MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE WYTHEVILLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016, AT 7:00 P.M.

Members present: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, Thomas F. Hundley, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Beth A. Taylor

Others present: Town Manager C. Wayne Sutherland, Jr., Town Clerk Sharon G. Corvin, Kelly White, Chris Irvin, Marie B. Bishop, Ethan Lavallee, Blaine Grubb, Roger Jason Billings, Danny Gordon with WYVE-AM/WXBX-FM/WLOY-AM, Millie Rothrock with *The Wytheville Enterprise*, Police Officer Stanley Demers

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 Councilman Hand.

RE: CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Crewe presented the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 28, 2016. He inquired of the Council if there was a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented or to somehow be amended. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilman Hand to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 28, 2016, as presented. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to approve the consent agenda, as presented. 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, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Beth A. Taylor. Against: None.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING – APPROPRIATIONS TO THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-17

Mayor Crewe advised the next agenda item is a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider appropriations to the budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17. He explained that the Council is considering appropriating $520,000 to the Water/Sewer Fund and $510,000 to the General Fund. Mayor Crewe advised that action on this matter will be taken later in the meeting. He expressed that no one noted on the sign in sheet that they wished to address the Council regarding this matter. Mayor Crewe stated that if he has missed anyone who wished to speak on this matter or if anyone comes in later during the meeting, he will reserve the right to revisit this agenda item. There being no one who wished to speak during the public hearing, Mayor Crewe declared the public hearing closed, and he proceeded with the agenda.

RE: PUBLIC HEARING – CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

Mayor Crewe advised the next agenda item is a public hearing (due notice having been given) to consider renewing the Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity during 2017 for Guardian Emergency Medical Services, Incorporated; 276 Express, LLC; Trinity Ambulance Service, LLC; and, Richardson Ambulance Service, LLC for the operation of taxicabs. He noted that this public hearing, likewise, has been advertised. He remarked that action will be taken in regard to this matter later in the meeting. Mayor Crewe inquired if there is anyone attending the meeting who wished to speak in regard to this topic. He noted that there was no one listed on the sign in sheet who noted that they wished to address the Council in regard to this matter. Mayor Crewe stated that if anyone comes in later during the meeting, he will reserve the right to revisit this agenda item to allow them to speak. There being no one who wished to speak during the public hearing, Mayor Crewe declared the public hearing closed, and he proceeded with the agenda.

RE: CITIZENS' PERIOD

Mayor Crewe advised the next agenda item is Citizens' Period. He stated that Officer Kelly White noted on the sign in sheet that he wished to address the Council in regard to the Wytheville Police Department's Hazardous Supplement.

Police Officer Kelly White was recognized and thanked the Council for allowing him to speak. He noted that he would try to keep his comments brief. He explained that since the Police Department's initial meetings with the Council in regard to the Hazardous Duty Supplement, members of the Police Department decided through their Administration that it would probably be a good idea to form a Committee in regard to this matter. Officer White stated that involved with this decision were numerous individuals throughout the Department. He commented that

he wanted to present the paperwork to the Council members at this meeting. Officer White explained that the paperwork included a list of the Committee members who were chosen and approved by the Department's Administration. He remarked that the Committee members include a variety of the different Departments of the Police Department. Officer White stated that the Committee members include Sergeant Chris Irvin, Corporal Bryan Bard, Officer Zac Taylor, Fire Engineer Charles Miller and himself. He noted that these are the five members who have been addressed and approved by the Department's Administration to continue with any type of talks or meetings that the Police Department may have with the Town Council, and they look forward to further discussions. Officer White reiterated that he only wanted to pass this information along to the Town Council to show that the Committee has formed and is willing to go forward with any meetings or further action in the future. Mayor Crewe inquired of Officer White if this is strictly dealing with the LEOS matter. Officer White stated that is correct. Mayor Crewe noted that the Council is still awaiting the information in regard to the LEOS program. He inquired of Officer White if what he is requesting is that all of the Hazardous Duty Supplement Committee members be involved in the Council's decision making process. Officer White stated that is correct. He explained that the Department's Administration felt that it would be better to form a Committee in regard to this matter instead of having one individual directing the full cause of this, therefore, the Committee was formed. He reiterated that the Committee has been approved by the Department's Administration. Officer White remarked that the Committee members can be reached at each of the individuals' contact numbers listed on the sheet he provided to the Council, as well as at the Police Department at any time. He thanked the Council for allowing him to speak. Mayor Crewe thanked Officer White, and noted that the Council would include this contact form in the records. He noted that Officer White was the only citizen who listed on the sign in sheet that they wished to address the Council. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was anybody else who had changed their mind and wished to address the Council during this time. Mayor Crewe remarked that if no one else wished to address the Council during Citizens' Period, he will proceed with the agenda.

