



MINUTES

WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 08, 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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Councilman Joseph Hand, Jr.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Interim Town Manager Chris Slem, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Holeyton, Town Clerk Brandi Jones, Town Attorney Paul Cassell, Town Treasurer Angela Pennington, Police Chief Joel Hash, Assistant Director of Public Utilities and Engineering Andrew Austin, Assistant Computer Operations Manager Jeff Hooper, Police Captain Kenny Akers, Police Corporal Kyle Counts, Police Officer Joseph Bowles, Lisa Kneer, Mike Forrest, Stephanie Minnick, Marcus Minnick, Heather Scheneman, Rick Shortt, Glenda Crockett-Eans, Kerry Eans, Randy Hamm, Sterling Crockett, Kerrington 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 Vice-Mayor 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.

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

6. **RE: 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 MAY 26, 2026

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of the Wytheville Town Council held on Tuesday, May 26, 2026. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda 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.

8. RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She inquired if Ms. Stephanie Minnick could please come to the podium to address the Council.

Ms. Stephanie Minnick was recognized and addressed the Council regarding her concerns about her son walking in town and pedestrians' safety and traffic issues on 4th Street, as well as the four block stretch from Main Street to Pine Street. She stated that she would like to propose that speed limit signs be erected, officially and noticeably, reducing the speed limit in this area at all times to 25 miles per hour. Ms. Minnick advised that she would also like to propose that a dedicated crosswalk light be erected at the intersection of 4th Street and Spiller Street. She continued to address the Council regarding her growing concerns about traffic issues and pedestrian safety in town.

Mr. Marcus Minnick was recognized and addressed the Council regarding persistent flooding in Elizabeth Brown Memorial Park and the damage that the flooding has been causing, due to not having a proper retaining wall. He stated that he does not want to lose Elizabeth Brown Memorial Park due to flooding.

Ms. Lisa Kneer was recognized and addressed the Council regarding her sewer bill and how it is determined by water usage. She stated that she is going to be charged extra for sewer that she is not using, due to her water usage increasing in the summer months because of watering her garden, etc. Ms. Kneer explained that she would like someone from the Town to look into this. She advised that she would also like to address the Council regarding her desire to run for Town Council, however, she is too ill to do so. She commented that she has a master's degree in environmental education, and that she would like to volunteer her time, if the Council and/or Staff ever have any questions or concerns or would like her to help volunteer in town. Ms. Kneer also addressed the Council regarding enforcing the requirement for dogs to be on leashes in the town, and a recent situation she encountered with an unleashed dog.

9. RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. RE: PUBLIC HEARING - SAND MOUNTAIN TOWER SITE LEASE AGREEMENT RENEWAL - STAFF REPORT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a public hearing regarding the proposed renewal of a lease agreement between the Town of Wytheville and Mobile Communications of America for Town-owned property known at the Sand Mountain Tower site. She stated that before she opened the public hearing, Interim Town Manager Chris Slemph would present a Staff Report to the Council regarding this matter. Interim Town Manager Slemph noted that this is a renewal of a lease that has been in place for approximately 20 years. He explained that every five (5) years the lease comes up for renewal. Interim Town Manager Slemph stated that it was the consensus of the Council to raise the monthly rent from \$800 to \$825. He inquired of the Council if there were any questions for him. There being none, Mayor Taylor proceeded with the agenda.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING - SAND MOUNTAIN TOWER SITE LEASE AGREEMENT RENEWAL

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to receive comments regarding the proposed renewal of a lease agreement between the Town of Wytheville and Mobile Communications of America for Town-owned property known as the Sand Mountain Tower site. She stated that there was one person listed on the sign-in sheet who wished to address the Council during the public hearing. Mayor Taylor inquired if Mr. Rick Shortt could please come to the podium to address the Council.

Mr. Rick Shortt was recognized and stated that he does not think this renewal will cause any issues, and that he attended the meeting just to be sure that this would not affect public access to the area. Interim Town Manager Slemph noted that it should not be an issue. Mr. Shortt thanked Interim Town Manager Slemph for this information.

