

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2022; 7:00 P.M.
WISE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS
501 WEST MAIN STREET - WISE, VIRGINIA 24293**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor
Jeffery Dotson
Robin Dotson
Caynor Smith, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ben Conway

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INVOCATION:

Councilman Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Mike Winters of the Wise Baptist Church provided the invocation.

AGENDA CHANGES:

Town Manager Laura Roberts advised that there were no changes to the agenda.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the October 25, 2022 regular Council meeting, the July, 2022 Treasurer's Financial Report, the October, 2022 Police, Water Plant, and Fire Department Reports, and the November, 2022 Recreation Specialist, Planning Department, and Special Events Reports. Councilman Robin Dotson seconded the motion that passed 4-0.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, Mayor Adkins closed public expression.

Presentation of the Town of Wise Economic Development Strategic Plan:

Aaron Arnett of Arnett Muldrow & Associates presented highlights from the Town of Wise Economic Development Strategic Plan, a market-based study intended to outline strategies for efficient economic growth over the next 10 years. Arnett Muldrow was awarded a contract for the development of the plan by Resolution #2, 2022 through the use of funding received from the USDA Rural Development Business Development Grant Program. A brief summarization of the key aspects of the plan was provided, including Strategic Assessment, Market Analysis, Economic Development Strategic Vision and Plan, and an Implementation Strategy Board. Arnett emphasized the importance of the Town working in collaboration with The University of Virginia's College at Wise in an effort to build a strong economy for the Town in the future. In addition, he noted the critical need for affordable housing in the area to retain and attract residents. Following the review, Councilman Smith stressed that change needed to begin with the addition of housing. Mr. Arnett concurred with Smith's statement. Mayor Adkins noted that the relationship between the Town and College had grown tremendously. Council expressed appreciation to Arnett for the presentation and detailed plan.

RESOLUTION #49, 2022

Laura Roberts, Town Manager, reported the Virginia Department of Transportation had awarded a grant to the Town in the amount of \$1,269,930.00 for an enhancement project to make streetscape improvements along West Main Street from the Birchfield Road intersection to “D” Avenue. She noted the Town would be required to match \$253,986.00 in local funds for said project. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Robin Dotson made a motion to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ESTABLISH AN ENHANCEMENT PROJECT IN WISE ALONG WEST MAIN STREET, AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE AGREEMENT FOR SAID PROJECT, AND COMMITTING \$253,986 FOR THE REQUIRED MATCH FOR THE PROJECT”. Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	“Aye”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”
Robin Dotson	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

RESOLUTION #50, 2022

Town Manager Laura Roberts explained the purchase of a service truck for the Water and Sewer Department was included in the budget for the current fiscal year and a “Request for Bids” was advertised, with the bid awarded to Friendship Ford of Bristol, Tennessee in the amount of \$51,344.00. Councilman Smith inquired if the Town could award bids to local businesses in the procurement process if the bid was somewhat higher, considering the difference could be recouped via means such as the Business License fee for example. Attorney Leonard Rogers advised this was not legally allowed under current legislation. There being no further discussion, Caynor Smith Jr. made a motion to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AWARDING A CONTRACT TO FRIENDSHIP FORD OF BRISTOL, TENNESSEE FOR A 2023 FORD TWO-WHEEL DRIVE 1.5-TON DUAL-WHEEL SERVICE TRUCK”. Councilman Jeff Dotson seconded the motion with the vote recorded by roll call:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	“Aye”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”
Robin Dotson	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING:

