



MINUTES

WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 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 Slemph, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Holeyton, Town Clerk Brandi Jones, Town Attorney Paul Cassell, Town Treasurer Angela Pennington, Director of Public Utilities and Engineering Billy Anderson, Director of Human Resources Laura Heldreth, Computer Operations Manager Ron Jude, Police Chief Joel Hash, Police Captain Kenny Akers, Police Corporal Kyle Counts, Police Officer Joseph Bowles, Diane DiBiasi, Heather Scheneman, Della Russell, Michael Scheneman, Aaron Robinson, Kerry Eans, Kevin Fox, Glenda Crockett-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, or to somehow be amended.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Johnson to amend the agenda by removing Section 12, Item C., under New Business, Presentation by Director of Human Resources Laura Heldreth of Ordinance No. 1462, a proposed amendment to the Personnel Ordinance establishing an Employee Certification Incentive Program for eligible, non-public safety employees, on first reading, until Town Attorney Paul Cassell has adequate time to review the proposed ordinance. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. Councilwoman Atkins stated that she would also like to add something to the amendment, if we can, please. She noted that she had sent an email that she would like a little bit more dialogue, just on the one section of the business we talked about the Town Manager. She reiterated that she would like a little bit more dialogue added to that in the minutes. Councilwoman Atkins remarked that she did send an email four days ago, and apparently it did not go through, or whatever, and, she didn't think it had time to be added by the time she called this afternoon. She reiterated, so, if we could add a little bit more dialogue to that section.

Mayor Taylor inquired of Councilwoman Atkins as to which section she was referring to. Councilwoman Atkins stated that she believes it was B and noted that it would be section B on the minutes. She requested that just a little bit more dialogue be added to the end of the Town Manager position that we talked about.

Town Attorney Cassell advised that, currently, there is a motion about the approval of the agenda and the amendment of the agenda. Town Attorney Cassell explained that

Councilwoman Atkins' motion could be a motion to remove the minutes from the agenda. Town Attorney Cassell explained that he thinks that is what Councilwoman Atkins is trying to state. Councilwoman Atkins commented, or, to table them until they can add a little bit more dialogue.

Councilman Hand stated that he had a question for Councilwoman Atkins. He inquired of Councilwoman Atkins about when she says she wants to add more dialogue, what is she trying to say. He remarked that he is just not understanding what she means. Councilman Hand inquired of Councilwoman Atkins if she meant that she wanted Staff to add more dialogue to what is typed in the minutes. Councilwoman Atkins stated yes. Councilman Hand expressed to Councilwoman Atkins that she does know that the Town Council meetings are recorded live, so that people can go back and watch the meeting. He inquired of Councilwoman Atkins why Staff is required to type the minutes word for word. Councilwoman Atkins remarked not word for word. She commented just more in that section, because at times, I think that even they can't hear what's being said, so that way, if they can't hear, and then the public, you know, just a little bit more dialogue about the position. Councilman Hand expressed that he watched the meeting online, and that it can be heard very well. He stated that he was just curious and inquired of Councilwoman Atkins as to what she was asking Staff to do, in addition to what they are already doing. Councilman Hand reiterated that he is asking what Councilwoman Atkins actually wants them to do. Councilwoman Atkins commented, to add a few more words, just, you know, a few more, a little bit more sentences to that. Councilman Hand explained that he felt that it was really unfair to ask Staff to do that. He remarked that citizens can go online and watch the meeting. He reiterated that he thought it was unfair to ask Staff to continue to add language that she wants added, when the meeting was live and when people can go online and see everything. Councilwoman Atkins stated that she just thinks it would be more clear to the public. Councilman Hand inquired of Councilwoman Atkins if there had been any complaints from the public. He stated that he wanted to be sure of what the Council is asking Staff to do when they are already overwhelmed with what they are doing, and for Staff to go back and type an extra paragraph in the minutes, then he did not understand how that is time well spent. Councilman Hand reiterated that everybody can watch it word for word, and it was very clear, but he did not agree with asking Staff to continue to add just to do it. He explained that he is only asking for a valid reason for the request. Councilman Hand advised that he is not supporting asking Staff to make any changes in the minutes if that is being proposed.

