



MINUTES

WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 08, 2025 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 Sherry Corvin, Town Attorney Paul Cassell, Chief Deputy Clerk Brandi Jones, Town Treasurer Angela Pennington, Computer Operations Manager Ron Jude, Director of Public Utilities and Engineering Billy Anderson, Assistant Director of Public Utilities and Engineering Andrew Austin, Police Officer Kyle Counts, Kevin Wallington, Angela Porter, James Cohen, Justin Cohen, Randal Hamm III, Randal Hamm, Jr., Mike Forrest, Tommy Atkins, 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: 7:00 P.M. RECESS**

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

6. **RE: APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the Approval of Agenda. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor 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.

7. **RE: CONSENT AGENDA**

A. RE: MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF NOVEMBER 24, 2025

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 24, 2025. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented.

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 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 are two (2) 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. Kevin Wallington could please come to the podium to address the Council.

Mr. Kevin Wallington was recognized and stated that he resides on Century Court in Wytheville. He stated that he is the Chairman for the Wytheville Farmers' Market. Mr. Wallington addressed the Council regarding the comments that have been made about the Wytheville Farmers' Market's request for a Concealed Weapons Policy to be adopted. He noted that the Farmers' Market did not ask for or request a policy regarding concealed weapons. Mr. Wallington advised that he emailed the Assistant Town Manager asking for clarification as to whether or not the Town had a Concealed Weapons Policy. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Wallington for his comments.

Mr. Mike Forrest was recognized and stated that he resides on East Withers Road in Wytheville. He addressed the Council regarding the potential splash pad and his concerns about the cost. Mr. Forrest stated that he does not feel like a splash pad is a viable option for the Town due to the estimated cost and economic impact. Mayor Taylor advised that she would like to clarify that the Council has not voted to accept or approve a splash pad. Mr. Forrest continued to express his concerns regarding a splash pad, its ongoing cost and its potential location. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Forrest for his comments.

9. RE: PRESENTATIONS TO TOWN COUNCIL

A. RE: PRESENTATION - WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a presentation by Assistant Director of Public Utilities and Engineering Andrew Austin regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project and a request to authorize the Interim Town Manager to execute the bid documents. Assistant Director Austin stated that the Town has received loan approval in the amount of \$24 million for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project. He explained that there is a very short timeline to prepare a design plan for construction for the loan closing. Assistant Director Austin noted that a Request for Proposal (RFP) was released for the design work, contract administration and inspection for this project. He stated that there were two (2) submittals, and they were from CHA Consulting, Inc. and The Thrasher Group. Assistant Director Austin advised that Town staff scored these submittals and selected CHA Consulting, Inc. as the winning submittal. He noted that he would request Council to grant the Interim Town Manager the ability to execute the bid documents for this project.

A motion was made by Councilman Hand, Jr. and seconded by Vice-Mayor Johnson to authorize the Interim Town Manager to execute the bid documents for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project. 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.

B. RE: RESOLUTION - AID TO LOCALITIES PROGRAM

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Town Council to adopt a resolution of support for an increase to the Aid to Localities Program. She inquired if there was a motion to adopt the resolution of support for an increase to the Aid to Localities Program.

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.

C. RE: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING - VIRGINIA BREEZE BUS STOP

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Town Council to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Virginia Breeze Bus Stop. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for the Virginia Breeze Bus Stop.

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.

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

A. RE: REQUEST OF VIRGINIA ORGANIZING

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Town Council to approve the request of Virginia Organizing for traffic control to conduct the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. March on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the request of Virginia Organizing for traffic control to conduct the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. March on Sunday, January 18, 2026, at 2:00 p.m.

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 in favor, and there being no opposition: Voting Yea: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilman Hand, Jr.

B. RE: REAPPOINTMENTS - WYTHEVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (WEDA)

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Town Council to reappoint David Kause and Bobby Angles to the Wytheville Economic Development Authority (terms expire December 12, 2025). She inquired if there was a motion to reappoint David Kause and Bobby Angles to the Wytheville Economic Development Authority (new terms expire December 12, 2029).

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.

C. RE: REAPPOINTMENT - WYTHEVILLE RECREATION COMMISSION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Town Council to reappoint James Cohen to the Wytheville Recreation Commission (term expires December 31, 2025). She inquired if there was a motion to reappoint James Cohen to the Wytheville Recreation Commission (new term expires December 31, 2028).

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 in favor, and there being no opposition: Voting Yea: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilman Hand, Jr.

