



MINUTES

WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

MONDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2025 AT 6:00 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING - 150 EAST MONROE STREET
WYTHEVILLE, VA 24382

1. 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, Assistant Town Manager Elaine Holeyton, Town Attorney Paul Cassell, Chief Deputy Clerk Brandi Jones, Computer Operations Manager Ron Jude, Assistant Computer Operations Manager Jeff Hooper, Town Treasurer Angela Pennington, Director of Public Utilities and Engineering Billy Anderson, Police Chief Joel Hash, Deputy Police Chief Bryan Bard, Police Captain Kenneth Akers, Police Investigator Darren Umberger, Police Lieutenant Brandon Smith, Police Officer Kyle Counts, Jamie Rowlett, Kenneth Rowlett, Tammy Nixon, Robin Fasano, Tim Jones, Shannon Umberger, Ronnie Umberger, Gary Dean, Tim Vaught, Terry Umberger, Roger Hall, Gary Gillman, Steve Rouse, Robert Green, Hugh Arrington, Denise Cook, Jody Richard, Becky Harrison, Vanessa Baumgardner, Kendra Eastwood, Jack Titter, Fran Bundy, Bob Bundy, Dwayne Murrell, Joseph O. Salerno, Claude Earhart, Barry Wright, Chris Reeves, Kerry Eans, David Bledsowe, Rick Rogers, Lynn Arnold, Tim Monahan, Stacy Terry (via telephone), Jason McNeil, Zachary Robinson, David Sharitz, Tammy Grubb, Michael Scheneman, Brook Jackson, Shane Thompson, Tommy Atkins, Charles Myers, Patty Myers, Randal Hamm, Gabby Hamm, Michael Rouse, Rolland Cook, Nancy Martin, Kirk Chamberlain, Henry Cooke, Jamie Wyatt, Glenda Salerno, Sharon Morris, Wythe Morris, Rocky Wyn, Tim Enniss, Tom Smith, Lee Mathias, Kenny Powers, Sara Roberson, Clayton Waller, Karen Mangum, Angela E. Porter, Glenda Crockett-Eans, Bill Leighton, Nick Martin, Diane Hawkins

RE: STATEMENT FROM MAYOR BETH TAYLOR

Mayor Taylor advised that she has a statement she would like to make before starting the meeting. She stated that Agenda Item 11D., Ordinance No. 1460 regarding firearms on the meeting agenda, was expressly based on Virginia Code § 15.2-915 that authorizes localities to regulate firearms. Mayor Taylor commented that from the vast amount of comments received, it is obvious that the citizens are not in favor of this ordinance. She noted, therefore, the ordinance is going to be removed from the Town Council meeting agenda, and it will not be considered for adoption.

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 Councilwoman Atkins.

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 amend the agenda.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Johnson and seconded by Councilwoman Pattison to amend the Town Council meeting agenda to remove item 11D., Ordinance No. 1460

regarding firearms and approve the remainder of the agenda. 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, Vice-Mayor Johnson, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilman Hand, Jr.

6. RE: CONSENT AGENDA

A. RE: MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2025, AND THE JOINT TOWN COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION WORK SESSION OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

Mayor Taylor presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of September 22, 2025, and the Joint Town Council and Planning Commission work session of September 25, 2025. She inquired if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Atkins and seconded by Vice-Mayor Johnson to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of September 22, 2025, and the Joint Town Council and Planning Commission work session of September 25, 2025, with an amendment to the September 22, 2025, regular meeting minutes by adding a sentence regarding a boom flail tractor and employee safety. 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. RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS, REQUESTS, RESOLUTIONS, COUNCIL DECISIONS

A. RE: WYATT REZONE REQUEST - STAFF REPORT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a public hearing to consider the request of Roger Wyatt for the rezoning of property located at 405 North 4th Street, Tax Map Parcel #41A-1-27-8, from R-2 Residential to B-2 Business. She explained that before she opens the public hearing, Assistant Town Manager Holeton would present staff comments to the Council. Assistant Town Manager Holeton commented that she would like to remind everyone attending the meeting that Agenda Items 8A. and 8B. are zoning issues that require a public hearing, and that they are not related to the Second Amendment. She then gave a brief overview of the Staff Report she prepared for the Council regarding the request of Roger Wyatt to rezone property located at 405 North 4th Street. Assistant Town Manager Holeton stated that the Planning Commission held a public hearing and considered this request at its September meeting, and that the Planning Commission voted by unanimous consent to recommend to the Town Council that this rezone request be approved. She advised that, at this time, Staff has not received any public comments regarding this request.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING - WYATT REZONE REQUEST

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to receive comments regarding the request of Roger Wyatt for the rezoning of property located at 405 North 4th Street, Tax Map Parcel #41A-1-27-8, from R-2 Residential to B-2 Business. She inquired if there was anyone who wished to address the Council regarding the public hearing. Mayor Taylor advised that there was no one listed on the sign-in sheet who wished to speak during the public hearing, however, if there is anyone who would like to speak, now would be the time to do so. There being no one who wished to speak during the public hearing, Mayor Taylor stated that she would declare the public hearing closed and proceed with the agenda.

