requested that the Town consider providing financial assistance or other support to meet this requirement. She noted that her long-term goal is to convert the back room of the Town-owned market building into a fully commercialized kitchen that could be rented by local caterers and small businesses. Ms. Jackson stated that this concept would require an additional investment, including construction of a secured, exterior access door with a keypad, to allow controlled access without leaving the building open. She commented that these ideas are aspirational, but are aimed at expanding the market's role as a community asset and small-business resource. Mayor Taylor thanked Ms. Jackson for her presentation, and she proceeded with the agenda.

B. RE: PRESENTATION - JULY 2026 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the presentation of the July 2026 Town of Wytheville Financial Statement by Town Treasurer Angela Pennington. Town Treasurer Pennington stated that the Town finished July 2026 in the negative by \$3,030,856. She noted that July, August and September are light revenue months. She explained that a few Town departments have purchased their Capital Improvement Project (CIP) items, a third payroll was processed in July and that there were grant-related expenditures that the Town has not received reimbursement for at this time. Town Treasurer Pennington then presented additional information to the Council regarding the July 2026 Financial Statement and the annual comparison of revenue, expenditures, meals tax, lodging tax and sales tax from the same time in 2025. Mayor Taylor thanked Town Treasurer Pennington for her presentation, and she proceeded with the agenda.

C. RE: PROPOSED POLICY FOR REMOVAL OF UNSAFE, DANGEROUS OR UNSANITARY BUILDINGS, WALLS OR STRUCTURES

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a presentation of the proposed Town of Wytheville Policy for Removal of Unsafe, Dangerous or Unsanitary Buildings, Walls or Structures by Town Attorney Paul Cassell. Town Attorney Cassell stated that, at the Council's request, he, Interim Town Manager Slemph and Town staff developed a draft policy establishing clear procedures and guidelines for addressing unsafe, dangerous or unsanitary structures, including derelict properties in town. He noted that the draft policy is ready for the Council's review and is intended to guide future implementation actions, but that no action is required at this meeting. Council members were requested to review the document and contact him with any questions or recommended changes. Mayor Taylor thanked Town Attorney Cassell for his presentation, and she proceeded with the agenda

10. RE: NEW BUSINESS

A. RE: REQUEST - CJ'S PIZZA FOR A ONE-YEAR EXEMPTION FROM VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 10.1-1424.3. EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE FOOD SERVICE CONTAINERS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a Staff Report by Interim Town Manager Christopher Slemph regarding a request from CJ's Pizza for a one-year exemption from Virginia Code Section 10.1-1424.3, Expanded polystyrene food service containers prohibited, civil penalty. Interim Town Manager Slemph stated that the State has implemented restrictions that prevent restaurants from using styrofoam and that many establishments are now required to either change their packaging or to begin charging customers for to-go containers. He noted that CJ's Pizza has requested an exemption on the basis of financial hardship, noting that the cost of immediately switching to alternative products creates an undue economic burden on the business. Interim Town Manager Slemph advised that the State law allows localities to grant a one-year exemption, with the option for the business to return once for an additional year of exemption, and he noted that Staff would recommend granting the request. Town Attorney Cassell stated that the Code of Virginia expressly authorizes the Town Council to approve such exemptions, if it finds that the business would suffer undue economic hardship. He also noted that he has drafted a broader ordinance that, once finalized, would allow the Town Manager to approve similar hardship exemptions for other restaurants under specified criteria, so that the process would be available town-wide rather than handled case by case at Council meetings. There being no further discussion, Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve the request from CJ's Pizza for a one-year exemption of Virginia Code Section 10.1-1424.3. Expanded polystyrene food service containers prohibited; civil penalty, due to an undue economic hardship (exemption will expire August 24, 2027).

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

B. RE: MONROE STREET BUMP-OUTS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a Staff Report by Interim Town Manager Christopher Slemph regarding the Monroe Street bump-outs. Interim Town Manager Slemph stated that at Councilwoman Atkins' request, Staff reviewed the option of replacing the grass bump-outs with concrete, and he noted that the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) had no recommendation for or against the change. Interim Town Manager Slemph commented that the estimated cost to concrete the bump-outs would be \$1,700 to \$1,800. He also noted that this was the first time that he had heard the location described as a crosswalk, and he stated that he would follow up on this, because the project predates his tenure. Councilman Hand stated that the island is unsafe, citing tire marks, vehicle swerving and water draining into the street, and he requested that the Town's Engineering Department or another qualified engineer inspect the site and provide a formal recommendation to the Council.

Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that the bump-outs were installed after coordinating with citizens, police, engineering and VDOT to address speeding and noting that they have slowed traffic. She advised that she prefers to retain the grass for stormwater absorption. Assistant Town Manager Holeton noted that the bump-out is part of a Transportation Alternatives Grant Project intended as the first of several bump-outs to provide traffic calming with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant crosswalk locations, and that the overall project remains in design, with additional work (ADA access, striping, signage) to follow during construction. She noted that the design follows a standard VDOT bump-out detail and suggested that VDOT or a third-party engineer review the installation to help guide the Council's decision. Councilman Hand requested an outside review, emphasizing correction of drainage and safety issues.

Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "Wait a minute, I would like to make a comment. The reason I'd like them concreted is for safety for the employees, so that way they don't have to stop every time they go or you know weed eat and then look for cars, you know, and try to you know not put little dents in cars. And I just think for the manpower and the gas that we've probably already spent, the concrete would have actually already been paid for."

Councilman Hand stated that he disagreed with replacing the grass in the Monroe Street bump-outs with concrete, explaining that during heavy rain, the water pools in the area and has nowhere to go, creating a large puddle. He noted that while the grass helps absorb some of the water, the underlying drainage issue is an engineering problem, and he believes adding concrete would worsen the situation. Councilman Hand, again, requested a recommendation from an engineering expert, rather than making changes without professional guidance. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "Well, the water does have to go somewhere. We, have a major water issue up there on Fourth Street that looks like a cistern's just running all the time, isn't it Mr. Slomp? That water goes out in the road. I know it's not supposed to go on the road, but it goes in the road." Councilman Hand stated that if any changes are made to the Monroe Street bump-outs, the work should be done correctly, with particular attention paid to ensuring that water is properly diverted and managed. He stated that he does not object to the presence of bump-outs themselves, but emphasized that they must be installed and maintained in a safe manner.

Mayor Taylor noted that the Monroe Street bump-outs create a narrow pinch point for passing vehicles and expressed concern that this could lead to serious accidents. Councilman Hand noted his longstanding request for a speed study in the corridor, stating that vehicles are traveling about 35 mph from the traffic signal before the limit drops to 25 mph. He suggested lowering the speed limit to 15 mph in the affected area, with stronger enforcement. Interim Town Manager Slomp stated that he has obtained partial speed data and is working with the Police Department to complete the speed study. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "So I guess if we ask VDOT about this, I would like to see the pros and cons about concreting, and like I said, I think safety." Interim Town Manager Slomp noted that according to Landscape Architect/Grants Administrator John Woods, VDOT has no recommendation, either way, regarding whether the Monroe Street bump-outs should remain grass or be filled with concrete, and that the Town may proceed as it chooses. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "Well, like I said, I would like to see them concreted for the employees' safety, you know when they are trying to turn their back, you know, when they're mowing and when they're weed eating, I just think it's, I just think it's a safety hazard myself and them watching out for cars, and things like that. So, I wish I would like you all to consider that if you don't mind and thank you for actually getting that on the agenda. It's been a while. So, thank you."

Mayor Taylor stated that there had been extensive discussion and several requests for follow-up by Staff and outside parties, but noted that the immediate question before the Council was whether to retain grass in the Monroe Street bump-outs or replace it with concrete. Interim Town Manager Slomp commented that the Council could table the item in order to obtain additional information before making a final decision. Councilman Hand noted his agreement with seeking further information. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "Where are we going to get the information from?" Councilman Hand commented that the information would come from management. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "No, not management, they gave us that before, so, Mr. Cassell, what do you suggest." Town Attorney

Cassell recommended seeking VDOT's pros and cons on the design and any changes, then relying on the Town Engineer, if VDOT gave no clear position. Interim Town Manager Slemple agreed, and stated that Staff would also confirm that the bump outs meet VDOT standards. Councilwoman Pattison requested that the crosswalk aspect be addressed and that Landscape Architect/Grant Administrator Woods be consulted. Assistant Town Manager Holton reiterated that crosswalk work is planned under a grant-funded project, and the bump out was installed early as interim traffic calming. Vice-Mayor Johnson noted a prior vehicle collision in the area. Councilman Hand noted that tractor-trailers serving The Log House restaurant now must back in from Main Street, urging a broader look at impacts. Councilwoman Pattison and Vice-Mayor Johnson supported tabling the matter for more input. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to table this matter.

