

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016, AT 7:00 P.M.**

Members present: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, H. Judson Lambert, Thomas F. Hundley

Members absent: William B. Weisiger

Others present: Town Manager C. Wayne Sutherland, Jr., Assistant Town Manager Stephen A. Moore, Town Clerk Sharon G. Corvin, Town Attorney Robert P. Kaase, Leslie Harwood, Susan Harwood, Becky Grubb, Pat Snapp, Tim Reeves, Debbie Reeves, John Jones, Artie Hall, Mark Sechrest, Danny Gordon with WYVE-AM/WXBX-FM/WLOY-AM, Wayne Quesenberry with *The Wytheville Enterprise*, Police Officer Bryan Bard, Police Officer Jonathan Lackey

RE: CALL TO ORDER, QUORUM, PLEDGE

Mayor Crewe called the meeting to order and established that a quorum of Council members was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Mayor King.

Mayor Crewe stated that he knows there are two agenda topics that has most everyone's interest who is attending the meeting. He commented that he would try to get to those topics quickly so that the Council will not detain the citizens for a long period of time.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Crewe presented the consent agenda consisting of (a) the minutes of the regular meeting of February 22, 2016; (b) the request of the American Heart Association to conduct the Wythe-Bland HeartChase on Saturday, June 4, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.; (c) the request of District Three for waiver of fees for use of Withers Park on Thursday, June 16, 2016, for Senior Day in the Park; (d) the request of HOPE, Incorporated to conduct their annual Big Pencil to Big Walker bike ride on Saturday, June 18, 2016, at 7:30 a.m.; to close Tazewell Street between Pine and Spiller Streets and to close Spiller Street between 4th and Tazewell Streets from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for southbound traffic; and, to use the Heritage Center parking lot; (e) the request of Virginia Cooperative Extension to conduct a 5K Run on Saturday, April 30, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.; (f) and, the request of Wytheville Community College to conduct a 5K Run on Saturday, April 2, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. He inquired of the Council if there is a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented or consider the items separately. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Hundley to approve the consent agenda consisting of (a) the minutes of the regular meeting of February 22, 2016; (b) the request of the American Heart Association to conduct the Wythe-Bland HeartChase on Saturday, June 4, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.; (c) the request of District Three for waiver of fees for use of Withers Park on Thursday, June 16, 2016, for Senior Day in the Park; (d) the request of HOPE, Incorporated to conduct their annual Big Pencil to Big Walker bike ride on Saturday, June 18, 2016, at 7:30 a.m.; to close Tazewell Street between Pine and Spiller Streets and to close Spiller Street between 4th and Tazewell Streets from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for southbound traffic; and, to use the Heritage Center parking lot; (e) the request of Virginia Cooperative Extension to conduct a 5K Run on Saturday, April 30, 2016, at 9:30 a.m.; (f) and, the request of Wytheville Community College to conduct a 5K Run on Saturday, April 2, 2016, at 9:00 a.m., as presented. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the motion to approve the consent agenda, as presented. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting results: For: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, H. Judson Lambert, Thomas F. Hundley. Against: None. Abstention from minutes: Jacqueline K. King.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING – HOMESTAY ESTABLISHMENT OR AIRBNB

Mayor Crewe advised the meeting constituted a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider amending the Town of Wytheville Zoning Ordinance, Article III-Definitions, to add Section 3-42.2 Homestay Establishment or Airbnb; and to amend the following Articles to add the use of Homestay Establishment or Airbnb: Article V – Agricultural District A-1; Article VI-Residential District R-1; Article VI-A- Residential District R-1A; Article VI-M- Residential R-1M; Article VII – Residential District R-2; Article VIII – Residential District R-3; Article VIII-A-Residential District R-3MH; Article X- Business District B-1; Article XI-Business District B-2 (General); Article XI-A- Business District B-2DT General Business District – Downtown. He explained that, basically, the amendment addresses the Homestay Establishments. Mayor Crewe stated that he knows of two citizens attending the meeting who have indicated that they wished to address the Council in regard to the public hearing. He noted that Ms. Leslie Harwood

was listed first on the sign in sheet. He requested Ms. Harwood to come to the podium and speak into the microphone so that the minutes could be properly recorded.

Ms. Leslie Harwood was recognized and entered the following comments into the record: *Thank you members of the Council for considering Homestays in Wytheville and taking the time to hear from me and other members of the Airbnb community. Although I cannot formally speak on behalf of Airbnb or the community, I can speak as an Airbnb host and guest in many Airbnb hosts' homes, and I have sought the input from many Homestay and sharing economy participants in surrounding communities, even those that I work with on a daily basis, as well as the thoughts of those that host around our nation and the world. Therefore, I believe I may speak for residents of Wytheville who currently or may in the future rent their spare bedrooms and/or homes through Airbnb or other Homestay sites like VRBO and Flipkey, as well as residents who may use these sites to travel throughout the world and experience other communities and cultures. The members of this community are leaders in this new Sharing Economy, a movement that is changing how resources are used, how hospitality is exchanged, how residents are empowered, and how new economic opportunities are accessed - all values that I know are at the heart of my hometown of Wytheville. Unlike traditional vacation rental or corporate housing operators, most Airbnb hosts rent their bedrooms or homes only occasionally, offering a spare room, to show off their communities to out of town visitors traveling for business or vacation, sometimes looking for places to relocate and spend the rest of their lives. Many guests often use Airbnb because they are traveling with a family and want amenities that a hotel can't provide, and many are visiting family or friends who live nearby in the neighborhood. In a US News and World Report Article on the sharing economy, it states that for nearly 40 percent of those surveyed in the 1099 Economy Workforce Report, their sharing-economy income accounted for less than a quarter of their household income. Hosts who rent properties through Homestay sites that allow people to rent space directly to guests, are likely to use their earnings to help pay their mortgage or rent. In fact, more than half of San Francisco hosts in 2012 used money earned from renting property to help pay for mortgage and rent expenses, and 42 percent used it for regular living expenses. Airbnb's lead analyst found that the vast majority of hosts are middle-class families sharing the home in which they live. In Portland, Oregon, 40% of hosts earned below the median household income. That is why the supplemental income they earn is so important, as it helps afford increasing costs of living, allows them to invest more in their homes, pursue new careers, pay off loans, and even avoid eviction and foreclosure (and you should know that Airbnb was specifically borne out of the housing crisis, being founded in 2008, with a goal of helping people afford to stay in their homes through the crises America and much of the world endured, many losing their homes due to job loss, etc.) Travelers use Airbnb because they seek the authentic local experiences that communities like Wytheville can provide through their residents - they want to "live like locals". Airbnb guests enjoy exploring the diverse neighborhoods of each community, and learning about the community's cultural heritage, and getting to know its residents. They are highly educated and professional - nearly 70% of the sharing economy is made up of citizens between the ages of 18-34. And 40 percent of people participating in the sharing economy have earned a college degree and the majority have at least some college experience. The benefits of this activity aren't limited to hosts and travelers. Tourism is an incredibly powerful economic driver, but not all tourism is created equal - tourist dollars spent at large chains rarely stay in the local economy. Airbnb travelers, on the other hand, not only put money directly into the pockets of Wytheville residents, they also distribute their economic impacts outside the tourist center to small neighborhood businesses. The Homestay community in Wytheville is therefore contributing to a new economy - a creative and sustainable economy that supports households and residents, grows and diversifies tourism, and activates neighborhoods. Unfortunately, today this activity is not clearly regulated. That is why I applaud the Town of Wytheville and the council for proposing a policy that explicitly allows local residents to rent their own homes on an occasional basis, subject to certain conditions. I agree with the spirit of these regulations that seek to protect the availability of affordable housing and to ensure the health and safety of residents and visitors. For that reason, I am supportive of increasing enforcement against egregious offenders and I know that we in the community will do our best to inform other members of the Airbnb community about such rules. However, I do not agree with all the proposed amendments, as the draft currently stands. I offer the following suggestions on how to make this initiative easier for Wytheville residents to comply with and easier for the Town to enforce: (1) First, and foremost, I and members of the Airbnb community care deeply about safety and share the Town's interests in protecting residents and visitors alike. However, I feel that inspections of residents' bedrooms are unnecessary and unfair. Other residential uses such as home occupations and longer-term rentals do not require such inspections, and for good reason. If the home is safe enough for the permanent resident to live in it, it is safe enough for their visitors as well. If you implement this proposed amendment as it is written now, you will almost certainly kill a vast majority of the opportunities you had to encourage your citizens to reach out and bring more people here, to this struggling economy, and spend their money at local businesses, as Wytheville residents will undoubtedly be hesitant to allow building code*