Mayor Taylor inquired if there was anyone else who wished to speak during the public hearing. There being none, she declared the public hearing closed and proceeded with the agenda.

RE: SAND MOUNTAIN TOWER SITE LEASE AGREEMENT RENEWAL

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Town Council to approve the renewal of a lease agreement between the Town of Wytheville and Mobile Communications of America for Town-owned property known as the Sand Mountain Tower site for a period of five (5) years, effective July 1, 2026 (lease agreement will expire July 1, 2031). She inquired if there was a motion to approve the renewal of a lease agreement between the Town of Wytheville and Mobile Communications of America for Town-owned property known as the Sand Mountain Tower site for a period of five (5) years, effective July 1, 2026 (lease agreement will expire July 1, 2031).

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.

10. RE: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the review of the suggested amendments to the 2026 Town Council Rules of Procedure by Town Attorney Paul Cassell. Town Attorney Cassell stated that he has provided the Council with the amendments that he believes clarify and make the Rules of Procedure consistent with the practices of the Town Council. He noted that he made sure these amendments complied with State law, and that he would recommend that the Council consider approving them, if they deem the amendments appropriate. Councilwoman Atkins commented that she would like to thank Town Attorney Cassell for recently taking the time to answer the questions she had regarding the Rules of Procedure amendments. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve the amended 2026 Town Council Rules of Procedure provided by the Town Attorney as presented.

Motion made by Councilwoman Atkins, 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: Councilwoman Pattison, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Atkins, Vice-Mayor Johnson.

B. RE: AMENDED CONTRACT AGREEMENT FOR THE INTERIM TOWN MANAGER

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a Staff Report by Town Attorney Paul Cassell regarding an amended contract agreement for the Interim Town Manager. Town Attorney Cassell stated that he prepared an amendment to the Interim Town Manager agreement, pursuant to the direction of the Town Council. He noted that the amendment extends his service as Interim Town Manager and includes each of the additional terms that were requested by the Town Council. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve the amended contract agreement for the Interim Town Manager, as presented, and to authorize the Mayor to execute the agreement on behalf of the Town Council, effective immediately.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Johnson, Seconded by Councilwoman Pattison. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. Councilwoman Atkins inquired about the next steps for the advertising of the Town Manager position, and she commented that she knew discussion had been held regarding the Council proceeding with the advertisement of this position. Mayor Taylor stated that she feels like the decision to move forward with advertisement of the Town Manager position should be a consensus of the Council, however, Interim Town Manager Slemp is willing to serve in this position at least until January 15, 2027. Councilwoman Atkins explained that it was her understanding that the position was going to be advertised back in January, in case Interim Town Manager Slemp was not interested in serving in this position long-term. Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired of Interim Town Manager

Slemp if he would clarify if he was willing to serve in this position until January 15, 2027, or until a Town Manager is hired. Interim Town Manager Slemp stated that is correct. He noted, however, it is not his desire to serve as the Town Manager long-term. Discussion continued regarding the next steps for advertisement for the Town Manager position and the duration of Interim Town Manager Slemp serving in the position. There being no further discussion, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote: Voting Yea: Councilwoman Pattison, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Atkins, Vice-Mayor Johnson.

