



MINUTES

WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 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, Computer Operations Manager Ron Jude, Director of Public Utilities and Engineering Billy Anderson, Building Official Tim Spraker, Deputy Police Chief Bryan Bard, Police Captain Kenny Akers, Police Corporal Kyle Counts, Police Officer Joseph Bowles, Open Door Community Executive Director Jordan Stidham, Robin Fasano, Mike Scheneman, Heather Scheneman, Randal Hamm, Angela Akers, Laura Settles, Becky Harrison, Kevin Fox, Mike Forrest, C.D. Hagy, Arthur Johnson, Glenda Crockett-Eans, Kerry Eans, Others

2. **RE: CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Taylor called the meeting to order.

3. **RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**

Mayor Taylor established that a quorum of Council members was present.

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

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 COUNCIL WORK SESSION AND MINUTES OF THE REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2026

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the Council Work Session and the minutes of the regular Wytheville Town Council meeting held on March 23, 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, Councilman Hand, Jr.

8. RE: PRESENTATIONS TO TOWN COUNCIL

A. RE: OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY EXPANSION PROJECT - AUTHORIZATION TO SUBMIT CDBG PLANNING GRANT APPLICATION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a presentation of a request by Open Door Community's Executive Director Jordan Stidham seeking the Wytheville Town Council's support in regard to an expansion project of its current facility at 680 West Main Street. Open Door Community Executive Director Jordan Stidham was recognized and stated that the project he is requesting will require a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning Grant. He noted that once they receive the Planning Grant, bids will be advertised to architectural and engineering firms. Executive Director Stidham explained that the architectural and engineering firms will review environmental aspects, zoning requirements, etc. and will then take Open Door's idea and create a visual layout of their plan. He stated that once that process is complete, he will come back to the Town Council for the capital request of the CDBG process. Executive Director Stidham advised that no funding will be needed from the Town for this project. He noted that the Planning Grant will completely cover the cost of the project planning, and the Capital Grant will pay for all the capital work if the project planning is deemed feasible. Executive Director Stidham explained that because the CDBG is a Block Grant, it is required to flow through a municipality, and that is why he is coming to the Town Council to request their support. He continued to discuss Open Door Community's request regarding an expansion project for a youth center, expanded food program area and additional office space at its current facility located at 680 West Main Street. Councilwoman Atkins inquired if there would be someone supervising the youth center at all times. Executive Director Stidham stated that is correct. He explained that they will have a full-time Youth and Family Services Director that will be on site anytime the facility is open. Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired if there would be a male and female Director present, when the facility is open. Executive Director Stidham advised that they will not have a male and female Director, and that the candidate they are considering is a female. Councilman Hand stated that he would like to support Open Door Community's expansion project, and that he felt like this project would be great for the Town. He inquired if Executive Director Stidham would explain more about Open Door Community and what they do for the community. Executive Director Stidham discussed his role with Open Door Community and their goal to review how they are serving the community; the meal delivery program for senior citizens in Wythe and Bland Counties; the shelter program; merging with Community Action in 2024; the range of services with available funding; assisting individuals with housing needs; affordable housing projects; etc. Councilman Hand discussed his concerns and opinions regarding Open Door Community building homes, re-selling them in the area and the prices. Executive Director Stidham stated that they are providing housing across the spectrum. Discussion continued regarding Open Door Community's involvement in housing and real estate in the community. Councilwoman Pattison noted that she is aware that Open Door Community has requested \$10,000 in funding from the Town in Fiscal Year 2026-27. She inquired of Executive Director Stidham regarding what the \$10,000 would fund. Executive Director Stidham advised that, currently, that funding is being used for its emergency shelter. He explained that the shelter program is separated into two (2) sectors, and that the emergency shelter is operated during the winter months when the temperature drops to a dangerous level. Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired of Executive Director Stidham regarding affordable housing and the cost of rent for a one-bedroom apartment. Executive Director Stidham noted that he thinks the rent is either \$525 or \$550 a month. Vice-Mayor Johnson then expressed her support for affordable housing for individuals in need. Executive Director Stidham stated that he is in his third year serving as Open Door Community's Executive Director, and he is trying to make a positive impact. He noted that he would ask if anyone has concerns or questions, to contact him. Councilwoman Atkins explained that she would like to support the expansion project. There being no further questions, Mayor Taylor proceeded with the agenda.