enforcement officials into their private homes for inspection. Rather, I encourage you to limit this to a registration, and not impose such stringent inspections of residents' homes. If you are not already aware, Airbnb and other Homestay sites require pictures to be posted of rental units, leaving it up to the guest to decide whether the unit fits his or her needs. This includes stating whether the unit is wheelchair accessible, whether the home has smoke and/or carbon monoxide detectors, an alarm system, fire extinguishers, heating, air conditioning, etc. And Airbnb and other Homestay sites work on reviews provided by guests and hosts alike, where guests are able to provide valuable feedback which provides future guests more information that they felt may be missing in an initial listing, and thus provide hosts invaluable feedback to improve their listing accuracy – it's a symbiotic relationship. In addition, anytime a guest feels uncomfortable in a home, they have every right to leave and are protected by Airbnb policies in this regard - and Airbnb reserves the right to remove a hosts' listing at any time they feel it is inaccurate or if guests report a concern. These safeguards are already put in place by these Homestay sites, and putting additional stress and limitations on homeowners is unnecessary and over-policing. You should be aware that the Bill which just passed the Virginia General Assembly also restricts local ordinances from explicitly banning Homestay activities, restricts local ordinances from imposing or purporting to impose "additional regulation or obligation on a limited residential lodging operator based on the use of such operator's residential dwelling unit for limited residential lodging purposes" and states that "ordinances shall not be drawn or applied in such a manner as to create burdens or restrictions on limited residential lodging not placed on other authorized uses of residential property"; (2) If the Town feels registration should be required, I suggest that the fee be reasonable so hosts of all income levels can afford it up front. In a struggling economy such as Wytheville, even a \$100 fee for permitting (as has been discussed) can be a heavy burden for a simple homeowner to come up with. It is important to note that other localities keep this in mind, such as the city of Denver, Colorado, which imposes a much more reasonable \$25 fee, and does not require inspections which could potentially limit homeowners' abilities to participate in this economy. I also suggest that the registration process be easy and online - allowing minimal burden to be placed on Wytheville residents interested in participating, and not deterring them by forcing them to fill out burdensome paperwork at an office that they likely rarely, if ever, visit. Note that the Bill which just passed the Virginia General Assembly explicitly states that it does not prohibit requiring "any limited residential lodging operator operating within the locality to register his name and address through an online portal maintained by the locality."; (3) To ensure maximum compliance, and be in agreement with the state-level Bill, I suggest that you make this policy very easy for regular residents to follow. The specific requirement of having an off-street parking space of a regulated size for each room offered for rent is blatantly restrictive and unnecessary policy. Don't add onerous provisions to solve for problems we don't even know exist, such as parking, traffic, or nuisance. As I have stated, this information is provided up-front for Airbnb guests - hosts list whether or not their listing have on- or off-street parking, and guests can evaluate whether each individual listing suits their needs based on this information. Another plus is that potential guests can, and almost always do, contact a homeowner prior to confirming their reservation with detailed questions about the listing, their arrival dates/times, listing amenities, location, etc. and allows a one-on-one conversation to be held between the guest and host, facilitating open conversation and relationship and ultimately a much more enjoyable stay than somewhere they do not have such ease and ability to open such a dialogue; (4) The new model of American homes is "space for days", spacious layouts with especially large bedrooms which are a nice amenity, but often not utilized to their full spacious extent, but many homes in Wytheville weren't built in recent years, and have bedroom sizes which are considerably smaller than new constructions provide. Therefore, I feel the limit of the room size to above 120 square feet is too restrictive. I would suggest that this minimum size be lowered or eliminated, as a bedroom is just what it implies - a space to lay down and go to bed. In addition, pictures are provided of bedrooms available for rent, allowing a guest to evaluate the room and determine if it suits their individual preferences and/or needs. One of the most attractive things about Homestays is the ability to interact with the hosts within the home, such as enjoying a cup of coffee in the dining room, or cooking a meal in the kitchen, or hanging out in the living room, discussing the local businesses and encouraging guests to visit all of the charming things that this town has to offer. The bedroom is often the place where the least amount of interactive time is spent during a Homestay and should not be restricted to a space as large as is written in the proposed amendment. Please note that the state-level bill does not impose bedroom size restrictions; (5) In addition, limiting the number of rooms available for rent to only 2 and limiting the occupancy of those rooms to 2 persons seems unnecessarily restrictive. The Unified Development Ordinance of Asheville, NC defines a Homestay as offering one to three guest rooms. You should be aware that the Bill that just passed the Virginia General Assembly does not limit the number of bedrooms, rather limits the number of contracts, placing restrictions on simultaneous occupancy. This is a much more reasonable approach and this state legislation is one that I implore the Town to consider for their ultimate decision; and, (6) Lastly, I suggest that the same rights extended to single-family residential building or townhouse occupants be extended to residents of apartments or condos which do not explicitly restrict such operations in their property agreements. As I have

mentioned, home-sharing can help Wytheville residents stay afloat. Those that need the supplemental income most, many of whom live in apartments, should be given this opportunity - pending their landlord or HOA approval, of course. Note that the state-level Bill defines "residential dwelling unit" as a residence where one or more persons maintain a household, including manufactured home, and does not include such things as hotels, motels, occupancy under a business or commercial rental agreement, or a campground. I thank the council for considering these suggestions. By incorporating these recommendations into the proposed amendments, Wytheville can join other forward-thinking communities in leading this global Sharing Economy movement. I encourage you all to embrace the future!

Mayor Crewe thanked Ms. Harwood for addressing the Council. He inquired if any of the Council members have any questions for Ms. Harwood. Mayor Crewe noted that, obviously, Ms. Harwood was very well prepared and knew what she was talking about. He stated that he would ask Ms. Susan Harwood to come forward to the podium so that the Council could hear her comments.

Ms. Susan Harwood was recognized and stated that Leslie Harwood has stats on how much occupancy tax that a Homestay generated for the cities of Denver, San Francisco, Chicago and New York. She commented that Leslie did not bring that information with her to the meeting. Ms. Harwood remarked that she hoped it would be something that the Council would review even though Wytheville is a lot smaller than those cities, but percentage wise, it could be a real plus for Wytheville. She advised that she first learned about Homestays when Leslie was working for a company in Roanoke. Ms. Harwood remarked that Leslie bought a condo, which was a really nice place. She expressed that Leslie had a very nice job, and it was her dream to have her own place. Ms. Harwood stated then 2008 came along, and Leslie lost her job. She noted that Leslie had already asked Ms. Susan Zammit to help her redecorate her condo. Ms. Harwood explained that Ms. Zammit went to Roanoke and helped Leslie make the condo her dream home. She commented that it was absolutely beautiful. Ms. Harwood advised that Leslie has a master's degree, but still could not find a place to work. She remarked that even driving to another area, there were still not any job opportunities for Leslie. Ms. Harwood explained that when Leslie lost her job and could not find a place to work, Leslie did a lot of temporary type of work, for example, after school programs, tutoring youngsters, etc. Ms. Harwood expressed that it still was not enough to pay Leslie's mortgage. She commented that Leslie heard about the Airbnb and became involved with it. Ms. Harwood advised that Leslie offered a spare bedroom, and people came to rent the bedroom, and, obviously, had a very nice time. She expressed that Leslie met a tremendous number of people from not only all over the United States, but, also, from all over the world. Ms. Harwood remarked that Leslie is still doing this in Blacksburg. She noted that Leslie hosts professional people such as college professors, people who come to work at Virginia Tech Technical Institute from Austria, Spain, Slovenia, Australia, Sweden and many more. Ms. Harwood explained that it is a way of meeting new people, interacting with others, showing them the community, etc. She stated that she has worked in the hotel industry where a person does not get the one on one attention. Ms. Harwood expressed that she loved the hotel industry and the bed and breakfasts. She commented that the bed and breakfasts are, obviously, the crème de la crème and many people can stay there. Ms. Harwood noted that she commends them for what they do. She remarked that the bed and breakfasts are absolutely gorgeous. Ms. Harwood stated, however, bed and breakfast owners do not have a lot of time to visit with people one on one to tell them about the community. She remarked that she has had people come who were bikers. She stated that she had asked Assistant Town Manager Moore the other day if there were any local bike trails because she was not aware of any bike trails other than the New River Trail. Ms. Harwood expressed that one of the gentlemen who stayed with her was from Scotland, and he liked mountain biking. She remarked that all she could think of was the trail in Bland, but she is not sure if it is still operating. Ms. Harwood commented that she does not have the information, and that Leslie told her that there is someone in the Wytheville area who does bike tours. She stated that Assistant Town Manager Moore told her about Crystal Springs, and he gave her a book about it. Ms. Harwood remarked that he showed her how to get to the bike trails on the Town's website, therefore, anyone who stays with her and is interested in biking in that manner, she will know where to send them. She inquired if there are tours around town on bikes. Ms. Harwood noted that one couple who stayed with her wanted to do this type of activity, and it turned out that it was extremely cold, therefore, they ran instead of biked. She remarked that she is glad to know from the Council meeting agenda that there are a lot of 5K Runs coming up, which she will certainly pass along to anybody who is interested. Ms. Harwood stated that, hopefully, those people will come back to Wytheville and run in the races. She expressed that she had to turn someone down because she is not set up for more than one day, and that one night is all she can accommodate people. Ms. Harwood noted that the people she turned away wanted to stay two nights, and now she wishes she had done everything in her power to let them stay because the couple was coming for the 90th birthday of someone she really, really likes, and she would have liked to have had them stay with her. She expressed that she does not serve breakfast, but she does serve coffee and tea, if