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1458

Mayor Taylor presented Ordinance No. 1458, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to rezone the Roger Wyatt property located at 405 North 4th Street, Tax Map Parcel #41A-1-27-8, from R-2 Residential to B-2 Business, on first and final reading. She inquired if there was a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1458, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, to rezone the Roger

Wyatt property located at 405 North 4th Street, Tax Map Parcel #41A-1-27-8, from R-2 Residential to B-2 Business, on first and final reading.

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

B. RE: POWERS SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT REQUEST - STAFF REPORT

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a public hearing to consider the request of Kenny Powers for a Special Exception Permit (SEP) to allow a homestay use without the host being present and to allow a use for a wholesale coffee bean roastery for property located at 640 and 650 West Lee Highway, Tax Map Parcel #41A-3-7 through #41A-3-14, in a B-2 Business District. She explained that before she opens the public hearing, Assistant Town Manager Holeyton would present staff comments to the Council. Assistant Town Manager Holeyton briefly reviewed the Staff Report she prepared regarding the Powers SEP request with the Council. She stated that the Planning Commission reviewed this request and held a public hearing at its September meeting, and they voted unanimously to make a recommendation to the Council that this SEP request be approved as presented. Assistant Town Manager Holeyton noted that Staff has not received any public comments regarding Mr. Powers' SEP request.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING - POWERS SPECIAL EXCEPTION REQUEST

Mayor Taylor advised that the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to receive comments regarding the request of Kenny Powers for a Special Exception Permit (SEP) to allow a homestay use without the host being present and to allow a use for a wholesale coffee bean roastery for property located at 640 and 650 West Lee Highway, Tax Map Parcel #41A-3-7 through #41A-3-14, in a B-2 Business District. She inquired if there was anyone who wished to address the Council regarding the public hearing. Mayor Taylor advised that there was no one listed on the sign-in sheet who wished to speak during the public hearing, however, if there is anyone who would like to speak, now would be the time to do so. There being no one who wished to speak during the public hearing, Mayor Taylor stated that she would declare the public hearing closed and proceed with the agenda.

RE: POWERS SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT ISSUANCE

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is consideration by the Town Council to consider approving a Special Exception Permit to allow a homestay use without the host being present and to allow a use for a wholesale coffee bean roastery for property located at 640 and 650 West Lee Highway, Tax Map Parcel #41A-3-7 through #41A-3-14, in a B-2 Business District.

A motion was made by Vice-Mayor Johnson and seconded by Councilman Hand, Jr. to approve issuing a Special Exception Permit to allow a homestay use without the host being present and to allow a use for a wholesale coffee bean roastery for property located at 640 and 650 West Lee Highway, Tax Map Parcel #41A-3-7 through #41A-3-14, in a B-2 Business District. 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, Vice-Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman Atkins.

8. RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. She stated that there are several 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, and that each citizen is allowed five (5) minutes to address the Council during Citizens Period. Mayor Taylor inquired if Ms. Robin Fasano could please come to the podium to address the Council.

Ms. Robin Fasano was recognized and stated that she resides on West Spiller Street in Wytheville. She stated that she would like to address the Council regarding agenda item