Mayor Taylor advised that the Town Council would now consider authorizing the Interim Town Manager to submit a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning Grant application to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) on behalf of Open Door Community for the expansion project of its current location at 680 West main Street. She inquired if there was a motion to authorize the Interim Town Manager to submit a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Planning Grant application to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) on behalf of Open Door Community for the expansion project of its current location at 680 West main Street.

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.

B. RE: PRESENTATION - MARCH 2026 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the presentation of the March 2026 Town of Wytheville Financial Statement by Town Treasurer Angela Pennington. Town Treasurer Pennington presented information to the Council regarding the March 2026 Financial Statement and the annual comparison of revenue, the general fund, expenditures, meals tax, lodging and sales tax from the same time in 2025. She inquired if the Council had any questions. Councilman Hand inquired about the line item in the Fiscal Year 2024-25 budget for the Joint Industrial Development Authority (JIDA) of Wythe County for \$145,000, which ended up being \$160,000, and how this was approved. Town Treasurer Pennington stated that the amount was entered into the new software system on June 30 but was not paid until July 3. She explained that because the amount was entered into the system on June 30, the record reflects that the amount was not encumbered until July 3. Councilman Hand thanked Town Treasurer Pennington for the explanation.

9. RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Taylor advised that there shall be an agenda item known as Citizens' Period to allow Town of Wytheville citizens to address the Council regarding any matter that is not an agenda item. She stated that each citizen shall be allocated five (5) minutes to address the Council. Mayor Taylor explained that no one shall be allowed to exceed the time limit specified in other sections of the Rules of Procedure, unless at the discretion of the Town Council, a speaker is allowed more time to speak. She noted that any person not a citizen of the Town of Wytheville may request through the Town Manager to be placed on the regular agenda. Mayor Taylor commented that acknowledgement shall be given by the Mayor only, or the Vice-Mayor in the Mayor's absence. She advised that no person shall address the Council without having first been recognized and coming forth stating their name. Mayor Taylor stated that for the safety of the Town's citizens, the Council has been asked by law enforcement to remove the requirement that an address be stated and noted that the sign-in sheet provides this information, if needed.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Ms. Robin Fasano could please come to the podium to address the Council. Ms. Robin Fasano was recognized and addressed the Council regarding the Citizens' Period agenda item and the rules for addressing the Town Council. She explained that she submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for information regarding the rules for addressing the Town Council during Citizens' Period, and she noted that she never received that information. Town Clerk/FOIA Officer Brandi Jones stated that she responded to Ms. Fasano's FOIA request by email on Friday, April 24, 2026. Ms. Fasano noted that she would like for an explanation to be given as to why someone cannot come to the podium and speak about any item, and why it states that citizens can address the Council regarding any matter that is not an agenda item. Councilman Hand explained that the Rules of Procedure were created and developed by a previous Town Attorney, and that these rules were in place before some Council members took office. He stated that he does not agree with this section in the Rules of Procedure regarding Citizens' Period. Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired of Ms. Fasano if she would share what she has with her. Ms. Fasano presented Vice-Mayor Johnson with a copy of the meeting agenda that included rules for addressing the Council that she picked up in the lobby before the meeting. Councilwoman Atkins noted that she believes a discussion regarding the Town Council Rules of Procedure is included further down on this meeting agenda. Vice-Mayor