the occupant wants it. Ms. Harwood stated that she engages in conversation and talks about the Town of Wytheville. She noted that she tells people about the local restaurants, and most already know about the Hardees, McDonalds, etc., but she tells them about the smaller restaurants like Flourz, Coffee & Crumbs, Virginia Heights, etc. Ms. Harwood commented that one lady wanted to know about a pizza place, therefore, she named all of the pizza places in town. She remarked that the Chamber of Commerce used to put out a map that included the streets, restaurants, shopping, etc., and that the hospital used to keep them. Ms. Harwood expressed that this map would have been wonderful to give her guests. Vice-Mayor King stated that maybe Ms. Harwood should go by the Chamber of Commerce and request some of the map pads. Ms. Harwood remarked that she has not gone that far. She commented that she thought maybe she would find the map pads at the hospital on Friday, but she did not. Ms. Harwood reiterated that it would have been really great to have the map pads, but, instead, she got out her map and gave them step by step directions such as First Street to Monroe Street, etc., and it was not as good as the map pads. She commented that she is technology challenged, but the couples had their smartphone and were able to locate the restaurants. Ms. Harwood expressed that some of the couples wrote her to let her know that they really loved the places she had sent them. She stated that she really hopes the Town will consider the recommendations that she and Leslie are putting forth. Ms. Harwood noted that Airbnb charges a \$25 fee for online registration, which anyone can get online and see the pictures of the houses, and she noted that Assistant Town Manager Moore did so. She expressed that it is really helpful for people to know what things look like. Ms. Harwood remarked that in regard to the taxes, she hopes that the Council and the State of Virginia will partner like Denver, San Francisco, etc. have where Airbnb actually collects the taxes before any other money goes out, and it gets sent directly to the locality. She stated that would be a big plus. Ms. Harwood noted that she hopes the Council will encourage the Homestays in a reasonable manner and keep the regulations simple. She thanked the Council for allowing her to speak. Mayor Crewe thanked Ms. Harwood for addressing the Council. He inquired if any of the Council members had any questions for Ms. Harwood. Councilman Hundley stated he had a huge concern for safety of the homeowner. Vice-Mayor King advised that she agreed with Councilman Hundley, and that is what she was thinking about. Councilman Hundley remarked that another concern he has is in regard to insurance. He inquired of Ms. Harwood if she has thought about if someone she invited into her home, steals from her while she is asleep, and if she thought about that and if it is a consideration. Councilman Hundley inquired of Ms. Harwood as to where a line is drawn as this becoming a true business, because with him being in the insurance industry, there is a big wall between personal and business. He noted that if something happens at Ms. Harwood's home that is a result of a business, there is not any coverage and, therefore, it is a major concern to him in protecting homeowners. Ms. Susan Harwood stated that the Airbnb visitor writes a review about the home they visited, and what they liked, did not like, etc. She noted that the Airbnb host, also, writes a review. Ms. Harwood commented that she relies on other hosts, and noted that she happens to have a host family who she thinks lives in Cleveland, and they always screen the people they host. She stated that when her host family screens their guests, they go back to see how they acted when they visited other places and what they were like.

Ms. Leslie Harwood stated that she relies on reviews, and she does not accept anyone who has not stayed with someone else previously. She noted that a previous host has to have written something about what the guest was like, how they left their home, if they were quiet and respectful, etc. Ms. Harwood explained that she does not ever accept anyone who has a bad review. She commented that the other thing is that Airbnb does have an insurance policy and coverage, therefore, if something were damaged in her home, stolen, etc., she thinks Airbnb has a \$1 million policy, right now, which covers things like that. Ms. Harwood remarked that issues have happened before in other localities, and all the host has to do is contact Airbnb, and the host will be reimbursed for whatever their loss may be. She expressed that in regard to safety, she usually gets on the internet and researches her guests very well.

Ms. Susan Harwood commented that a guest, usually, gives their occupation and why they are coming through. She noted that the guest gives the host a background of who they are. Ms. Harwood remarked that with the internet, a person is able to find out pretty much anything about someone.

Ms. Leslie Harwood stated that she has hosted over at least 80 people, and she has friends who have hosted hundreds. She noted that in all of that time, she has not had one issue in regard to her safety. Ms. Harwood remarked that she has always built wonderful relationships with her guests. Vice-Mayor King inquired of Ms. Harwood as to how long she has been a member of Airbnb. Ms. Harwood stated that she has been a host since 2009. She noted that she started hosting right after she lost her job. Vice-Mayor King inquired of Ms. Harwood if she is hosting people in Blacksburg. Ms. Harwood stated that is correct. Ms. Susan Harwood remarked that Airbnb is not Leslie's main job. Ms. Leslie Harwood expressed that being a host is not a job, but, rather, supplemental income. She noted that it helps with things during hard

times. Ms. Harwood commented that it, also, allows her to do little maintenance things around her house that with her steady, fulltime job, she does not have the disposable income to put forth for those things. Vice-Mayor King inquired of Ms. Harwood if she really feels safe. Ms. Susan Harwood explained that the people she has hosted have been really wonderful. She noted that the people Leslie has hosted have, also, been wonderful. Ms. Harwood commented that some of the people, actually, work for six weeks at VTTI.

Ms. Leslie Harwood commented that she gets a lot of Virginia Tech athletes, students, parents of students and high school students who come with their parents to visit the Virginia Tech campus. Vice-Mayor King inquired of Ms. Harwood if she allows the guests to stay as many nights as they want to stay. Ms. Harwood explained that she does not allow guests to stay more than a week or so. She stated that the longer term stay she talked about earlier was when a guest contacted her on Airbnb, but they worked it out as a more formal rental lease agreement type of situation. She reiterated that most of her guests stay shorter periods of time. Councilman Hundley inquired of Ms. Harwood as to when this becomes an actual true business. He inquired of Mayor Crewe where the line is drawn. Mayor Crewe advised that he does not think there is an answer for that, but that the day a host rents for the first time, it is arguably a business. He remarked that he did not think there was a certain number, and that it would not be that 10 guests would not be considered a business, but 11 guests would be considered a business. Mayor Crewe explained that the Council will consider this ordinance later in the meeting, but that he has some concerns, as well. He noted that Airbnb is the first and the largest, and probably the most well knows, but it is certainly not the only organization doing this. Mayor Crewe stated that what he can glean is that Airbnb has a good reputation and does everything by the book. He noted that his concern is that everything the host knows about a potential renter is self-serving because they tell the host. Mayor Crewe commented that some of the information can be verified in other ways, but, largely, the host is given information that comes from the source itself. He remarked that on the other hand, Airbnb is getting information from the host, which comes from the source itself. Mayor Crewe explained that guests do not know if the pictures the host puts on the website are right or wrong. He noted that Airbnb may regulate this if they get complaints, then they understand that, but some of the other companies are not so good about it. Mayor Crewe reiterated that the information is self-serving on both ends. He noted that Ms. Harwood is correct, and that she hit the high spots. Mayor Crewe advised that the proposed ordinance and the amendment to the Zoning Ordinance do not prohibit Airbnbs, but it limits it to the zoning districts where they are allowed, no more than a seven night stay, 120 square foot room, parking, inspections are required, etc. He reiterated that she hit the high spots of what the ordinance proposes. Mayor Crewe expressed that Ms. Harwood may know more than he does, and he can certainly see, and it is his understanding, that in the blow up on Friday when the Legislation was adjourning, the Bill did not pass. He noted that the Bill was carried forward for further review. Ms. Harwood stated that it is her understanding that the Bill did pass, and that she has a copy of the Bill with her. Mayor Crewe advised that the Bill was approved by one House, but it was not approved by the other, if he recalls correctly. He stated that he thinks it passed the House, but not the Senate, if he remembers correctly. Mayor Crewe inquired of Ms. Harwood if she had the Bill number in front of her. Ms. Harwood stated that she did. She gave a copy to Mayor Crewe. After reviewing the copy of the Bill, Mayor Crewe advised that it was a Senate Bill. He remarked that he thinks it passed the Senate, but he does not think it passed the House. Mayor Crewe stated that Town staff can certainly double check on this. Ms. Harwood commented that everything she has heard is that the Bill is just waiting on the Governor's signature. She continued to express her thoughts to the Council about the Airbnb Bill. Ms. Harwood explained that the whole text is different. She noted that the things that the State included in the Bill were that the provisions of the first and second enactment clause cannot become effective unless reenacted by the 27 concessions. Mayor Crewe advised that the Bill was carried forward, and that it is not the law yet. He noted that what Ms. Harwood just read explains that it was carried forward and is required to be passed again. Mayor Crewe reiterated that the Bill is going to be studied for one year before there are any State regulations in effect. Ms. Harwood stated that is correct. Mayor Crewe commented that the provisions are out there and there is the framework, but, at the last minute, the House said that they were not going to impose the Bill now, but, rather, study it. He remarked that studying the Airbnb is an option that the Council has, as well. Mayor Crewe stated that the Council can do whatever they wish to do. He noted that Ms. Harwood has hit the objectionable parts and noted the things that she is concerned about. Mayor Crewe commented that Ms. Harwood has, obviously, read the Legislation Bill. He remarked that all he can say is that the Council will consider the ordinance later in the meeting, and the Council will decide how to proceed. Mayor Crewe inquired of the Council if there are any further questions or comments. There being none, he thanked Ms. Susan Harwood and Ms. Leslie Harwood for their information, hard work and for attending the Council meeting.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Crewe advised the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. He noted that there was no one else who indicated on the sign in sheet that they wished to address the Council. Mayor Crewe stated if anyone had changed their mind, the Council would be glad to hear from them. There being no one to address the Council during Citizens' Period, Mayor Crewe proceeded with the agenda.

