Virginia: **At the continued meeting of the Council of the Town of Chilhowie held at the Municipal Building, August 15, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: **Honorable Gary L. Heninger, Mayor presiding; Councilor Shannon Donnelly, Brent Foster, Bob Jeter, Julie Sturgill and P.J. Wolfe.**

Absent: **Councilors Bill Clear**

Also Present: **Mr. Brian Martin., Town Manager; Mrs. Felicia Eller, CMC, Clerk-Treasurer; Messrs. Paul Cassell, Town Attorney; Chris Johnson, Foreman Building, Grounds, and Streets; and Danny Combs, Public Works Director**

Continuance of Discussion of Apple Festival Event:

During the Council meeting held on August 8, 2024, Council requested Mr. Martin and Town staff to meet with Mr. Ty Lewis to review the softball field and drainage issue. Mr. Martin and Town staff met with Mr. Lewis on Tuesday, August 13, 2024.

Ty Lewis, 1989 Tattle Branch Road, appeared before Council to discuss the Bulls on the Field event. Mr. Lewis reviewed the drainage and sewer lines. There will be one drain tile that will be run over by trucks during the Bulls on the Field event. He plans to place boards down to reduce the chance of the drain tiles collapsing. The cattle trailers will enter on Pine Avenue, around the Old High School and beside the batting cages to park. All access to the arena will be blocked by three trucks with cattle trailers to prevent foot traffic into the arena. All the trucks will be at least five to ten feet away from the drain lines. Mr. Lewis stated if anything is broken after the rodeo, he will repair it immediately. L-J Pro Rodeo, LLC will begin making repairs on the field on October 2, 2024. They will make repairs to the dirt, repair the grass by hydroseeding, and any water drainage issues will be dug and replaced. Mr. Lewis will have Mr. Martin, Town Manager, inspect the field prior to completion. The Public Works Department will camera the sewer line prior to the event to ensure any damage is properly taken care of. L-J Pro Rodeo, LLC will have the Chilhowie Football team remove trash on Saturday after the first event and Sunday morning after the second event.

Tom Bishop, appeared before Council to express his support for the Bulls on the Field event. Mr. Bishop is thrilled Mr. Lewis is executing this event. Mr. Bishop will be apart of the traffic planning and will offer his properties as places to park. Mr. Bishop sponsored the marching bands in the Chilhowie Apple Festival Parade last year. He was thrilled with how many citizens attended the Chilhowie Community Apple Festival last year.

Rebecca Wilkinson-Smith, 711 Chilhowie Street, appeared before Council to discuss the Bulls on the Field event. Mrs. Wilkinson-Smith stated the Chilhowie Community Apple Festival is trying to get a variety of events to encourage people to attend.

Travis Lewis, 620 Colecrest Drive, appeared before Council to discuss the Bulls on the Field event. Mr. Lewis stated Mr. Ty Lewis has spent numerous hours preparing for the Bulls on the Field event. Mr. Ty Lewis has professional judges, announcers, bulls and bull riders coming from all over the country. Mr. Lewis assured Council if something is broken after the rodeo that they will make sure it is repaired. Mr. Lewis has experience working and repairing the baseball fields. Mr. Lewis admires what Little League does for the Town and ensures the field will be left as good if not better than found.

Mr. Jason McClure inquired whether the girls would have a field to play on come March if Mr. Lewis hydroseeds the outfield in October?

Mr. Travis Lewis stated he has previously hydroseeded in October and November and grew grass in December.

Bonnie Blevins, 3858 Whitetop Road, appeared before Council to discuss the Bulls on the Fields event and stated no one on the Little League Board is in support of the Bulls on the Field. Ms. Blevins stated she loves the idea of a rodeo in Chilhowie, but just not the location of the rodeo.

Mr. Tom Bishop shared when he was growing up a horse show was held on the softball field and the field was always repaired.

Mr. Foster requested Mr. Lewis, L-J Pro Rodeo, LLC, to construct an agreement with the Town for anything that is broken during the rodeo will be repaired.

