

WISE TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday, November 26, 2024; 7:00 P.M.
WISE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS
501 WEST MAIN STREET - WISE, VIRGINIA 24293

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INVOCATION:

Police Chief Kevin Yates led the Pledge of Allegiance. Reverend Jim Collie provided the invocation. Following the invocation, Council members reflected on the life of Reverend Ray Jones, Jr., who recently passed away and served as pastor of Wise Baptist Church for 27 years.

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 22, 2024 regular Council meeting, the October 2024 Treasurer's Financial, Police, Water Plant, and Fire Department Reports, and the November 2024 Recreation Specialist, Planning Department, and Special Events Reports. Robin Dotson seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

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

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE #12, 2024:

Town Manager Laura Roberts noted among other changes, rates and fees had been removed from the updated Water and Sewer Ordinance, which would prevent the need for frequent amendments. She stated all rates and fees would be updated as part of the annual budget adoption process when necessary. A public hearing was held on "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA REPEALING PREVIOUS SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS AND ESTABLISHING NEW WATER AND SEWER SERVICE RULES, REGULATIONS, AND CHARGES". There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, Mayor Adkins closed the public hearing. Ben Conway moved to adopt Ordinance #12, 2024. Robin Dotson seconded the motion with the vote recorded by roll call:

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

DISCUSSION OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REQUESTS:

Special Events Coordinator Natasha Proulex informed she attended the VA1 Governor's Tourism Conference earlier in the month, held in Hot Springs, Virginia. She advised she gained valuable insights into the Town's development as a tourism destination. Proulex requested Council to consider the development of a Tourism Committee for the Town. In addition, she emphasized the importance of a Tourism Master Plan and announced that Michelle Workman, Senior Destination Development Manager at Virginia Tourism Company, would hold an informational session on December 10, 2024, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Town of Wise Municipal Building to discuss the first steps in creating such a plan.

Town Manager Laura Roberts advised she had met with Captain Tim Dotson and members of the Wise Rescue Squad to discuss opportunities for improving collaboration between the Town and the squad. She briefly summarized the patient care services provided by the entity and outlined the suggestions discussed at the meeting, which included the following:

- 1) Attendance of Council members and/or the Town Manager at the Wise Rescue Squad's monthly business meetings
- 2) Formation of an Emergency Services Committee as part of the Council Advisory Committees
- 3) Receipt of both Town of Wise Sports Complex tournament schedules and Town of Wise event schedules as soon as possible to allow for adequate scheduling of emergency care coverage
- 4) Establish a single emergency services location for police, fire and rescue services at events
- 5) Enable Town employees who possess an EVOC 2 certification to assist with both fire and rescue calls when needed, providing it does not interfere with job-related responsibilities

Roberts advised she would work closely with Wise Rescue Squad Captain Tim Dotson and Wise Fire Department Chief Jack Mullins to monitor the policy, should Council choose to permit Town employees to assist with emergency services during the workday. She added both the City of Norton and Town of Big Stone Gap engage in the practice. Councilman Smith suggested the establishment of an incident management media relations team to assist with serious emergency situations in order to be proactive and have a plan of action in place.

RESOLUTION #34, 2024:

Town Manager Laura Roberts stated that with the Town's financial assistance, Wise Rescue Squad would have the equipment and medicines needed to treat multiple casualties in the event of a mass casualty incident. She informed supplies needed to stock one mass casualty bag were \$2500. Police Chief Kevin Yates briefly summarized the contents of a mass casualty incident bag, which contained supplies to treat up to five patients. Yates added the Wise Rescue Squad had two mass casualty incident bags completed, and the Town's donation would allow a third bag to be stocked. There being no further discussion, Jeffery Dotson made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING A DONATION TO THE WISE RESCUE SQUAD FOR THE PURCHASE OF ITEMS FOR A MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT BAG". Ben Conway seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

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

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:

Caynor Smith, Jr. summarized the Recreation Committee’s November 15, 2024 meeting held to discuss the following:

Status of Tee Ball Field:

Smith advised the tee ball field project at the Town of Wise Sports Complex was on schedule with the grading, drainage improvements, and layout in place. He added a contractor was scheduled to hydroseed the bank along the access road and fencing would be ordered.

Location of Playground at Sports Complex:

Smith informed the Committee recommended the playground equipment for the Town of Wise Sports Complex be placed where two storage buildings were currently located near the tee ball fields. He added the existing storage buildings would be moved to a maintenance location away from the fields.