RE: OLD BUSINESS – REVIEW OF UPCOMING TOWN ELECTION

Mayor Crewe advised that the next agenda item is Old Business. He noted that Town Manager Sutherland had several things to report, but the major item is in regard to the upcoming Town election. Mayor Crewe stated that since he has been more involved with the issue, he is going to discuss this part of Old Business. He commented that he is going to try to explain the situation in a logical, cohesive, understandable fashion. Mayor Crewe expressed that when he is finished, he will entertain any kind of questions that anyone may have. He advised that the Council has to make a decision, and the short version of a much longer story that he will explain in more detail is that the Circuit Court of Wythe County entered an order directing a special election for a two year term, and the State Department of Elections stated that the Town of Wytheville has no candidates qualified for that election. Mayor Crewe stated the ballot that they are presently proposing to print for the Town of Wytheville for the May 3, 2016, election notes the five names who have qualified and to vote for no more than two. He remarked that below that information, the ballot has a place for a write in candidate. Mayor Crewe explained that the ballot does not state for how many years or the term, but, rather, it only states "write in." He expressed that the State Department of Elections contends that there are no candidates for the special ordered election, therefore, that puts the Town in a dilemma. Mayor Crewe advised that he would tell everyone how this happened and explain what he thinks the options are. He commented that he has been working very closely with the State Department of Elections and the local Board of Elections. Mayor Crewe stated the way this started is on the evening of March 1, 2016, he was in the Wythe County Voter Registrar's office looking at the voter returns for the primary elections that night. He commented that the Wythe County Electoral Board was present, and they showed him the sample preliminary ballot that had been printed for the Town of Wytheville election earlier that day. Mayor Crewe stated that the ballot had the five names of those candidates who qualified, and it noted "to vote for no more than two." He noted that the Electoral Board stated, and he did, as well, that the ballot is wrong, because citizens should be voting for three candidates. Mayor Crewe explained that the reason for that is the Town Charter provides that when there is a vacancy, such as the vacancy caused by the death of former Councilman Jack Hunley, the Council has the right to appoint someone to fill the vacancy until the next regular scheduled Town election. He stated that he would give the history of this situation. Mayor Crewe advised that the Council found this information out on March 1, 2016, and he talked to Town Manager Sutherland. He noted that he and Town Manager Sutherland both contacted Town Attorney Kaase. Mayor Crewe commented that the Town started there to try to fix the problem. He explained that the Town of Wytheville had not had an order entered in by the Circuit Court directing a special election after the death of former Councilman Hunley. Mayor Crewe stated that he has the documents with the timeline on them, which he would be more than happy to share, but former Councilman Hunley was elected to a four year term on March 6, 2014. He noted that former Councilman Hunley's date of death was December 11, 2014, therefore, he had more than two years remaining in the term, which is, under the Town's Charter, what prompts all of this. Mayor Crewe explained that on January 12, 2015, the Town Council appointed Mr. William B. Weisiger to fill the vacancy of former Councilman Hunley. He noted that when that was done, it was done in accordance with the provisions and the language in the Town Charter, which state that Mr. Weisiger would serve until the next regular Town election. Mayor Crewe expressed that the next regular Town election from January 12, 2015, obviously, is May 2016. He noted that is what the Council thought was going to happen. Mayor Crewe remarked that, however, the Town found out from the State Department of Elections that it will not happen because their position is there was one election scheduled for May 3, 2016, and that election is for the two, four year terms presently held by the Vice-Mayor and Councilman Lambert. He noted that their regular term ends, and they are up for reelection. Mayor Crewe stated that is the only thing the State says was on the election. He commented that when Judge Showalter entered the order directing a special Writ of Election, which he prepared and took to the Judge, he signed it on March 8, 2016. Mayor Crewe explained that the State Department of Elections states that there are no candidates for the March 8, 2016, ordered special election, because they had to qualify by March 1, 2016. He commented that there was no election on March 1, 2016, for a special slot. Mayor Crewe advised that the Town has been arguing with the State Department of Elections that they are wrong, and, in fact, there are five candidates who have qualified, and the Town Charter states that the top three candidates get elected, and the third place candidate would serve for a two year term, and the top two candidates would serve a four year term. He remarked, however, the State Department

of Elections will not accept that. Mayor Crewe reiterated that the order was entered by the Circuit Court on March 8, 2016, which was too late, and the order was immediately sent to Richmond, Virginia, and to the local Voter Registrar, Mrs. Carolyn King. He noted that everyone has been on the same page since then, except that Richmond takes the position that there was nobody on March 1, 2016, who qualified for the election that the Judge ordered on March 8, 2016. Mayor Crewe advised, therefore, that slot would have to be filled through a write in candidate. He commented that the five candidates who have qualified would be listed on the top of the ballot that states "vote for no more than two," and there would be no candidates listed at the bottom part of the ballot that states "write in." Mayor Crewe reiterated that is where the Town, currently, stands. He noted that one of the options, is to go ahead with the May 3, 2016, election and have two people out of five elected to a four year term, and a write in candidate elected for a two year term. Mayor Crewe advised that the other option would be for the Town to go back to the Circuit Court and ask Judge Showalter to revoke his order and not order a special Town election on May 3, 2016. He noted that this would mean that the two year term would not be filled in the May 3, 2016, election. Mayor Crewe reiterated that only the two, four year terms would be filled on May 3, 2016, and there would be five candidates listed on the ballot for those two, four year terms. He commented that if the Council does this and the Judge rescinds his order, and there is no special election, the next step would be to order a special election. Mayor Crewe stated that if the Judge orders a subsequent election, anyone interested in getting elected for that two year term would have to go through the signatures and petition qualification again. He reiterated that the State Department of Elections is taking the position that when the candidates qualified on March 1, 2016, they qualified for that election and not the special election, which requires the candidates to start all over. Mayor Crewe stated the option the Council has is going ahead on May 3, 2016, with a write in candidate who does not have to be one of the five qualified candidates, and he noted that it can be anybody, or, ask the Judge to revoke that order and set a date for a Town election. He stated that the two options to set the Town election for the two year term would be to wait until November 2016, in the Presidential election and add it to the November ballot, which is a possibility and can certainly be done and is legal. Mayor Crewe advised that those candidates who would not be elected to the two, four year terms would have to get signatures and get on a ballot again, however, it could happen in November 2016. He remarked that when the Council has discussed this before, the Council has had the option of moving Town elections to November. Mayor Crewe commented that the Council did not want to do so because candidates would get lost in the shuffle of a Presidential election. He stated that the other option is to pick a date somewhere between May 2016 and November 2016, and it could be any date the Council wanted. Mayor Crewe explained that, probably, the Judge would order a date. He expressed that the date the Council was hoping for would be June 8, 2016, which was, originally, going to be a primary election. Mayor Crewe noted that the primary is not going to happen either, and the deadline for that was March 1, 2016, and no candidates filed for that, therefore, there will not be a primary election in June. Mayor Crewe explained that the next regular election in Wythe County would be November 8, 2016. He noted that the Town would have to get an election held sometime between now and November 8, 2016, and vote only for that one office. Mayor Crewe stated if only that one, two year term office is on the ballot, on that day, the candidates interested in that seat would have to requalify and get petitions again. He reiterated that where it stands is that there are five qualified, certified State Board of Election approved candidates on the May 3, 2016, ballot for two, four year terms. Mayor Crewe stated, right now, there is a line underneath that for write in candidates. He noted in accordance with the Judge's order, there are no qualified candidates and the highest vote on the write ins would be elected to the two year term. He reiterated that the Council has to decide if they want to do this or not. Mayor Crewe explained that the only option is to do it or to ask the Judge to rescind the order and pick a date later, including the November 8, 2016, date. He inquired if anyone had any questions or comments and he would try to explain things. Mayor Crewe stated that he knows this has been a big mistake and a nightmare, but he will try to entertain any questions that he can. He noted that he appreciated Mr. Artie Hall and Mr. John Jones attending the meeting. Mayor Crewe explained that Mr. Joseph Hand, Jr. was going to attend the meeting, but he had a prior commitment, however, he knows about this, as well. He reiterated that he would entertain questions, comments, discussions, etc. Vice-Mayor King stated who knows what to ask. Mayor Crewe advised that it is a mess.