A motion was made by Councilman Hand, Jr. and seconded by Councilwoman Pattison to table action on the Monroe Street bump-outs; to direct Town Staff to request the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to provide an assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the bump-outs; an inspection of the bump-outs by the Town of Wytheville Engineering Department to determine whether the bump-outs were properly installed and whether the bump-outs provide adequate drainage; and, to provide a recommendation to the Town Council at a future meeting. 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.

C. RE: AMENDMENTS TO THE 2026 WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a Staff Report by Interim Town Manager Christopher Slemple regarding the 2026 Wytheville Town Council Rules of Procedure. Interim Town Manager Chris Slemple stated that two changes were proposed: (1) To update the agenda-setting rules to comply with a new State Code change effective July 1, which limits what can be added to an agenda and how items are placed on future agendas; and, (2) Councilman Hand's request to amend page 10, Article XI – Communications between Town Council, Town Manager and Town Staff, Section F, Human Resources, to remove Council from involvement in Staff job interviews. Town Attorney Cassell stated that he had revised page 4 of the Rules of Procedure to reflect the new law and noted that the agenda language simply aligns local practice with current legal standards, including when and how Council members may add items to future agendas. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve the amendments to the 2026 Wytheville Town Council Rules of Procedure, as presented. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "Wait, wait a minute, Mayor Taylor, are you talking, are we just doing this in sections, are we doing the first one There's two on there. Are we just doing the one." Town Attorney Cassell stated that the result of the item would depend entirely on how the motion was framed, explaining that Council could make a motion to approve both proposed amendments (the agenda-setting update and the job-interview/HR change) or to approve only one item. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "Well, I'd like to, if we're going to do it together, however, on page 10, I would like to keep that in there, I think we've had that discussion before if we want to sit in on job interviews, I think that could be fine, I don't see any reason why we couldn't sit on job interviews, I'd like to leave that in there, so, if we can strike that out."

Councilman Hand stated that he had made a motion for both amendments and that he intended to approve them as presented. Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired whether he had actually made a motion or only offered a recommendation. Town Attorney Cassell stated that no formal motion had yet been stated and recognized, meaning that up to that point the Council was still only in discussion and no valid motion was on the floor. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "Yeah, there hasn't been a motion, that's why I was asking, are we breaking it down into two, we can break it down into two." Councilman Hand noted that Town employees do not work for Town Council and that Council should not participate in staff job interviews, calling it inappropriate and potentially a conflict of interest. He stated that this was, to his knowledge, the first time in Wytheville's history that Council members had been involved in regular staff interviews. He commented that he recalled sitting in on one interview when he first joined the Council, and he noted that he quickly concluded it

was a mistake. Councilman Hand stated that the Council's interview role should be limited to appointed positions, not regular staff jobs.

Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "I believe, I may be wrong at this, but Cathy, didn't you, um, didn't you serve on an interview panel before." Councilwoman Pattison noted that she had sat in on a job interview panel, in 2019, but emphasized that past practice does not justify continuing the same approach in 2026. She noted that she now has second thoughts about the Council's participation in staff interviews and indicated that she is reconsidering her position on the issue. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "I think Jackie King did, and to me, we, should have every right if we want to sit in an interview." Councilman Hand inquired of Councilwoman Atkins as to why a Council member would be involved in hiring for a position they do not supervise. He warned that such involvement could unintentionally be used to intimidate or discriminate and argued that it provides no real benefit to the Council's role. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "I actually learned something in that interview, I didn't say anything inappropriate in that interview." Councilman Hand stated that allowing Council members to participate in staff job interviews opens a door for a Council person to intimidate somebody who is sitting in an interview chair.

