

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022; 7:00 P.M.
WISE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS
501 WEST MAIN STREET - WISE, VIRGINIA 24293**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Ben Conway

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INVOCATION:

Councilman Dotson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Adrian Dale, Town of Wise Street Superintendent, provided the invocation.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the March 22, 2022 regular Council meeting, the April 12, 2022 Budget Workshop, the December, 2021 Treasurer's Financial Report, the March, 2022 Police, Water Plant, and Fire Department Reports, and the April, 2022 Planning Department and Recreation Specialist Reports. Laura Taylor 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.

DISCUSSION AND UPDATE ON CHILLIN' & GRILLIN':

Greg Cross, coordinator of the annual Chillin' & Grillin' event, informed that plans for the event were underway. He asked if Council planned on sponsoring their annual breakfast for the competitors on Saturday, July 16th. Councilman Smith made a motion that Council provide breakfast for competitors of the Chillin' & Grillin' event on July 16th. Vice-Mayor Taylor seconded the motion that passed 4-0. Mr. Cross informed that he had learned that the ABC Board had replaced its application for Local Special Events (LSE) licenses with Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (ORA) licenses. A designated outdoor refreshment area license authorizes the licensee to permit the consumption of alcoholic beverages within a specific designated area. Only alcoholic beverages purchased from permanent retail on-premises licensees located within the designated area may be consumed. Cross suggested that the designated area be from The Inn to Big Glades. He added that this new license would increase business for the two retail establishments serving alcohol within the designated area. He emphasized that the Town would have the option of designating an area for any event. Natasha Proulex, Special Events, explained an ordinance would need to be adopted by Council in order for the Town to proceed with designating an area as an ORA. She briefly reviewed information to be included in the ordinance, as well as the application to the ABC Board. Mayor Adkins instructed Cross and Proulex to research the matter further and work with the town's attorney, Leonard Rogers in order to have an

ordinance for Council's consideration for the next meeting.

STREET CLOSURE REQUEST:

Greg Cross and George Bell, on behalf of the Hoge Lodge (Masonic), advised that the heat pump, which is located on the roof of the building, needed to be replaced. Cross stated that a crane was needed to lift the unit to the roof and the crane would have to be situated on a public road. He requested the Town authorize the closing of a small portion of Main Street for approximately four hours in the afternoon after work and school hours, while the crane was in operation. Councilman Caynor Smith suggested that Cross and Bell work with the Town Manager and Police Chief on the date and time of the street closure. He also cautioned that the crane should not be set up on the sidewalks.

PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE #1, 2022:

Jeff Dotson, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, provided a summary of a recent meeting with staff and officials from the Virginia Department of Transportation to discuss concerns with increased traffic on Addington Avenue, as a result of road and sidewalk projects on Norton Road. He reviewed the options available:

- Temporarily close Addington Avenue to through traffic and direct motorists to the Glamorgan intersection.
- Temporarily reduce Addington Avenue from two-way traffic to one way traffic from US23.
- To wait to see if traffic returns to a more normal level after the tree removal was complete for the Norton Road Widening Construction Project.

Joseph Mullins, Virginia Department of Transportation, briefly reviewed VDOT's perspective regarding the available options for traffic on Addington Avenue. He explained that most of the issues being reported was in regard to the traffic stoppages during the tree removal phase on Norton Road, including increased traffic on Addington Avenue. He added that it was his understanding that there had been no long delays since the tree removal portion of the project had been completed. Mullins stated that VDOT had made the construction contractors aware of the concerns. He further noted that the first progress meeting for the Norton Road Widening Project would be held on Thursday, April 28th and he encouraged the Town to discuss their traffic concerns with the contractor, W-L Construction and Paving, Inc. He stressed that although there was nothing contractually that would prohibit the contractor from making intermittent stoppages, delays could be minimized by working around the peak traffic hours such as school opening and closing times.

Police Chief Danny French informed that the police department had been monitoring the traffic on Addington Avenue at peak times, such as school start and end times. He stated that if the contractor stopped traffic for short periods of time rather than long delays, traffic on Addington Avenue should not be an issue.

Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor suggested that traffic continue to be monitored, but no formal action be taken at this time in regard to closing Addington Avenue. Councilman Smith voiced his support for making the road one-way only because he feared there would be a traffic accident at the Addington Avenue intersection.