Motion by Brent Foster, second by Julie Sturgill Council authorize Town Attorney and Town Manager to develop an agreement and authorizes Town Manager to execute documents. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Bill Clear	Absent	Shannon Donnelly	Aye
Brent Foster	Aye	Bob Jeter	Aye
Julie Sturgill	Aye	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

Any Other Council Business:

Mrs. Rebecca Wilkinson-Smith presented the following letter to Council:

To Whom it may Concern:

The Chilhowie Apple Festival Committee requests that the Town of Chilhowie secure the ability, as their own independent entity, to inspect food trucks, and other food vendors participating in Town sponsored events rather than having them inspected by the Smyth County Health Department. The Town of Marion has already done this, and the Town of Saltville is finalizing the process. It was suggested by Katie from Mount Rogers Health District that a copy of Abingdon's resolution and procedures be requested and used as templates.

An individual selected by the Town, who is already Food Safe Certified, or would become certified would perform the inspections. If Abingdon's procedures are adopted, all food vendors would have to be inspected and certified in their home location before they would be allowed to set up. This type of inspection would only apply to Town sponsored events.

We know that this was previously discussed, and that Mr. Clark requested information on the process which we provided, but it was not followed up. We ask that this ability be actively pursued at this time. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,
The Chilhowie Community Apple Festival Committee
Rebecca Wilkinson-Smith
Co-Presidents

Mrs. Wilkinson-Smith is requesting for Council to designate a citizen to be able to perform inspections of food trucks and other food vendors participating in Town sponsored events rather than having them inspected by the Smyth County Health Department.

Motion by Brent Foster, second by Julie Sturgill Council requests the Town Attorney and Town Manager to research what is required for securing the Town's own independent food inspector and to discuss at the regular Council meeting on September 12, 2024. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Bill Clear	Absent	Shannon Donnelly	Aye
Brent Foster	Aye	Bob Jeter	Aye
Julie Sturgill	Aye	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

Mrs. Sturgill stated she has been approached by a few community members about potentially having a fundraiser to raise money for playground equipment to be installed at the Splash Pad and dedicating it to fallen Police Officer Hunter D. Reedy. Mr. Foster stated he would like to speak with Mrs. Reedy and ask permission to name the Splash Pad after Mr. Reedy. Mrs. Wilkinson-Smith, President Chilhowie Community Apple Festival Committee, stated the Chilhowie Community Apple Festival Committee has dedicated their catalog to Officer Reedy and Officer Fedorchuk. The Chilhowie Community Apple Festival Committee would like to donate the proceeds of the catalog to the Town to help pay for the playground equipment. Mrs. Eller shared that there is a program called Kaboom that awards grants for playground equipment. The Kaboom grant must be spearheaded by a community group outside of the Locality.

Mr. Stephen Fields, Recreation/Special Events Coordinator, would like to turn the Recreation Park into one of the most beautiful parks in Southwest Virginia during Christmas. Mr. Fields would like to offer a family a chance to adopt a tree and/or shelter and allow them to decorate it with solar lights. Chief Moss recommended putting solar lights on the bridge over the river in the Recreation Park as well.

Motion by Bob Jeter, second by Shannon Donnelly Council continues the matter until the regular scheduled September Council Meeting. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Bill Clear	Absent	Shannon Donnelly	Aye
Brent Foster	Aye	Bob Jeter	Aye
Julie Sturgill	Aye	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

The Guardian Riders are requesting to organize a ride and raise money for fallen Police Officer Hunter D. Reedy. The Guardian Riders have a goal of 1,000 motorcycles and they will begin their ride from the Recreation Park.

The Smyth County Court House is closing at 1:00 p.m. and the Town of Marion is closing at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, August 16, 2024. The Town of Chilhowie would like to close at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, August 16, 2024, to allow the Town staff to pay their respect by attending the viewing for fallen Police Officer Hunter D. Reedy.

Motion by Julie Sturgill, second by P.J. Wolfe Council adjourns this meeting at 7:40 p.m. The motion was approved with following recorded vote:

Bill Clear	Absent	Shannon Donnelly	Aye
Brent Foster	Aye	Bob Jeter	Aye
Julie Sturgill	Aye	P.J. Wolfe	Aye

_____Mayor
Gary L. Heninger

_____Clerk
Felicia Eller, CMC