11D, the proposed gun ordinance. Ms. Fasano advised that she is attending the meeting due to the Facebook post about the proposed gun ordinance, which was removed from the agenda, and that she is sure that is the reason why most of the people attended the meeting. She noted that she read the agenda and saw that the proposed ordinance was being considered on first and final reading and she was concerned about a first and final reading, on a Second Amendment issue, because she had not seen anything about this matter before now. Ms. Fasano commented that she served the Town many years ago as a Police Officer and she holds her constitutional right to bear firearms very near to her. She inquired of the Council regarding how the proposed gun ordinance was placed on the agenda, and who made the motion to add that item to the agenda. Mayor Taylor responded to Ms. Fasano's inquiry, and she stated that the Council is a team and that they are not going to put one particular person on the spot. Ms. Fasano inquired what would stop the Council, as a team, for this Council meeting to end and this not to proceed into an "Executive Session." She inquired of the Council what is to say that this item will not go into an "Executive Session," and that the public does not know anything about it. Ms. Fasano stated that law-abiding citizens have the right to carry firearms. She advised that the fact that this proposed gun ordinance even came up in the Town of Wytheville is disgusting and disappointing. Ms. Fasano commented that she will finish her remarks by saying that there are probably going to be a lot of individuals who will be watching the Council during re-elections. Councilman Hand stated that he would like to respond to Ms. Fasano's comments and share some things about how this topic made it on the agenda. He noted that the Town Council does not see the agenda before it goes out to the public. Councilman Hand explained that he was absent from a Council meeting where a Closed Meeting was held to discuss ways to make Town parks safer. He advised that he does not think the proposed gun ordinance was intended the way that the public perceived it. Councilman Hand stated that it was placed on the agenda for consideration to help make parks, etc. safer. He commented that the proposed gun ordinance included information that was taken from the State Code, which is the same language that Wythe County used to enforce this in its parks. Councilman Hand stated that the Town's proposed gun ordinance included all Town owned property and not just the Town's parks. He explained that he will stand by Town staff because they were doing their best to answer the questions Council had about how to make the parks safer. Councilman Hand advised that, however, he would never vote "Yes" for this ordinance, and he hopes that all the Council will see what is on the meeting agendas before it goes out to the public. He commented that he has not heard anything from the Wytheville Police Chief stating that the Town needs to restrict the carrying of firearms. Councilman Hand apologized to the citizens for this matter, and he noted that he thinks this was a huge mistake, but he will continue to back the Town's staff. Ms. Fasano stated that she feels safe in her home, in public and after dark with her firearm. She advised that, obviously, this was concerning to citizens based on the large attendance. Councilman Hand thanked the citizens and the public for attending the Council meeting. Councilwoman Atkins stated that she wanted to let the citizens know that she was part of the Closed Meetings that were discussed earlier. She commented that she does not recall firearms being discussed in any of those Closed Meetings. Councilwoman Atkins advised that she did not ask for this topic to be placed on the agenda. She noted that she has never questioned a Council meeting agenda before, but she does not plan to micromanage the Town Manager. Councilwoman Atkins reiterated that she does not recall ever having an issue with the meeting agendas, however, she will contact other Council members and/or Town staff for clarification if she has questions regarding the meeting agendas. She stated that she wants to make it clear that she did not ask for the proposed gun ordinance to be placed on the Council meeting agenda.

Mr. Terry Umberger was recognized and stated that he resides on Laurel Run in Wythe County. He stated that he would like to address the Council regarding the Town's water tower. Mr. Umberger noted that he would like to know how many people it will take for a petition to change the color of the Town's water tower. Mr. Umberger then expressed his concerns regarding why he would like for the color of the Town's water tower to be changed. Mayor Taylor advised that the Council could have dialogue regarding this topic and Mr. Umberger's request regarding the water tower's colors. Councilman Hand stated that the Town's water tower has been painted for many years, but it was painted specific colors for the Chautauqua Festival. He then briefly reviewed his reasoning for not agreeing with Mr. Umberger's idea of changing the color of the water tower. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Umberger for his comments.

Mr. Shane Thompson was recognized. Mr. Thompson resides on Barrett Mill Road in Wythe County. Mr. Thompson stated that he would like to address the Council regarding

the proposed gun ordinance that was removed from the agenda. He explained that he felt like Ms. Fasano did a great job addressing the concerns of most of the individuals attending the meeting. Mr. Thompson then expressed his concerns and opinions regarding the proposed ordinance and stated that he feels safest when being able to protect himself and those around him. He advised that restricting the rights of citizens only helps criminals commit crimes because they will not be facing a potential extra step of resistance. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Thompson for his comments.

Mr. Charles Myers was recognized and stated that he resides on Holston Road in Wytheville. He stated that he would like to address the Council regarding the proposed gun ordinance. Mr. Myers commented that Ms. Fasano and Mr. Thompson covered most of what he had to discuss, however, he would like to know what the rest of the Council members have to say about this topic. Councilwoman Pattison stated that she is in support of the citizens' rights afforded to them regarding firearms. Vice-Mayor Johnson advised that she supports the Constitution. She noted that she did not ask for this topic to be placed on the agenda. Vice-Mayor Johnson explained that citizens should be able to carry weapons to protect themselves. She commented that when she saw this topic on the agenda, she had to give it a second thought, however, she knew this would be an issue when she saw the proposed gun ordinance included on all Town property. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she would not want to intentionally infringe upon anyone's rights. She noted that she thought the wording could have been better and the Council could have had more dialogue about the wording to mirror the County's language. She commented that she wants people to be safe, and that citizens' safety matters to her. Vice-Mayor Johnson reiterated that she did not ask for this topic to be placed on the agenda. She commented that she received a message and a call about this being on the agenda. Vice-Mayor Johnson advised that being on the Council is not an easy job and they try to make decisions as best as they can. Mayor Taylor stated that she supports "Conceal and Carry." She noted that she feels like removing this item from the agenda was the best decision.