Johnson inquired if Ms. Fasano could refresh her memory of what she said. She inquired if Ms. Fasano said that citizens could not speak on an agenda item. Ms. Fasano noted that on the sheet she picked up before this meeting, it states that "there shall be an agenda item known as Citizens' Period to allow Town of Wytheville citizens to address the Council regarding any matter that is not an agenda item." Vice-Mayor Johnson commented that she thinks the Council has allowed people to come in and speak on whatever they wish. She advised that she had never enforced this on anyone, and that she had never told anyone that they could not come in and speak about whatever they were there to speak about. Vice-Mayor Johnson noted that she thinks Ms. Fasano has been able to do that. She explained that Ms. Fasano and several others have addressed the Council, and that no one has told her she could not. Ms. Fasano stated that it had not been a concern until she read the agenda. Vice-Mayor Johnson reiterated that the Council never told her that she could not speak and the Council has allowed her to come in and speak, but, if there is something that needs to be fixed, she does not think the Council has a problem correcting any verbiage on anything. She explained that at the same time, as long as she has been on Council, people have come in and spoken about anything they have wanted to speak about. Councilman Hand stated that Ms. Fasano has now went over her time limit for addressing the Council. Ms. Fasano advised that she would take her seat and return in two (2) weeks to address the Council regarding her next two questions.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Mr. Mike Scheneman could please come to the podium to address the Council. Mr. Mike Scheneman was recognized and addressed the Council about the concerns and frustrations of Town citizens regarding the homeless population. He noted that there have been reports of drug paraphernalia in Town parks, individuals passed out in public spaces, safety concerns, trespassing, vandalism, etc. Mr. Scheneman advised that these concerns are not from a lack of compassion, however, ignoring the impact on the rest of the community is not compassionate, it is avoidance. He continued to express various concerns regarding the homeless population to the Council.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Mr. Randal Hamm could please come to the podium to address the Council. Mr. Hamm was recognized and addressed the Council regarding the Council sign-in sheet and not being able to indicate whether a citizen wants to speak or not, and the rules for addressing the Council during Citizens' Period. A brief discussion was held regarding the Council sign-in sheet being updated and potential changes that may need to be made, and an agenda item later in the meeting addressing the Rules of Procedure.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Mr. Mike Forrest could please come to the podium to address the Council. Mr. Mike Forrest was recognized and addressed the Council regarding the rules for addressing the Council during Citizens' Period and the Council Development Fund. Mr. Forrest stated that he was going to talk more about Citizens' Period and what that is, but he thought that the item had been covered. Mr. Forrest noted that this is not the first time that this wording has been on the sign in sheet. He noted that the Council is right, and that citizens should be able to discuss any item, whether it is on the agenda or not. Mr. Forrest expressed that another subject that he wanted to bring up was a budget subject. Mr. Forrest stated that there is a line-item numbered 001-0110-10-5670 - Council Development Fund, which to him sort of seemed like a slush fund, that any Council member could use his/her money for on any project, if the Council votes on it. He stated that the only two Council Development Funds that have been used by the Council were by Council members Johnson and Atkins. Mr. Forrest commented that one of the Council members used funds to reimburse veterans for flags. He stated that if that were an ongoing thing, he would like to order two or three flags at this meeting. Mr. Forrest commented that, to him, if he had paid for a flag and then willingly paid for it to honor his father who was a veteran or a very good friend who was a veteran in Vietnam, and then he got reimbursed, it seems that he has not honored them. He remarked that he thought that was ridiculous. Mr. Forrest noted that he submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, and that he had a list of those reimbursements where Vice-Mayor Johnson made the motion. He advised that Vice-Mayor Johnson was reimbursed. He noted that he did not know if that was a conflict of interest or not. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she was not a veteran, so she did not think that it was a conflict of interest. She inquired of Mr. Cassell if he could answer the question. Mr. Forrest interjected and stated that he was not going to debate with Vice-Mayor Johnson, and he noted that this was not the time to talk, and to let him talk. Vice-Mayor Johnson remarked that Mr. Forrest could talk. Mr. Forrest commented that Vice-Mayor Johnson should not interrupt him. He explained that Vice-Mayor Johnson voted to reimburse herself because she did it for veterans or non-veterans. Mr. Forrest remarked that whether someone is a veteran or not, a lot of people whose names were on the list were not veterans, and that being a veteran had nothing to do with it. He stated that

