WAYNESBORO, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Council for the City of Waynesboro held a Regular Business Meeting on Monday, April 10, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Charles T. Yancey Municipal Building, 503 West Main Street, Waynesboro, Virginia, with Mayor Allen presiding and calling the meeting to order:

PRESENT: Council Members: Bruce Allen, Mayor
Terry Short, Jr., Vice Mayor
Jeff Freeman, Councilman
Pete Marks, Councilman
Elzena Anderson, Councilwoman

City Staff: Mike Hamp, City Manager
James Shaw, Deputy City Manager
Todd Patrick, City Attorney
Julia Bortle, Clerk of Council
Michael Wilhelm, Police Chief
Alisa King, Interim Finance Director

ABSENT: None

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PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES:

Mayor Allen opened the meeting and asked the City Manager to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

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CONSENT AGENDA:

Councilwoman Anderson moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and adopted with affirmative votes from Council members Allen, Short, Freeman, Marks, and Anderson:

a) Approval of Minutes: Consider adopting the minutes for the March 27, 2017 Regular Business Meeting and the April 3, 2017 Budget Work Session, and dispense with the reading of the minutes.

b) Government Facilities – Purchase Property: Second consideration/adoption of an ordinance appropriating $151,424, as well as $134,576, to the General Fund, for the purchase of property to be used for municipal and/or school purposes. (2017-16)

c) Schools – Regional Adult and Citizenship Classes: Second consideration/adoption of an ordinance appropriating $7,003, to the School Funds to be used to operate the Regional Adult ABE, GED, ESOL, and Citizenship classes. (2017-17)

d) Schools – Professional Development Expenses: Second consideration/adoption of an ordinance appropriating $10,500, to the School Funds for support of elementary and secondary professional development expenses. (2017-18)
[Clerk’s Note: The ordinance introduced at the March 27, 2017 meeting appropriating a portion of the Governmental Facility Maintenance Reserve, in the amount of $4,300, to the General Fund, to provide for storm-related tree trimming and removal at the Riverview Cemetery was excluded for second consideration at the City Manager’s direction.]

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MATTERS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Vice Mayor Short: thanked the volunteers who participated in the clean up of the South River as the event was a success for the community.

Councilwoman Anderson: participated in the Jefferson Park Wetlands Tour that was held last Thursday and encouraged people to visit the park.

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BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Blue Ridge Community College Board: Councilman Marks moved to appoint Mr. John Matherly, Jr. to the Blue Ridge Community College Board for a four-year term of July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2021. Having been seconded and with no objections, the appointment was adopted 5-0 with affirmative votes from Council members Allen, Short, Freeman, Marks, and Anderson.

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COMMUNICATION, CORRESPONDENCE, AND CALENDAR:

The City Manager reminded Council and viewers that the next Budget Work Session will be held on Wednesday, April 12, 2017 beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Council Chambers.

Vice Mayor Short reminded the community that there are upcoming Comprehensive Plan meetings and their participation is welcome. A listing of those meetings is located on the City’s website.

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CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD:

Harry Colman, 105 Tiffany Drive: congratulated Waynesboro City Council for their recent advertising of the real estate tax increase as it shows they are ready to stop being the Council of “no”. Keeping the real estate tax level low has harmed the Police Force, Schools, Fire Department, and the citizens who need and utilize services the most. He is willing to carry his share except when City Council members won’t honor a promise of a past Council because some citizens cannot afford to go to the theater. Waynesboro can’t survive as a City of just poor people. People who pay the most taxes should be served as well. (Full comments attached)

The following guests spoke in support of the Council funding the Wayne Theatre. Statements submitted by speakers are attached to the official transcript of these minutes (attachment 46-06):
Bill Hausrath, 369 Walnut Avenue: the Wayne Theatre has been his passion and he has been the chairman since 2002. Their objective is to earn the Council’s support for the funding in this year's City budget for the Wayne Theatre as recommended by the Economic Development Authority. The other speakers will provide facts and insights tonight to provide a better overview to clear up misinformation and show the value of the Wayne Theatre to Waynesboro. (Full comments attached)

Bob von Bernuth, 594 Rockfish Road: spoke about history of Wayne Theatre and the formation of the Wayne Theatre Alliance. The Board of Directors explored financing options to determine the path to build a $6 million to $10 million project. The majority of City Council favored providing a $1 million investment if the Wayne Theater association could raise the balance. A controversial performance agreement was adopted with a 3-2 City Council vote. (Full comments attached)

Rudy Yobs, 501 Oak Avenue: provided a summary of his career to show he has a background in urban smaller-cities redevelopment problems. When he moved here 23 years ago, there was a need for an economic growth-generating activity. He submitted that the theatre and the City share responsibility and a partnership. The City has the ability to undergird the activity for the community’s benefit and ensure its continuity.

