

WISE TOWN COUNCIL
Monday, January 27, 2025; 7:00 P.M.
WISE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS
501 WEST MAIN STREET - WISE, VIRGINIA 24293

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor
Laura Taylor
Robin Dotson
S. Duane Phillips

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Teresa Adkins

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INVOCATION:

Mayor Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Gary Maggard, Wise First Church of God, provided the invocation.

AGENDA CHANGES:

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

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Robin Dotson made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the November 26, 2024 regular Council meeting, minutes of the December 4, 2024 special-called Council meeting, minutes of the January 13, 2025 organizational Council meeting, the November 2024 Treasurer's Financial, Police, and Water Plant Reports, the December 2024 Police, Water Plant, Fire Department and Special Events Reports, the 2024 Yearly Police Report, and the January 2025 Recreation Specialist and Planning Department Reports. Laura Taylor seconded the motion that passed 4-0.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

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

PROCLAMATION #1, 2025:

Councilmembers honored the memory of Shannon C. Scott, reflecting on his contributions to the Town of Wise and surrounding area. Laura Taylor read "A PROCLAMATION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA DECLARING OCTOBER 12, 2025 AS SHANNON C. SCOTT DAY IN THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA". Councilman Phillips moved to adopt Proclamation #1, 2025. Laura Taylor seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
S. Duane Phillips	"Aye"

Mayor Smith presented the Proclamation to the family of Shannon Scott.

PRESENTATION OF AUDIT FOR FY 2023-2024:

Larry Sturgill, CPA, presented highlights from the fiscal year 2023-2024 audit report. He acknowledged the audit engagement for the period ending June 30, 2024 was performed under the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Sturgill advised the audit process resulted in an unmodified, clean opinion, emphasizing the Town's strong financial position. Following the review, Laura Taylor made a motion to accept the audit report for fiscal year 2023-2024 as presented. Robin Dotson seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
S. Duane Phillips	"Aye"

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE #1, 2025:

Town Planner Reagan Walsh informed the Town of Wise Planning Commission proposed residential structures located in B-1 Neighborhood Business Districts to be required to conform to R-B standards, as opposed to the more restrictive R-A standards, which required larger lot sizes and greater building setbacks. A public hearing was held on "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AMENDING ARTICLE 4 OF THE TOWN OF WISE ZONING ORDINANCE AND SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS ADOPTED MARCH 23, 1987, AS AMENDED, TO UPDATE LANGUAGE REGARDING RESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS IN THE B-1 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT". There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, Mayor Smith closed the public hearing. Laura Taylor moved to adopt Ordinance #1, 2025. Duane Phillips seconded the motion with the vote recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
S. Duane Phillips	"Aye"

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE #2, 2025:

Town Planner Reagan Walsh advised the Town of Wise Planning Commission recommended rezoning the portion of Hurricane Road from Wise County Animal Hospital to the intersection of Lake Street to allow for low impact business uses in the area. A public hearing was held on "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AMENDING THE ZONING DISTRICT MAP OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA TO RECLASSIFY THE ZONING DISTRICT OF ELEVEN PARCELS OF PROPERTY ON HURRICANE ROAD FROM R-B MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENCE ZONE TO B-1 NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESS DISTRICT". There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, Mayor Smith closed the public hearing. Duane Phillips made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2, 2025. Laura Taylor seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
S. Duane Phillips	"Aye"

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:

Caynor Smith, Jr. summarized the Recreation Committee's January 22, 2025 meeting held to discuss projects at the Town of Wise Sports Complex. Smith advised the Committee made the following recommendations:

1. Increase the size of the tee ball field from 100 feet to 115 feet to accommodate not only tee ball teams, but also coach pitch teams, softball teams, and adult wiffle ball.
2. Shift the tee ball field to accommodate the placement of home plate closer to the playground equipment with a backstop installed to prevent balls from entering the playground area.
3. Purchase "pug mill" from Estes Brothers Construction to be placed on the Sports Complex access road and parking area to reduce the cost of gravel, contingent on the price.
4. Include phased paving of the Sports Complex in the FY26 budget.
5. Set the closing time of the Sports Complex at 8:30 PM and install signage indicating the designated hours.