A motion was made by Councilman Hand, Jr. to approve the amendments to the 2026 Town Council Rules of Procedure, as presented. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "Actually, the reason why I'm not finished with my discussion is, before there was some wrongdoings, I believe, on a job interview, and, um, that's why I think if we want to serve and we want to learn more about those positions, I think we have every right to." Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired as to who had previously sat in on interviews and requested Town Attorney Cassell's legal opinion. Town Attorney Cassell stated that no law prohibits Council members from attending interviews, but cautioned that, in a small community, conflicts of interest can arise, and participation increases individual exposure, if a Council member asks an inappropriate question. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "Or say something inappropriate." Town Attorney Cassell reiterated that while no law forbids Council members from attending interviews, doing so increases their personal exposure and liability, if they say something inappropriate, and that whether to participate is purely a policy choice for Council, requiring them to weigh the pros and cons. Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired between merely sitting in and actively participating, and which Council members had done so. Councilwoman Pattison stated that, in her 2019 experience on an interview panel, she only listened, did not ask questions, and she did not recommend a candidate. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "I didn't feel uncomfortable because I knew an interview, a job interview process that was done wrong, or I felt it was done wrong at the time, and that's why I was so adamant about wanting to sit in on one because one was not done, I feel, appropriately and correctly done."

A motion was made by Councilman Hand, Jr. and seconded by Councilwoman Pattison to approve the amendments to the 2026 Wytheville Town Council Rules of Procedures, as presented. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired if any law prevents Council members from sitting in on interviews. Town Attorney Cassell stated that, if adopted as written, the amendments would formally prohibit Council members' involvement in human resources matters as a matter of Town policy, not State law. Vice-Mayor Johnson commented that existing procedures seem to not be followed. Town Attorney Cassell stated that this was a broad concern, but he offered to review the rules and their application with her, if she believed there were compliance issues. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "Yeah, I would like to see this removed because I would love to see this one removed because I think it's going to step on some toes, because I know that there has been talked about salary increases and things like that with Department Heads that are not appointed positions, so I'm asking that this be removed, and we take it as it is in the first section, and then I'm asking for this to be left out." Mayor Taylor stated that we do have a motion and a second on the table. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "If this is the case, then that means we can't go and talk to Department Heads about salaries and cutting their budgets which has been done before." Councilman Hand stated that the proposed change under consideration was only about job interviews and not about any other issues. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "Yes, sir. If you look on, if you go to the next page, if you go to the next page." Councilman Hand noted that he related provisions being referenced were already part of the Rules of Procedure and not new language. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated she accepted the legal explanation but

opposed the policy change because she was not comfortable with the motives behind it.

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

Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "Put this on file because some of the salaries that were looked at and talked about and promised to Department Heads."

Councilman Hand stated that anything that is entered into the record at this meeting has to be given to everybody. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "I have given it, I have given it for the record, right there, that was uh looked at, and things were promised, so if we're going to stay out of HR stuff, then we all need to stay out of HR stuff." Councilman Hand stated that Councilwoman Atkins needed to be really careful making accusations at this meeting that somebody has done something wrong in the Council meeting, and he noted that she could talk to Interim Town Manager Slemph after the meeting. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "It's there." A copy of the document that Councilwoman Atkins requested to be entered into the record is attached and made part of the minutes. Mayor Taylor then proceeded with the agenda.

11. 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 Slemph stated that, as the Fire Chief, he wanted to congratulate three members of his department who recently completed their paramedic certification. He then congratulated Frank Page, Justin Turpin and Tyler Wilson, and he noted that he is proud of them for dedicating a full year completing the program. Interim Town Manager Slemph commented that based on his own experience obtaining paramedic certification 30 plus years ago, results then took several weeks to receive, whereas, now, candidates find out almost instantly. He reiterated that he is proud of these three individuals and offered his congratulations to them.

B. RE: STAFF TIME - TOWN CLERK BRANDI JONES

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Town Clerk - Staff Time. Town Clerk Jones stated that there will be a Joint Governing Bodies meeting held on Monday, August 31, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., at the Wytheville Meeting Center.

