Virginia: **At the regular meeting of the Council of the Town of Chilhowie held at the Municipal Building, May 12, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: **Honorable Gary L. Heninger, Mayor presiding; Councilors Donna Blevins, Lewis W. Shortt, Jr., Julie Sturgill and P.J. Wolfe.**

Absent: **Councilors Bill Clear and Brent Foster.**

Also Present: **Mr. John E.B. Clark, Jr., Town Manager; Mrs. Marlene Henderson, MMC, Clerk-Treasurer; Messrs. Jay Keen, Director of Public Works; Andrew Moss, Police Chief; David Haynes, Fire/EMS Chief; and Jeff Smarr, Recreation/Special Events Coordinator.**

The meeting was held in the Council Chambers. Social Distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic was observed.

Mayor Heninger called the meeting to order. Mr. John Clark, Jr., gave the Invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by P.J. Wolfe, second by Donna Blevins Council adopts the regular April 14, 2022, and April 21, 2022 meeting minutes. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Donna Blevins	Aye	Bill Clear	Absent
Brent Foster	Absent	Lewis Shortt	Aye
Julie Sturgill	Aye	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

Citizen Time:

Ms. Rose Likins, Smyth County Library, appeared before Council to report the Smyth County Library has recently redesigned the website, www.scplva.net. The redesigned website has more functionality for users, mobile friendly and on-line only cards are also available. Requests forms to renew books are now available on the website. The Summer Reading Program, Oceans of Possibilities, is coming up and the library plans to host a petting zoo, puppet shows and a shark presentation. The family story time is scheduled for Tuesdays at 11:00 a.m. at the Will Walker Farmer's Market and Community Pavilion.

Public Hearing:

Mrs. Marlene Henderson presented the following:

Notice of Public Hearing
2022-2023 Budget Proposal
Town of Chilhowie, Virginia

Pursuant to Section 15.2-2506 of the Code of Virginia (1950), as amended, Council for the Town of Chilhowie will conduct a Public Hearing on the proposed fiscal year 2022-2023 town budget beginning at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 12, 2022 in Council Chambers, 325 East Lee Highway, Chilhowie, Virginia.

This synopsis is published for information and planning purposes only and will serve as a guide to earmark expenditures and allocate revenues. The proposed budget in no way obligates the Town of Chilhowie to any expenditure. Any citizen is invited to attend the public hearing on the budget proposal and state their views thereon. A copy of the proposed budget is on file and may be examined in the office of the Clerk located in the Municipal Building, 325 East Lee Highway, Chilhowie, Virginia 24319.

By Order Of the Chilhowie Town Council – John E.B. Clark, Jr., Town Manager

Estimated Revenues	
Property Tax	$290,635
Business License Tax	105,000
Utility Tax	100,000
Communication Tax	31,000
Consumption Tax	9,000
Sales Tax	81,000
Meals Tax	715,000
Cigarette Tax	130,000
Other Taxes	39,050
Fines	74,000
Law Enforcement Funds	67,000
Rolling Stock Tax	2,600
Miscellaneous	89,500
Garbage	147,000
Recreation	24,000
Building Inspection	3,500
Snow Removal	15,000
Water Billing, Penalties, Fees, & Connections	1,759,957
Fire Protection Hydrant & Replacement	26,520

Proposed Expenditures	
Administration Wages, Fringe	$339,253
Contract Services	45,000
Community Development	62,069
Building Inspection	3,500
Operations, Utilities	195,214
Capital Outlay	5,000
Wellness & Parks Wages, Fringe	25,100
Operations	73,880
Capital Outlay	27,000
Building & Grounds Wages	54,594
Operations, Utilities	143,000
Capital Outlay	15,000
Garbage	121,000
Public Safety Wages, Fringe	533,000
Operations	156,756
Water Wages, Fringe	658,450
Operations, Utilities	569,612
Fire Protection, Hydrant Replacement	26,520
Debt Service	290,654
Capital Outlay	59,500

Sewer Billing, Fees &	-	Sewer Wages, Fringe	340,792
Connections	723,858	Operations, Utilities	363,712
Smyth County Sewer &	-	Debt Service	245,876
Reimbursement	200,000	Capital Outlay	86,000
Fire/EMS Billing	355,000	Fire/EMS Wages, Fringe	506,351
Fire/EMS Grants	28,950	Operations, Supplies – Fire/EMS	224,143
Smyth County Contribution	250,000	Capital Outlay	267,700
Smyth County Fire &	-	Fire/Rescue Academy	10,425
Rescue Center	15,200	Debt Service	53,034
Sale of Equipment	210,000	**Expenditures**	**$5,502,135**
Miscellaneous	8,865		
Revenues	**$5,502,135**		

