

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022; 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  
Caynor Smith, Jr.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Laura Taylor, Vice-Mayor

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INVOCATION:**

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the November 30, 2021 regular Council meeting, minutes of the December 9, 2021 special-called meeting, minutes of the December 15, 2021 special-called meeting, the September 2021 Treasurer's Financial Report, the November - December 2021 Police, Water Plant, and Fire Department Reports, the 2021 Yearly Police Department Report, and the December 2021 – January 2022 Planning Department and Recreation Specialist Reports. Ben Conway seconded the motion that passed 4-0.

**PUBLIC EXPRESSION:**

Councilman Smith announced that he now had two additional grandchildren thanks to the adoption of the children by his son and daughter-in-law, which became official earlier in the day.

**REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT:**

Katie Dunn, on behalf of the Forest Recreation Outdoor Group (FROG), requested Council approve a letter of support for a collaborative initiative aimed at expanding the region's outdoor recreation economy. Dunn explained that FROG was a collective of local governments, recreation user groups, Forest Service representatives, and other stakeholders formed in 2019 and focused on improving outdoor recreation opportunities in Southwest Virginia. She advised that the group was working to submit an application for an Economic Development Administration American Rescue Plan Program grant to help with the efforts. She added that letters of support were needed for the projects outlined in the grant proposal. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion that Council honor the request for a letter of support and instructed the Town Manager to draft the letter, and authorized the Town Mayor to sign the letter of support. Ben Conway seconded the motion. Mayor Adkins called for a roll call vote:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	“Aye”
Ben Conway	“Aye”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”

Caynor Smith, Jr.

“Aye”

**DISCUSSION OF THE RALLY PROGRAM AND AIRSHIFT PROGRAM:**

McKenna Blevins, UVA Wise RALLY and AIRSHIFT Coordinator, provided an overview of the program. She explained that the RALLY (Real Action Leadership Learning Yay!) Southwest Virginia program was created jointly with Opportunity SWVA in 2015, to build leadership capacity at the community level through hands on learning and mini-grants and engaged community leaders in collaborative processes that support and sustain small businesses. She provided examples of Rally projects that the Town of Pound and the Town of Coeburn had participated in. Courtney Stringer, UVA Wise Opportunity Southwest Virginia Director, further emphasized the success of both RALLY and AIRSHIFT and how they might build on the momentum of strengthening the Town/Gown relationship in Wise. Council members expressed their support for a RALLY/AIRSHIFT project in Wise.

**REQUESTS AND PROPOSALS FROM THE COMMUNITY EVENT COORDINATOR:**

Laura Roberts, on behalf of Community Event Coordinator Natasha Proulex, summarized proposals and events for the upcoming months in the Town of Wise. Roberts advised that Proulex proposed that the Town make a social media presence by setting up a Town of Wise Events page on Facebook that would be for informational purposes only, meaning there would be no option for reader comments. She explained that this platform would enable notification of local events to a large number of people. Other members of Council encouraged the use of other social networking sites as well. She reviewed two new events in addition to the Summer Movie Night and Concert Series: Easter Egg Hunt and Trick or Treating. Roberts reminded that the Town of Wise had received notification of a grant award in the amount of \$1,500 from the Wise County office of Tourism. She noted that the Wise Business Association recommended the Town use the money to change its website cover photo of Roan Mountain to a photo that represented the Town of Wise. Roberts stated that Ms. Proulex suggested using the money to hire a photographer to provide a cover photograph for the webpage; therefore, requested authorization to advertise for proposals. Mayor Adkins, on behalf of Council, authorized the Community Event Coordinator to proceed with the advertisement for a photographer. Roberts informed that Proulex had been working with the Recreation Specialist putting together “welcome bags” for the participants and coaches who would be participating in the Cal Ripkin State Tournament in July. She noted the cost of providing a bag to all participants and coaches would cost \$1,250. Councilman Smith made a motion authorizing the Town Manager to transfer \$1,250 from the General Fund Contingency line item to fund the welcome bags. Councilman Dotson seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor

“Aye”

Ben Conway

“Aye”

Jeffery Dotson

“Aye”

Caynor Smith, Jr.

“Aye”

Laura Robert briefly reviewed the summer movie night schedule for 2022.

**DISCUSSION OF THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT – U.S. TREASURY’S FINAL RULE:**

Assistant Town Manager Laura Roberts provided a summary of significant changes made by the U.S. Treasury in regard to ARPA:

- 1) *In calculating revenue loss, localities could now choose to use a standard revenue loss up to \$10,000,000, which would mean the Town of Wise could choose to claim up to \$3,015,024 (for both tranches) to replace revenue losses by putting the money into the general fund to be used for government services.*
- 2) *It broadened the use of funds to include streets, sidewalks, and purchases of equipment and vehicles such as firetrucks, ambulances, and police cars.*
- 3) *Storm water infrastructure was now included with the water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure to include culvert replacement, resizing and removal, replacement of storm sewers, and dam and reservoir rehabilitation projects.*

Roberts suggested that the previously prioritized projects be re-evaluated based on the changes outlined in the U.S. Treasury’s Final Rule. Councilman Smith recommended that the Town’s staff present a recommendation to Council. Roberts replied that a recommendation would be provided at Council’s February meeting.