Town Attorney Cassell advised that there was a pending motion made by Vice-Mayor Johnson, and that he believed Councilwoman Atkins attempted to amend that motion before it was seconded to address the minutes that she was discussing. He explained that Mayor Taylor would need to inquire if there was a second on the original motion to the amendment to the agenda. Mayor Taylor stated that there was a motion on the floor made by Vice-Mayor Johnson and inquired if there was second on that motion. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she would restate the original motion for clarity. She advised that she would like to make a motion to amend the agenda by removing Section 12, Item C., under New Business, Presentation by Director of Human Resources Laura Heldreth of Ordinance No. 1462, a proposed amendment to the Personnel Ordinance establishing an Employee Certification Incentive Program for eligible, non-public safety employees, on first reading, until Town Attorney Paul Cassell has had adequate time to review the proposed ordinance. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a second on the motion to amend the agenda. Councilwoman Pattison stated that if the Council is only going to remove Section 12, Item C, then she is in favor of removing Section 12, Item C. Mayor Taylor advised that there is a motion and a second. She inquired if there was any further discussion on the motion. Councilman Hand stated that Ordinance No. 1462 should have already been sent to Town Attorney Cassell for his review before it was added to an agenda for Council consideration. He commented that he is not supportive of this. Interim Town Manager Slemph advised that the ordinance was sent to Town Attorney Cassell for review, however, Town Attorney Cassell had been off from work the week prior and did not have the chance to review this ordinance in its entirety. Councilman Hand inquired of Town Attorney Cassell if this ordinance needed his review. Town Attorney Cassell advised that this is the Town's Personnel Policy, and he felt it would be wise for him to review it if the Council would give him the opportunity to do so. He noted that it was sent to him on Wednesday of the previous week, and that he was out of the office that week and weekend. Councilman Hand stated that in that case, he was fine with removing it from the agenda. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any further discussion on the motion. There being no further discussion, 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 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 8, 2026

Town Attorney Cassell advised Mayor Taylor that there was a motion to further amend the agenda that Councilwoman Atkins made. Councilwoman Atkins stated, or we can table it until they can take a few minutes to add a few more sentences to the dialogue to make it clear to the public to be more transparent about the discussion. She commented that not everybody has internet. Mayor Taylor inquired of Councilwoman Atkins if she meant that the Council would not approve the minutes, at this time, and the minutes would be on a future agenda. Councilwoman Atkins stated and then just review it. She remarked yes, to let us review it. Town Clerk Jones inquired of Councilwoman Atkins if she had sent her what she wanted added to the minutes. Councilwoman Atkins stated, not what she wanted added, it's just the little video that you all, I guess, you know, type the minutes from, and get that from. She commented, just because it said more, you know, there was more dialogue. Councilwoman Atkins stated that she could come by and look at that if Town Clerk Jones wanted her to.

Councilman Hand advised that he thought the Council would need to establish what is expected from Staff, and that the Council needed to know what they are asking Town Clerk Jones to do every time they meet. He stated that he was not pleased with singling her out and asking her to do this. Councilwoman Atkins explained that she was not singling her out. She remarked that she don't think that she actually thinks that and that other people in the department do that as well. She commented that she just sent it to her because she is the Clerk. Councilwoman Atkins noted that she don't know exactly. Town Clerk Jones remarked that she did not receive Councilwoman Atkins' email. Councilwoman Atkins stated, well, I sent that to Mr. Slemp, the email where I did send it four days ago, but apparently it didn't go through. She advised that she did call him earlier, and he just said you didn't have time to get it done, and I can understand that. She explained that is why I was just wondering if there was any way we can either table it, amend it, just to add to be more clear to the public about the Town Manager position.

Mayor Taylor inquired if that was the issue that was on Councilwoman Atkins' mind. Councilwoman Atkins stated that it's not an issue. She commented, I just think it needs to be a little bit more clear to the public that does not have internet in no other section of the of the minutes, you know, do I want to amend it or anything like that, just to be a little bit more clear. Mayor Taylor stated that Councilwoman Atkins' amendment was to add those things. Councilwoman Atkins explained, to add a few more sentences. She remarked, yes, ma'am. Councilwoman Atkins stated, a little bit more dialogue to be more clear to the public and transparent about the Town Manager position, yes, ma'am.