D. RE: HOMESTEAD LOG CABIN COMPLETION PROJECT – HOMESTEAD LOG CABIN COMPLETION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Town Council to approve the appropriation of funds, not to exceed \$80,000, for the Homestead Log Cabin Completion Project. Interim Town Manager Corvin stated that the Department of Museums has been awarded \$80,000 in grant funds from the Wythe-Bland Foundation. She noted that the Department of Museums is requesting the Town Council to appropriate the funds in this fiscal year for the Homestead Log Cabin Completion Project.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Johnson and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to approve the appropriation of funds, not to exceed \$80,000, for the Homestead Log Cabin Completion Project. 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.

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. The Wytheville Planning Commission meeting scheduled for December 11, 2025, has been cancelled. The next regular scheduled meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.
2. The Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated (DTW) Board of Directors will meet on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., at the DTW Office.
3. The Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority will meet on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., at the Housing Authority Office.
4. The New River Regional Water Authority will meet on Thursday, December 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., at the Water Plant in Austinville.
5. The Wytheville Town Council meeting scheduled for December 22, 2025, has been cancelled.
6. The Town of Wytheville Municipal Offices will be closed, and all services will be curtailed, Wednesday, December 24 through Friday, December 26, 2025, in observance of the Christmas holiday. Our offices will be closed on Thursday, January 1, 2025, in observance of New Year's Day.
7. The next regular scheduled Wytheville Town Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

12. RE: OTHER BUSINESS

A. RE: PROPOSED ORDINANCE PROHIBITING TOWN EMPLOYEES FROM PERFORMING WORK ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Town Council to instruct Town staff to prepare an ordinance prohibiting Town employees from performing work on private property. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve instructing Town staff to prepare an ordinance prohibiting Town employees from performing work on private property.

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: REVIEW OF VACANCIES/UPCOMING VACANCIES ON TOWN COMMITTEES, BOARDS AND AUTHORITIES

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the review of vacancies/upcoming vacancies on Town Committees, Boards and Authorities. She stated that Chief Deputy Clerk Brandi Jones will present this information to the Council. Chief Deputy Clerk Jones noted that there are two (2) attachments in the Council members' meeting packet. She explained that the first attachment lists the remaining vacancies that have yet to be filled in 2025, which include two (2) Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) members and one (1) BZA alternate member. Chief Deputy Clerk Jones commented that none of these members wish to be reappointed. She advised that the second attachment contains the upcoming vacancies for all Town Committee,

Board and Authority members' whose terms expire in 2026. Chief Deputy Clerk Jones stated that six (6) members' names are highlighted on this attachment. She explained that three (3) of those are immediate openings and the other three (3) that are highlighted expire in March, with one (1) member not eligible for reappointment. Chief Deputy Clerk Jones commented that anyone who is interested in serving on a Town Committee, Board or Authority can apply on the Town's OpenGov portal.

C. RE: COUNCIL MEMBER TIME

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Council Member Time. She 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 thank the Town's Public Works Department for its hard work that day during the snow event and for blocking off Holston Road to help the Public Utilities Department prepare for the water line repairs. She noted that she is grateful and thankful for the Public Utilities Department and all Town employees, because without Town employees nothing would get done. Vice-Mayor Johnson then presented photos that she took of the conditions in town that employees had been working in that day. She stated that she would like for these pictures to be put on record, so that citizens are able to see the work that Town employees perform.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Councilwoman Atkins had anything she would like to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilwoman Atkins stated that she appreciates Downtown Wytheville, Inc. and the volunteers who helped conduct the Christmas Parade. She noted that she had heard great feedback regarding the parade.

Councilwoman Atkins stated that she wanted to thank the Town's Public Works Department for keeping the roads and streets clean during the snow event that day.

Mayor Taylor stated that on December 2, 2025, the Wytheville Meeting Center held a memorial service for fallen Correctional Officer Jeremy Lewis Hall. She noted that over 750 Public Safety officers, Department of Corrections staff, friends and family were in attendance from across 19 states, and as far away as California to honor Correctional Officer Hall. Mayor Taylor explained that thousands of events for a variety of purposes have been held at the Wytheville Meeting Center during its 18 years of operation, and this was one of the most reverent and moving occasions ever held at the Meeting Center. She advised that the Wytheville Meeting Center was honored to be of service to the Virginia Department of Corrections during this tragic time.

Mayor Taylor stated that she would like to thank all the volunteers, participants and citizens who helped make the 2025 Wytheville Christmas Parade spectacular. She noted that their participation made for a great success with thousands in attendance.

Mayor Taylor stated that the Wytheville Town Council would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Councilwoman Pattison had anything she would like to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilwoman Pattison stated that the Public Works Department has done an outstanding job keeping the roads and streets clear during the recent snow event that day. She commented that they do an outstanding job every day, as well, and not just during inclement weather events.