C. STAFF TIME - ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER ELAINE HOLETON

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Assistant Town Manager - Staff Time. Assistant Town Manager Elaine Holeton stated that the housing survey is live. She noted that the survey can be accessed via the Town of Wytheville's website. She explained that after navigating the homepage, users can click on the link and select the "Housing Survey" tab. Assistant Town Manager Holeton expressed her appreciation to the citizens who took a few minutes to complete the survey, stating that their participation is helpful to the Town's planning efforts. She remarked that the housing survey will remain open until September 15.

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 during Council Member Time. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she did not have anything to discuss at this time.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Councilwoman Atkins had anything that she would like to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "Uh, yes, the intersection up there by Family Fare, Mr. Slemph and I talked a little bit about it, looking at doing some type of crosswalk, there is absolutely none in that intersection up there, you know four cross intersections. Also I know I talked to Mr.

Slomp about there was an accident on Main Street there at Martin's Insurance, he came up there and he looked at maybe putting a No Left Turn sign going out, just wanting to maybe follow up on that."

Interim Town Manager Slomp stated that at the Family Fare area on Main Street, one parking space is being removed and a cone marks the space until the striping is removed. He remarked that new signs are on the way. Interim Town Manager Slomp noted that with the East Main Street Project ongoing, Staff has requested an additional crosswalk between Family Fare and The Log House restaurant, due to heavy pedestrian traffic and the nearest existing crosswalk being at Fifth Street. He commented that Staff has requested VDOT to include these added crosswalks in the project. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "Do you know the time frame on at least the one on Main Street." Interim Town Manager Slomp stated that in conjunction with the planned crosswalks, the sidewalk work must also be completed, and portions of that work are expected to begin within the next couple of months. Assistant Town Manager Elaine Holeyton stated that the work would occur this fiscal year. Interim Town Manager Slomp noted that the remaining improvements will follow the Town's paving schedule, likely into spring, but Staff has requested that at least one of the new crosswalks be installed, as early as possible, and incorporated into the current project. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "Before like the end of the year." Interim Town Manager Slomp stated that the timing of the new crosswalk will depend on progress with the sidewalk projects, which must include ADA accessible features. He noted that the contractors will complete the sidewalk work, and the Town must wait until it is placed on the contractor's schedule, so crosswalk installation is tied to contractor availability.

Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "In the water, I know that you and I've talked about a couple times coming out on Fourth Street." Interim Town Manager Slomp stated that the water seen near the new restaurant on Fourth Street is natural seepage from the rear of the site. He noted that the Engineering Department has reviewed it and found no major issue, noting that the water flows into and stays within the gutter as intended. He commented that he can follow up with Engineering, again, if needed.

Mayor Taylor inquired of Interim Town Manager Slomp whether he had the status of the Virginia Breeze bus stop and when it was to be completed. Interim Town Manager Slomp reported that as far as he knows, the Virginia Breeze bus stop is complete, and that the bus is already stopping there. Discussion ensued regarding an awning that was promised to be installed. Interim Town Manager Slomp noted that he had not realized an awning was planned, but that he would check on it. Vice-Mayor Johnson commented that the original Virginia Breeze presentation showed a covered bench for waiting riders, which has not yet been installed. Mayor Taylor noted that other improvements were also discussed, at that time, and inquired of Councilwoman Atkins to confirm her previous request for input on the remainder of the parking lot area at the stop. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "I remember it doesn't look the best, and I think people were gonna. But I don't know if that's actually Town. Is that part of Town, or does the County own some of that with their parking." Mayor Taylor noted that Councilwoman Atkins had worked hard to get Virginia Breeze to help with improvements to the rest of the parking lot, but they declined and inquired what other improvements could be requested. Councilwoman Atkins stated the following: "I know some people would leave their vehicles there, I have not actually seen anybody get out the times I've seen the bus run." Interim Town Manager Slomp stated that he would look back at the prior materials and find out exactly what improvements and amenities Virginia Breeze committed to provide to the Town, and then report that information to the Council.

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

Mayor Taylor inquired if Councilman Hand had anything that he would like to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilman Hand stated that he did not have anything to discuss during Council Member Time.

13. RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting.
(6:53 p.m.)

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Brandi N. Jones, Town Clerk