Mayor Taylor stated that there was a motion for the amendment to the minutes. She inquired if there was a second on the motion. Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired if the motion was to postpone consideration of the minutes. Councilwoman Atkins noted to table, postpone, just add a few more sentences. Vice-Mayor Johnson explained that, in the past, if the Council has had a question about minutes, they have been able to work through it. She noted that she would like to have a full understanding of what needed to be added and what does not, so she would like to table this for additional information. Mayor Taylor advised that there is a motion to table the item. She inquired if there was a second on the motion. Interim Town Manager Slemp stated that he would like to clarify that the motion was, specifically, to table the approval of the last minutes from the June 8, 2026, Town Council meeting.

Councilwoman Atkins commented, so, a few more sentences. She remarked that she don't understand what the big deal is. Councilman Hand stated that people have attended the meeting to perform the business of the Town, and that the Council has been discussing the minutes all this time. He noted that he does not understand what Councilwoman Atkins was saying when she said that people do not understand what is going on at the meetings. Councilwoman Atkins commented, Mr. Hand, I didn't say people didn't understand, I just want it to be more clear. Councilman Hand stated that

he felt this was a waste of time, and that the Council had not moved past the first item because they were stuck.

Vice-Mayor Johnson advised that she would like more clarification of what is going on, and that she felt like the public has the right to have the clarification, as well.

Mayor Taylor advised that there is a motion and a second on the floor and that is to table the approval of the June 8, 2026, minutes. She inquired if there was any further discussion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote: Voting Yea: Councilwoman Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Vice-Mayor Johnson. Voting Against: Councilman Hand, Jr., Mayor Taylor.

7. RE: RECESS

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

8. RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

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

9. RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. RE: PUBLIC HEARING - FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS - STAFF REPORT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a public hearing to consider the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget appropriations necessitated by unanticipated expenditures incurred during the fiscal year. She stated that before she opened the public hearing, Town Treasurer Angela Pennington would present a Staff Report to the Council regarding this matter. Town Treasurer Pennington stated that budget appropriations are, typically, made twice a year. She stated that the Council should have already seen most of these appropriations and approved them at the last mid-year budget adjustment in November 2025. Town Treasurer Pennington noted that the Homestead Endowment Fund is in the negative, and since it was switched to a fund budget those funds must be balanced at the end of the year. She advised that the use of reserves for \$30,553.60 will be used to balance that fund and zero it out for auditing purposes. Town Treasurer Pennington inquired if the Council had any questions at this time. There being none, Mayor Taylor proceeded with the agenda.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING - FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to receive comments regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget appropriations. She inquired if there was anyone who wished to address the Council regarding the public hearing. Mayor Taylor noted that there was no one who wished to speak during the public hearing, therefore, she would declare the public hearing closed and proceed with the agenda.

RE: FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Wytheville Town Council to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget appropriations and to authorize the Town Treasurer to make the departmental transfers. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 budget appropriations and to authorize the Town Treasurer to make the departmental transfers.

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.

B. RE: PUBLIC HEARING - ARGMOS, LLC - TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AND PERMANENT DRAINAGE AND MAINTENANCE EASEMENT - STAFF REPORT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a public hearing to consider the request by ARGMOS, LLC for the conveyance of a Temporary Construction Easement and a Permanent Drainage and Maintenance Easement over and across Town-owned property located directly west and to the rear of 1035 North 4th Street in Wytheville. She stated that before she opened the public hearing, Director of Public Utilities and Engineering Billy Anderson would present a Staff Report to the Council regarding this matter. Director Anderson noted that easements would be for improvements related to a paving project and completion of the remodeling of that piece of property. He explained that easements would be necessary to install and maintain some stormwater drainage features that will help to control stormwater that is generated from this site. Director Anderson continued to discuss the necessity of a Temporary Construction Easement and a Permanent Drainage and Maintenance Easement at this location for improvements that have been based on a civil site plan that the Town has received and, basically, approved the means and methods that have been presented. Mayor Taylor inquired if the Council had any questions for Director Anderson regarding this matter. There being none, she proceeded with the agenda.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING - ARGMOS, LLC - TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AND PERMANENT DRAINAGE AND MAINTENANCE EASEMENT

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to receive comments regarding the request by ARGMOS, LLC for the conveyance of a Temporary Construction Easement and a Permanent Drainage and Maintenance Easement over and across Town-owned property located directly west and to the rear of 1035 North 4th Street in Wytheville. She inquired if there was anyone who wished to address the Council regarding the public hearing. Mayor Taylor noted that there was no one who wished to speak during the public hearing, therefore, she would declare the public hearing closed and proceed with the agenda.