CITIZENS' PERIOD – PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION

Mayor Crewe advised the next agenda item is to consider a resolution recognizing the accomplishments and contributions to the community by Mr. Danny Gordon. He presented the resolution, which read as follows:

Resolution

WHEREAS, Daniel B. "Danny" Gordon has been a lifelong resident of Wythe County; and,

WHEREAS, Danny graduated Cum Laude in 1980 from Wytheville Community College with an Associate Degree in Business Management and was named to Who's Who in American Junior Colleges and Universities; and,

WHEREAS, Danny served as news and sports editor for the *Southwest Virginia Enterprise* from 1980-1984 and won the Sports Writing Award from VPA; and,

WHEREAS, in 1984, Danny became the Operations Manager for Three Rivers Media (WYVE, WXBX, WLOY); and,

WHEREAS, Danny won every UPI Award for Small Market Radio five years in a row, won the Regional Award for news reporting and won several VAB Awards for reporting; and,

WHEREAS, Danny hosted WYVE's Pigskin Prognosticators Show, which is the longest running high school sports program in the State of Virginia; and,

WHEREAS, Danny has been very active in the community and served many civic organizations including as President of the Wytheville Recreation Commission; Member of the Town of Wytheville Wall of Honor Committee; Vice-Chairman of the Wytheville Redevelopment and Housing Authority; Member of the Joint Industrial Development Authority; Vice-Chairman of the Rural Retreat Lake Authority; Chairman of the Wytheville Downtown Revitalization Committee; Chairman of the Wytheville Baseball Club; Treasurer of the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber of Commerce; Vice-Chairman of the Wythe/Bland Public Service Authority; Member of the VA News Network Advisory Board; Head Judge for the New York TV and Radio News Festival; Member of Wythe County's Bi-Centennial Committee; Member of the Cliff Dicker Memorial Scholarship Committee; Chairman of the Wythe County Sports Hall of Fame Steering Committee; Chairman of the Local Emergency Services Committee; Member of the Carrington Place Senior College Advisory Committee; Chairman of the Wytheville-Wythe-Bland Chamber

of Commerce Leadership Development Institute; Chairman of the Wythe County American Red Cross; and, Chairman of the Wythe County Rescue Squad Board of Directors; and,

WHEREAS, Danny is very active in All Nations Church and previously served as an Elder of the church; and,

WHEREAS, Danny will be retiring from Three Rivers Media effective December 31, 2016; and,

WHEREAS, Danny is deserving of meritorious recognition by the Town Council and the citizens of the Town of Wytheville for his commitment and contributions to the community; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council, through this resolution, expresses its esteem, respect and appreciation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Council of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, hereby officially commends Daniel B. "Danny" Gordon for his outstanding public service to the Town of Wytheville, and extends to him best wishes for future successes.