Revised Donation Request for Photovoice Workshop:

At the direction of the Recreation Committee, Dr. Amanda Hall revised a previously submitted donation application to remove Gather @ 411 East Main as the applicant and applied under her organization, Empower Action, LLC. Councilman Smith advised the Committee recommended a contribution of \$1500 toward the Photovoice Workshop, which was focused on the Town’s Centennial Celebration. He added the contribution would be made from the Centennial Celebration budget.

Jeffery Dotson made a motion to accept the Committee’s recommendations as presented. Robin Dotson seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

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

RESOLUTION #35, 2024:

Town Manager Laura Roberts informed the Resolution under discussion referred to utilities installed to serve the Elam Farm property located in the Lonesome Pine Industrial Park. There being no further discussion, Robin Dotson moved to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA ACCEPTING CONVEYANCE OF WATER AND SEWER LINES AND ASSOCIATED APPURTENANCES AND A PERPETUAL UTILITY EASEMENT AND RIGHT-OF-WAY FROM THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF WISE COUNTY, VIRGINIA”. Jeffery Dotson seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

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

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

Jeffery Dotson made a motion acknowledging receipt of the following appointee reports:

1. C-N-W Board’s regular meeting from November 20, 2024
2. Economic Development Authority meeting from August 8, 2024
3. Economic Development Authority meeting from September 12, 2024
4. Economic Development Authority meeting from October 10, 2024

Ben Conway seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

RESOLUTION #36, 2024:

Ben Conway made a motion to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA CANCELING THE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2024” Caynor Smith, Jr. seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

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

COUNCIL COMMENT:

Mayor Adkins thanked Ben Conway and Jeffery Dotson, whose terms would end on December 31, 2024, for their service on the Wise Town Council. She reflected on the accomplishments of the Town throughout the year and wished everyone a happy holiday season ahead.

Robin Dotson commended Ben Conway and Jeffery Dotson for their hard work while on Wise Town Council. He also thanked the First Church of God for providing lunch to Town of Wise employees.

Caynor Smith, Jr. acknowledged the many accomplishments throughout the Town in recent years and commended Ben Conway and Jeffery Dotson for their contributions as Council members. He thanked Conway and Dotson for their dedication to the Town.

Ben Conway expressed gratitude to Town staff members for their hard work and shared his pride in being a resident of the Town of Wise. He highlighted the construction of the Bear Creek Reservoir trail and new sidewalks throughout Town as accomplishments he valued. Conway also thanked Jeffery Dotson for his many years of dedicated service on the Wise Town Council.

Jeffery Dotson thanked Ben Conway for his service on the Wise Town Council. Reflecting on his own tenure, Dotson shared he had enjoyed his time on Council and had prioritized supporting employees, emphasizing the importance of having a good staff. He expressed pride in the new Public Works facility and congratulated newly elected Council members, S. Duane Phillips and Laura A. Taylor. Dotson also thanked his family for their support while he served on Council.

Following Council comments, Mayor Adkins presented Conway and Dotson with a gift from the Town for their service on the Wise Town Council.

STAFF COMMENT:

Town Attorney Leonard Rogers stated it had been a pleasure to work with Ben Conway and Jeffery Dotson and commended them for their dedication and countless hours of service to the Town.

Town Manager Laura Roberts expressed gratitude to Conway and Dotson for their service to the Town and wished them the best in the next chapter of their lives.

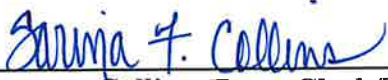
Police Chief Kevin Yates stated it had been a pleasure working with Conway and Dotson and thanked them for all they had done to support him in his career with the Town.

Fire Chief Jack Mullins thanked Conway and Dotson for their dedication to the Town, acknowledging the many hours of service that often go unnoticed.

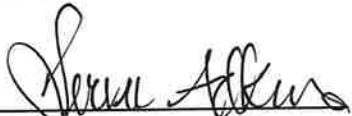
Town Clerk/ Treasurer Sarina Collins expressed gratitude to Conway and Dotson for their service, stating she was honored to be a part of the Town of Wise. She noted that Council greatly contributed to making the Town a great place to work and thanked them for all they had done for the Town's employees.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no additional discussion by the Wise Town Council, Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ben Conway seconded the motion that passed 5-0.



Sarina F. Collins, Town Clerk/Treasurer



Teresa Adkins, Mayor