Councilwoman Pattison stated that she would like to give a shoutout to Downtown Wytheville, Inc. for a beautiful, long and successful Christmas Parade.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Councilman Hand had anything he would like to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilman Hand stated that he would like to thank Town staff for their hard work.

Councilman Hand stated that he is looking forward to a different 2026. He noted that, hopefully, there will be upbeat personalities and goals set by the Council and management that will make the room feel differently than 2025. Councilman Hand explained that he is looking forward to a fresh start in 2026.

Councilman Hand inquired if there is an update regarding the 20th Street Bridge and when it is anticipated to be opening. Interim Town Manager Corvin stated that the

20th Street Bridge is anticipated to be opened back up prior to the Christmas holidays. Councilman Hand thanked the citizens for their patience regarding the 20th Street Bridge Project.

13. RE: CLOSED MEETING

A. RE: CLOSED MEETING PURSUANT TO § 2.2-3711 (A.) (1.) DISCUSSION REGARDING APPOINTED POSITIONS, AND PURSUANT TO § 2.2-3711 (A.) (8.) CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL REGARDING SPECIFIC LEGAL MATTERS REQUIRING THE PROVISION OF LEGAL ADVICE

Mayor Taylor advised that it would now be necessary to go into a Closed Meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711 (A.) (1.) Discussion regarding appointed positions, and pursuant to § 2.2-3711 (A.) (8.) Consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice. She inquired if there was a motion to go into a Closed Meeting.

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. (6:25 p.m.)

B. RE: CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Mayor Taylor stated that it is necessary for the Council to reconvene into open session. She advised that it would also be necessary to certify the Closed Meeting. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to certify the Closed Meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711 (A.) (1.) Discussion regarding appointed positions, and pursuant to § 2.2-3711 (A.) (8.) Consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice, and that only public business matters were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

Motion made by Councilwoman Pattison, 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. (8:05 p.m.)

C. RE: RETIREMENT ANNOUNCEMENT - INTERIM TOWN MANAGER SHERRY CORVIN

Mayor Taylor stated that she would announce the retirement of Interim Town Manager Sherry Corvin. She noted that Interim Town Manager Corvin and her husband made this decision, and that she is looking forward to retirement. Mayor Taylor advised that Interim Town Manager Corvin has served the Town of Wytheville for 33 years, with 12 of those years spent serving as the Town Clerk. She commented that the Town Council would like to thank her for all her dedication and service to the residents of the Town of Wytheville. Interim Town Manager Corvin thanked the Town Council for all the years she has been able to work for the Town of Wytheville. She stated that she was offered the full-time Town Manager position, however, after much thought and consideration she is going to respectfully decline the offer. Interim Town Manager Corvin noted that she will retire, effective January 1, 2026.

D. RE: APPOINTMENT - INTERIM TOWN MANAGER

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pattison and seconded by Councilman Hand, Jr. to appoint Mr. Chris Slep as the Interim Town Manager and Fire/Rescue Chief effective January 1, 2026, with an agreed salary amount of \$130,000. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she would have liked to have been informed that Mr. Slep was being approached for consideration for this position. She noted that Mr. Slep is a great man and displays great character and integrity, and that she believes he will be great in this position. Vice-Mayor Johnson commented that, however, she wished she would have had the opportunity, as a Council member and Vice-Mayor, to have had some discussion regarding this or to have been informed. 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.

E. RE: APPOINTMENT - TOWN CLERK

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pattison and seconded by Vice-Mayor Johnson to appoint Ms. Brandi Jones as the Town Clerk/Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officer effective January 1, 2026, with an agreed salary amount of \$85,000. 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.

F. RE: TOWN COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE

Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she has a question regarding the Town Council Rules of Procedure. She inquired about when the Town Council Rules of Procedure will be considered for adoption, and if the Council is supposed to be following the Town Council Rules of Procedure. Town Attorney Cassell explained that he needs to review the Rules of Procedure to see if, or when, they expire. He noted that, however, if they have not expired then the Council needs follow them, and if they have expired then the Council needs to adopt a new Town Council Rules of Procedure. Councilwoman Atkins inquired of Interim Town Manager Corvin regarding if the current Town Council Rules of Procedure have expired. Interim Town Manager Corvin stated that the current Town Council Rules of Procedure have not expired, and that they were adopted in January 2025. She commented that, typically, the Council will readopt them every January, and that the Rules of Procedure are scheduled to be considered at the January 12, 2026, Town Council meeting.

14. RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting. (8:12 p.m.)

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Brandi N. Jones, Chief Deputy Clerk