Mr. Artie Hall was recognized and stated if one of the five candidates that is on the ballot is not eligible, in terms of being certified for the two year term, it would have to be a write in. He inquired of Mayor Crewe if, theoretically, a citizen could vote for two candidates and then write in one of those two candidates in the write ins. Mayor Crewe advised that is correct. He remarked that a citizen could write in any name in the write in. Mr. Hall stated it could be anybody that the voter wanted to elect. Mayor Crewe advised that in trying to fix the problem, the Council thought if the ballot said "vote for no more than three," everything was fixed, however, the State Department of Elections will not allow this. Mr. Hall commented that his concern is making sure the voter understands this. Mayor Crewe remarked that nobody is going

to understand it, because he has been talking to the candidates and people who know about the problem, and they do not even understand it, therefore, how is the average voter going to understand it. He stated that the cleanest thing, in his opinion, is to rescind the order and vote for the two, four year terms now, and advertise more, which is why the Town made sure that *The Wytheville Enterprise* and WYVE-AM representatives were attending the meeting so that they could at least get the word out. Mayor Crewe reiterated that the situation is a mess, and it needs to be fixed, in his opinion. He noted that he is only 20 percent of the Council. Vice-Mayor King commented that the Council has talked and talked about the appointments when former Councilman Hunley was appointed, and when he passed away, the Council talked about it again. She stated that she cannot understand how it got to be such a mess because they have known that there was going to have to be an election to fill former Councilman Hunley's term for a long time. Mayor Crewe inquired of Vice-Mayor King if this answers her question. He stated that the Council knew when former Councilman Hunley passed away there had to be a special election because the Town Charter says so, however, the Town did not get the order entered by the Circuit Court. Vice-Mayor King inquired of Mayor Crewe why the Town did not get the order entered. Mayor Crewe stated that the Council did not ask Town Attorney Kaase to do it, Town Attorney Kaase did not do it and nobody got it done. He noted that when he found out on March 1, 2016, that it had not been done, he quickly did it, but it was too late. Mayor Crewe commented that is kind of why the Town is in the predicament. Vice-Mayor King remarked that the Council talked about this last Tuesday morning in the Council Work Session. Mayor Crewe advised that it was too late. Vice-Mayor King stated that she would have thought that somebody would have said that the Town needed the order. Mayor Crewe expressed that it just did not get taken care of in a timely fashion. He noted that the order was entered on March 8, 2016, but not before the deadline of March 1, 2016. Vice-Mayor King commented that she assumes everyone has started ordering their signs for the May 3, 2016, election. Mayor Crewe advised that he does not know of a way to fix it, and that is why he is telling everyone this. Councilman Lambert inquired of Mayor Crewe if the five candidates who are qualified now for the regular election could also be write in candidates. Mayor Crewe stated that is correct. He noted that Mr. Hall is correct by stating that a candidate could get votes in both places. Mayor Crewe commented that a candidate could get a marked ballot where their name is located, or they could get a write in, as well. Vice-Mayor King inquired of Mayor Crewe if those two votes would count as one vote. Mayor Crewe advised that according to the State Department of Elections, the top two vote winners in the marked ballot would get the four year term. He stated that the highest vote winner in the write in would get a two year term. Mayor Crewe explained that, for example, if the highest vote winner on the write in received more votes than either of the marked candidates, it would still be a two year term, and not the four year term. He reiterated that the write in would only be for the two year term, which is not what the Town Charter states would happen, but it is what the State Department of Elections states would happen. Vice-Mayor King expressed that she understands that. Councilman Hundley stated that he does not see how that could be fair to the candidates who have gone through the full disclosure of financials, signature process, etc., and then someone who has not would then get elected. He remarked that he just does not see that, at all, being fair to those candidates who have worked so hard to prepare themselves for this opportunity. Mayor Crewe commented that he would give the Council his thoughts, and noted these were only his thoughts and the Council can do whatever they wish, but he agrees with Councilman Hundley in that this is so confusing and messed up, but there is going to be an election held on May 3, 2016, and two candidates will be selected out of five. He noted that this was a given before anything ever happened. Mayor Crewe stated that his thought is for the Council to ask the Judge to rescind the order, not hold a special election and wait until after May 3, 2016, and pick up the pieces from there. He expressed that whoever wants to run for the two year term after May 3, 2016, has to go through the paperwork qualification again. Mayor Crewe noted that his thought would be for the Town to hold a special Town election, which the Town of Wytheville would have to pay for and he is probably talking about two or three thousand dollars. He commented, however, that would be the only question. Mayor Crewe stated the election would not be held in November and would not get mixed with any other elections, but, after May 3, 2016, the Town would hold another election, which would state that candidates are running for a two year term and that they have to qualify by getting signatures, financial disclosures, etc. He remarked that the Town would hold two elections instead of one election, and this is confusing. Mayor Crewe expressed that this is his thought, because he does not know how all of this is going to be explained. Councilman Hundley commented that, in all fairness to the citizens, he thinks that is the wisest thing to do to make sure that the proper candidates are in the running. Mayor Crewe remarked that is why he wanted all of the candidates to attend this meeting because this situation messes up their lives, too. He noted that it is unfortunate that it happened, but it has happened and it has to be fixed. Mayor Crewe reiterated that his thought, again, and the cleanest way to do it, is to have the two, four year seats elected, and after that, have another scheduled election for the two year term. He stated that the same people can run again if they want to. Mayor Crewe remarked that if two of the five are elected, then the other three can run or somebody else who qualifies can run, and not be a write in, could run. He reiterated that whoever else runs does have to qualify and not just be a write in.

Mr. Danny Gordon was recognized and stated that, previously, everything he received locally said there would be three candidates elected to a four year term. Mayor Crewe inquired of Mr. Gordon if that information was from the Town. Mr. Gordon stated that is not correct, but, the information came from the General Registrar's office early on. Mayor Crewe commented that the General Registrar's office did have it wrong early on. Mr. Gordon remarked that now, Mayor Crewe is advising that it is a two year term and not a four year term for the third candidate elected. Mayor Crewe stated that is correct because there needs to be staggered terms and that two people would be elected one year, and two years, later there would be three people elected. He commented, therefore, in this year, there are only two, four year terms. Mayor Crewe advised that if former Councilman Hunley had not passed away, there would only be two slots on the ballot period. He commented that there would be five candidates to run. Vice-Mayor King explained that in the next two years there would be three slots including the Mayor. Mr. Gordon stated that is not what the General Registrar told him, but there were three running for Town Council. Mayor Crewe remarked that the General Registrar's information added to the confusion because it was mixed up information from the beginning. He expressed that the information Mr. Gordon received from him, because he did an interview with Mr. Wayne Quesenberry of *The Wytheville Enterprise*, and Mr. Quesenberry correctly reported what he had stated, is that there would be an election, and three people would be elected and the top two winners would get four year terms and the third place winner would get a two year term. Mayor Crewe noted that this information is not correct because the State Board of Elections does not agree with that. Mr. Gordon inquired of Mayor Crewe if Town Attorney Kaase enters an order and the Judge accepts it, if the Town is going to have to set a date for people to get all of their paperwork complete, again, to run for a two year term. Mayor Crewe stated that is correct. Councilman Lambert commented that this seems unfair. Mayor Crewe explained that there are all kinds of options in regard to Councilman Weisiger's seat. He noted that Councilman Weisiger will serve until his replacement is named, but he could resign and the Council could appoint the third highest vote winner in the May 3, 2016, election. Mayor Crewe reiterated that there are all kinds of options. Councilman Hundley noted there are all kinds of options until November. Mayor Crewe stated that is correct or until June or July 2016. He remarked that the Town could hold a special election anytime between May 3, 2016, and November 8, 2016, assuming the Judge would order one. He noted that he thinks the Judge would do so. Mayor Crewe commented that it is not going to be a big deal because there is only going to be one question on that special ballot, but his thought is if the Council decides to do it this way, it is a cleaner, clearer, easier process to understand than if the Town waits until November 8, 2016. He reiterated that the Town can wait until November because that is the next regularly scheduled election. Mayor Crewe expressed that he is concerned about going forward with the election on May 3, 2016, because as confusing as it is and he has four of the five candidates attending this evening's meeting who do not understand it, therefore, he does not know how the average voter is going to understand it. He remarked that he just thinks the election should be separated. Mayor Crewe reiterated that there should be an election that the State Board of Elections has approved and that would be five candidates running for two, four year terms, and after that hold a special election for the remainder of former Councilman Hunley's term, which by then will be a little less than two years. He reiterated that it means there would be two elections held that the candidates have to qualify twice by getting the signatures, etc., if they do not get elected in May. Councilman Lambert remarked that there is no relief from the court in having to go through this. Mayor Crewe stated that there is an election from the court, but there is no relief from the State Department of Elections. He remarked that they will not do what he argued, and the Judge ordered them to do, which was to have the election in accordance with the Town Charter and that being five candidates on the ballot and the top three candidates winning the election. Mayor Crewe reiterated that the State Department of Elections will not accept that because it was not signed before March 1, 2016, and there were no candidates for the March 8, 2016, court ordered election. He remarked that is where it stands. Mayor Crewe advised that if the Judge orders that the candidates do not have to requalify, the State Department of Elections, as of today, has stated that they do not pay any attention to that because they set the regulations. He commented that he asked them how they can disregard the Town Charter and a court order from the Circuit Court, and they remarked because they are the State Department of Elections. Mayor Crewe noted that he does not find any satisfactory answers. He stated that the other thing he has not told the Council about, and that they probably should factor in, is that absentee balloting in Wythe County starts on May 18, 2016, therefore, some ballots have to be printed immediately. Mayor Crewe advised that because of the Town's dilemma, Rural Retreat's ballots cannot be printed either, because the Wythe County Registrar has to get approval from Richmond to print everything. He commented, therefore, Rural Retreat's ballots cannot be printed until Wytheville's are printed. Mayor Crewe advised that it is very urgent that the Council decides what to do. He reiterated that the options are to go forward with a write in election for a two year term or to ask the Judge to cancel that and then later, whether it is 15 minutes later or four months later, go back and ask for a special ordered election. Councilman Lambert inquired of Mayor Crewe if the people who have qualified for the election, now, expressed an opinion on