- Utility Easement Patton Avenue: Resident Request for Town to Gravel Road – Caynor Smith, Chair, summarized the meeting of the Public Works Committee held to discuss a resident request for the Town to place and maintain gravel on Patton Avenue. Lila Masters of 227 Patton Ave SE submitted a letter to Town Manager Laura Roberts informing that her parents agreed in the 1960s to allow the Town to place utility lines in the area currently known as Patton Avenue, a private gravel road, in exchange for the Town constructing and maintaining a road. Masters advised there

was no formal written agreement. Smith added that the Town did gravel the road at one time along with other private roads due to garbage trucks traveling them to provide garbage collection to residents along the private roads. However, since the Town stopped garbage trucks from traveling on private roads, gravel has not been provided along Patton Avenue. Smith reported the Committee recommends that Council request a perpetual utility easement to be signed by residents along Patton Avenue in exchange for the Town maintaining the gravel on the road as needed. In addition, garbage collection will be provided with the use of commercial garbage trucks. Patton Avenue will remain a private road, with no snow removal provided. There being no additional comments or questions, Councilman Robin Dotson made a motion to accept the Public Works Committee report as presented. Councilman Jeff Dotson seconded the motion with the vote recorded by roll call:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	"Aye"
Jeffery Dotson	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
Caynor Smith, Jr.	"Aye"

RESOLUTION #51, 2022

Laura Roberts, Town Manager, informed that Council historically has chosen to cancel the December Regular Meeting due to scheduling conflicts through the holidays. She added that the annual audit, upon completion by auditors, must be presented to Council prior to December 31, 2022 which will result in the need for a Special Called Meeting in December if they choose to cancel the regularly scheduled meeting. There being no further discussion, Caynor Smith, Jr. moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA CANCELING THE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2022". Robin Dotson seconded the motion with the vote recorded by roll call:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	"Aye"
Jeffery Dotson	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
Caynor Smith, Jr.	"Aye"

RESOLUTION #52, 2022

Town Manager Laura Roberts advised Council that a date must be set in January 2023 for the Organizational Meeting of the Governing Body to be held. After a brief discussion, members of Council concurred the meeting would be held on January 11, 2023 at 4:00 pm in the Town of Wise Council Chambers. Following the discussion, Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA PRESCRIBING A DATE FOR THE BIENNIAL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE GOVERNING BODY". Councilman Jeff Dotson seconded the motion with the vote recorded by roll call:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	"Aye"
Jeffery Dotson	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
Caynor Smith, Jr.	"Aye"

APPOINTEE REPORTS (Informational Purposes Only) – Acknowledgement of Receipt:

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion acknowledging receipt of the Cumberland Airport Commission report from October 20, 2022. Robin Dotson seconded the motion that carried 4-0.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Robin Dotson expressed his enjoyment of the presentation of the Town of Wise Economic Development Strategic Plan and felt it was time for Council to move forward with the implementation of the plan.

Caynor Smith, Jr. shared his desire to hold a leadership workshop soon to discuss plans for the future of the Town of Wise. He stated that through his recent attendance at the VML Conference, he found that many localities are having such workshops. Smith continued that it would be beneficial to include officials from Wise County, as well as other local towns and the City of Norton, although he recommended the Town of Wise meet unaccompanied prior to the inclusion of other localities.

Jeff Dotson wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. He stated the Town was fortunate to have good employees in all departments and that he was looking forward to the future.

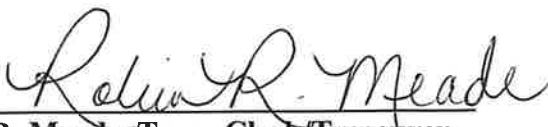
STAFF/MANAGER COMMENT:

Laura Roberts, Town Manager, reminded that newly elected Council Members must be sworn in prior to Dec 31, 2022. She requested that Council approve office closures during lunch on December 7th and 8th to allow staff to attend the annual Christmas Luncheon and a Retirement Luncheon for Robin Meade, Town Clerk/Treasurer. Council concurred with the request.

Reagan Walsh, Town Planner, expressed her desire to submit an application to an Exploring Main Street Program in January 2023. She stated the program would create opportunities for grant funding as well as provide training materials and resources to the Town.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no additional discussion by the Wise Town Council, Jeff Dotson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Caynor Smith, Jr. seconded the motion that passed 4-0.


Robin R. Meade, Town Clerk/Treasurer


Teresa Adkins, Mayor