if he had bought this in another town, a couple of bricks to honor his father, a friend, etc., then he did not expect to get reimbursed. He commented that he does not think anybody attending the meeting expected to get reimbursed. Mr. Forrest stated that this is not what you call a Council Development Fund. He remarked that he thought if the Council is going to continue with the \$100,000 fund, then it should be well defined, specifically, it should be defined as to what the usage can be used towards. Mr. Forrest stated that in regard to decorating electrical boxes, he did not see how the Council spent almost \$10,000 of taxpayers' money to decorate a dozen electrical boxes. He inquired of the Council how that benefited him or any other citizen in town. He expressed that he did not walk around expressing "that is a pretty electric box." Mr. Forrest stated that this was a waste of taxpayers' money in his opinion. He noted that he was disappointed that it was even in the budget and that he would like to save that \$100,000. Mr. Forrest remarked that it appeared that the Town has plenty of other uses for the money in other parts of the budget. Councilwoman Atkins stated that she would like to address Mr. Forrest's comment regarding the electrical boxes. Mr. Forrest interjected and advised that he did not need to hear, because he knew what happened, and that he did not need to hear. He remarked that this was not a back and forth, but, rather, it was citizens' time to speak. Vice-Mayor Johnson remarked that she did not think it was a conflict of interest, and that she had said it before and she would say it again, but she will always honor veterans, and she will always respect veterans. Vice-Mayor Johnson advised that she had taken veterans to doctor appointments, and, if a veteran needed a ride to a doctor's appointment, she would take them again. Vice-Mayor Johnson remarked that those are the people who serve this country and who lose their lives. She noted that there have been families whose children went off to war, and 75 to 80 years later, their remains are just now being sent back. Vice-Mayor Johnson explained that those family members never got to see them again, and that she could not imagine, as a parent, not being able to see her son again. She commented that not ever knowing what happened to her son, who fought a war for this country. Vice-Mayor Johnson advised that she would honor veterans, and that she was sorry that Mr. Forrest was opposed to it, and he was certainly entitled to do so, but, at the same time, she was always going to honor veterans and that was never going to change.

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

A. RE: FAST AND FIORINI 5K EVENT - OPEN DOOR COMMUNITY REQUEST FOR TRAFFIC CONTROL

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the request of Open Door Community for traffic control on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 7:00 a.m., to conduct the Fast and Fiorini 5K. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the request of Open Door Community for traffic control on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at 7:00 a.m., to conduct the Fast and Fiorini 5K.

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, Vice-Mayor Johnson.

B. RE: COMMUNITY YARD SALE EXTRAVAGANZA EVENT - GRACE POINTE CENTER REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF BUSINESS LICENSE AND PEDDLER'S LICENSE FEES

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the request for waiver of Business License Fees and Peddler's License Fees from Grace Pointe Center for the Community Yard Sale Extravaganza event scheduled for May 2, June 20, July 25 and August 22, 2026. She stated that Interim Town Manager Slemple will provide the Council with more information regarding this request. Interim Town Manager Slemple noted that Grace Pointe Center on Spring Street has requested a waiver of fees for Business License and Peddler's License Fees for its organization and participating vendors in connection with the Community Yard Sale Extravaganza. He commented that this event is intended to provide community gatherings and opportunities to support local business. Interim Town Slemple explained that a majority of the event's proceeds will go towards benefiting schools in Wythe and Bland Counties, as well as providing support for elderly residents and veterans in the area. He stated that the Town's ordinance states that a waiver of fees can be granted if the request is from a charitable or civic organization, and that Grace Pointe has provided proof that they