Mayor Adkins opened the floor for the public hearing. There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, the public hearing was closed. Following the discussion, Councilman Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to adopt "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA CAUSING A PORTION OF ADDINGTON AVENUE, SW TO TEMPORARILY BE OPEN FOR VEHICULAR TRAFFIC IN ONE DIRECTION ONLY DURING THE NORTON ROAD WIDENING CONSTRUCTION PROJECT". Councilman Jeff Dotson seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by a roll call:

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

PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE #2, 2022:

Laura Roberts, Assistant Town Manager, stated that she and Police Lieutenant Chris Kent had worked jointly to develop an ordinance to try to address the problems with litter. Mayor Adkins opened the public hearing. There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, the public hearing was closed. Councilman Jeff Dotson stated he had suggested such an ordinance for years and would like to see immediate action taken upon adoption of the ordinance. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Dotson made a motion to adopt "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA REQUIRING THE REMOVAL OF TRASH, GARBAGE, REFUSE, LITTER, CLUTTER; CIVIL PENALTY; NOTICE COMPELLING OWNER OF PROPERTY TO REMOVE SUCH TRASH, ETC.; REMOVAL AT OWNER'S EXPENSE; LIEN". Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

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

PUBLIC HEARING - ORDINANCE #3, 2022:

Laura Roberts, Assistant Town Manager, explained that the ordinance under discussion would bring the current zoning ordinance into compliance with state statute. A public hearing was held on "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AMENDING ARTICLE 4 AND ARTICLE 11 OF THE TOWN OF WISE ZONING ORDINANCE AND SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS ADOPTED MARCH 23, 1987 TO

PROVIDE FOR FAMILY DAY HOMES IN RESIDENTIAL ZONING DISTRICTS AND TO PROVIDE DEFINITIONS FOR FAMILY DAY HOMES AND TINY HOUSES”. There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, Mayor Adkins closed the public hearing. Vice-Mayor Taylor moved to adopt Ordinance #3, 2022 as presented. Councilman Dotson seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:

BANKING SERVICES AGREEMENT – Mayor Adkins, Chair, briefly summarized the Finance Committee Meeting report from March 31, 2022. She noted that the committee interviewed and ranked two banks who submitted a response to the recently issued Request for Proposal for banking services. The committee unanimously recommended that Council approve an agreement with First Bank & Trust Company for banking services for the period of July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025.

RESOLUTION #8, 2022:

Following the Finance Committee Report, Councilman Caynor Smith made a motion to approve “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA APPROVING AN AGREEMENT WITH FIRST BANK & TRUST FOR BANKING SERVICES”. Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

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

RESOLUTION #9, 2022:

Laura Roberts, Assistant Town Manager, explained that the resolution under discussion formalized the decision Council made at the February Council meeting regarding how the remaining ARPA funds would be spent. There being no additional comments, Councilman Smith moved to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA SELECTING THE STANDARD ALLOWANCE OF UP TO \$10 MILLION FOR GENERAL REVENUE REPLACEMENT TO FUND GOVERNMENT SERVICES NOT TO EXCEED THE TOWN OF WISE’S TOTAL ALLOCATION OF \$3,015,024 FOR THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUND ALLOCATION TO THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA”. Vice-Mayor Taylor seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

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

RESOLUTION #10, 2022:

Laura Roberts, Assistant Town Manager informed that interviews were conducted with three firms who responded to the RFP that was issued for professional engineering services for the water tank rehabilitation project. She reported that Thompson & Litton, Inc. was the highest ranking firm. Following a brief discussion, Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor moved to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH THOMPSON & LITTON, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE TANK REHABILITATION PROJECT OF SEVEN WATER STORAGE TANKS”. Councilman Caynor Smith seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

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

PROCLAMATION #2, 2022:

Vice-Mayor Taylor made a motion to adopt “A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA TO OBSERVE THE WEEK OF MAY 11-16, 2022 AS POLICE WEEK”. Councilman Dotson seconded the motion that passed 4-0.

PROCLAMATION #3, 2022:

Vice-Mayor Taylor made a motion to adopt “A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF MAY 15-21, 2022 AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK”. Councilman Dotson seconded the motion that passed 4-0.

PROCLAMATION #4, 2022:

Councilman Dotson made a motion to adopt “A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF MAY 1-7, 2022 AS MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK”. Vice-Mayor Taylor seconded the motion that passed 4-0.

PROCLAMATION #5, 2022:

Vice-Mayor Taylor made a motion to adopt “A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA DESIGNATING MAY 2022 AS ENDANGERED SPECIES MONTH”. Councilman Smith seconded the motion that passed 4-0.

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

LAKE TRAIL – Laura Roberts noted that the committee identified the need for mapping of Town owned properties around the reservoir. She added that T&L was directed to prepare platting of the Town’s property boundaries. Town Attorney Leonard Rogers added that he was completing deed searches for properties bordering the lake. He stated that there could be two possible easements needed to continue with the trail project.