Mr. Randall Hamm was recognized and stated that he resides on Wytheview Drive in Wytheville. He stated that he would like to address the Council regarding the proposed gun ordinance, and he noted that the individuals who spoke before him addressed most of their concerns. Mr. Hamm advised that the transparency that Councilman Hand provided in his initial response is what the citizens came to the meeting to hear. He explained that he has been following the Town Council meetings on YouTube for the last few months, and he finds them very informative, however, in the last few months he has seen some rhetoric that has caused him concern. Mr. Hamm continued to voice his concerns regarding this topic and other topics. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Hamm for his comments.

Mr. Chris Reeves was recognized and stated that he resides in Max Meadows and attended the meeting on behalf of Mr. Stacy Terry who he was connected with via telephone. Mr. Reeves advised that he has a letter from Mr. Terry that he would like to read to the Council. He noted that Stacy Terry resides on Havens Road in Wytheville. Mr. Reeves then read the letter on behalf of Stacy Terry opposing the proposed gun ordinance and stating that local government must protect the Second Amendment, noting that this item should never have been on the agenda and requesting the Council members to stand up and accept responsibility. Councilman Hand stated that he would like to respond to Mr. Terry by stating that it has been very clear and well spoken, at this meeting, that four (4) of the Council members did not know about this agenda item. Mr. Terry addressed the Council via telephone, and he noted that, as elected officials, the Council is responsible for knowing what is on its meeting agendas. Councilman Hand advised that this was a mistake of management and that firearms were never discussed. Discussion continued regarding the proposed gun ordinance, how the mistake of adding this topic to the agenda could have been made by Town management and some of the Council members trying to reach out to Mr. Terry regarding this topic. Councilwoman Atkins noted that she would like to clarify that she was not sure if this was a mistake, and that during her time serving on the Council, she does not recall seeing the agenda before it is published. She inquired of Interim Town Corvin if she is recalling correctly. Interim Town Manager Corvin stated that, normally, the Council does not see the agenda before it is published. She advised that the agenda is discussed with the Mayor before it is published, which follows the approved Town Council Rules of Procedure. Discussion was held regarding the Town Council Rules of Procedure and making changes to it regarding the agenda preparation process. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she would like to say that she supports Town staff because they work hard to take care of all five (5) Council members. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Terry and Mr. Reeves for their comments.

Ms. Sara Robinson was recognized and stated that she is attending the meeting to discuss the Walnut Road culvert issues with the Council. She noted that Norfolk Southern contacted her regarding the culverts. Ms. Robinson then reviewed the information she received from Norfolk Southern regarding the culverts, potential replacement, types of culverts, etc. with the Council. Mayor Taylor thanked Ms. Robinson for providing the Council with that information and for an update on this matter.

Mr. Kenneth Rowlett was recognized and stated that he resides on South 12th Street in Wytheville. He noted that he would like to address the Council regarding the proposed gun ordinance. Mr. Rowlett commented that those who spoke before him already discussed this matter, and he did not want to be redundant. He then discussed his concerns and views on park safety, the homeless population and the drug activity in town. Mr. Rowlett commented that the Town should focus on these issues instead of gun control. Councilman Hand advised that he would like to address some of the concerns that Mr. Rowlett expressed. He stated that he met with the Wytheville Police Chief, Drug Task Force team, Interim Town Manager Corvin and the Mayor regarding "backpack dealers." Councilman Hand commented that the Town is aware of what is going on and will be getting more aggressive regarding dealing with this matter. He stated that he is giving citizens his word that the Town's parks will be safer. Mr. Rowlett explained issues that he has been experiencing at his home with "backpack dealers" and the homeless population. Councilwoman Atkins requested that Mr. Rowlett contact Interim Town Manager Corvin regarding his areas of concern. A brief discussion continued regarding these issues and concerns that Mr. Rowlett and others are experiencing in town. Interim Town Manager Corvin stated that she would speak with Mr. Rowlett about these issues and concerns. Mayor Taylor thanked Mr. Rowlett for his comments.

Mr. Terry Umberger was recognized and stated that he would like to address the Council again about the Mountain Lynx Transit and the homeless population in town. He noted that he drives a bus for Mountain Lynx Transit. Mr. Umberger commented that there are five (5) buses, and that they move the homeless people from different hotels to Open Door Community, etc. He advised that they provide more transportation for the homeless than they do for citizens. Mr. Umberger continued to discuss the transportation they provide to the homeless population and his concerns regarding how this affects the service they are trying to provide for other citizens. Mayor Taylor stated that the Council would discuss his concerns with District Three Governmental Cooperative, and she thanked Mr. Umberger for his comments.

