

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2020; 7:00 P.M.
WISE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS
501 WEST MAIN STREET - WISE, VIRGINIA 24293**

Minutes

Members Present:

Jeffery Dotson, Mayor
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor
Billy Bartlett, Jr.
Laura Taylor-Baugh
Caynor Smith, Jr.

Members Absent:

None

Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation:

Mayor Dotson led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor called for a moment of silence in memory of Steve Blankenbecler, former Councilman and local business owner, who passed away from injuries sustained in an automobile accident on Monday. Councilwoman Teresa Adkins provided the invocation.

Consent Calendar:

Billy Bartlett, Jr. made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the May 26, 2020 regular meeting, the May 2020 Treasurer's Financial Report, Police Report, Water Plant Report, and Fire Department Reports. Caynor Smith, Jr. seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

Public Expression:

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

Request for Co-Sponsorship for a Prom Grand March:

Whitney Boggs Mullins, on behalf of the parents of Central High School Junior and Senior Classes, requested co-sponsorship of a "Prom Grand March" on August 8th, to be held at the Wise Inn. She requested that Main and Spring Streets be closed from 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. Town Planner Laura Roberts reviewed additional COVID-19 requirements and liabilities the Town of Wise would assume. Mayor Dotson suggested the request be forwarded to a town committee for further review and recommendation. Councilman Bartlett stated that he did not feel the matter warranted review by a committee and he voiced his support of the request. Council members agreed they all supported the event and wanted the event to be a success. Councilman Smith suggested that since the event was not an actual school event, the group of parents proceed with their plans without the involvement of Council. He added that Spring Street could be closed in front of The Inn by the Wise Police Department.

Ordinance #1, 2020:

Billy Bartlett, Jr. moved to adopt "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA ADOPTING AND REIMPOSING (AT THE PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED RATES), THE TAX RATE FOR REAL PROPERTY AND TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY, SETTING THE PERCENTAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AT A LEVEL ANTICIPATED TO FULLY EXHAUST FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THE PROGRAM, AND RE-IMPOSING, RE-ESTABLISHING, AND LEVYING (AT THE PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED RATES) A TAX LEVY FOR BUSINESS LICENSES, BANK STOCK, UTILITIES, WATER & SEWER CHARGES, AND ALL OTHER TAXES, LEVIES, FEES, AND CHARGES AT THE SAME RATE AS PREVIOUSLY IMPOSED BY THE TOWN". Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, which was recorded by roll call:

Jeffery Dotson, Mayor	“Aye”
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Laura Taylor-Baugh	“Aye”
Billy Bartlett, Jr.	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Ordinance #2, 2020:

There being no comments or discussion, Laura Taylor-Baugh moved to adopt “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF WISE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021 AND PROVIDING FOR EMPLOYEE BONUSES FOR SAID MUNICIPALITY”. Billy Bartlett, Jr. seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

Jeffery Dotson, Mayor	“Aye”
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Laura Taylor-Baugh	“Aye”
Billy Bartlett, Jr.	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Ordinance #3, 2020:

There being no comments or discussion, Billy Bartlett, Jr. moved to adopt “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR ALL CONTEMPLATED EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2020 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2021”. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Jeffery Dotson, Mayor	“Aye”
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Laura Taylor-Baugh	“Aye”
Billy Bartlett, Jr.	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Recreation Committee Meeting Report:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Chair, reported that the committee met to review the requests received for use of Dotson Park. He said the committee also reviewed the restrictions in place with the Virginia Governor’s Executive Orders and the continuance of Virginia’s “Safer at Home” campaign in relation to the current coronavirus disease. Smith noted that the committee decided that given the many challenges of containing the virus in group settings, and the limitations imposed by Virginia’s Governor, it was recommended that no organized sports or activities be allowed and that Dotson Park be closed until further notice. He said the committee also recommended that the Town take this opportunity to complete field maintenance, while there would be no activity on the fields. Due to the same reasons, Smith informed the committee recommended that Arrowhead Park be closed until further notice. In addition, the committee recommended the Town continue to promote curbside pick-up of bagged produce from local vendors at Big Glades and not open the Farmers Market this season. Following the discussion, Vice-Mayor Adkins added that the committee had no recourse but to close the facilities in order to stay within the mandated guidelines. Following the discussion, Billy Bartlett, Jr. moved to accept the committee’s report, recommendation, and guidelines as presented. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Authorization to Award Surplus Property Bids:

Beverly Owens provided a summary of the bids received from the recently advertised surplus sale and requested authorization to award purchase contracts to the highest bidders. She added that items for which no bid was received would be donated to area schools or public service groups, and the remainder would be disposed of. Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to authorize the award of surplus property bids and disposal of equipment as requested. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