are one of these organizations. Interim Town Manager Slemp advised that the approval of this request requires Council action, and that the applicant, Angela Akers, is present at the meeting if the Council has any questions. Ms. Angela Akers was then recognized. Councilwoman Atkins inquired of Ms. Akers regarding the location of the Community Yard Sale Extravaganza events. Ms. Akers stated that the events will be held at the Grace Pointe Center location at 455 East Spring Street.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Johnson and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to approve the request from Grace Pointe Center to waive all applicable Business License Fees for Grace Pointe Center and participating vendors, and to waive Peddler's License Fees for vendors participating in the Community Yard Sale Extravaganza fundraiser events scheduled for the four (4) dates on May 2, June 20, July 25 and August 22, 2026, at Grace Pointe Center located at 455 East Spring Street in Wytheville. 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: BLAND MINISTRY CENTER/BIG WALKER DENTISTRY REQUEST FOR FEE WAIVER - ADDITIONAL USE DAYS AT WYTHEVILLE MEETING CENTER - MISSION OF MERCY EVENT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the request from Bland Ministry/Big Walker Dentistry to waive the fees for two (2) additional days for use of the Wytheville Meeting Center during the Mission of Mercy event scheduled for June 24-28, 2026. She stated that Interim Town Manager Slemp will provide the Council with more information regarding this request. Interim Town Manager Slemp noted that, originally, the Town Council approved this organization's request for waiver of fee for three (3) days of use at the Wytheville Meeting Center for June 26-28, 2026, totaling \$9,550. He advised that, however, the organization is now requesting two (2) additional days, so that they may use the facility on Wednesday, June 24, and Thursday, June 25, for event set up due to its growth. Interim Town Manager Slemp explained that the two (2) additional days will bring the total cost of fees for use of the Wytheville Meeting Center to \$12,285, which could be waived upon Council's approval.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Atkins and seconded by Vice-Mayor Johnson to approve the request from Bland Ministry Center/Big Walker Dentistry to waive fees in the amount of \$3,215 for two (2) additional days - Wednesday, June 24, Thursday, June 25 - for the use of the Wytheville Meeting Center for the Mission of Mercy event scheduled for June 24-28, 2026. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she thinks this is a great program, and that a lot of the Town's citizens and others can benefit from this program. The Council thanked Bland Ministry Center/Big Walker Dentistry for what they do. Councilwoman Pattison explained that she is not completely against this request, however, the Council originally agreed on waiving the fees for three (3) days of use of the Wytheville Meeting Center in the amount of \$9,550. She noted that every space will be used the entirety of the event, and that no other rentals can be made during that time. She inquired if the Council is okay with waiving the extra fees and giving up extra space at the Meeting Center during that time. Councilwoman Atkins inquired if Dr. Laura Settles could please come to the podium and discuss this request. Dr. Settles was recognized and stated that the additional two (2) days of use will be used for event setup, because all the floors will need to be covered, deliveries will be made with portable dental equipment, patients at this event would need screening, etc. Councilwoman Pattison commented that she is agreeable with the original waiver of fees for three (3) days, however, she has some reservations regarding waiving the additional fees. She noted that she thinks the Council should be conscious about the amount of fees being waived. Councilman Hand stated he feels this is a small investment for a great cause. Dr. Settles advised that she would like to add that they have received confirmation from specialists at this event about root canal procedures. 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: Councilman Hand, Jr., Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Atkins, Vice-Mayor Johnson. Voting Against: Councilwoman Pattison.

D. RE: WYTHEVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT - AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT ANNUAL ESTATE DONATION FUNDS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the request of the Wytheville Fire and Rescue Department for authorization to accept an annual estate donation of funds and to incorporate the funds into the department's annual budget to be used for equipment. Interim Town Manager Slemp stated that he would like to add that the original donation amount was \$6,698.31, however, that amount was increased to \$7,655.21. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve the request of Wytheville Fire and Rescue Department to annually accept funds received from an estate donation and to incorporate those funds into its annual operating budget to be used for equipment.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Johnson, Seconded by Councilwoman Atkins. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. Councilwoman Atkins inquired if purchases made with these funds would be documented. Interim Town Manager Slemp stated that is correct. 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.

E. RE: WYTHEVILLE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT - AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT BENEFITY GRANT FUNDS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the request of the Wytheville Fire and Rescue Department for authorization to accept grant funds in the amount of \$5,000 from Benefity to be used to purchase new firehose nozzles. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the request of the Wytheville Fire and Rescue Department to accept grant funds in the amount of \$5,000 from Benefity and to appropriate those funds for the purchase of new firehose nozzles.