9. RE: RECESS

It was the consensus of the Council to take a brief recess. (7:10 p.m.)

RE: RECONVENE

It was the consensus of the Council to reconvene the meeting. (7:18 p.m.)

10. RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD (CONTINUED)

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is a continuation of Citizens' Period. She requested Mr. Bryan Bard to come to the podium to address the Council during Citizens' Period.

Mr. Bryan Bard was recognized and stated that he is the Wytheville Police Department Deputy Chief. He noted that he would like to discuss a proposal that was made by the Police Department regarding enhancing public safety in Wytheville's growing public spaces. Deputy Chief Bard commented that there have been over 500 safety patrols conducted in the Town's parks, this year alone. He advised that they are proposing a dedicated Law Enforcement Park Police Patrol to address the challenges and to restore proactive community policing. Deputy Chief Bard stated that the Wytheville Police Department is requesting the addition of one new Police Officer position to complete its Patrol Division staffing. He noted that this addition will create the Law Enforcement Park Police Patrol position, which would be a fully certified officer dedicated to ensuring safety and trust across key Town assets. Deputy Chief Bard explained that this new officer would be sent to the academy in January 2026, which would bring the department's total academy class to seven (7) officers. He advised that the primary areas of responsibility would include downtown Wytheville, the Parks and Recreation Center, the Wytheville Visitors Center, the Wytheville Museums and all Town parks including Ager Park. Deputy

Chief Bard stated that this position is an investment in public safety, quality of life and community trust. He commented that it will allow the department's general patrol to focus on urgent service calls while ensuring the Town's most visible spaces are constantly monitored by a proactive, fully certified Park Police Patrol Officer. Deputy Chief Bard continued to discuss this requested position and the continuation and addition of daily patrols in Town parks. Mayor Taylor stated that she would like the Council to discuss and consider this position in the near future. Vice-Mayor Johnson noted that she would like to have further dialogue regarding this new position. Councilman Hand inquired about the deadline to hire someone for this position. Deputy Chief Bard explained that the position will need to be advertised, interviews will need to be conducted, and someone will need to be hired before the academy begins in January 2026. Councilwoman Pattison advised that she likes this concept, and that it will help make the parks, museums, etc., safer. Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired if a Work Session could be held prior to the next Council meeting to discuss this position. Interim Town Manager Corvin stated that a Work Session can be scheduled for November 10, before the regular Town Council meeting. Councilman Hand advised that he would like for Deputy Chief Bard to provide information about the possible narcotics canine at the Work Session. Councilwoman Atkins inquired of Deputy Chief Bard about the Bike Patrol Officers. Deputy Chief Bard noted that the Bike Patrol Officers have just graduated from the Cardinal Police Academy, however, the Police Department is short-staffed so they cannot dedicate those officers specifically to bike patrol, at this time. Discussion continued regarding the Police Department's current staffing numbers and the possible Law Enforcement Park Police Patrol position. Chief Hash stated that he would like to add that he was told the homeless shelter in Marion has shut down, and Wytheville will most likely be seeing more homeless people in town. Councilwoman Atkins inquired if the possible Law Enforcement Park Police Officer could also make rounds at other Town facilities, as well. Deputy Chief Bard stated that this could be done based on need.

11. RE: PRESENTATIONS BY TOWN COUNCIL

A. RE: RESOLUTION - POLICE CHIEF JOEL HASH

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is the adoption and presentation of a resolution to Police Chief Joel Hash recognizing his 40-year work anniversary with the Town of Wytheville. She inquired if there was a motion to adopt the resolution recognizing Police Chief Joel Hash's 40-year work anniversary with the Town of Wytheville.

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.

Mayor Taylor invited Police Chief Hash to come forward for the presentation of the resolution and to have a photo taken. She read the resolution and presented it to Police Chief Hash. A copy of the resolution is attached and made part of the minutes.

**12. RE: PUBLIC HEARINGS, REQUESTS, RESOLUTIONS, COUNCIL DECISIONS
(CONTINUED)**

A. RE: DISCUSSION REGARDING REQUESTING THE WYTHEVILLE PLANNING COMMISSION TO CONTINUE WORKING ON THE TOWN OF WYTHEVILLE UNIFIED DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is discussion regarding requesting the Wytheville Planning Commission to continue working on the Town of Wytheville Unified Development Ordinance (UDO). She noted that Assistant Town Manager Holeton will present additional information to the Council regarding this topic. Assistant Town Manager Holeton stated that at the Joint Meeting of the Town Council and the Planning Commission held on September 25, 2025, the Town Council and the Planning Commission decided to fix some of the errors with the current Zoning Ordinance, and held discussion about, potentially, resuming some of the work on the UDO. She noted that the action needed, at this meeting, is for the Council to officially request the Planning Commission to continue working on the UDO. Assistant Town Manager Holeton commented that she would answer any questions that the Council may have, at this time. Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired whether the changes that were