Mason Hulen, 913 Oak Avenue Extension: followed up on the theatre’s history. When the Council membership changed, the new Council did not instruct the Economic Development Authority to cancel or nullify the 2008 performance agreement. As part of the agreement, the City continued to refund the taxes paid by the WTA on the theatre building. Funding for the theatre was not included in the City Manager’s 2016 although the taxes were refunded again as outlined in the Agreement. (Full comments attached)

Jack McClenahan, 221 Arrowroot Drive, Lyndhurst: as a downtown business owner, he believes the Wayne Theatre is helping the downtown become busy. He urged Council to continue to support the theatre.

Phil Klann, 1150 Sherwood Avenue: as a business owner, paying a fair wage and benefits are no longer enough. People are looking for good schools and arts and the humanities. That is why the City should support the Wayne Theatre.

Chris Hollinger, 44 Wildcat Cove: as co-owner of Greenleaf Grill, part of their decision to make an investment in the City was the plans for the downtown. Their business has increased 20% on evenings there is a performance at the theatre, enabling them to improve wages. If the theatre succeeds, they will attract the acts that will bring more outsiders into the City, meaning more businesses in the City.

Kim Arehart, 1235 West Main Street: encouraged support of the Wayne Theatre. Theatre is a part of what attracts people to the downtown. She wondered how the Virginia Museum of Natural History would feel about the Council if they pull their support of the theatre. It is part of the City’s responsibility to help support the theatre.

Ian McCrae, 625 Rosser Avenue: owns and operates a local business and sympathizes with the City’s annual budget’s needs. He understands not everything can be funded, but the government needs to fund the Wayne Theatre. It is struggling since the City has not been funding it. There are two contractors that have not been paid. He asked Council to fund the Theatre as promised.

Kathy Plummer, 6371 Ivy Street: she and her husband volunteer at the Wayne. It takes a number of volunteers to man each show, making the experience better for visitors. It provides a center
for cultural events, bringing in many adults and children. They would like for Council to seriously consider funding the Wayne Theatre in the upcoming budget. *(Full comments attached)*

**Jim Wilson, 515 South Wayne Avenue:** became involved as a volunteer since moving here. He is a donor to the theatre and a volunteer at it. He believes a theatre is a necessary part of the vitality of a community. *(Full comments attached)*

**David Geiger, 701 Locust Avenue:** he and his wife are volunteers at the Wayne Theatre. Spoke about the historical significance of the theatre, its significance with historic preservation, and its positive impact on the downtown. He would like the theatre viewed as a historic landmark, and if it takes the Historic Commission to bring a motion before Council, he will make that motion. *(Full comments attached)*

**Urbie Nash, 1232 Fredrick Street:** he is involved in promoting the Virginia Museum of Natural History bringing a branch to the City. While it takes thousands of hours of volunteering and thousands of dollars to be successful, partnerships are also necessary. When the previous Council made the commitment, it should be followed through for the project’s success. He urged Council to reconsider.

**Tammy Everidge, 1925 Forest Drive:** very proud of the newly renovated theatre and makes her proud to walk downtown. The theatre and students are her passion. It provides an opportunity to bring City children to a local theatre rather than traveling to Charlottesville. It is safer and cost effective. She asked Council to consider their financial support of the theatre.

**Linda Kusse Wolf, 2817 Plantation Lane:** the Wayne Theatre is an epicenter of bringing people together in diverse ways. She asked Council to lend their hearts and support to the theatre.

**Tracy Straight, 1816 Westminster Road:** founder of the Wayne Theatre project. She is the Executive Director of the theatre. The theatre is positive for the City and the City has to invest in it to keep it going. It is a unique theatre because it not only presents but it also produces at every price point. It is committed to being for all residents. She thanked Council and hoped they invest in the theatre to keep it going.

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With no further matters to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m. on a motion by Councilman Freeman.

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Julia Bortle, CMC, Clerk of Council

Bruce Allen, Mayor