what they would like to do. Mayor Crewe stated that nobody knew until this meeting because this is the first time it has been discussed. He noted that is why he has four of the five candidates in the room, and he would be happy to hear anything anybody thinks. Mayor Crewe remarked that Mr. Hand is not attending the meeting, but he tried to make sure that everyone is aware of what is happening. He explained that this all happened on Friday, March 11. Mayor Crewe expressed that it all started March 1, 2016, when he found out that the proposed ballot stated to vote for no more than two candidates. He noted that he then got an order to have it done when he conferred with Town Attorney Kaase, and he took the order to the Judge. Mayor Crewe reiterated that he wrote the order and took the order to the Judge. He noted the Judge in return ordered a special election, as requested by the Town. Mayor Crewe commented that is when the State Department of Elections got involved and stated that the election could not happen in that manner, and it was Friday, March 11, 2016. He commented that he has met with the Electoral Board probably six times, the Clerk of Court two or three times, the Judge a couple of times and at least three people from the State Department of Elections via telephone and email. Mayor Crewe stated that he just hit a brick wall because the State Department of Elections will not change their ruling. He remarked that they will not print the ballot that states to vote for no more than three candidates. Mayor Crewe expressed that they will print a ballot that says "vote for no more than two" and "write in." He commented that the write in does not say that it is for a two year term or any limitations whatsoever, it simply says "write in." Councilman Lambert inquired of Mayor Crewe as to what happens if a candidate wins the write in and is it a two year term. Mayor Crewe stated that is correct because the court ordered the election that the State Department of Elections approved to be a write in candidate. He expressed that it is not limited to the five qualified candidates. Mayor Crewe stated that, for example, Trent Crewe could not get elected in that election because he is not qualified to be in the May 3 election or anybody could. Vice-Mayor King remarked that is not right. Councilman Hundley commented that is an irresponsible way to handle the problem, and it is not protecting the citizens. Mayor Crewe stated that he agrees with Councilman Hundley, and he does not think that is the right way to do it, but then the other way punishes the five qualified candidates because they have to get signatures twice and qualify twice.

Mr. Artie Hall stated that the other thing that could happen is someone could qualify in the top two, qualify in the write in and then the Town has the same person. He remarked that, as a candidate, he does not have a vote in this situation, but he would be fine with a special election. Mr. Hall commented that he thinks that is the only way to do it. Mayor Crewe inquired of Mr. Hall if he means that the court order should be canceled and then hold another election separately. Mr. Hall expressed that he does not think the Town needs to combine the two, therefore, as one of the five qualified candidates, his opinion would be to hold a special election. He remarked that it creates additional work for candidates, but he does not see any other way around the situation. Mr. Hall stated that is only his opinion. Mayor Crewe noted that he would follow up on Mr. Hall's remarks because he put himself in that predicament trying to see what to do. He explained that if the Town rescinded the court order so there is no presently ordered special election and the five qualified candidates run for two seats and two people get elected, after that, there are obviously three qualified candidates who did not get elected. Mayor Crewe stated that those same three candidates could qualify again for the special election and run or somebody different could qualify to run, but they would know that they were running for a two year term and not a four year term. He commented that it would be specified on the ballot, but it clarifies it for the average voter to know. Mayor Crewe remarked that the burden falls on the five candidates to figure out what to do. He expressed that it makes no difference how they run their campaign because they are running for election, but they could have two chances to win. Mayor Crewe commented that if they come in third, fourth or fifth on May 3, they would be able to start again for the next election in July or whenever it is held. Councilman Hundley stated, however, that is going through the process of financial qualifications and then, also, the 125 signatures. Mayor Crewe explained that the worse part will be getting another 125 signatures because the State Department of Elections will not honor the signatures that a candidate already has. He noted that the signatures the candidates already have is for the election on May 3, 2016, and not for an election sometime later and not for an election for a two year term on May 3, 2016. Mr. Gordon inquired of Mayor Crewe if the Council cannot appoint someone for the two year term. Mayor Crewe stated that the Council could appoint someone for the two year term. Town Attorney Kaase advised that it has already been done. Mayor Crewe stated that as of right now, the Council has appointed Councilman Weisiger. Mr. Gordon noted that he understands, but if Councilman Weisiger does not want to serve, the Council can appoint someone else and not have to worry about the election until whenever they want. Mayor Crewe stated that it can be done. He remarked that is why it is his opinion that the cleanest thing is to ask the Judge to rescind the order for the special election on May 3, let the five, qualified candidates run for the two slots, and after May 3 figure out what the Council wants to do. Mayor Crewe stated that what Town Attorney Kaase is telling him that the Council probably could not let Councilman Weisiger serve until November, and that the Town would have to hold a mandated election. He remarked that the language in the Town Charter states "until the next regular scheduled Town

election.” Mayor Crewe noted that there is not one scheduled. He advised that the Town Charter states “under 120 days until the next regular Municipal election.” Mayor Crewe remarked that it would be longer than 120 days, and it would be two years. He advised that the Town Charter states “shall petition the Circuit Court for Writ of Election” and that “purpose of the vacancy occurs then three rather than two members of the Council shall be elected at the next regular Municipal election and the Council shall petition the Circuit Court to so order the election. Those three persons receiving the largest number of votes shall be elected out of those three and the person receiving the least number of votes shall be elected to serve the unexpired term.” Mayor Crewe stated that would be the cleanest way to do it, but the Town cannot do it that way. Mayor Crewe expressed that the Council could appoint Councilman Weisiger, if he does not resign, and he would serve until whenever. He commented if he were to resign, there will be a vacancy again just like when former Councilman Hunley passed away. Mayor Crewe reiterated that the Council can appoint someone if they want including the third place winner of the May 3 election or anybody else for that matter that the Council feels is qualified. Councilman Hundley inquired of Mayor Crewe if the appointment would be for the remainder of the term or until the next election. Mayor Crewe explained that the remainder of the term would be until the next election. Town Manager Sutherland advised that it would be the next special election. Councilman Hundley inquired of Mayor Crewe if that would be 2018. Mayor Crewe advised that it would be when the Judge ordered it. He commented that he feels like Town Attorney Kaase, and he does not think the Council needs to wait two years. Mayor Crewe expressed that he thinks it needs to be done. He remarked that in order to fix the problem, the Council should ask the Judge to order an election for the remainder of former Councilman Hunley’s term so that it is correct and everyone knows. Mayor Crewe explained that in 2018, there would be three slots up for a four year term. He noted that, in other words, the Council is just patching what happened when former Councilman Hunley passed away. Mayor Crewe stated that the Council members need to think about it, and he realizes that it is short notice, but the decision really needs to be made at this meeting whether or not to ask the Judge to rescind the order and not hold a special election on May 3 because they have to print the ballots. He commented that is what is pushing all of this. Vice-Mayor King inquired if Mayor Crewe is stating that the Town would still have the election on May 3. Mayor Crewe advised that there will be an election on May 3 with five candidates running for two spots no matter what the Council does. He remarked that the question is what the Council will decide to do about the two year term vacated by former Councilman Hunley. Mayor Crewe reiterated that the May 3 election will occur, and the ballot states “vote for no more than two.” He noted that there are five names listed on the ballot. Mayor Crewe commented that if the Judge rescinds the order, the State Department of Elections will do away with the write in. Vice-Mayor King stated that she does not think the Council has much of a choice. Mayor Crewe inquired if Vice-Mayor King is stating her choice is being to have two elections and do away with the special election. Vice-Mayor King commented to have the election May 3. Mayor Crewe stated for two, four year seats. Vice-Mayor King remarked that is correct. Councilman Lambert expressed that this would simplify the issue. Mayor Crewe remarked that this clarifies it and makes it easier to understand. Mayor Crewe advised that he hears two Council members agreeing with this. Councilman Hundley stated that he agrees and feels the same. Mayor Crewe noted that he is sorry that Councilman Weisiger is not attending the meeting because he is the one who has nothing to do with it, but at the same time has everything to do with it. He advised that there is a majority of the Council stating that the Town needs to request the Judge, first thing in the morning, to rescind the order and the Council will hold a special election later. Mayor Crewe commented that what that means to the five candidates on the ballot is that they are still running as they always were for the election on May 3. He explained, however, there will only be two candidates who will get elected on May 3, and those two will receive four year terms. Mayor Crewe expressed that whenever the Council is ready, after that election, including tomorrow afternoon, they will say what decision they want to make. He inquired of the Council members if that is what they are deciding by requesting that the Judge rescinds the order. Vice-Mayor King stated that is correct. There being no objection, it was the consensus of the Council to request the Circuit Court Judge to rescind the Writ of Special Election for the May 3, 2016, election. Mayor Crewe stated that Mr. John Jones, Jr. has not said anything, but that he has seen him nodding. He inquired of Mr. Jones if he had any comments or questions. Vice-Mayor King stated that she did not even know Mr. Jones was attending the meeting. Mayor Crewe advised that he would endeavor to make sure that he explains this to Mr. Joseph Hand, Jr. so that he knows. He noted that he called Mr. Hand, the other three candidates, Mr. Quesenberry and he verified that Mr. Gordon would be attending so that the Council could tell everyone what is going on. Mayor Crewe reiterated that what he thinks he is hearing the Council say is that first thing tomorrow, the Town will ask the Judge to revoke the order of a special election and all that the Town will have on May 3 is a Town election for two, four year terms on which five candidates have already called to be elected. Vice-Mayor King advised that is correct. Mayor Crewe inquired of Town Attorney Kaase if that is clear enough or if he is missing anything or confusing anything. Town Attorney Kaase stated that it is clear. Mayor Crewe inquired of Town Manager Sutherland if there is anything he feels was missed. Town Manager Sutherland stated that he did not think so. Mayor Crewe thanked