made and discussed at the joint meeting have been sent to the Council. Assistant Town Manager Holeton advised that the Planning Commission has been discussing the changes to the Zoning Ordinance, and that the changes have not been finalized. She inquired if Vice-Mayor Johnson was referring to the Zoning Ordinance changes or the draft UDO. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that at the joint meeting, she inquired if copies of the information that was removed from the original version of the UDO could be sent to the Council members. Assistant Town Manager Holeton stated that she has not sent those copies to the Council, and she apologized for this. A brief discussion was held regarding the exact information that Vice-Mayor Johnson would like for the Council members to receive. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to request the Wytheville Planning Commission to continue working on the Town of Wytheville Unified Development Ordinance (UDO).

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

B. RE: ESTABLISHMENT OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF ACT REIMBURSEMENT RATE

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to consider the establishment of the Personal Property Tax Relief Act Reimbursement Rate at 37.69 percent. She noted that Town Treasurer Pennington will present the Council additional information regarding this topic. Town Treasurer Pennington stated that each year, the Town Council must establish a Personal Property Tax Reimbursement Rate. She explained that 37.69 percent was calculated based on amounts from The Commissioner of the Revenue's Office, and that the total funding the Town received from the State is \$61,075.92. Councilman Hand inquired about the Personal Property Tax percentage and how it is based on assessments. Town Treasurer Pennington noted that vehicles are divided into different categories based on value from \$1,000 and under, \$1,000 to \$20,000 and \$20,000 and above. She then explained how these categories are used to calculate the Personal Property Tax Reimbursement Rate. Town Treasurer Pennington stated that the Personal Property Tax Reimbursement Rate does not apply to boats or trailers, only vehicles. Councilman Hand inquired of Town Treasurer Pennington regarding who sets the rates. Town Treasurer Pennington advised that the Treasurer's Office uses the amount of funding that is received by the State, then The Commissioner of the Revenue's Office divides the vehicles into categories and gives the Town a total of vehicles that are in those categories to divide by the amount of State funding. Councilman Hand inquired if the Town has any authority to change that rate. Discussion was held regarding if the Town has authority to change the Personal Property Tax Reimbursement Rate. Town Attorney Cassell stated that he will look into this to see if the rate can be lowered, increased, etc. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any further discussion regarding this topic. There being none, she inquired if there was a motion to establish the Personal Property Tax Relief Act Reimbursement Rate at 37.69 percent.

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, Vice-Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman Atkins.

C. RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1455

Mayor Taylor presented Ordinance No. 1455, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 3, Animals, Article I. In General, so as to include a new section entitled, "Cat Shelter Purpose, Mission and Operation," of the Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, on first and final reading. She noted that Interim Town Manager Corvin will present the Council with additional information regarding this ordinance. Interim Town Manager Corvin stated that as the Council may recall, several months ago, Ordinance No. 1455 was presented to the Council for review, and, at that time, Staff were requested to work on the ordinance and add more information regarding the Cat Shelter. She explained that a Cat Shelter Policy has been attached to the ordinance that is being considered for adoption. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a

motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1455, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 3, Animals, Article I. In General, so as to include a new section entitled, "Cat Shelter Purpose, Mission and Operation," of the Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, on first and final reading.

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

D. RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1461

Mayor Taylor presented Ordinance No. 1461, an ordinance amending an reenacting Ordinance No. 1028, generally known as Personnel Rules, Regulations, and Policies, of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, so as to amend and reenact Section 5. Leaves of Absence, Subsection 5.6. Family and Medical Leave, on first and final reading. She noted that Interim Town Manager Corvin will present more information to the Council regarding this ordinance. Interim Town Manager Corvin stated that this ordinance would make amendments to the Personnel Policy, specifically, to the Family and Medical Leave (FMLA) section. She noted these amendments would set up FMLA on a "rolling" year where an employee only receives 12 weeks of FMLA from a particular date in one year to the same date in the following year. Interim Town Manager Corvin explained that these changes were requested by the Human Resources Department, and that the suggested changes are highlighted in yellow for the Council's review. Councilwoman Atkins inquired if Town employees could donate sick leave to Town employees that are new hires. Interim Town Manager Corvin advised that employees are able to donate their time to other employees after they have been absent for a certain amount of time. She noted that employees must work 1,250 hours to be eligible for FMLA. Interim Town Manager Corvin advised that she would talk to Human Resources to confirm whether sick leave can be donated to a new employee. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 1461, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 1028, generally known as Personnel Rules, Regulations, and Policies, of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, so as to amend and reenact Section 5. Leaves of Absence, Subsection 5.6. Family and Medical Leave, on first and final reading.

