

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020; 7:00 P.M.  
WISE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
501 WEST MAIN STREET - WISE, VIRGINIA 24293**

**Minutes**

**Members Present:**

Teresa Adkins, Mayor  
Laura Taylor-Baugh, Vice Mayor  
Ben Conway  
Jeffery Dotson  
Caynor Smith, Jr.

**Members Absent:**

None

**Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation:**

Councilman Caynor Smith, Jr., led the Pledge of Allegiance. Jim Collie, a retired minister from the University of Virginia's College at Wise, provided the invocation.

**Consent Calendar:**

Laura Taylor-Baugh made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the August 25, 2020 regular Council Meeting, the June, 2020 Treasurer's Financial Report, the August, 2020 Police, Water Plant, and Fire Department Reports, and the August-September Planning Department Report. Jeff Dotson seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

**Public Expression:**

There was no one from the public audience wishing to comment.

**Resolution #23, 2020:**

Beverly Owens briefly reviewed a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Wise and the County of Wise, in regard to the receipt of CARES Act Funds. Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor-Baugh announced that she would recuse herself from any discussion or vote on the item to avoid any potential or perceived conflict of interest. Following a brief discussion, Jeff Dotson made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA APPROVING A MOU WITH WISE COUNTY FOR RECEIPT OF CARES ACT CORONAVIRUS RELIEF (CRF) FUNDS". Ben Conway seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor-Baugh, Vice-Mayor	"Abstained"
Ben Conway	"Aye"
Jeffery Dotson	"Aye"
Caynor Smith, Jr.	"Aye"

**Resolution #24, 2020:**

Chief Danny French advised that notice had been received from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), that the grant fund application submitted for coronavirus related police expenditures, had been awarded. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Caynor Smith, Jr., made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA ACCEPTING A DCJS CESF LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES GRANT AND CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS THAT APPLY TO THIS AWARD". Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor-Baugh, Vice-Mayor	"Aye"

Ben Conway	“Aye”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

**Resolution #25, 2020:**

Beverly Owens, Town Manager, reminded that a push camera and accessories, for use by the town’s Public Works Department, was appropriated in the current year’s budget. Owens further explained that it was recently learned that the items were available for purchase cooperatively through the Virginia Sheriff’s Association, who had solicited bids for equipment with the same specifications. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Dotson moved to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING COOPERATIVE PROCUREMENT OF A PUSH CAMERA AND ACCESSORIES THROUGH A CONTRACT COMPETITIVELY PROCURED BY THE VIRGINIA SHERIFF’S ASSOCIATION.” Councilman Smith seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

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

**Resolution #26, 2020:**

Following a brief discussion of the need to appoint a member to the Town of Wise Board of Zoning Appeals to fill the soon-to-be vacated seat of Valerie Lawson, Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor-Baugh made a motion to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA APPOINTING VIRGINIA ROBERTS TO SERVE ON THE TOWN OF WISE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS”. Councilman Jeff Dotson seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

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

**Closed Session:**

On a motion made by Councilman Dotson and seconded by Councilman Smith, the Wise Town Council moved to convene into closed meeting for the purpose of and including:

***Personnel** –Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body as permitted by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A) (1).*

**Open Session:**

Councilman Smith made a motion to reconvene in open session. Councilman Conway seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	“Aye”
Laura Taylor-Baugh, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Ben Conway	“Aye”

Jeffery Dotson "Aye"  
Caynor Smith, Jr. "Aye"

**Certification of Closed Session – CM Resolution #9, 2020:**

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade, read Closed Meeting Resolution #9, 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:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor "Aye"  
Laura Taylor-Baugh, Vice-Mayor "Aye"  
Ben Conway "Aye"  
Jeffery Dotson "Aye"  
Caynor Smith, Jr. "Aye"

**Discussion of Re-Opening Veldon Dotson Park:**

Mayor Adkins stated that with the reopening of public schools and some parks, she felt it would be prudent for Council to discuss the reopening of Dotson Park. Town Attorney Leonard Rogers reminded the members of Council that the Town was governed by the Governor of Virginia, not the Virginia High School League as school sports were. Town Manager Owens provided the guidelines of Virginia's reopening plan Phase Three. Following a lengthy discussion, Mayor Adkins announced that after listening to the comments, it was apparent that although Council was eager to get all the parks reopened, with the guidelines currently in place in the state of Virginia, it was the consensus for Dotson Park to remain closed.

**Council Comment:**

Jeff Dotson thanked all the Town's staff who have worked through the coronavirus pandemic.

Laura Taylor-Baugh requested that each member of Council be provided a copy of the Town's VOSHA policy that Council authorized to be developed in July.

When asked for a status update on revisions to the Town's weed cutting resolution, Beverly Owens informed that Lieutenant Chris Kent was working on a revised resolution.


**Staff/Manager Comment:**

Leonard Rogers provided a status report on the FEMA Hazardous Mitigation Project.

**Adjournment:**

There being no additional business to come before the governing body, the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Laura Taylor-Baugh and seconded by Caynor Smith, Jr. The motion passed 5-0.

  
Robin R. Meade, Clerk of Council

  
Teresa Adkins, Mayor