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

F. RE: EMERGENCY SERVICES AGREEMENT AND TOWER SITE LEASE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE AND WYTHE COUNTY

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the request for the approval of an Emergency Services Agreement between the Town of Wytheville and Wythe County for fire and EMS services; and, for the approval of two (2) long-term lease agreements for the tower sites located on Sand Mountain and Pine Ridge. She stated that Interim Town Manager Slemp would give the Council more information on this item. Interim Town Manager Slemp noted that the agreement for fire and EMS services had been updated, and that the Town already leases the two (2) tower sites to Wythe County which was part of the lease for the old jail site. He commented that the long-term leases for the tower sites are 40-year leases, which is for the 911 System that both the Town and County operate. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to approve the Emergency Services Agreement between the Town of Wytheville and Wythe County for fire and EMS services; and, to authorize the execution of a long-term lease agreement for the tower sites located on Sand Mountain and Pine Ridge.

Motion made by Councilman Hand, Jr., Seconded by Councilwoman Pattison. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote: Voting Yea: Vice-Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman Atkins, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilman Hand, Jr.

G. RE: SCHEDULING OF PUBLIC HEARING - RENEWAL OF LEASE WITH MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS OF AMERICA (SAND MOUNTAIN TOWER SITE)

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider scheduling a public hearing for the June 8, 2026, Town Council meeting to consider the renewal of a lease of Town property with Mobile Communications of America located at the Sand

Mountain Tower site. She stated that Interim Town Manager Slemp would provide the Council with more information on this matter. Interim Town Manager Slemp noted that the Town already leases this site to Mobile Communications of America, and it was the consensus of the Council to increase the lease from \$800 to \$825 per month. He commented that a public hearing is required due to the proposed changes to the lease. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to schedule a public hearing for the June 8, 2026, Town Council meeting, to consider the renewal of a lease of Town property, for the Sand Mountain Tower site, with Mobile Communications of America.

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.

H. RE: SCHEDULING PUBLIC HEARING - FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ADJUSTMENTS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider scheduling a public hearing for the June 22, 2026, Town Council meeting, to consider appropriations to the Fiscal Year 2025-26 departmental budgets due to unexpected expenditures and revenues during the fiscal year. She stated that Interim Town Manager Slemp will provide the Council with more information regarding this matter. Interim Town Manager Slemp briefly updated the Council regarding this matter, and he noted that this is typically done every year. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to schedule a public hearing for the June 22, 2026, Town Council meeting, to consider appropriations to the Fiscal Year 2025-26 departmental budgets due to unexpected expenditures and revenues during the fiscal year.

Motion made by Vice-Mayor Johnson, Seconded by Councilman Hand, Jr. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. Councilwoman Atkins inquired if there would be a list of the expenditures and revenues for the Council to review. Interim Town Manager Slemp stated that the Council would be provided with this information. 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, Councilman Hand, Jr.

11. RE: APPOINTMENTS

A. RE: RECOMMENDATION TO WYTHE COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT - APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE WYTHEVILLE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider a recommendation to the Wythe County Circuit Court for the appointment of a Wytheville Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) member to fill the expired term of Mr. Charles Johnson (term expired September 10, 2024). Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired of Town Clerk Jones as to who would be filling Mr. Johnson's term on the BZA. Town Clerk Jones stated that Mr. David Schmidt had agreed to serve as the one Planning Commission member who is allowed to serve on the BZA, as well. Vice-Mayor Johnson commented that she just wanted to clarify who the proposed BZA member was for the record. Councilwoman Atkins inquired if there were any other applicants. Town Clerk Jones advised that there were no other applicants. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to recommend that the Wythe County Circuit Court appoint Mr. David Schmidt as a member to the Wytheville Board of Zoning Appeals to fill the expired term of Mr. Charles Johnson (term expired September 10, 2024) for a term of five years (term expires September 10, 2029).

Motion made by Councilman Hand, Jr., Seconded by Councilwoman Pattison. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor, and there being no opposition: Voting Yea: Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilwoman Atkins, Councilman Hand, Jr.