11. RE: NEW BUSINESS

A. RE: ISSUANCE OF HUNTING PERMITS FOR TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY ON SAND MOUNTAIN

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a Staff Report by Town Clerk Brandi Jones regarding the issuance of Hunting Permits on Town-owned property on Sand Mountain. Town Clerk Jones stated that, every year, the Town issues up to 50 Hunting Permits on Sand Mountain near the Crystal Springs area. She noted that the permits would be valid through August 31, 2027, if the Council wishes to issue the permits again. Town Clerk Jones advised that there is a \$25 application fee, and that the applications would be taken through the Town's online OpenGov portal. She stated that she would be glad to answer any questions that the Council may have at this time regarding this matter. Mayor Taylor inquired if there were any questions for Town Clerk Jones regarding this topic. There being none, she inquired if there was a motion to authorize the issuance of 50 Hunting Permits for Town-owned property on Sand Mountain (permits expire August 31, 2027) and to direct Town staff to administer the permit program in accordance with the terms and conditions enforced by the Town of Wytheville and the Virginia Department of Wildlife resources.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Johnson, Seconded by Councilwoman Atkins. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. Councilwoman Atkins inquired of Town Clerk Jones regarding how the Hunting Permit applications were advertised. Town Clerk Jones stated that a Public Notice would be sent to the SWVASun for advertisement, and that the Public Notice would be posted on the Town's website and Facebook page. There being no further discussion, 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.

B. RE: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE UTILIZATION OF SERIES 2023 GENERAL OBLIGATION BOND PROCEEDS FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER CAPTIAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a Staff Report by Assistant Director of Public Utilities and Engineering Andrew Austin regarding a resolution authorizing the use of proceeds from the Series 2023 General Obligation Bond (Lots Gap Bond) for water and wastewater capital improvement projects. Assistant Director Austin stated that in 2023 the Town obtained a Series 2023 General Obligation Bond to pay for the former Lots Gap Water Tank that did not come to fruition. He noted that the Town is required to expend or formally allocate the funds associated with this bond by June 23, 2026. He commented that the bond funds could be used for any water or wastewater capital improvement projects. Assistant Director Austin explained that during Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and Fiscal Year 2025-2026, the Town completed numerous water and wastewater capital improvement projects totaling \$1,910,211.21. He stated that these projects represent eligible expenditures under the bond agreement. Assistant Director Austin noted that the Town anticipates that the remaining balance in the VIP Fund account would be approximately \$748,317 or greater and would continue to accrue interest, as long as these funds were allocated toward a future project. He explained that the remaining funds would be used in the continuing efforts to improve the Town's wastewater infrastructure through the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvement Project. Assistant Director Austin stated that he would be glad to answer any questions the Council may have on this matter. Mayor Taylor inquired if the Council had any questions for Assistant Director Austin regarding this topic. There being none, she inquired if there was a motion to adopt a resolution authorizing the Town Manager and Town Treasurer to create and execute all appropriate documents and transactions necessary to utilize proceeds from the

Series 2023 General Obligation Bond (Lots Gap Bond), issued to the Town of Wytheville on June 23, 2023, to fund the expenses described therein and other qualifying expenses associated with water and wastewater capital improvement projects.

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.

Interim Town Manager Slemp stated that he would like to thank Assistant Director Austin and Town Treasurer Pennington for their hard work and understanding of bonds.

C. RE: CARRY-FORWARD OF UNEXPENDED TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL PROJECT FUNDS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a Staff Report by Interim Town Manager Slemp regarding the request to carry forward unexpended Town Council Special Project Funds into the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget. Interim Town Manager Slemp stated that a portion of the Town Council Special Project Funds is anticipated to be unexpended at the close of Fiscal Year 2025-2026. He noted that a carry-forward will allow the Town Treasurer to transfer all the remaining unexpended funds into the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget, and that Staff recommend that the Town Council authorize the Town Treasurer to carry forward these funds. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to authorize the Town Treasurer to carry forward all unexpended Town Council Special Project Funds from Fiscal Year 2025-2026 into the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget for use on Town Council approved projects and initiatives.

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

D. RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1464 - FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 BUDGET ORDINANCE (THIRD AND FINAL READING)

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a Staff Report by Interim Town Manager Chris Slemp regarding Ordinance No. 1464, the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance (third and final reading). Interim Town Manager Slemp stated the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 budget remains structurally balanced and maintains core services. He noted that the proposed budget does not include any new tax increases, and that the tax rates would remain consistent. Interim Town Manager Slemp explained that after the second reading, the budget was readjusted to reflect a four (4) percent Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for Town employees, and the Town also received two (2) grants that were included in revenues and expenditures. He then 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. Interim Town Manager Slemp stated that he would answer any questions the Council may have regarding the budget at this time. Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired if the Town's part-time employees would receive a percentage of the COLA, as well. Interim Town Manager Slemp stated that part-time employees would also receive a four (4) percent COLA. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1464, the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Budget Ordinance, on third and final reading.