RE: ARGMOS, LLC - TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION EASEMENT AND PERMANENT DRAINAGE AND MAINTENANCE EASEMENT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Wytheville Town Council to approve the conveyance of a Temporary Construction Easement and a Permanent Drainage and Maintenance Easement to ARGMOS, LLC over and across Town-owned property lying directly west and to the rear of the property located at 1035 North 4th Street, Wytheville, Virginia, subject to final approval of the easement documents by the Town Attorney, and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Town. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the conveyance of a Temporary Construction Easement and a Permanent Drainage and Maintenance Easement to ARGMOS, LLC over and across Town-owned property lying directly west and to the rear of the property located at 1035 North 4th Street, Wytheville, Virginia, subject to final approval of the easement documents by the Town Attorney, and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the necessary documents on behalf of the Town.

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 results, by roll call vote: Voting Yea: Councilwoman Atkins, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilman Hand, Jr. Voting Abstaining: Vice-Mayor Johnson. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she is abstaining from voting due to personal and business reasons.

10. RE: PRESENTATIONS TO TOWN COUNCIL

A. RE: PRESENTATION OF THE MAY 2026 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a presentation of the May 2026 Financial Statement by Town Treasurer Angela Pennington. Town Treasurer Pennington presented information to the Council regarding the May 2026 Financial

Statement, and the annual comparison of revenue, expenditures, meals tax, lodging tax and sales tax from the same time in 2025.

11. RE: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. RE: DISCUSSION REGARDING ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE TOWN MANAGER POSITION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is discussion regarding advertisement for the Town Manager position. Councilwoman Pattison stated that she would like to make a couple of remarks regarding the advertisement. She noted that the November election will bring a new Mayor and, possibly, two new members to the Town Council. Councilwoman Pattison explained that it makes sense to search for a permanent Town Manager after January 15, because the new Mayor and possible new Council members would have a voice in selecting someone they will work closely with. She advised that her view would be to allow for time, change and settling down after the election, and, again, would give the Council an opportunity if they choose to explore ways to make the position more attractive, for a long-term retirement and compensation standpoint. Councilwoman Pattison commented that in the meantime, the Town continues to benefit from the leadership of Interim Town Manager Slemph. She stated that waiting until January to advertise the position would preserve the possibility of retaining someone who has already demonstrated that they can do the job effectively. Councilwoman Pattison inquired if the Council would support waiting until January and frame their discussion around what is best for the Town, rather than filling the position as quickly as possible.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pattison and seconded by Councilman Hand, Jr. to begin advertising for the Town Manager's position after the November 2026 Town Council election. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion.

Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired of Mr. Slemph regarding his wishes moving forward with the Town Manager position, so that they would not be doing a disservice to the citizens of the Town of Wytheville and would be respecting his wishes. Interim Town Manager Slemph stated that he does not see himself as the permanent full-time Town Manager, however, he is more than happy to stay until January. He noted that he does not feel like he is stuck in this position and commented that he is more than willing to do whatever it takes to keep the course. Interim Town Manager Slemph remarked that he has a love for the Town and that he wants to see the Town flourish. He reiterated that he does not have an issue with staying as the Interim Town Manager, however, he does not see himself as the Town Manager long-term and that his desire would be to continue as the Fire Chief, once his service as the Interim Town Manager is complete. He stated that he has enjoyed working with each one of the Council members and that he appreciated their support over the last six months. Vice-Mayor Johnson thanked Interim Town Manager Slemph for answering honestly, and that she wanted to make sure that the motives were right before she made a decision.