12. RE: OTHER BUSINESS

A. RE: 2026 TOWN COUNCIL RULES OF PROCEDURE DISCUSSION

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is discussion regarding the 2026 Town Council Rules of Procedure (adopted February 9, 2026). She stated that Councilwoman Atkins will lead the discussion regarding this topic. Councilwoman Atkins noted that she would like for the Council to consider the idea of changing some of the dialogue in the Rules of Procedure. She commented that Interim Town Manager Slempp may have some suggestions regarding this matter. Interim Town Manager Slempp stated that he has spoken with a majority of the Council members and Town Attorney Cassell regarding this item. He explained that Town staff can only put language into the Rules of Procedure that the Council approves. Interim Town Manager Slempp explained that he believes there should be room to include dialogue stating that anyone should be able to address the Town Council. He then discussed the reason why this dialogue should be added to the Rules of Procedure, and he noted that it is only fair to the citizens who live in, own property in town or own a business in town. Councilman Hand stated that he represents the citizens of the Town of Wytheville, and that he wants to be cautious about who the Council represents by not allowing the floor to be opened to just anyone who wants to address the Council. He suggested that the Council could vote to allow a county citizen, or someone who does not live in town, to address the Council if they have a topic of interest. Councilman Hand advised that he would like to have further discussion regarding this topic. Discussion continued regarding the Town Council Rules of Procedure and the dialogue for individuals who wish to address the Council. It was the consensus of the Council to add the 2026 Town Council Rules of Procedure (revised/adopted February 9, 2026) as an item on the next regular Council meeting agenda for discussion and review by the Council.

13. RE: REPORTS

A. RE: STAFF TIME - INTERIM TOWN MANAGER CHRISTOPHER SLEMP

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Interim Town Manager - Staff Time. Interim Town Manager Slempp congratulated Town Treasurer Pennington for obtaining her Master Governmental Treasurer Certification from the Treasurers Association of Virginia. The Council congratulated Town Treasurer Pennington, as well. Interim Town Manager Slempp congratulated Downtown Wytheville, Inc. and all those who were involved in helping obtain the 2026 Great American Main Street Award.

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 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 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 Councilman Hand had anything he would like to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilman Hand stated that he would like to discuss the Joint Industrial Development Authority (JIDA) of Wythe County's budget request. He noted that he is concerned that the JIDA Board of Directors met in April 2025, held a closed meeting and voted in a closed meeting to give its employees a 24 to 30 percent pay increase. Councilman Hand explained that in the State of Virginia, it is against the law to vote in a closed meeting, and that votes can only be taken in an open meeting. He advised that he is very concerned about this taking place, and that the JIDA failed to inform the Wythe County Board of Supervisors, the Town of Wytheville and the Town of Rural Retreat about this pay increase since they are funded by these three (3) localities. Councilman Hand then continued to discuss his concerns regarding the JIDA's previous pay increase and its most recent budget request. He inquired of the

Council regarding what their opinions are regarding the idea of a meeting being held between the Wythe County Administrator, the Rural Retreat Town Manager and the Wytheville Interim Town Manager meeting to discuss a path forward with the JIDA of Wythe County. Discussion was then held regarding the Council members' opinions regarding Councilman Hand's suggestion for a meeting to be held between the three (3) localities' management regarding the JIDA of Wythe County. It was the consensus of the Council for the Interim Town Manager and the Town Attorney to schedule a meeting with the Town of Rural Retreat Town Manager and the Wythe County Administrator to discuss the options that the three (3) entities have regarding the future with the JIDA of Wythe County.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Councilwoman Pattison had anything she would like to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilwoman Pattison stated that she was honored to take the trip to Tulsa, Oklahoma, along with the Downtown Wytheville, Inc. Board, Vice-Mayor Johnson and Mayor Taylor, to be recognized for the Great American Main Street Award. She noted that this was an exciting time for the town and that history was made. Councilwoman Pattison commented that this event touched her heart. She advised that individuals from across the nation acknowledged Downtown Wytheville, Inc. Executive Director Todd Wolford and wanted to know his story. She explained that Executive Director Wolford did an excellent job portraying this story. Councilwoman Pattison continued to express her gratitude for Downtown Wytheville, Inc., Town Council, previous Town Councils and previous Town staff for their hard work that helped contribute to receiving this award.