Laura Taylor made a motion to accept the Committee's recommendations as presented. Duane Phillips seconded the motion that carried 4-0.

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

The Town of Wise Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals submitted annual reports for calendar year 2024 for Council review and acknowledgment of receipt. There being no questions or comments, Laura Taylor made a motion acknowledging receipt of the annual reports. Robin Dotson seconded the motion, which carried 4-0.

RESOLUTION #3, 2025:

Town Manager Laura Roberts explained Teresa Adkins resigned from the Planning Commission due to newly elected Council member, Duane Phillips, serving on the Commission as well. She noted only one Council member was permitted to serve on the Planning Commission. Roberts informed Colton Grigsby agreed to serve for the remainder of Adkins' term, which would run from January 28, 2025 through June 30, 2029. Mayor Smith expressed gratitude for Adkins' service on the Town of Wise Planning Commission. Following a brief discussion, Laura Taylor moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA APPOINTING A MEMBER TO SERVE ON THE TOWN OF WISE PLANNING COMMISSION". Robin Dotson seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
S. Duane Phillips	"Aye"

RESOLUTION #4, 2025:

Wise Fire Department Chief Jack Mullins advised, if awarded, Virginia Department of Fire Programs grant funds would be used for general maintenance and weather-related repairs to the Wise Regional Training Center Burn Building. Laura Taylor commended Mullins for the initiative taken in applying for the funding. Following a brief discussion, Duane Phillips made a motion to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF FIRE PROGRAMS ON BEHALF OF THE WISE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR REPAIRS TO THE WISE REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER BURN BUILDING”. Laura Taylor seconded the motion with the vote recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	“Aye”
Laura Taylor	“Aye”
Robin Dotson	“Aye”
S. Duane Phillips	“Aye”

CLOSED SESSION:

On a motion made by Robin Dotson and a second by Duane Phillips, the Wise Town Council moved to convene into closed meeting for the purpose of and including:

Legal Matters – Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel as permitted by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(8).

OPEN SESSION:

Robin Dotson made a motion to reconvene in open session. Laura Taylor seconded the motion that carried 4-0.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION – CM RESOLUTION #1, 2025:

Sarina Collins, Town Clerk/Treasurer, read Closed Meeting Resolution #1, 2025, “Resolving and certifying that to the best of each member’s knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applied, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Town Council of the Town of Wise,” and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	“Aye”
Laura Taylor	“Aye”
Robin Dotson	“Aye”
S. Duane Phillips	“Aye”

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

Laura Taylor made a motion acknowledging receipt of the following appointee reports:

1. Cumberland Airport Commission meeting from November 21, 2024
2. Cumberland Airport Commission meeting from January 16, 2025

3. Economic Development Authority meeting from November 14, 2024
4. Economic Development Authority meeting from December 12, 2024

Duane Phillips seconded the motion that carried 4-0.

RESOLUTION #5, 2025:

Mayor Smith informed the February Council meeting would be rescheduled to Monday, February 24, 2025 at 7:00 P.M. due to scheduling conflicts for some Council members. Laura Taylor moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA CHANGING THE DATE OF THE FEBRUARY, 2025 TOWN COUNCIL MEETING". Robin Dotson seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
S. Duane Phillips	"Aye"

COUNCIL COMMENT:

Robin Dotson expressed enthusiasm for working with Council's new members moving forward.

Laura Taylor conveyed her confidence in Council and staff's ability to achieve progress for the Town of Wise.

Duane Phillips commended Town employees for their hard work and dedication and expressed enthusiasm for being a part of the Town's continued success.

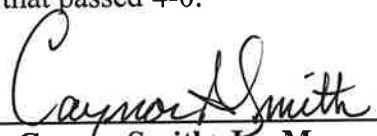
Caynor Smith, Jr., along with all Council members, reiterated Shannon Scott would be sorely missed as an outstanding citizen of the Town of Wise.

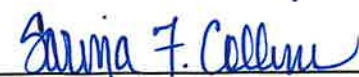
STAFF COMMENT:

Town Manager Laura Roberts provided a brief summary of upcoming events sponsored by the Town.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no additional discussion by the Wise Town Council, Laura Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Duane Phillips seconded the motion that passed 4-0.


Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor


Sarina F. Collins, Town Clerk/Treasurer