

WISE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021; 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

Public Expression:

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

Closed Session:

Jeff Dotson made a motion that the Wise Town Council convene into closed meeting 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 §2.2-3711(A) (3).

Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Open Session:

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to reconvene in open session. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

Certification of Closed Session – CM Resolution #3, 2021:

Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer Sarina Collins, read Closed Meeting Resolution #3, 2021, “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”

Councilman Jeff Dotson made a motion that the Town of Wise (Purchaser) enter into a purchase contract with Melco, L.L.C. (Seller) for the purchase of property and improvements in the Industrial Park for the purpose of a Public Works facility in the amount of \$625,000 with a deposit of \$50,000 with the following amendments to the language in the contract:

- Environmental study to be completed
- Clear deed of title
- If property suffered any catastrophic loss before sale finalized, Town of Wise was not bound by the contract
- The seller's sole remedy if the Town backed out of sale was to keep the \$50,000 deposit.

Councilman Caynor Smith, Jr. seconded the motion, which 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"

Council Comments:

Caynor Smith, Jr. requested approval of \$20,000 to complete an entryway to Veldon Dotson Park, noting the full amount may not be needed since there had been no estimates obtained. Ben Conway stated estimates should be obtained before beginning a project. Smith responded that the work needed to be completed prior to the opening date of the tournaments. Jeff Dotson moved to approve funding in an amount up to \$20,000 for the construction of a gate and fencing for the entrance. Ben Conway interjected that he wanted to review cost estimates prior to voting to approve funding. Laura Taylor-Baugh reiterated Conway's comments, stating that she agreed that estimates were needed. Jeff Dotson withdrew his motion. Council members concurred that another special-called meeting could be called once estimates were obtained.

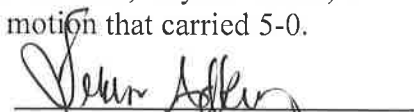
Staff/Manager Comment:

Beverly Owens reminded that the budget was required to be provided to Council in April; however, she had received no input from members of Council regarding personnel wages. Councilman Dotson responded that employees needed to receive wage increases in the new budget. He also added that in his opinion the Town's pay scale needed to be revised. Mayor Adkins concurred with Dotson's suggestion that pay raises needed to be given in the upcoming fiscal year. Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor-Baugh opined that both step and COLA raises should be incorporated into the fiscal year 2021-22 budget. Councilman Conway agreed with both step and COLA if employee evaluations were satisfactory. Councilman Smith expressed his concern with the long-term expense of increased wages. Council members agreed to email the Town Manager their thoughts /concerns regarding raises. Vice-Mayor Taylor-Baugh requested that Beverly Owens calculate wages based on a 5% step plus 2% COLA versus 3% COLA increase and forward that information to Council. Owens responded that each 1% increase in compensation would add approximately \$22,000 to the budget, not including impacts to benefit costs.

Adjournment:

There being no additional business to come before the Wise Town Council, Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that carried 5-0.


Robin R. Meade, Clerk of Council


Teresa Adkins, Mayor