Councilwoman Pattison stated that she would like to ask the Council to consider the idea of allowing her to use her portion of the Council Development Fund to be used to fund a majority of the Professional Architectural Design Services for a Feasibility Study of the Wytheville Fire and Police Department building. She noted that this study would determine whether the building will meet all the Town's needs in the future, if it can be restructured, remodeled, etc. Councilman Hand inquired about the total cost of the Feasibility Study. Councilwoman Pattison advised that the total amount of the Feasibility Study will be around \$28,000. She explained that she is willing to spend her portion of the Council Development Fund to make sure this is completed, and that Interim Town Manager/Fire Chief Slemph and Police Chief Hash have agreed to use \$4,000 each from their budgets to have this study done. A brief discussion was held regarding the Feasibility Study, what all would be included with it and past improvements that have been made at the Fire Station.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Pattison and seconded by Vice-Mayor Johnson to authorize Councilwoman Pattison to proceed with the use of her Council Development Funds in the amount of \$20,000, to be used to fund a majority of the Professional Architectural Design Services for the Town of Wytheville Fire and Police Departments Feasibility Study, which will be provided by Colley Architects, P.C. of Blacksburg, Virginia. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote: Voting Yea: Vice-Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman Atkins, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilman Hand, Jr.

Mayor Taylor stated that she believes many people are feeling heart felt emotions regarding Downtown Wytheville receiving the Great American Main Street Award. She noted that it took 20 years of hard work to get to this point. Mayor Taylor explained that this award says a lot for the past and present Town employees, Town Council, Downtown Wytheville, Inc., etc. and their vision.

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

Mayor Taylor inquired if Vice-Mayor Johnson had anything she would like to discuss during Council Member Time. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she was happy to be able to serve on the Downtown Wytheville, Inc. Board for the last two (2) years. She expressed hats off to Downtown Wytheville, Inc. Executive Director Todd Wolford and former Downtown Wytheville, Inc. Assistant Director Charlie Jones, and she commented that they have done a wonderful job. Vice-Mayor Johnson commented that it was an amazing event for Downtown Wytheville, Inc. to receive the Great

American Main Street Award. She continued to express her gratitude and support for Downtown Wytheville, Inc. and this event.

Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she would like to thank the Town Council for supporting her project for the Blue Light towers that were placed in Town parks. She noted that the Town would not have been able to get those towers if the Council had not voted to support and approve them. She explained that people have approached her, and they feel safe in the Town's parks. She thanked the Town Council, again, for its support, and the Town staff who were involved with completing this project.

15. RE: CLOSED MEETING PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.2-3711 (A.) (3.) - REQUEST FOR AN EASEMENT ON NORTH 4TH STREET; AND, PURSUANT TO SECTION 2.2-3711 (A.) (8.) - DERELICT STRUCTURES

Mayor Taylor advised that it would now be necessary to go into a Closed Meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A.) (3.) Discussion or consideration of the public acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body - request for an easement on North 4th Street; and, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A.) (8.) Consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel - derelict structures. She inquired if there was a motion to go into a Closed Meeting.

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. (7:40 p.m.)

16. RE: RECONVENE AND CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Mayor Taylor advised that a motion and second is necessary to reconvene into open session and to certify the Closed Meeting. She read the into the record, as follows:

Resolution - Certification of Closed Meeting

Whereas, the Wytheville Town Council has convened a Closed Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and,

Whereas, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Wytheville Town Council that such Closed Meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Wytheville Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the Closed Meeting to which this certification resolution applies; and, (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the Closed Meeting were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting by the Wytheville Town Council.

Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to certify the Closed Meeting.

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. (8:15 p.m.)

17. RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting. (8:16 p.m.)

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Brandi N. Jones, Town Clerk