NOTE: This budget includes:

- Real Estate Tax Rate Increase $0.19/$100 Valuation
- Personal Property Tax Rate Increase $0.35/$100 Valuation
- Outside Corporation Water Rate Increase 2.5%
- Inside Corporation Water Rate Increase 5.0%
- Outside Corporation Sewer Rate Increase 0.0%
- Inside Corporation Sewer Rate Increase 6.0%
- Water & Sewer Connection Increase to $1,200
  Effective July 1, 2022

Published in Smyth County News Messenger:
April 27 and May 4, 2022
Posted on Bulletin Board at Town Hall
Posted on www.chilhowie.org

Mayor Heninger opened the Public Hearing at 7:09 p.m.
No one wished to speak.
Mayor Heninger closed the Public Hearing at 7:10 p.m.

- Police Week – Chief Moss reported Police Week began Wednesday, May 11, 2022, and May 15, 2022 is Police Officer Memorial Day. Chief Moss recognized Officer Gage Prater who has recently made Police Officer II or Senior Police Officer since he has been with the Chilhowie Police Department for two years. Officer Austin Millsaps was chosen for the VFW Officer of the Year award. Mrs. Henderson presented the following:

RESOLUTION IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2022

WHEREAS, there are more then 800,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including the dedicated members of the Chilhowie Police Department; and

WHEREAS, there have been 60,105 assaults against law enforcement officers in 2021,

WHEREAS, since the first recorded death in 1786, more than 23,000 law enforcement officers in the United States have made the ultimate sacrifice and died in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, the names of these dedicated public servants are engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC; and

WHEREAS, 394 new names of fallen heroes are being added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial this spring, including 295 officers who died in 2021 and 99 officers who died in previous years; and

WHEREAS, the service and sacrifice of all officers who died in the line of duty will be honored during the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund's 34th Annual Candlelight Vigil, on the evening of Friday May 13th; and

WHEREAS, the Annual Candlelight Vigil is part of National Police Week, which takes place this year on May 11th -17th; and

WHEREAS, May 15 has been designated as Peach Officers Memorial Day, in honor of all fallen officers and their families.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the Town of Chilhowie has formally designates May 11th – 17th, 2022, as Police Week in the Town of Chilhowie, and publicly salutes the service of law enforcement officers in our community and in communities across the nation.

Motion by Lewis Shortt, second by Julie Sturgill Council adopts the Resolution as presented. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Donna Blevins	Aye	Bill Clear	Absent
Brent Foster	Absent	Lewis Shortt	Aye
Julie Sturgill	Aye	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

Old Business:

- Staff and Council Comments or Action After Public Hearing – The budget cannot be adopted for at least two weeks after the Public Hearing is held. The adoption of the budget will be included in the Council's packet for the June 9, 2022 regular scheduled meeting.

- Update on Infiltration and Inflow Sewer Correction Project and Presentation of Engineering Project – A Zoom call was held and Allen Cornett of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and stated there is an additional $1,000,000 that can be offered in the same terms, $500,000 grant and $500,000 30-year 0% loan is available for the project. The existing $2,000,000 can be used on the area within corporate limits and immediate area, and the additional $1,000,000 will be used to address the areas east of Chilhowie and into the Seven Mile Ford service area, but there is a possible shortfall of $300,000.

  Mr. Dennis Amos, Hurt and Proffitt, appeared before Council to present the engineering project and a contract for the preliminary design, final design, approvals, permitting and bidding for the project at the estimated cost of $318,000. The project is slated to be bid in January, 2023 and construction to begin the spring of that year.

Motion by Lewis Shortt, second by P.J. Wolfe Council approves the contract and authorizes Town Manager to execute the documents. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Donna Blevins	Aye	Bill Clear	Absent
Brent Foster	Absent	Lewis Shortt	Aye
Julie Sturgill	Aye	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

- Update on East Lee Highway II Pedestrian Project –Mr. Tim Mullins, Thompson and Litton, submitted a revised cost estimate in the amount of $455,217 for the East Lee Highway II Pedestrian Project. The new estimate is 13.7% higher than the previous estimate in the amount of $400,445. The Virginia Department of Transportation required the new estimate as one of the final steps to bid the project out. The Town's 20% of this estimated construction cost is $91,043.

