

WISE TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, JULY 26, 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:

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INVOCATION:

Councilman Conway led the Pledge of Allegiance. James (Jim) Colley, Jr., Minister, provided the invocation.

AGENDA CHANGES:

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

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the June 28, 2022 regular Council meeting, the May, 2022 Treasurer's Financial Report, the June, 2022 Police, Water Plant, and Fire Department Reports, and the July, 2022 Recreation Specialist Report. Ben Conway seconded the motion that passed 4-0.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

Donna Crabtree, on behalf of The Health Wagon, requested use of Big Glades on August 2nd from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. for a back-to-school event called "Davey's Shuffle". The event, named after the late son of The Health Wagon Clinical Director Paula Hill-Collins, would provide free school supplies to children in the community. The Health Wagon requested that Council co-sponsor the event by waiving the use fee and providing assistance from Town employees for set up of the event, as well as Town Police to assist with traffic control. Special Events Coordinator Natasha Proulex advised that she had received an application for use of Big Glades from The Health Wagon; however, proof of liability insurance had not been provided. Councilman Dotson made a motion to approve the request, contingent upon the receipt of said proof of insurance. 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"

DISCUSSION OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REQUESTS:

Special Events Coordinator Natasha Proulex provided a summary of proposed events to be added to the FY 2022-23 event calendar. Councilman Smith suggested Proulex coordinate summer event dates with Recreation Specialist Doug Bates to avoid scheduling conflicts at the Town of Wise Sports Complex. Council concurred with the request to add events to the event schedule. Proulex also requested Council co-sponsor, along with UVA-Wise, a concert scheduled at Big

Glades for September 16th. She noted the concert was a means of collaborating with the college on festivities to be held during homecoming. Councilman Ben Conway made a motion to approve the request. 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”

Proulex announced the grand opening of Pawlished Pet Supplies, located in the Wise County Plaza shopping center. She announced the ribbon cutting would be held on August 5th at 12:00 p.m.

Town Manager Laura Roberts introduced the new Town Planner Reagan Walsh, who had transferred from the Wise Police Department. Roberts added that the Public Safety Committee would need to meet prior to the August Council meeting to review a request for a change in a particular street traffic pattern.

Chief of Police Danny French requested the Town’s take home vehicle policy for police officers be revised to allow twenty-five air or land miles to make it comparable with neighboring departments. French cited increased response time to calls, employee recruitment and retention as reasons supporting the change. After a brief discussion, Councilman Jeff Dotson made a motion to approve the request to increase the distance to twenty-five land miles for take home vehicles with the stipulation that no Town Police vehicle could be taken out of state to any employee’s out of state residence. 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”

CLOSED SESSION:

On a motion made by Caynor Smith, Jr. and a second by Ben Conway 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).*

***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. Councilman Ben Conway seconded the motion that carried 4-0.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION – CM RESOLUTION #6, 2022:

Sarina Collins, Assistant Treasurer, read Closed Meeting Resolution #6, 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”
Ben Conway	“Aye”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

RESOLUTION #33, 2022

In regard to an easement request submitted by Wise County Public Service Authority, Town Manager Laura Roberts explained that both the WCPSA and Town staff had agreed to the terms of the easement that were outlined in the draft copy. Councilman Smith recommended that WCPSA be responsible for installing a sewer tap as part of the easement agreement for any potential future need by the Town of Wise. After a brief discussion, Town Manager Laura Roberts was instructed to add the installation of a 6” sewer tap to the agreement with WCPSA. Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA GRANTING AN EASEMENT TO THE WISE COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR A SEWER LINE TO RUN ACROSS THE TOWN OF WISE PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY PROPERTY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF TEMPORARY HOUSING BY THE FAMILY CRISIS SUPPORT SERVICES INC.”. Councilman Conway seconded the motion, with the vote recorded by roll call:

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

RESOLUTION #34, 2022

Mayor Teresa Adkins stated that Robin Dotson, teacher and coach at Central High School, had expressed an interest in the vacant seat on Council as a result of Laura Taylor’s resignation. She added that he informed he would be running for Council in the upcoming November election. Following this discussion, Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA APPOINTING ROBIN DOTSON TO THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA TO FILL A VACANCY”. Jeff Dotson seconded the motion, with the vote recorded by roll call:

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

RESOLUTION #35, 2022

In regard to the recent Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announcement of an increase in the optional standard mileage rate for business travel effective July 1 through December 31, 2022, Laura Roberts, Town Manager, suggested Council adopt a mileage reimbursement rate policy tailored to match the current and future IRS rates. Councilman Smith questioned if the mileage reimbursement applied to employee Doug Bates, who served as the Town's recreation specialist. Roberts confirmed that the employee would be eligible for the travel reimbursement for use of a personal vehicle for town business and noted that she was working to locate a town vehicle that could be assigned to that position. Following the brief discussion, Councilman Dotson moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA SETTING THE TOWN OF WISE MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE (CURRENTLY \$0.55) TO MATCH THE CURRENT INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE MILEAGE RATE FOR USE OF AN EMPLOYEE'S PERSONAL VEHICLE IN CONDUCTING TOWN BUSINESS". Councilman Conway seconded the motion, with the vote recorded by roll call:

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

RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

- Caynor Smith, Chair, briefly summarized the Recreation Committee's July 15th meeting at which time donation requests were discussed. Smith reported that the committee recommended after thoroughly reviewing the donation request applications submitted by the Brain Injury Services of Southwest Virginia and the Wise Lions Club, that both requests be denied at the current time. There being no further discussion, Councilman Dotson made a motion to approve the Recreation Committee report. Mayor Adkins seconded the motion, with the vote recorded by roll call:

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

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Ben Conway expressed his support of a noise ordinance for vehicles based on new state legislation that became effective July 1st.

Councilman Caynor Smith, Jr. requested an update on the Norton Road Project that resulted in closure of the southbound lane on Addington Avenue. Town Manager Laura Roberts advised prolonged stoppages on Norton Road were not expected again until Spring 2023. After a brief discussion, Councilman Smith made a motion to reopen Addington Avenue as a two-way road and any future closures of said road, due to traffic concerns during the Norton Road Project, be at the discretion of the Town Manager and Chief of Police. Councilman Conway seconded the motion, with the vote recorded by roll call:

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

Councilmen Smith, Dotson and Mayor Adkins commended participants and staff involved with another successful Chillin’ & Grillin’ event.

Councilman Jeff Dotson discussed a complaint received regarding the Town Peddler’s licensing fee in regard to mobile food trucks. Town Manager Laura Roberts briefly commented on the history of the current zoning amendment and business license and she recommended the rate stay as it currently was.

STAFF/MANAGER COMMENT:

Town Manager Laura Roberts discussed recent work with Thompson and Litton and Lenowisco regarding drainage studies. She advised that the Public Works Department was working diligently to address drainage issues and storm clean up.

Police Chief French thanked Council for their support of the amendment to the take home vehicle policy for hazardous duty personnel.

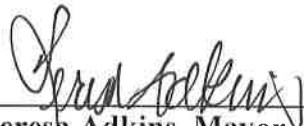
Assistant Treasurer, Sarina Collins, informed she was currently training newly hired Sarah Stidham, who would be taking over the Data Processor duties. Collins also noted that she was continuing to work closely with Robin Meade, who would be retiring from her appointed office of Town Treasurer and Clerk of Council at the end of the calendar year.

ADJOURNMENT:

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



Robin R. Meade, Town Clerk/Treasurer



Teresa Adkins, Mayor