the candidates and the Council, and he apologized that the Town is in this situation. Mayor Crewe remarked that he has been dealing with this for a week, however, he thinks it is going to be fixed and the Town has done the best it can. He stated that he appreciates everyone's understanding and attending the meeting so they could at least hear firsthand what is going on. Mayor Crewe thanked the media for trying to get the word out about what the Town is doing because they are going to advertise that the Town is going to elect two people on May 3 to a four year term, and the Town will have to hold a special election after May 3.

Under Old Business, Town Manager Sutherland reported the following:

1. The Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at 7:00 a.m.
2. The New River Regional Water Authority will meet on Thursday, March 17, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., in the Council Chambers.
3. The Council Personnel Committee will meet on Friday, March 18, 2016, at 8:15 a.m., at the Wytheville Meeting Center.
4. The Joint Industrial Development Authority of Wythe County will host their annual Tenure Awards Luncheon on Thursday, March 24, 2016. The Council will need to RSVP by March 15, and he has only received Vice-Mayor King's response. Following the luncheon, the JIDA will meet at 3:30 p.m., in the Council Chambers.

RE: HOMESTAY ESTABLISHMENT OR AIRBNB

Ms. Leslie Harwood was recognized and stated that she found the Airbnb Bill that has passed. She approached the Council and gave Mayor Crewe a copy of the history. Mayor Crewe stated that on March 6, 2016, the Bill was signed by the Speaker of the House and the President of the United States. He commented that Ms. Harwood is correct, and that the Bill passed both the House and the Senate. Mayor Crewe inquired of Town Manager Sutherland if that is the information that he found when he researched it. He thanked Ms. Harwood for the information. Town Manager Sutherland gave Mayor Crewe the information that he had found in his research. Mayor Crewe stated that he thinks the problem is that there are three or four Bills dealing with Airbnbs and the one Bill that Ms. Harwood was looking at was the general Bill, but there are a couple of more specific Bills. He noted that the framework, he thinks, remains the same. Mayor Crewe explained that what Town Manager Sutherland handed him, and noted that he has seen it too, is an article in the *Richmond Times* that commented that the lawmakers agreed to put it off for a year. He stated that Legislation agreed to statewide framework for Airbnb so that was one of the other Bills that passed. Mayor Crewe thanked Town Manager Sutherland for his research.

RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice-Mayor King, reporting for the Budget and Finance Committee, stated the Town has now received its renewal information from The Local Choice. She explained that The Local Choice is the health insurance program administered by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Vice-Mayor King commented that, currently, The Local Choice uses Anthem as the provider for insurance services. She remarked that the Town has been with the State program for many years because it provides an opportunity for the Town to participate in a large pool of employers. Vice-Mayor King stated the Town's health insurance premiums are, primarily, based on the value of the claims in the prior year. She noted that, this next year, Anthem advises that the Town's insurance premiums will not increase. Vice-Mayor King explained that the State requires that participating governments declare its intent to renew by April 1 of each year. She expressed that the regulations, also, require that a declaration be made of what policies will be provided to employees. Vice-Mayor King stated that the Council believes that the Town's health insurance is a very valuable benefit to its employees and thinks the Town should continue its coverage with The Local Choice. She noted that the Council, also, believes that the current programs provide a range of benefits that can tailor the needs of employees. Vice-Mayor King explained that the policies' differences are the deductibles and the out-of-pocket expenses. She remarked that the Budget and Finance Committee would like to note that during the budgetary process, the Committee will also consider the ratio of the payment of the premium by the Town and the employee. Vice-Mayor King advised, therefore, it is the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that the Town give notice that it intends to renew its health insurance programs, and that the Town notes that the policies which are currently in effect will continue to be in effect in the following year. A motion was made by the Budget and Finance Committee, which does not require a second, to give notice to The Local Choice that the Town intends to renew its health insurance programs for the next year, and to continue the policies currently in effect. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the motion to give notice to The Local

Choice. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, H. Judson Lambert, Thomas F. Hundley. Against: None.

Vice-Mayor King, also, reported that in reviewing the Town Code, Town staff has discovered that Section 3-21 pertaining to "Cats Running at Large" has a mistake in the verbiage as it is written. She stated that the words "that is not licensed" and "that is unlicensed" were both left from a previous version of this Code revision and should be deleted. Vice-Mayor King commented that, later in the meeting, the Council will consider an ordinance, which deletes these words and reenacts the remainder of the section. She explained that the deletion of this language does not affect the meaning of this section of the Town Code. Vice-Mayor King advised that it is the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that the ordinance be considered on first and final reading, and become effective immediately. A copy of the Budget and Finance Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Hundley, reporting for the Public Works Committee, stated that the Town's Tree Advisory Committee has asked that the Council consider becoming a Tree City USA Community. He explained that the Tree City USA is a designation administered by the Arbor Day Foundation that recognizes and celebrates the importance of an urban tree canopy and improved care of these vital town trees. Councilman Hundley noted that the Tree City USA program has been greening up towns across America since 1976. He commented that it is a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. Councilman Hundley expressed that, to date, more than 3,400 communities have made the commitment to become a Tree City USA. He remarked that there are four core standards that must be met to become a Tree City USA Community. Councilman Hundley explained that one standard requires a Tree Board or Department, and the Town of Wytheville has had a Tree Advisory Committee since 2012. He stated the second standard requires the adoption of a Tree Care Ordinance. Councilman Hundley noted that following a 24 month period review, the Town of Wytheville adopted a Tree Care Ordinance in 2015. He expressed that the third standard requires that a Community Forestry Program, with an annual budget of at least \$2.00 per capita, be used on tree maintenance and plantings. Councilman Hundley advised that the Town spends well over this per capita requirement on its tree stock. He remarked that the only standard that is not being met by the Town of Wytheville is to declare an Arbor Day observance and the adoption of a proclamation. Councilman Hundley commented that the Council will be working with the Tree Advisory Committee to develop some type of observance and create a proclamation regarding the Town's intent to protect its tree stock. He advised, therefore, it is the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the Council accept the recommendation of the Tree Advisory Committee and authorize them to proceed with seeking membership to become a Tree City USA Community. A motion was made by Councilman Hundley and seconded by Councilman Lambert that the Council authorize the Tree Advisory Committee to seek membership for the Town to become a Tree City USA Community. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the motion to authorize the Tree Advisory Committee to seek membership for a Tree City USA Community. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, H. Judson Lambert, Thomas F. Hundley. Against: None.

Councilman Hundley reported that, currently, the Town has regulations controlling entrances from public streets onto private property. He explained that, at this time, these entrance permits are only applicable to residential entrances and consist of a \$100.00 deposit refunded after the satisfactory completion of the entrance. Councilman Hundley noted that, recently, the Town has had a number of problems with entrances on various properties and thinks that its review and control over these permits should be increased. He advised that Town staff has recommended that for residential properties, an entrance permit will be required for all entrances constructed in or from the Town's right of way. Councilman Hundley stated that there will be a \$50.00 residential entrance permit fee, plus a \$50.00 deposit that will be refunded upon satisfactory completion of the entrance construction as determined by the Town Engineer and the Director of Public Works. He advised that Town staff has, also, recommended that an entrance permit will be required for all commercial entrances constructed in or from the Town's right of way. Councilman Hundley stated that there is proposed to be a \$500.00 commercial entrance permit fee and a \$500.00 deposit that is refundable upon the satisfactory completion of the entrance construction as determined by the Town Engineer and the Director of Public Works. He advised that the Committee believes that both of these proposed regulations are needed, and it would be the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the regulations for entrance permits as described above be adopted. A motion was made by Councilman Hundley and seconded by Councilman Lambert to revise the Street Entrance Permit regulations to require that for a Residential Entrance Permit, there will be a \$50 permit fee, plus a \$50 deposit that will be

refunded upon satisfactory completion as determined by the Town Engineer and the Director of Public Works; and, for a Business Entrance Permit, there will be a \$500 permit fee, plus a \$500 deposit that will be refunded upon satisfactory completion as determined by the Town Engineer and the Director of Public Works. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the motion to revise the Street Entrance Permit regulations. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, H. Judson Lambert, Thomas F. Hundley. Against: None.