**DISCUSSION OF ARPA PROJECTS – WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE PRIORITIES:**

Laura Roberts, Assistant Town Manager, reminded Council that early in the current fiscal year, Council was presented with recommendations for use of the ARPA funds and at that time Council expressed support of eligible water and sewer infrastructure projects. Roberts stated that the tank maintenance project remained the top priority. She advised that with the new broader definitions of uses of ARPA funds that was handed down with the U.S. Treasury final rule, she wanted to discuss the tank project a final time to confirm that Council still supported the recommended project and to request authorization to begin the procurement process. There being no additional discussion, Councilman Dotson made a motion authorizing the Assistant Town Manager to proceed with the tank maintenance project. Councilman Conway seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

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

**RESOLUTION #1, 2022:**

Laura Roberts reviewed the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development planning grant in the amount of \$15,000 to hire a consultant to develop and prepare an Opportunity Zone Prospectus for the Town of Wise. She reviewed the ranking of firms by the interview committee, with Thomas P. Miller & Associates, LLC being the highest-ranking firm. There being no additional discussion, Jeff Dotson made a motion to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AWARDDING A CONTRACT TO THOMAS P. MILLER & ASSOCIATES, LLC FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN OPPORTUNITY

ZONE PROSPECTUS FOR THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA USING PLANNING GRANT FUNDS AWARDED BY THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT". Ben Conway seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

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

**RESOLUTION #2, 2022:**

Laura Roberts reviewed the business development grant from the USDA Rural Development in the amount of \$35,000 to hire a consultant to develop and prepare an economic development strategic plan for the Town of Wise. She reviewed the ranking results of the firms by the interview committee, with Arnett Muldrow, LLC being the highest-ranking firm. There being no additional discussion, Councilman Ben Conway made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AWARDED A CONTRACT TO ARNETT MULDROW FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AND PREPARATION OF AN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA USING GRANT FUNDS AWARDED BY THE USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM". Councilman Jeff Dotson seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

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

**RESOLUTION #3, 2022:**

Robin Meade, Town Clerk/Treasurer, presented information regarding the codification of the Town's ordinances. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Dotson made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING THE CONTRACT FOR LEGAL CODIFICATION SERVICES WITH MUNICODE". Councilman Conway seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

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

**RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:**

Caynor Smith, Jr., Chair, presented the report of the Recreation Committee. The committee recommended that the Town of Wise provide a financial contribution of \$5,000 to Wise Youth

Sports with the understanding that other fund-raising activities be conducted by the organization for the following years. He added that the committee recommended the Town co-sponsor the Cal Ripkin State Tournament scheduled for the last week in June. Smith added that the Committee further recommended that the Town lease the concessions building and equipment to the Wise Youth Sports organization for \$150 per month for the March – June season. He also provided a brief review of additional work that needed to be done at the ballfields and that the committee noted that Town personnel would be needed to help prepare the park for the tournament and to assist during and after the tournament. Following the review, Councilman Smith made a motion that all expenditures discussed in the Recreation Committee’s report, including netting and a public address system, be paid for with funds transferred from the General Fund Contingency line item. Councilman Dotson seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

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

**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 2021 for Council review and acknowledgement of receipt. There being no questions or comments, Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion acknowledging receipt of the annual reports. Ben Conway seconded the motion, which carried 4-0.

**APPOINTEE REPORTS (Informational Purposes Only) – Acknowledgement of Receipt:**

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

- 1) C-N-W Board’s regular meeting from December 1, 2021
- 2) C-N-W Board’s special called meeting from December 5, 2021
- 3) Cumberland’s Airport Commission meeting from December 16, 2021

Ben Conway seconded the motion that carried 4-0.

**COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Councilman Conway commended the Street Department and the snow removal efforts.

Councilmembers offered congratulations to Councilman Smith on the official adoption of his grandchildren.

**STAFF/MANAGER COMMENT:**

Beverly Owens, on behalf of the Town of Wise employees, thanked Council for the significant pay increases, Christmas stipend, and the ARPA premium pay. Owens also noted that a Budget Workshop meeting needed to be scheduled in order to discuss cost-of-living adjustments for the upcoming fiscal year. Following a brief discussion, Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion that Council

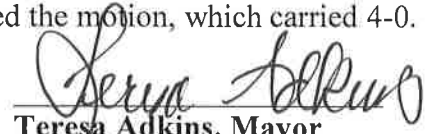
set a Budget Workshop meeting for Thursday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Wise Municipal Building. Ben Conway seconded the motion, which passed 4-0.

Laura Roberts provided a brief update on the Norton Road Pedestrian Improvement Project set to begin on February 1<sup>st</sup>. She noted that a pre-construction conference for the Norton Road Widening Project was scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

  
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Robin R. Meade, Town Clerk/Treasurer

  
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Teresa Adkins, Mayor