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, Vice-Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman Atkins.

E. RE: SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING - FISCAL YEAR 2025-26 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is to schedule a public hearing to consider appropriations to the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget. She noted that Interim Town Manager Corvin will give the Council more information regarding this topic. Interim Town Manager Corvin stated that a listing of all the budget appropriations for Fiscal Year 2025-26 is included in the Council's meeting packet. She noted that a public hearing will need to be scheduled to consider these appropriations that amount to approximately \$3.27 million. Interim Town Manager Corvin stated that the public hearing could be scheduled for the November 24, 2025, Town Council meeting. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to schedule a public hearing for the November 24, 2025, Town Council meeting to consider appropriations to the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget.

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.

13. 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. Due to Election Day, the Town of Wytheville Municipal Offices will be closed, and all services will be curtailed, on Tuesday, November 4, 2025.
2. The next regular scheduled Wytheville Town Council meeting will be held on Monday, November 10, 2025, at 6:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

14. RE: OTHER BUSINESS

A. RE: COUNCIL MEMBER TIME

Mayor Taylor advised that the next agenda item is Council Member Time. Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she would like to ask the Council to entertain the idea of refunding the individuals who purchased Veterans Banners, this year and last year, with her portion of the funding that was budgeted for Council Projects. She noted that she met with Interim Town Manager Corvin and Downtown Wytheville Executive Director Todd Wolford regarding making changes to the Veterans Banner Program in the future, but she is seeking Council approval to provide refunds, with her Council Project funds, at this meeting. Councilman Hand inquired of Vice-Mayor Johnson about the plans for the Veterans Banner Program next year, and if she wants to try to make them free with her portion of the Council Projects funding. Vice-Mayor Johnson commented that she would like for them to be free and provided by the Town. She explained that she and Town staff are going to look at the policy, with the intention of bringing it to the Council for its input regarding any changes they may want. Vice-Mayor Johnson then discussed some of the changes she would like made to the Veterans Banner Program and other various locations where the Veterans Banners can be displayed. Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired if the Council could vote to approve the Veterans Banners refunds. A brief discussion was held regarding the motion that is needed to be able to take action on this matter.

A motion was made by Councilman Hand, Jr. and seconded by Councilwoman Atkins to approve the reimbursement of the application fees, up to \$10,000, for the Veterans Banner Program. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. Vice-Mayor Johnson inquired of Town Treasurer Pennington if she would be handling the refunds for the Veterans Banner applicants. Town Treasurer Pennington stated that is correct. 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, Vice-Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman Atkins.

Vice-Mayor Johnson stated that she would also like to have a Veterans Banner recognizing Mr. Estel Corvin, who was missing for 80 years, with permission from his family. She advised that she is, currently, waiting to hear back from his family regarding if they will give their permission for the banner.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Councilwoman Atkins had anything she would like to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilwoman Atkins inquired if someone could explain how the timer works that is in the Council Chambers. She explained that she did not want people to think she is in charge of the timer, since she is sitting at the table with it. Interim Town Manager Corvin stated that the timer is used to time citizens who address the Council during the Council meetings, and that Assistant Town Manager Holeton is the person who works the timer during the meetings. Councilwoman Atkins thanked Interim Town Manager Corvin for this information.

Councilwoman Atkins stated that, recently, she visited the Cat Shelter, and she would like to ask the Council to consider approving the use of her Council Project funding for a new stainless-steel cat suite at the Cat Shelter. She stated that she would like to set aside up to \$8,000 of her Council Project funding for a stainless-steel cat suite at the Cat Shelter. Councilwoman Atkins inquired if Police Captain Kenny Akers would present the Council with some information regarding the current cages that are at the Cat Shelter, and the benefit of the stainless-steel cat suite. Captain Akers explained that the stainless-steel cat suite allows the cat to be blocked from certain areas during cleaning, they are more sanitary, reduces the spread of any sickness or

diseases, etc. Councilwoman Atkins then presented additional information regarding the stainless-steel cat suite and what is included with it.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Atkins and seconded by Vice-Mayor Johnson to approve the purchase of one (1) stainless-steel cat suite, up to \$8,000, for the Wytheville Cat Shelter. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. She inquired if the Council had previously approved the purchase of a stainless-steel cat suite. Councilwoman Atkins stated that is correct, but she believes there is room for two (2) more of these at the Cat Shelter. There being no further discussion, the motion was approved with the following voting results, by roll call vote: Voting Yea: Councilwoman Atkins, Vice-Mayor Johnson, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilman Hand, Jr.