Councilwoman Atkins stated, I would like to see the position go ahead and be advertised as we talked before, because Mr. Slemph and I, we did have a conversation a couple times over the phone and in person. She commented, I don't want him to feel like he has to stay. Councilwoman Atkins remarked, I think all of us are more than capable of doing interviews. She stated to Councilwoman Pattison, I know that when you and I had some dialogue, you didn't want to take the time to do it. Councilwoman Atkins commented, you said you don't want to interview right now, the process, and you know, I just think, we could go ahead and advertise, because you'll be with us. She commented, you said you would stay and fill in the gaps on projects and stuff that you worked. Councilwoman Atkins noted that it will take us, I know, a couple months to get interviews, get applications in, and then that way we can go and get, you know, be ready in January. She commented, I just don't believe waiting is the best for the community. She reiterated, I just don't.

Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any further discussion. 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. Voting Against: Councilwoman Atkins, Vice-Mayor Johnson.

Councilwoman Atkins stated dinner paid off, taking him to lunch. Mayor Taylor inquired as to what Councilwoman Atkins stated. Councilwoman Atkins noted that she said I wish Cathy would have just talked to him, not over dinner.

12. RE: NEW BUSINESS

A. RE: MADISON STREET FEASIBILITY STUDY AND REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO EXPLORE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION PHASE - STAFF REPORT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a Staff Report by Director of Public Utilities and Engineering Billy Anderson regarding the Madison Street Feasibility Study and a request for authorization to explore grant opportunities for the completion of the proposed construction phase of the project. Director Anderson stated that the completed Madison Street Feasibility Study was included in the Council meeting packet, which included the anticipated cost for the construction of Madison Street between South 14th Street and the dead end at Reed Creek Road. He then reviewed the details and breakdown of the completed Madison Street Feasibility Study with the Council. Director Anderson noted that the total anticipated cost for the completion of the project is around \$2.674 Million. He explained that Staff would recommend that the Council provide Town staff with direction and the ability to begin searching for funding for this project. Mayor Taylor inquired if the Council had any questions for Director Anderson regarding this matter. There being none, she proceeded with the agenda.

RE: MADISON STREET FEASIBILITY STUDY AND REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO EXPLORE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION PHASE

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Town Council to authorize Landscape Architect/Grants Administrator John Woods to explore, identify, prepare and pursue applicable grant opportunities on behalf of the Town of Wytheville for the purpose of obtaining funding for the construction phase of the proposed Madison Street Project, with any future grant awards or project funding commitments to be presented to the Town Council for approval. She inquired if there was a motion to authorize Landscape Architect/Grants Administrator John Woods to explore, identify, prepare and pursue applicable grant opportunities on behalf of the Town of Wytheville for the purpose of obtaining funding for the construction phase of the proposed Madison Street Project, with any future grant awards or project funding commitments to be presented to the Town Council for approval.

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.

B. RE: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NEW RIVER REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY'S PROPOSED BOND REFINANCING - STAFF REPORT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a Staff Report by Interim Town Manager Chris Slemph regarding a resolution supporting the New River Regional Water Authority's (NRRWA) proposed bond refinancing and acknowledging provisions related to the Authority's financing structure. Interim Town Manager Slemph stated that the Town of Wytheville is one of the three (3) NRRWA partners, and that they have discussed trying to refund their bond at a lower rate. He noted that in order for the NRRWA to have the bond refunded, a resolution authorizing this will have to be passed by each of the three (3) partner localities. Interim Town Manager Slemph explained that he is asking for Council action to pass the resolution that allows the NRRWA to go up to a maximum principal amount of \$7,100,000 in order to refund the \$10,940,000 bond. He commented that they are working through a bond counsel on this, until they are able to find the most favorable rates.

RE: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE NEW RIVER REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY'S PROPOSED BOND REFINANCING

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Wytheville Town Council to adopt a resolution supporting the issuance of a revenue refunding bond by the New River Regional Water Authority (NRRWA) and acknowledging certain matters with respect to the bond, including a moral obligation to make certain appropriations in support of the Authority. She inquired if there was a motion to adopt a resolution supporting the issuance of a revenue refunding bond by the New River Regional Water Authority (NRRWA) and acknowledging certain matters with respect to the bond, including a moral obligation to make certain appropriations in support of the Authority.