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

E. RE: REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF ORDINANCE NO. 1463 - PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE PERSONNEL ORDINANCE REGARDING EMPLOYEES PERFORMING WORK ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is review and discussion of Ordinance No. 1463 by Town Attorney Paul Cassell regarding a proposed amendment to the Personnel Ordinance about employees performing work on private property. Town Attorney Cassell stated that this ordinance is based off the discussion and direction of the Town Council at a previous meeting. He noted that he has reviewed the proposed ordinance and has ensured that language is included that authorizes the Town Manager to allow employees to perform work on private property under necessary circumstances for a public purpose including first responders. Mayor Taylor explained that the Town Council is not required to take action on this matter at this meeting, unless they would like to do so.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Atkins and seconded by Vice-Mayor Johnson to adopt Ordinance No. 1463, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 1028, generally known as Personnel Rules, Regulations, and Policies, of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, so as to amend and reenact Section 10. Other Policies, by adding Subsection 10.8. Employees Performing Work on Private Property, on first and 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: Councilwoman Pattison, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Atkins, Vice-Mayor Johnson.

12. 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 Slemp stated that he would like to congratulate the Town Treasurer's Office for receiving an accreditation. He also noted that he has been working with the Police Department staff on areas of concern regarding speeding, and he hopes that these concerns would be addressed soon with new, flashing speed limit signs.

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 would like to thank all of the citizens who responded to the Town's Comprehensive Plan survey. She noted that there were approximately 170 responses, and that Town staff would be involved in a pop-up series around town this summer to present additional information to citizens regarding the Comprehensive Plan and to receive additional citizen input.

D. RE: COUNCIL MEMBER TIME

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

Mayor Taylor stated that she did not have anything to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilwoman stated that she would like to go ahead and have some dialog with Council about going ahead and opening up and start receiving applications for Town Managers, since Mr. Slemp, that is not his long-term goal, and Council did have dialog before this meeting, to and that was not his long-term goal, and that she would like to see Council go ahead and do that, because it would take Council, you know, several months to narrow some down, and she knew the Council would have to do some interviewing, and that would take some of their time that she thinks is well justified for the community, and, also, she did not realize, from her understanding, it was just going to be a couple of months that it was going to be in place, and she would like to go back and either have some type of dialog with HR and Mr. Slemp, about the gentleman who was covering for the last six months and go back and give him some type of pay, because he has taken that role on. She commented, you know, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Councilwoman Atkins remarked

that, in that role, she was not aware it was going to be six months, at least six months, and now, go a little bit longer, and she would like the Council to have some dialog. She inquired of Interim Town Manager Slemph as to who has been in charge down there at the fire department. Interim Town Manager Slemph stated that Everett, the Town's Deputy Chief, had been in charge, and that the duties have been divided between the Deputy Chief, the Battalion Chief and Administration took on some new roles, too. Councilwoman Atkins commented, so, if maybe we can have some dialog, or let HR and Mr. Slemph, you know, do a little bit of research and compensate whoever has helped keep that, because I think we have done that before, in the past, help compensate people. She remarked that if the Council could go back and look at that, if they do not mind, however, that needs to be done. Interim Town Manager Slemph advised that Town Staff could look into that and that he appreciated it. Councilwoman Atkins stated that she would appreciate it. Councilwoman Atkins thanked Interim Town Manager Slemph. Mayor Taylor inquired of Councilwoman Atkins if she had anything else to discuss with Council. Councilwoman Atkins advised that as of right now, that is all, thank you.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Vice-Mayor Johnson had anything that she would like to discuss during Council Member Time. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she does not have anything to discuss at this time.

13. RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting.
(6:45 p.m.)

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Brandi N. Jones, Town Clerk