Mayor Crewe inquired of the Council if there is a motion to adopt the resolution recognizing the accomplishments and contributions to the community by Mr. Danny Gordon. A motion was made by Councilman Hundley and seconded by Vice-Mayor King to adopt a resolution recognizing the accomplishments and contributions to the community by Mr. Danny Gordon. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to adopt the resolution. 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, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Beth A. Taylor. Against: None. Mayor Crewe commented to Mr. Gordon that the Town of Wytheville is very appreciative of his contributions. He noted that Mr. Gordon had shared with him that he did not think that people cared or noticed all of things that he did for the community. Mayor Crewe stated that, obviously, the Wytheville Town Council has noticed and appreciates all of Mr. Gordon's hard work over the years. Mayor Crewe requested Mr. Gordon to come forward for the presentation of the resolution and to have a photo taken.

RE: OLD BUSINESS

Under Old Business, Town Manager Sutherland reported the following:

1. The Council Work Session will be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at 7:00 a.m. He noted that after tomorrow morning's meeting, the next Council Work Session will not be held until Wednesday, January 4, 2017.

2. The New River Regional Water Authority meeting will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2016, at 9:30 a.m., in the Council Chambers.

3. The Council Personnel Committee meeting will be held on Friday, December 16, 2016, at 8:15 a.m., at the Wytheville Police Department.

4. The Town of Wytheville Municipal Offices will be closed and all services curtailed on Friday, December 23, 2016, and Monday, December 26, 2016, in observance of the Christmas holiday.

RE: BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice-Mayor King, reporting for the Budget and Finance Committee, stated that the Town's Police and Fire Departments respond to many alarms that have been generated by a security system. She noted that, unfortunately, many of these alarms are false calls and result in a waste of resources by both of these departments. Vice-Mayor King commented that the Town, currently, has penalties for these excessive false alarms, but it does not seem that the penalties have been effective in getting the false alarms eliminated. Vice-Mayor King explained that, generally speaking, false alarms are caused by neglect or by the security system not being maintained. She stated that later in the meeting, the Council will consider an ordinance that will provide for increased penalties for excessive false alarms. Vice-Mayor King noted that the ordinance will, also, delete other sections of this Code Article that are no longer applicable to the Town's operations. She advised that when the ordinance is considered, it would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that it be approved on first and final reading and become effective immediately.

Vice-Mayor King, also, reported that over the past couple of years, the Council has been working to improve the economic environment in the downtown area, and it will be continuing these efforts in the future. She stated that the Town has provided a number of economic incentives for conducting business in the downtown area. Vice-Mayor King commented that as a part of the opportunities available to property owners in the downtown area, there is the opportunity to perform renovation work on a deteriorated building and to have a tax exemption provided in an amount equal to a percentage of the increase in assessed value resulting from the rehabilitation. She remarked that the Budget and Finance Committee believes that this is a worthwhile incentive, but the Committee thinks that it would be more effective if the same tax exemption for improvements was offered by Wythe County. Vice-Mayor King stated that any property in the Town of Wytheville, likewise, pays real estate taxes to Wythe County, and, for the incentive to be effective, it would be more meaningful if Wythe County also provided this opportunity. She advised that it would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that the Council request Wythe County to consider providing this type of tax credit not only in downtown Wytheville, but for their entire Enterprise Zone. Vice-Mayor King commented that, surely, there are structures throughout the Enterprise Zone that could benefit from these incentives. She remarked, hopefully, this is something that the Board of Supervisors will find positive and will implement it in the upcoming year. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilwoman Taylor to approve requesting the Wythe County Board of Supervisors to consider providing to property owners in downtown Wytheville and the entire Enterprise Zone, who renovate a deteriorated building, a tax credit equal to the assessed value resulting from the rehabilitation. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any discussion on the motion. There being none, the motion was approved with the following voting in favor and there being no opposition: For: Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Jacqueline K. King, Thomas F. Hundley, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Beth A. Taylor. Against: None. 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 has been contacted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) about two pending transportation projects. He noted that first, the completion of Community Boulevard (Connector Road Project) was advertised for bids in November, and the bids are scheduled to be opened in mid-December, with a Notice to Proceed being issued on approximately February 1, 2017. Councilman Hundley explained that this construction is the completion of Community Boulevard that was only partially constructed several years ago because of insufficient funding by the Virginia Department of Transportation. He remarked that VDOT has, also, advised that the Town needs to update its resolution seeking the project. Councilman Hundley expressed that later in the meeting, the resolution will be considered for adoption, and it would be the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the resolution be adopted and that the Town Manager be authorized to execute all of the documents associated with the project. Councilman Hundley stated that VDOT has, also, responded to another request the Town had submitted as a part of the HB2 Funding. He noted that for clarification purposes, the Public Works Committee would like to note that the program known as HB2 is the procedure that the Virginia Department of Transportation is now following in evaluating and ranking the construction of roads throughout the State. Councilman Hundley explained that the Council had requested a complete study of Exit 73 on Interstate 81 to see if it could be reconfigured in a fashion that would improve the flow of traffic in that intersection. He remarked that VDOT has now advised that this request for the study of Exit 73 was not funded under the HB2 program, but it will be studied independently by the Virginia Department of Transportation so that the preliminary findings by VDOT can be incorporated into the Town's application for HB2 funding next year. Councilman Hundley stated that while the Public Works Committee regrets that the Town did not get the HB2 funding, it is very positive that VDOT is going to conduct this preliminary study at their expense, which will benefit the Town when it makes application next year.