Motion by P.J. Wolfe, second by Donna Blevins Council authorizes to advertise for bids. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Donna Blevins	Aye	Bill Clear	Absent
Brent Foster	Absent	Lewis Shortt	Aye
Julie Sturgill	Aye	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

- Update on Mount Rogers Cigarette Tax Board – The ten Localities that comprises the Board to charge a uniform tax of $0.40 and carry a uniform stamp. The Mount Rogers

Cigarette Tax Board is meeting quarterly. Chilhowie's monthly average for the first quarter is in the amount of $13,918.

New Business:

- Report on 2022 Youth Government Day – Nine Chilhowie High School students attended the 2022 Youth Government Day. The students were toured through each department and given information of the responsibilities of each department. The students were treated to lunch at the Riverfront Café and received a Town tee shirt.

- Application to Virginia Department of Health for Water Meter Replacement Project – The application to the Virginia Department of Health for funding is to replace all meters in the water system at the cost of $1.8 million, replace four miles of transit line at the cost of $4.4 million and to replace lead surface line at the cost of $750,000. The applications for the water meter replacement project were prepared by Hurt and Proffitt with much information provided by Town staff. The application was signed by the Town Manager and submitted on May 5, 2022. Acceptance of the applications is slated to be announced late summer or early fall.

- Report on Storm Damage From May 6 Storm – During the storm on May 6, 2022 three police vehicles obtained hail damage, the parts room at the Public Works Department was demolished, several trees down in the Recreation Park, signage throughout Town blown and bent, flower beds at the Farmer's Market lost all of the mulch and the coyote decoy is missing. The Town is currently working with Virginia Risk Sharing Association to address the damage at the Public Works Department. Two privately owned Main Street buildings were also damaged.

- Report on Farmer's Market Opening on May 5 and Beginning of Concert Series – Farmer's Market opened Thursday, May 5, 2022. Opening Farmer's Market day had nine vendors, and the second Farmer's Market opening had eleven vendors. Vendors sold items such as meat, garden plants and homemade crafts. Mr. Smarr has recently applied for an EBT machine in order to accept SNAP and Food Stamps during the Farmer's Market.

  For upcoming Music in the Park events, nine bands have been scheduled beginning with Mr. James Meadows scheduled for Saturday, May 21, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Older Americans Day at the Recreation Park is also coming up on May 26, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

- Report Latest Meeting of Smyth Tourism – Mrs. Blevins reported during the Smyth Tourism meeting Amanda Livingston, Smyth Tourism, gave the financial report stating Smyth Tourism has $129,354 on hand that includes American Rescue Plan Act money in

the sum of $50,000 from Smyth County to be utilized for advertisement. Mrs. Livingston has also applied for three grants and received each grant for a total of $40,000. Mrs. Livingston is currently working with a company that has set up an online event calendar, https://www.visitsmythcounty.comeventcalendar, that is centered around things to do in Smyth County.

- Report on Latest Meeting of Chamber of Commerce of Smyth County – Mrs. Sturgill directed Council to review the meeting minutes that was included in the Council's packet.

Committee Reports:

- Wellness and Parks on Dog Park – The Wellness and Parks Committee met on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. to review the preliminary drawings for a dog park submitted by Mr. Nathan Brown, Barrington Landscape Architecture. The Committee discussed potential ideas of how to cut cost such as constructing the dog park in phases, reducing the expense for benches and postponing any planting of shrubs. Mr. Smarr has investigated reducing the size of the dog park and amenities and presented a proposed downsized drawing to Council. Mr. Smarr has been able to reduce the cost from $114,765 to an estimated cost of $51,765. Parking, signage and installation were also discussed.

Motion by P.J. Wolfe, second by Lewis Shortt Council will move forward with the Dog Park project. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Donna Blevins	Aye	Bill Clear	Absent
Brent Foster	Absent	Lewis Shortt	Aye
Julie Sturgill	Aye	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

Department Reports:

Mr. Clark presented a plat that was approved by the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Clark signed the plat and noted on the plat the four variances that was passed by Board of Zoning Appeals.

Mr. Clark also reported that Mr. Paul Cassell, Town Attorney, has torn his rotator cuff and was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Clark reported the Town is unable to obtain any trustees for mowing. One part time seasonal person has been hired for mowing. Mr. Clark may speak with Mr. Aaron Lundy concerning some mowing throughout Town for a couple of months.

Chief Haynes reported the Fire and EMS Department had a wonderful article in the Smyth County News and Messenger concerning female first responders.

Motion by Julie Sturgill, second by Lewis Shortt Council adjourns this meeting at 8:23 p.m. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Donna Blevins	Aye	Bill Clear	Absent
Brent Foster	Absent	Lewis Shortt	Aye
Julie Sturgill	Aye	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

_____Mayor
Gary L. Heninger

_____Clerk
Marlene L. Henderson, MMC