Councilwoman Atkins stated that she has another request to use a portion of her Council Project funding for local artists to paint words of encouragement on, or to beautify, the electrical boxes in town. She advised that she received a quote for this, and that she would like to approve up to \$800, per electrical box. A brief discussion was held regarding the types of paintings the Council would like to see on the electrical boxes.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Atkins and seconded by Vice-Mayor Johnson to approve the painting of 12 electrical boxes, by local artists, up to \$800 per box. 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, Vice-Mayor Johnson, Councilwoman Atkins.

Mayor Taylor presented the Community Buzz: Exciting Updates from the Wytheville Town Council, as follows:

1. Congratulations to Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated for once again being selected by Main Street America as one of only eight semifinalists nationwide for the 2026 Great American Main Street Award!
2. Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated (DTW) has been selected by Round the Mountain: Southwest Virginia's Artisan Network for a community mural project - a muralist will be chosen in early 2026, with the competition anticipated for summer 2026.
3. The Wytheville Police Department will be increasing patrols in the Town's parks and along Main Street to enhance safety and community presence.
4. The Town of Wytheville would like to inform citizens that the Veterans banners to honor our local heroes will be displayed throughout town in November.
5. Congratulations to Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated on another successful Mayhem on Main Street!

Mayor Taylor inquired if Councilwoman Pattison had anything she would like to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilwoman Pattison stated that she attended the Virginia Municipal League (VML) Conference with Mayor Taylor, Vice-Mayor Johnson and Interim Town Manager Corvin. She noted that it was a very good conference hosted by The Hotel Roanoke. Councilwoman Pattison commented that the VML Conference had breakout sessions regarding cybersecurity, community policy, policing for elected officials, personal safety for elected officials, etc. She noted that VML puts on a very good conference, each year.

Councilwoman Pattison stated that she serves on the New River Regional Water Authority (NRRWA) Board, which is made up of three (3) governing bodies, the Town of Wytheville, Wythe County and Carroll County. She noted that the NRRWA sells water from the New River, and that the Town purchases the water at \$1.52, per 1,000 gallons. Councilwoman Pattison explained that the Town is fortunate to have the NRRWA located in Austinville, and that it is expanding. She advised that the expansion began in 2024, and the completion date is set for March 2026. Councilwoman Pattison commented that the total cost of the expansion is \$7.8 million, and, of that amount, the Town of Wytheville is responsible for 60 percent of that cost, Carroll County is responsible for 20 percent and Wythe County is

responsible for 20 percent. She stated the reason for the expansion was due to the Blue Star development, and they are not sure if that project will continue, as well as the Town of Wytheville having a lot of high-end users. Councilwoman Pattison noted that the Authority was at full capacity. She commented that the project is near completion, and if the Council members have the opportunity to go visit Austinville, they should go see the operation. Councilwoman Pattison continued to discuss the two (2) water sources that the Authority uses, how much water the Town will have available after the expansion is completed and how many pump stations the water passes through before it gets to Wytheville. She stated that she is very glad that she is able to serve on that Board.

Mayor Taylor inquired if Councilman Hand had anything he would like to discuss during Council Member Time. Councilman Hand stated that he serves on the Town's Recreation Commission, which meets every three (3) months. He noted that he is very impressed every time he attends these meetings, and discussion is always held about the kids' programs and everything they have going on. Councilman Hand advised that their Staff seems happy, and it is nice to be in that environment. He commented that he wanted to thank the Parks and Recreation staff for everything they do, and that they have great ideas that he hopes they can bring forward.

15. RE: CLOSED MEETING

A. RE: CLOSED MEETING PURSUANT TO § 2.2-3711 (A.) (8.) CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

Mayor Taylor advised that it would now be necessary to go into a Closed Meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711 (A.) (8.) Consultation with legal counsel. She inquired if there was a motion to go into a Closed Meeting.

Motion made by Councilwoman Atkins, 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. (8:30 p.m.)

B. RE: CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

Mayor Taylor advised that it would now be necessary to certify the Closed Meeting. She noted that it would also be necessary to reconvene into open session. Mayor Taylor inquired if there was a motion to certify the Closed Meeting pursuant to § 2.2-3711 (A.) (8.) Consultation with legal counsel, and that only public business matters were heard, discussed or considered by the Council.

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: Councilwoman Atkins, Vice-Mayor Johnson, Mayor Taylor, Councilwoman Pattison, Councilman Hand, Jr. (9:35 p.m.)

16. RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, Mayor Taylor adjourned the meeting (9:36 p.m.)

Beth A. Taylor, Mayor

Brandi N. Jones, Chief Deputy Clerk