Councilman Hundley, also, reported that as everyone may know, the Town is working diligently on improvements in the downtown area, which include new brick sidewalks. He explained that the Town's contractor on this project advises that during a snow event, certain equipment and chemicals will damage these new sidewalks. Councilman Hundley remarked that the contractor has stated that during snow events, the best method for removing snow from the brick sidewalks is by way of a power broom. He expressed that this is a walk behind machine that has a three-foot broom that will remove snow and ice from the sidewalk. Councilman Hundley commented that the Town's contractor has, also, advised the Public Works Committee about the use of chemicals that can be applied to the brick that will not result in any type of damage. He stated that having said that, the Town is proceeding to purchase two power brooms that will be used by Town forces to clear the brick sidewalks in the downtown area, after snow events. Councilman Hundley noted that no longer will property owners from Fifth Street to Sixth Street,

be responsible for cleaning the sidewalk in front of their property. He explained, subsequently, changes to the language in the Town Code will be made to reflect the new procedure. Councilman Hundley remarked that the Town's Public Works Director has already ordered the equipment and the chemicals, and the Town is prepared to begin these maintenance activities at any time. He advised that Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated has agreed that it would make contact with all of the business and property owners in the downtown area to advise them of this new procedure that is to be followed during snow events.

Councilman Hundley reported that several months ago, the Public Works Committee reported that the Town had been requested to change the name of the streets that go between Calhoun Street and the corporate limits near the Reed Creek Mill. He explained that once you leave the corporate limits at this point, the road becomes Barrett Mill Road. Councilman Hundley noted that the Public Works Committee had first thought that renaming that portion of roadway to Barrett Mill Road was a good idea. He remarked that since that time, the Town has had several inquiries about renaming the road to Reed Creek Mill Road because it describes the route to the renovated mill property, and it will provide clear directions to the new Truss Bridge Park that the Town is creating immediately adjacent to the mill. Councilman Hundley explained that Town staff sent a letter to all property owners along this route asking their opinion of changing the road name, and, to date, the Town has only had two negative responses to the inquiry, but the inquiry specifically inquired about the name Barrett Mill Road. He advised that given that it appears that most property owners are open to renaming the section of road, the Public Works Committee would suggest that the Council, over the course of three meetings, consider the renaming of the road to Reed Creek Mill Road. Councilman Hundley stated by considering this change over the course of three meetings, everyone should have the opportunity to offer comments. A copy of the Public Works Committee report is attached and made part of these minutes.

