

WISE TOWN COUNCIL CONTINUED MEETING
Wednesday, March 15, 2023; 5:00 P.M.
WISE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS
501 WEST MAIN STREET - WISE, VIRGINIA 24293

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor
Ben Conway, Vice-Mayor
Jeffery Dotson
Robin 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.

REQUEST TO PUT BANNERS FOR CHILD ABUSE MONTH ON LIGHT POLES:

Mayor Adkins informed that Jeff Proulex, on behalf of Wise County Department of Social Services, was no longer requesting to place banners on light poles throughout Town in observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. WCDSS will be placing bows on the poles instead, as approved by Council at the February 28, 2023 Council meeting.

RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:

Caynor Smith, Chair, summarized the meeting of the Recreation Committee held to discuss field use lighting fees, field use by travel team fees, and field use by school teams at the Town of Wise Sports Complex. Smith advised the Recreation Committee recommended the following:

1. Fee of \$50 per day for use of field lighting during game play only
2. Fee of \$200 per year for use of fields by travel ball teams (This was a \$100 fee reduction; the use of fields by other teams will remain at the current rate of \$300 per year)
3. Each request from a school system sports team must be reviewed by the Recreation Committee to allow Council to make the final decision granting permission for field use by the school team.

Recreation Specialist Doug Bates stated 415 children were currently in the Cal Ripken program, creating approximately 32 teams, with the number continuing to grow as the Babe Ruth program was scheduled to begin in May. He added that any approved use by school teams would need to be before 5:30 pm in order to avoid interference with the Cal Ripken and Babe Ruth programs. Councilman Robin Dotson inquired as to why travel teams were given a discounted fee of \$200 per year. Councilman Smith and Bates explained that travel teams use the fields less frequently than other teams, therefore justifying a reduced rate. There being no additional comment or questions, Councilman Jeff Dotson made a motion to accept the Recreation Committee's recommendations as presented. Vice-Mayor Ben Conway seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

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

BUDGET WORKSHOP:

Town Manager Laura Roberts explained that the budget workshop was for discussion of departmental capital purchases and projects for fiscal year 2023-2024, as she desired for Council to have an opportunity to speak with department heads concerning their requests. Roberts provided a brief summary of the Town's Fund Balance Policy, Resolution #40, 2011, and noted that she did not have the fund balance from the prior fiscal year 2021-2022 due to the delay of the audit. She advised Council the audit should be ready for presentation at their March 28, 2023 regular meeting, as estimated by the Auditor. Roberts added that due to the significant amount of capital expenditures requested, some may need to be postponed to future fiscal years. She requested Council's guidance regarding the funding of capital expenditures in order to have the budget draft distributed by the April 1st deadline.

Department heads were asked to discuss their departmental requests:

Danny French, Police Chief:

- Replacement of 2014 police utility vehicle
- Computer Server
- Purchase of two police cars (ARPA Grant)

Sarina Collins, Town Treasurer/ Clerk of Council:

- Three receipt printers for Utility Clerk/ Cashier workstations
- Networking hardware - switch & access point

Duane Phillips, Wise Volunteer Fire Department:

- Aerial Fire Truck (to potentially be cost shared with Wise County, private donations, and/or grant funding)

Phillips informed that financing the fire truck over a ten-year period was also an option with an estimated 4.74% annual percentage rate. Town Manger Laura Roberts inquired as to if the Wise Volunteer Fire Department would solely acquire the loan or if the Town of Wise would have to be responsible for the financing. Phillips replied he would need to obtain more details regarding the financing option. Councilman Smith opined the Fire Department would need to acquire the funding, not the Town of Wise. Phillips requested the Town commit to one-third of the final cost toward the purchase, either as a lump sum contribution or paid in payments if financing was obtained. Vice-Mayor Conway suggested the Fire Department begin filing claims with insurance companies for calls answered, as Phillips confirmed the Department was not currently billing insurances. Jeff Dotson concurred with Conway's suggestion and also suggested Phillips recruit a professional for grant writing purposes.