Resolution #15, 2020:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE VIRGINIA REAPPOINTING TERESA ADKINS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION” was adopted on a motion made by Caynor Smith, Jr. and a second by Billy Bartlett, Jr. The vote was recorded by roll call:

Jeffery Dotson, Mayor	“Aye”
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Laura Taylor-Baugh	“Aye”
Billy Bartlett, Jr.	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Closed Session:

Laura Taylor-Baugh moved to convene into a closed session for the purpose of and including:

Real Property – Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body, as permitted by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(3);

Teresa Adkins seconded the motion that passed 4-1. Billy Bartlett, Jr. opposed the motion.

Regular Session:

Billy Bartlett, Jr. made a motion to reconvene in open session. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

Certification of Closed Session – CM Resolution #6, 2020:

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade, read Closed Meeting Resolution #6, 2020, “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:

Jeffery Dotson, Mayor	“Aye”
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Laura Taylor-Baugh	“Aye”
Billy Bartlett, Jr.	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Request for Creek Maintenance:

Town Manager Beverly Owens informed that at the request of property owner Robert “Bob” Adkins a meeting was held at the Tacoma Avenue parking lot to look at the creek. Owens presented a survey plat of the property, which showed the point at which the creek leaves the Town’s property and enters the Adkins’ property. She stated that the request submitted by Adkins’ was for the Town to clear the creek of debris. Owens noted that the Town had taken the position thus far to not perform work on private property and since the creek clearing would have to be performed on the Adkins’ private property, Council would have to provide direction. In addition, Owens stated that the Department of Environmental Quality would have to define what creek maintenance could be done with and without permit. Vice-Mayor Adkins, speaking on behalf of her husband Bob Adkins who submitted the creek clearing request, stated that the amount of growth in the creek behind their property was part of the cause of the town’s flooding issues. Councilman Smith stated the only problem was if the Adkins’ property was addressed, the Town would have to start downstream and clear the entire creek.

Billy Bartlett, Jr. made a motion for the Town of Wise to initiate a project to clean the streams along Glade Creek. Mayor Dotson suggested the Town start with a smaller project to extend from the lowest point at School Avenue to Church Street to tie into improvements already made at the shopping center. He also emphasized that the Town should work with the proper regulatory agency prior to beginning any creek clearing project. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Beverly Owens stated that that the two primary regulatory agencies would have to establish the project and define the scope of the project that would require a permit and what would not require a permit. Council would then be required to decide the maximum cost the Town would be willing to incur to secure said permits.

Resolution #16, 2020:

Following a brief discussion, Laura Taylor-Baugh 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”. Teresa Adkins seconded the motion. The vote was recorded as follows:

Jeffery Dotson, Mayor	“Aye”
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Laura Taylor-Baugh	“Aye”
Billy Bartlett, Jr.	“Nay”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Appointee Reports (Informational Purposes Only) – Acknowledgement of Receipt:

Caynor Smith, Jr. provided a brief summary of the C-N-W Board Meeting from June 2, 2020. Teresa Adkins made a motion acknowledging receipt of the C-N-W report as presented. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Council Comment:

Caynor Smith, Jr. said it had been an honor and pleasure serving with Councilman Billy Bartlett, Jr. during the past eight years on Council.

Vice-Mayor Adkins thanked Councilman Bartlett for his service. Adkins reported that she had noticed the inlays on the new sidewalks were chipping.

Laura Taylor-Baugh reiterated Adkins comments regarding Councilman Bartlett, adding that he would be missed.

Mayor Dotson presented Councilman Bartlett with a gift of appreciation and a plaque recognizing his dedicated service to the Town of Wise.

Mayor Dotson welcomed Ben Conway to the Town of Wise and presented him a key to the Town. Other members of Council welcomed Conway and wished him the best.

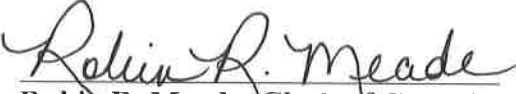
Councilman Bartlett stated that he had enjoyed his eight years of service to the Town of Wise. He commended the Town employees who work behind the scenes to keep the Town in compliance and running smoothly.

Staff/Manager Comment:

Town Manager Beverly Owens thanked Councilman Bartlett for his service to the Town of Wise. She welcomed newly elected Council member Ben Conway.

Adjournment:

There being no additional business to come before the governing body, the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Teresa Adkins. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that passed 5-0.


Robin R. Meade, Clerk of Council


Jeffery W. Dotson, Mayor