Mayor Crewe stated that the letter that was mailed inquired about the name Barrett Mill Road. He explained that, now, the Council is thinking about naming it Reed Creek Mill Road. Mayor Crewe advised that the Council would take the recommendation of the Public Works Committee, and, over the course of three meetings, consider the renaming of the road to Reed Creek Mill Road.

RE: ORDINANCE NO. 1312

Mayor Crewe presented Ordinance No. 1312, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 11, Police, Article III. Alarm Systems, by deleting Sections 11-41. Regulations – Alarm Company Operators, 11-42. Same – Other Alarm Systems, 11-43. Responsibility to Respond, 11-45. Practices, Procedures and Definitions, 11-46. Policy for Console Connected Alarm Systems, 11-47. Policy for Automatic-Dial Telephone Alarm Systems and 11-48. Records, and amending and reenacting Section 11-44. Penalties for False Alarms of the Code of the Town of Wytheville, Virginia, on first reading. He noted that it is the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee for the Council to adopt the ordinance on first and final reading. Mayor Crewe explained that the ordinance, basically, increases the penalties for false alarms and limits the number of false alarms to three per quarter. He noted that after the third false alarm, there will be a charge on the fourth one. Mayor Crewe advised that Councilwoman Taylor suggested the Council amend the ordinance that is in the Council packet. He noted that the words "more than" on the second line of Section 11-44. Penalties for False Alarms (a) would be deleted and the same deletion would occur in paragraph two, second line. Mayor Crewe stated that it will simply state that the charges will be assessed "after" three false alarms and "after" five false alarms rather than "more than." He reiterated that this is the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee. A motion was made by Vice-Mayor King and seconded by Councilwoman Taylor to suspend the rules, and adopt Ordinance No. 1312, an ordinance amending and reenacting Chapter 11, Police, Article III. Alarm Systems, by deleting Sections 11-41. Regulations – Alarm Company Operators, 11-42. Same – Other Alarm Systems, 11-43. Responsibility to Respond, 11-45. Practices, Procedures and Definitions, 11-46. Policy for Console Connected Alarm Systems, 11-47. Policy for Automatic-Dial Telephone Alarm Systems and 11-48. Records, and amending and reenacting Section 11-44. Penalties for False Alarms 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 the ordinance 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, Thomas F. Hundley, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Beth A. Taylor

AGAINST: None

ABSTENTIONS: None

Ordinance No. 1312 was adopted on first and final reading. He noted that the ordinance is effective immediately.

RE: RESOLUTION – VDOT – CONNECTOR ROAD PROJECT

Mayor Crewe advised that the next agenda item is a resolution for the Virginia Department of Transportation regarding the Connector Road Project. He noted that the recommendation from the Public Works Committee involves two parts. Mayor Crewe stated that the Council would need to adopt the resolution and authorize the Town Manager to apply for the funds and execute the paperwork. A motion was made by Councilman Hundley and seconded by Councilman Hand to adopt a resolution for the Virginia Department of Transportation regarding the Connector Road Project (Community Boulevard), and authorize the Town Manager to execute the agreements and all necessary documents for the project. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to adopt the VDOT resolution and authorize the Town Manager to execute the paperwork. Town Manager Sutherland stated that he had some information to offer the Council. He noted that in the past, the projects were complete before a check was issued to VDOT, however, now VDOT is requiring just the opposite. Mayor Crewe remarked that VDOT is requiring the payment upfront. Town Manager Sutherland stated that is correct. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any further discussion or comments on the motion. 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, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Beth A. Taylor. Against: None.