Councilman Hundley, also, reported that the Public Works Committee wanted to take this opportunity to make everyone aware of the upcoming community shredding event. He stated the Town has provided this service on four previous occasions. Councilman Hundley advised that the fifth shredding event will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2016, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. He commented that the document destruction services will be provided by Shred-it. Councilman Hundley advised that due to the volume of documents that was received previously, the Council will, again, impose the standard that no one can bring anything in excess of what would be held by a 55 gallon container. He explained that the event is limited to town residents only, and businesses are not allowed to participate. Councilman Hundley stated that similar to prior events, the shredding event will be held in the Municipal Building parking lot. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1306 – HOMESTAY ESTABLISHMENT OR AIRBNB

Mayor Crewe presented Ordinance No. 1306, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, by amending Article III-Definitions, to add Section 3-42.2 Homestay Establishment or Airbnb; and to amend the following Articles to add the use of Homestay Establishment or Airbnb: Article V – Agricultural District A-1; Article VI-Residential District R-1; Article VI-A- Residential District R-1A; Article VI-M- Residential R-1M; Article VII – Residential District R-2; Article VIII – Residential District R-3; Article VIII-A-Residential District R-3MH; Article X- Business District B-1; Article XI-Business District B-2 (General); Article XI-A- Business District B-2DT General Business District – Downtown. He noted that the Council has the ordinance in front of them, and they know what it states. Mayor Crewe stated that the ordinance does require rooms of 120 square feet, no more than a seven day stay, inspections, registration, off street parking, etc. He reiterated that the Council is aware of what the ordinance states, and inquired how would the Council like to proceed. Councilman Hundley inquired of Mayor Crewe if the Council could further review the ordinance. Mayor Crewe advised that the ordinance is before the Council on first reading, therefore, they could not read it and table it and review it further, or they could read it once and adopt it on first and final reading. He noted that it is the Council's decision. Vice-Mayor King stated that she thinks it should be approved on first, but not final, reading. Mayor Crewe stated just so Ms. Leslie Harwood and Ms. Susan Harwood understand, the Town's regulations require three readings of any ordinance. He noted that the Council can waive that and adopt the ordinance on first and final reading, but for this ordinance, that is not the motion he is understanding. Mayor Crewe stated for this ordinance, he understands that the Council would like to approve the ordinance on first, but not final, reading, which means it will be placed on the next meeting agenda. He remarked that in the meantime, the Council will research the Bill, etc. Town Attorney Kaase advised that the ordinance could be amended any way the Council wishes. Mayor Crewe commented that the Council could choose not to adopt the amendment to the ordinance. Councilman Lambert inquired of Ms. Leslie Harwood if she had her comments printed so that the Council could review them. Ms. Leslie Harwood stated that she did have her comments available for the Council. Mayor Crewe commented that those would be helpful, if she could email them or hand them to him. He remarked that he was making notes as she was speaking. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Hundley to approve Ordinance No. 1306, an ordinance amending and reenacting Ordinance No. 640, generally known as the Zoning Ordinance, by amending Article III-Definitions, to add Section 3-42.2 Homestay Establishment or Airbnb; and to amend the following Articles to add the use of Homestay Establishment or Airbnb: Article V – Agricultural District A-1; Article VI-Residential District R-1; Article VI-A- Residential District R-1A; Article VI-M- Residential R-1M; Article VII – Residential District R-2; Article VIII – Residential District R-3; Article VIII-A-Residential District R-3MH; Article X- Business District B-1; Article XI-Business District B-2 (General); Article XI-A- Business District B-2DT General Business District – Downtown, on first, but not final, reading. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the motion to approve the ordinance on first, but not final, reading. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition:

FOR: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, Thomas F. Hundley, H. Judson Lambert

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1306 was approved on first, but not final, reading.

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1307 – LICENSING OF CATS RUNNING AT LARGE

Mayor Crewe advised that the next agenda item is Ordinance No. 1307, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 3, Animals, Article II. Cats and Dogs, Section 3-21. Cats Running at Large, of the Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, on first reading. He noted that in October 2015, the Council voted to repeal the ordinance regarding cats having to be licensed. Mayor Crewe commented that this section of the Town Code still contains language referring to a licensed cat running at large. Mayor Crewe advised that there is a recommendation from the Budget and Finance Committee that Ordinance No. 1307 deleting those provisions be adopted on first and final reading. A motion was made by the Budget and Finance Committee, which does not require a second, to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance No. 1307, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 3, Animals, Article II. Cats and Dogs, Section 3-21. Cats Running at Large, of the Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, on first and final reading. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is any discussion on the motion to suspend the rules and adopt Ordinance No. 1307, on first and final reading. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition:

FOR: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, H. Judson Lambert, Thomas F. Hundley

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1307 was adopted on first and final reading. Mayor Crewe advised that Ordinance No. 1307 is effective immediately.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (8:18 p.m.).

Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Mayor

Sharon G. Corvin, Town Clerk

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 14, 2016

1. We have now received our renewal information from The Local Choice. The Local Choice is the health insurance program administered by the Commonwealth of Virginia. Currently, The Local Choice uses Anthem as the provider for insurance services. The Town has been with the State program for many years because it provides an opportunity for the Town to participate in a large pool of employers. Our health insurance premiums are, primarily, based on the value of the claims in the prior year. This next year, Anthem advises that the Town's insurance premiums will not increase. The State requires that participating governments declare its intent to renew by April 1 of each year. The regulations, also, require that a declaration be made of what policies will be provided to employees. We believe that our health insurance is a very valuable benefit to our employees and think that we should continue our coverage with The Local Choice. We, also, believe that the current programs provide a range of benefits that can tailor the needs of employees. The policies' differences are the deductibles and the out-of-pocket expenses. We would like to note that during the budgetary process, we will also consider the ratio of the payment of the premium by the Town and the employee. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that we give notice that we intend to renew our health insurance programs, and that we note that the policies which are currently in effect will continue to be in effect in the following year.

2. In reviewing the Town Code, we have discovered that Section 3-21 pertaining to “Cats Running at Large” has a mistake in the verbiage as it is written. The words “that is not licensed” and “that is unlicensed” were both left from a previous version of this Code revision and should be deleted. Later in the meeting, the Council will consider an ordinance, which deletes these words and reenacts the remainder of the section. The deletion of this language does not affect the meaning of this section of the Town Code. It is the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that the ordinance be considered on first and final reading, and become effective immediately.

Jacqueline K. King

William B. Weisiger

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

MARCH 14, 2016

1. The Town's Tree Advisory Committee has asked that the Council consider becoming a Tree City USA Community. Tree City USA is a designation administered by the Arbor Day Foundation that recognizes and celebrates the importance of an urban tree canopy and improved care of these vital town trees. The Tree City USA program has been greening up towns across America since 1976. It is a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. To date, more than 3,400 communities have made the commitment to become a Tree City USA. There are four core standards that must be met to become a Tree City USA Community. Standard one requires a Tree Board or Department, and the Town of Wytheville has had a Tree Advisory Committee since 2012. The second standard requires the adoption of a Tree Care Ordinance. Following a 24 month period review, the Town of Wytheville adopted a Tree Care Ordinance in 2015. The third standard requires that a Community Forestry Program, with an annual budget of at least \$2.00 per capita, be used on tree maintenance and plantings. The Town spends well over this per capita requirement on its tree stock. The only standard that is not being met by the Town of Wytheville is to declare an Arbor Day observance and the adoption of a proclamation. We will be working with the Tree Advisory Committee to develop some type of observance and create a proclamation regarding our intent to protect our tree stock. Therefore, it is the recommendation of the Public Works Committee

that we accept the recommendation of the Tree Advisory Committee and authorize them to proceed with seeking membership to become a Tree City USA Community.

2. Currently, the Town has regulations controlling entrances from public streets onto private property. At this time, these entrance permits are only applicable to residential entrances and consist of a \$100.00 deposit refunded after the satisfactory completion of the entrance. Recently, we have had a number of problems with entrances on various properties and think that our review and control over these permits should be increased. Town staff has recommended that for residential properties, an entrance permit will be required for all entrances constructed in or from the Town's right of way. There will be a \$50.00 residential entrance permit fee, plus a \$50.00 deposit that will be refunded upon satisfactory completion of the entrance construction as determined by the Town Engineer and the Director of Public Works. Town staff has, also, recommended that an entrance permit will be required for all commercial entrances constructed in or from the Town's right of way. There is proposed to be a \$500.00 commercial entrance permit fee and a \$500.00 deposit that is refundable upon the satisfactory completion of the entrance construction as determined by the Town Engineer and the Director of Public Works.

We believe that both of these proposed regulations are needed, and it would be the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the regulations for entrance permits as described above be adopted.

3. We wanted to take this opportunity to make everyone aware of the upcoming community shredding event. The Town has provided this service on four previous occasions. The fifth shredding event will be held on Saturday, April 23, 2016, between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The document destruction services will be provided by Shred-it. Due to the volume of documents that was received previously, we will, again, impose the standard that no one can bring anything in excess of what would be held by a 55 gallon container. The event is limited to town residents only, and businesses are not allowed to participate. Similar to prior events, the shredding event will be held in the Municipal Building parking lot.

H. Judson Lambert

Thomas F. Hundley