Adrian Dale, Street Superintendent:

- Traffic Cones / Safety Barricades
- Track Loader/ Skid Steer
- Excavator
- Purchase of F250 Truck
- Street Sweeper
- Salt Storage Facility
- Local paving including Coal Road paving project
- Drainage Improvements
- Sidewalk Construction

Councilman Smith expressed support for the reconstruction of damaged sidewalks throughout Town but opined there was not a need for new sidewalk construction during the budget year under discussion. Ben Conway noted the need for a continuous sidewalk around Town to better serve the community, which would require new construction. Councilman Jeff Dotson stated damaged sidewalks needed repair but new construction of sidewalks should be completed only when grant funding was available if possible. Conway also suggested the Street Sweeper be considered as a joint purchase with other localities due to limited utilization of such equipment. Smith informed he did not support the purchase of a Street Sweeper by the Town, as he felt the streets were clean. Jeff Dotson voiced his support of the purchase of a Street Sweeper to maintain a clean Town and added the Town had a large unrestricted fund balance that needed to be decreased in order to qualify for grant funding opportunities that are unavailable with such a reserve. Town Manager Laura Roberts confirmed that grant funding, particularly with Rural Development, was unattainable with the Town's large reserve of funds.

Doug Bates, Recreation Specialist:

- Restroom construction in Batting Cage at Sports Complex
- Pick-up Truck for use on premises by Recreation Specialist at Sports Complex (possible transfer from Street Department)
- Construction of Press Box on field 6 at Sports Complex
- Construction of Par 3 Golf Course at Sports Complex

Ben Conway cautioned there would not be adequate space to construct a Par 3 Golf Course at the Sports Complex.

Caleb Ramsey, Water Treatment Plant:

- Purchase of Tractor with enclosed cab and front bucket
- Building Maintenance
- Renovations to Reservoir Restrooms and Picnic Shelters
- Lead Service Line Inventory
- Waste Water Basin: pumping

Ramsey informed Council of the need for a tractor to remove sludge from basins, grading of the parking lot due to frequent erosion, moving the dock as needed, and mowing the dam area. He stated the Public Works Department brought equipment to the Reservoir as needed and the purchase of a tractor would allow the Water Treatment Plant to complete tasks without aid from other departments.

Natasha Proulex, Special Events:

- Retractable Movie Screen for use at Movie Nights at Big Glades
- Christmas Decorations

Mayor Adkins directed Proulex to purchase a movie screen immediately to replace the damaged screen in order to have it available for use at the scheduled 2023 Movie Nights as opposed to waiting until fiscal year 2023-2024.

Reagan Walsh, Town Planner:

- Computer Equipment for GIS use
- National Fitness Campaign Grant Match
- Establishment of Economic Development Authority

Jerry Kilgore, Utility Superintendent:

- Water Line Replacement
- Fire Hydrant Replacement
- New Equipment: Electronic Leak Listening Devices and Line Locators
- Purchase of Water Service Truck
- Radio Meter Reading Starter Package
- Lead Copper Line Replacement
- Walk behind Asphalt/ Concrete Saw
- Town Shop Improvements
- Sewer Line Replacement
- Monkey Hill Sewer Needs: holding tank issues
- Purchase of Sewer Service Truck
- 7 Water Tank Rehab Project (ARPA)

COUNCIL COMMENT:

Caynor Smith, Jr. stated Council should allow Town Manager Laura Roberts to manage the Town and therefore decide which requests would remain in the budget for fiscal year 2023-2024.

Jeff Dotson stated that he looked forward to seeing the completed fiscal year 2023-2024 budget. He informed that he wanted to be cautious with spending the Town's savings, but also desired to bring the total down in order to qualify for grant funding and make improvements to the Town.

Teresa Adkins stated that it was important to be good stewards of the Town's money, but opined that it was also time to do things that would better the Town.


STAFF COMMENT:

Town Manager Laura Roberts advised she signed for the Town to participate in the Wise Works Program through the Wise County Commonwealth Attorney's Office, which would allow convicted nonviolent offenders to work at no cost to the Town. She advised that she would provide staff with contact information to have participants help with projects such as the Bear Creek Reservoir Trail, litter pickup and mowing of the Reservoir dam area. Roberts also requested Council's approval in obtaining a retainer for engineering services as the Town has had in the past. She advised there would be no cost to have an engineering firm on retainer, which would result in

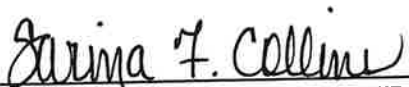
both a time and cost savings to the Town. Councilman Smith advised Roberts to move forward with securing a retainer for engineering services.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no additional business to come before the governing body, the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Jeff Dotson. Robin Dotson seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.



Teresa Adkins, Mayor



Sarina F. Collins, Town Clerk/Treasurer