RE: APPROPRIATIONS TO THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016-17

Mayor Crewe advised the next agenda item is the appropriations to the budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17. He noted that Town staff is requesting the motion to state “to amend and appropriate the 2016-17 Water/Sewer budget in the amount of $520,000 and the General Fund budget in the amount of $510,000.” Mayor Crewe inquired of the Council if there is a motion to amend the budget. A motion was made by Councilwoman Taylor and seconded by Vice-Mayor King to amend and appropriate the 2016-17 Water/Sewer budget in the amount of $520,000 and the General Fund budget in the amount of $510,000. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to make the changes to the budget. Town Manager Sutherland stated that he would like to note that the $520,000 is a repayment of a loan from the Water/Sewer Fund to the General Fund, and the $510,000 reflects the money the Town received from the Department of Housing and Community Development for the Freedom Lane Project. He noted that it was not reflected in the budget, therefore, that is the explanation of those two figures. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any further discussion on the motion to make the changes to the budget. 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, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Beth A. Taylor. Against: None.

RE: CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY

Mayor Crewe advised the next agenda item is regarding renewing of the Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity during 2017 for Guardian Emergency Medical Services, Incorporated; 276 Express, LLC; Trinity Ambulance Service, LLC; and, Richardson Ambulance Service, LLC for the operation of taxicabs. He noted that earlier in the meeting during the public hearing, no one addressed the Council in regard to this matter. Mayor Crewe stated the Council members have in their packets the information that all of the appropriate vehicles have been inspected by the Police Department and have passed inspection. He noted that the Certificates of Insurance are also enclosed with the other information. Mayor Crewe remarked that it is now time for the Council to take action concerning the Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for Guardian Emergency Medical Services, Incorporated; 276 Express, LLC; Trinity Ambulance Service, LLC; and, Richardson Ambulance Service, LLC. He commented that if the Council wants these entities to be granted the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to operate for calendar year 2017, he would entertain a motion to that effect. A motion was made by Councilwoman Taylor and seconded by Vice-Mayor King to renew the Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity during 2017 for Guardian Emergency Medical Services, Incorporated; 276 Express, LLC; Trinity Ambulance Service, LLC; and, Richardson Ambulance Service, LLC. Mayor Crewe inquired if there was any discussion on the motion to renew the Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity. 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, Joseph E. Hand, Jr., Beth A. Taylor. Against: None.

Mayor Crewe thanked Mr. Roger Jason Billings for attending the Council meeting. He commented that Mr. Billings did not note that he wished to address the Council regarding this matter, however, if he wished to speak, he would so allow it. Mr. Billings declined to address the Council.

RE: CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Mayor Crewe wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He noted that the Council will meet in a Council Work Session on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, however, there will not be another Town Council meeting until January 9, 2017. Mayor Crewe thanked the citizens for attending the meeting, and noted that the Council would see everyone next year.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried to adjourn the meeting (7:25 p.m.).

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Trenton G. Crewe, Jr., Mayor

_____
Sharon G. Corvin, Town Clerk

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BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER 12, 2016

1. The Town's Police and Fire Departments respond to many alarms that have been generated by a security system. Unfortunately, many of these alarms are false calls and result in a waste of resources by both of these departments. The Town, currently, has penalties for these excessive false alarms, but it does not seem that the penalties have been effective in getting the false alarms eliminated. Generally speaking, false alarms are caused by neglect or by the security system not being maintained. Later in the meeting, the Council will consider an ordinance that will provide for increased penalties for excessive false alarms. The ordinance will, also, delete other sections of this Code Article that are no longer applicable to the Town's operations. When the ordinance is considered, it would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that it be approved on first and final reading and become effective immediately.

2. Over the past couple of years, we have been working to improve the economic environment in the downtown area, and we will be continuing these efforts in the future. The Town has provided a number of economic incentives for conducting business in the downtown area. As a part of the opportunities available to property owners in the downtown area, there is the opportunity to perform renovation work on a deteriorated building and to have a tax exemption provided in an amount equal to a percentage of the increase in assessed value resulting

from the rehabilitation. We believe that this is a worthwhile incentive, but we think that it would be more effective if the same tax exemption for improvements was offered by Wythe County. Any property in the Town of Wytheville, likewise, pays real estate taxes to Wythe County, and, for the incentive to be effective, it would be more meaningful if Wythe County also provided this opportunity. It would be the recommendation of the Budget and Finance Committee that we request Wythe County to consider providing this type of tax credit not only in downtown Wytheville, but for their entire Enterprise Zone. Surely, there are structures throughout the Enterprise Zone that could benefit from these incentives. Hopefully, this is something that the Board of Supervisors will find positive and will implement it in the upcoming year.