DISCUSSION OF TOWN OF WISE SPORTS COMPLEX:

Laura Roberts reviewed the need for an additional \$15,000 in funding for outstanding projects to be completed in fiscal year 2021-22 at the Wise Sports Complex. Following a review of the remaining projects, Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to approve the request for additional funding in the amount of \$15,000 for projects at the Wise Sports Complex with funding to be transferred from the Council Contingency line item. Jeff Dotson seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

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

Doug Bates asked if Cal Ripken could set up as a food vendor for the upcoming tournaments to avoid long lines at other food vendors and at the concession stand. Town Attorney Leonard Rogers responded that those type of decisions were included in Doug Bates contract and job description; therefore, did not require Council review or approval.

DISCUSSION OF FY 2022-2023 BUDGET:

Laura Roberts advised that all changes discussed at the previous budget workshop had been incorporated into the budget. She stated that Council’s input was needed regarding the personnel requests in order for the budget to be finalized and advertised for a public hearing for the May meeting. Council members responded that personnel would be discussed during the closed session.

CLOSED SESSION:

On a motion made by Caynor Smith, Jr. and a second by Jeff Dotson 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).

Acquisition or Disposition of 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).

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:

Councilman Smith made a motion to reconvene in open session. Vice-Mayor Taylor seconded the motion that carried 4-0.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION – CM RESOLUTION #3, 2022:

Sarina Collins, Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer, read Closed Meeting Resolution #3, 2022, “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”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Mayor Adkins, on behalf of Council, instructed Laura Roberts to proceed with scheduling a public hearing on the fiscal year 2022-23 budget for the May meeting.

ACCEPTANCE OF TOWN MANAGER’S RETIREMENT LETTER:

Vice-Mayor Taylor made a motion to accept a retirement letter from Beverly Owens, who had served as Town Manager for nearly 39 years, effective April 8, 2022. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. Smith commended Owens for her service to the Town, adding the Town and citizens had benefited from her hard work. Councilman Dotson stated that he could sum up Owens’ service to the Town of Wise in one word “dedicated”. Vice-Mayor Taylor added that Owens provided a tremendous service to the Wise community. Mayor Adkins echoed the other comments, adding that her service did not go unnoticed. There being no additional comments, Mayor Adkins called for a roll call vote:

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

RESOLUTION #10, 2022

“A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA APPOINTING LAURA CRAFT ROBERTS TO PERFORM DUTIES OF THE OFFICE OF TOWN MANAGER UNTIL THE CURRENT TERM OF APPOINTMENT IS COMPLETED”

was adopted on a motion made by Councilman Caynor Smith. Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor seconded the motion, with the vote recorded by roll call:

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Caynor Smith, Jr. stated that the Town of Wise is the “place to be” in the summertime and he was looking forward to the summer months.

Laura Taylor stated that she loved the Town and its employees. She asked Adrian Dale to review a request for a “Dead End” sign in the Grandview Drive area.

Jeff Dotson stated that he looked forward to working with the newly appointed Town Manager Laura Roberts.

STAFF/MANAGER COMMENT:

Town Manager Laura Roberts informed that Wise County, UVA-Wise, and Wise County IDA were interested in working with the Town of Wise on a trail project from UVA-Wise to the Town of Wise Sports Complex. She added that the group wanted to contract with Thompson & Litton to complete a preliminary engineering report (PER) to identify the best route for the trail. Roberts advised that Wise County had requested each entity to contribute \$5,000 toward the \$20,000 cost of the PER. She added that she had identified funds in the current year’s budget that could be used for the contribution if Council chose to participate. Councilman Smith made a motion that the Town of Wise participate in the joint trail project and contribute \$5,000 with funding from the Parks and Recreation Contract Services line item. Vice-Mayor Taylor seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

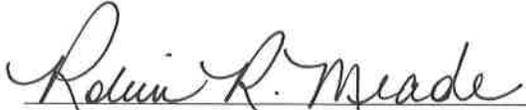
Teresa Adkins, Mayor	“Aye”
Laura Taylor-Baugh, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Roberts reported that UVA-Wise graduation was scheduled for May 14th and the VDOT Six-Year Improvement Plan public meeting would be held at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center on May 11th.

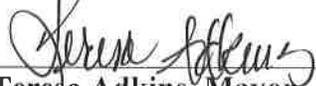
Natasha Proulex informed that the “Employee Appreciation Picnic” was scheduled for June 25th at the Wise Municipal Pool.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no additional business to come before the governing body, the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Laura Taylor. Caynor Smith, Jr., seconded the motion, which carried 4-0.



Robin R. Meade, Town Clerk/Treasurer



Teresa Adkins, Mayor