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

C. RE: FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027 PAY SCALE FOR TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE EMPLOYEES

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a presentation by Director of Human Resources Laura Heldreth regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Pay Scale for Town of Wytheville Employees. Director Heldreth stated that a copy of the salary structure for July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, was included in the Council meeting packet. She noted that she made a reflection of all pay grades with the four (4) percent increase, and that she also made a reflection of the \$2,000 adjustment that was added in the last Fiscal Year for the A22 through A26 pay grades for the employees who made under \$40,000 at that time. Director Heldreth explained that she had spoken with other localities and checked with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and that making these changes has put the Town in a good place for the employees currently in those pay grades. She commented that those were the only changes that she had made to the Town of Wytheville's Pay Scale. Director Heldreth inquired if the Council members had any questions or comments regarding this topic. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she would like to thank Director Heldreth for doing this and for doing a good job. Councilman Hand also thanked Director Heldreth for this. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Pay Scale for Town of Wytheville Employees as presented by the Director of Human Resources.

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

D. RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NEW RIVER REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY - STAFF REPORT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a Staff Report by Town Clerk Brandi Jones regarding the reappointment of Wytheville Town Council representatives Councilwoman Cathy Pattison and Councilman Joseph Hand, Jr. to the New River Regional Water Authority (NRRWA) (terms expire June 30, 2026). Town Clerk Jones stated that Councilwoman Pattison and Councilman Hand currently serve as the Town Council's representatives on the NRRWA, and that their current terms are scheduled to expire on June 30, 2026. She noted that this appointment would be for a four-year term, which would expire June 30, 2030, and commented that both Councilwoman Pattison and Councilman Hand have agreed to continue to serve, if reappointed by the Council. Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired about officials being re-elected and how the reappointment would work. Town Clerk Jones stated that once elections are held, the Council could then reappoint whomever they choose at its organizational meeting in January. There being no other questions or discussions, Mayor Taylor proceeded with the agenda.

RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NEW RIVER REGIONAL WATER AUTHORITY

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Town Council to reappoint Wytheville Town Council representatives Councilwoman Cathy Pattison and Councilman Joseph Hand, Jr. to the New River Regional Water Authority for four-year terms (new terms expire June 30, 2030). She inquired if there was a motion to reappoint Wytheville Town Council representatives Councilwoman Cathy Pattison and Councilman Joseph Hand, Jr. to the New River Regional Water Authority for four-year terms (new terms expire June 30, 2030).

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.

13. 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 received a compliment from an official from another town regarding how well the town looks. He noted that he wanted to relay the compliment publicly, so that he could give the Public Works Department a shout out for all its hard work and to Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated for all the work they continue to do. Interim Town Manager Slemp advised that he wanted to remind everyone of the Chautauqua event that is taking place during the week, and he hopes that everyone will take advantage of the free music, visit the vendors and take a look at the artwork that is taking place behind the Fire and Rescue Department building. He commented that he appreciates all the work that the Wythe Arts Council does to put this event on and that they do a phenomenal job, and he noted that he appreciates all the Town staff's work during Chautauqua.

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 the Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County will meet in the Council Chambers on Thursday, June 25, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. She noted that the Smyth-Wythe Airport Commission will meet at the airport on Monday, June 29, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. Town Clerk Jones commented that a Joint Governing Bodies meeting will also be held on Monday, June 29, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the Meeting Center. She advised that the Town of Wytheville Municipal Offices will be closed on Friday, July 3, 2026, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Councilman Hand inquired if the Joint Governing Bodies will begin to meet regularly again. Mayor Taylor stated that is correct, and that it was at the request of Wythe County to begin meeting again. Councilman Hand noted that he is happy to hear this.

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

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

D. RE: COUNCIL MEMBER TIME

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Council Member Time. She inquired if Vice-Mayor Johnson had anything that she would like to discuss during Council Member Time. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she encountered visitors from Alabama, Texas and New Jersey and that they spoke very highly of the town and how well the town looked. She noted that they were also happy that the Town received the Great American Main Street Small Town Award. Vice-Mayor Johnson explained that it was an honor to listen to them compliment the Town and the work that the Town employees perform. She commented that it made her feel very good to hear those compliments, and that she would like to thank all the Town staff for keeping the Town running.

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

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 at this 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 at this time.

14. RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting.
(6:52 p.m.)

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Brandi N. Jones, Town Clerk