Jacqueline K. King

Beth A. Taylor

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PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT

DECEMBER 12, 2016

1. We have been contacted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) about two pending transportation projects. First, the completion of Community Boulevard (Connector Road Project) was advertised for bids in November, and the bids are scheduled to be opened in mid-December, with a Notice to Proceed being issued on approximately February 1, 2017. This construction is the completion of Community Boulevard that was only partially constructed several years ago because of insufficient funding by the Virginia Department of Transportation. VDOT has, also, advised that the Town needs to update its resolution seeking the project. Later in the meeting, the resolution will be considered for adoption, and it would be the recommendation of the Public Works Committee that the resolution be adopted and that the Town Manager be authorized to execute all of the documents associated with the project.

   VDOT has, also, responded to another request the Town had submitted as a part of the HB2 Funding. For clarification purposes, we would like to note that the program known as HB2 is the procedure that the Virginia Department of Transportation is now following in evaluating and ranking the construction of roads throughout the State. We had requested a complete study of Exit 73 on Interstate 81 to see if it could be reconfigured in a fashion that would improve the flow of traffic in that intersection. VDOT has now advised that this request for the study of Exit 73 was

not funded under the HB2 program, but it will be studied independently by the Virginia Department of Transportation so that the preliminary findings by VDOT can be incorporated into the Town's application for HB2 funding next year. While we regret that we did not get the HB2 funding, it is very positive that VDOT is going to conduct this preliminary study at their expense, which will benefit us when we make application next year.

2. As everyone may know, we are working diligently on improvements in the downtown area, which include new brick sidewalks. Our contractor on this project advises that during a snow event, certain equipment and chemicals will damage these new sidewalks. The contractor has stated that during snow events, the best method for removing snow from the brick sidewalks is by way of a power broom. This is a walk behind machine that has a three-foot broom that will remove snow and ice from the sidewalk. Our contractor has, also, advised us about the use of chemicals that can be applied to the brick that will not result in any type of damage. Having said that, the Town is proceeding to purchase two power brooms that will be used by Town forces to clear the brick sidewalks in the downtown area, after snow events. No longer will property owners from Fifth Street to Sixth Street, be responsible for cleaning the sidewalk in front of their property. Subsequently, changes to the language in the Town Code will be made to reflect the new procedure. Our Public Works Director has already ordered the equipment and the chemicals, and we are prepared to begin these maintenance activities at any time. Downtown Wytheville, Incorporated has agreed that it would make contact with all of the business and

property owners in the downtown area to advise them of this new procedure that is to be followed during snow events.

3. Several months ago, we reported that we had been requested to change the name of the streets that go between Calhoun Street and the corporate limits near the Reed Creek Mill. Once you leave the corporate limits at this point, the road becomes Barrett Mill Road. We had first thought that renaming that portion of roadway to Barrett Mill Road was a good idea. Since that time, we have had several inquiries about renaming the road to Reed Creek Mill Road because it describes the route to the renovated mill property, and it will provide clear directions to the new Truss Bridge Park that the Town is creating immediately adjacent to the mill. We sent a letter to all property owners along this route asking their opinion of changing the road name, and, to date, we have only had two negative responses to the inquiry, but our inquiry specifically inquired about the name Barrett Mill Road. Given that it appears that most property owners are open to renaming the section of road, we would suggest that the Council, over the course of three meetings, consider the renaming of the road to Reed Creek Mill Road. By considering this change over the course of three meetings, everyone should have the opportunity to offer comments.

_____
Thomas F. Hundley

_____
Joseph E. Hand, Jr.

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