

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2022; 6:00 P.M.
WISE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS
501 WEST MAIN STREET - WISE, VIRGINIA 24293**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor
Laura Taylor, Vice-Mayor
Ben Conway
Jeffery Dotson
Caynor Smith, Jr. **(arrived at the meeting at 6.20 p.m.)*

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

AGENDA AMENDMENT:

Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor moved to amend the agenda to include discussion of Resolution #8, 2022 following the closed session. Councilman Ben Conway seconded the motion, that carried 4-0. Councilman Smith had not arrived for the vote.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

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

DISCUSSION OF THE FY 2022-2023 BUDGET:

Laura Roberts, Assistant Town Manager/Planner, summarized the first draft of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022-2023. She reviewed the proposed rate increases in the General Fund including business license professional services and the cigarette tax. She noted that the proposal also included water and sewer utility rate increases. Roberts noted that two additional departments were created to adequately reflect revenues and expenditures related to the Town of Wise Sports Complex and the Special Events department. She reported that the budget included a 2% cost-of-living adjustment and a 3% step raise for eligible employees as adopted by Council in fiscal year 2022. Health insurance premiums increased 9% for the upcoming fiscal year, she added. Roberts emphasized that transfers from the General Fund to the Water and Sewer Funds were necessary since the proposed utility rate increases were not sufficient to fund the operating expenses and capital improvements. Caynor Smith, Jr. stated that he would suggest adding at least \$25,000 to the Dotson Park budget. He added that he would not support raising utility rates to allow the Water and Sewer Funds to be self-sufficient due to the impact on potential future grant funding.

Department heads were asked to discuss their departmental requests:

Jerry Kilgore, Utility Superintendent:

- Replacement of a 1997 F350 Sewer Flusher Truck cab and chassis
- Replace two master meters used for water zone accountability
- Materials for sewer line replacement

Caleb Ramsey, Water Plant:

- Replace finish water pump. He advised that he would request one during upcoming fiscal year and another in fiscal year 2023-2024.
- Replace seven (7) turbidimeters

Adrian Dale, Street Superintendent:

- Demolition of dilapidated structures at the Public Works facility on Yellow Creek Road
- Continued improvements to the new Public Works facility
- New dump bed on a 2011 Kenworth truck
- Sidewalk construction / reconstruction
- Local paving including Coal Road paving project
- Salt storage facility
- Salt Brine Maker for pre-treatment of roads
- Purchase of two 2023 Kenworth Garbage Truck Chassis
- Purchase of a Pak-mor packer body

Councilman Ben Conway questioned the efficacy of brine pre-treatment for snow removal, stating those he spoke with felt it was a waste of resources. He also stated that he was confident a salt storage facility could be built for less than one-half of the \$725,000 requested. Councilman Dotson reiterated Conway's concerns with the cost of the salt storage facility. Councilman Smith suggested transferring \$25,000 from the salt storage facility to the Sports Complex Department. Vice-Mayor Taylor recommended reducing the salt storage facility appropriation to \$500,000 .

Natasha Proulex, Special Events:

- Laptop
- Town of Wise website
- Spring concert event at Big Glades in the amount of \$8,000 (requested this event be added since it was not currently appropriated)
- Marketing campaign for the Town of Wise

Danny French, Police Chief:

- Replace ten tasers, batteries, training cartridges and holsters
- Replace four defective radar units

Robin Meade, Town Treasurer/Clerk of Council:

- Three chairs for the front office staff
- Copier
- Codification expenses

CLOSED SESSION:

Vice-Mayor Taylor moved that Council convene into closed session 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).

Councilman Smith seconded the motion 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”

OPEN SESSION:

Councilman Smith made a motion to reconvene in open session. Councilman Ben Conway seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION – CM RESOLUTION #2, 2022:

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade, read Closed Meeting Resolution #2, 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”
Ben Conway	“Aye”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Mayor Adkins announced that the Town Attorney had determined that no action could be taken on the resolution that was under discussion because the meeting was a budget workshop, not a regular meeting. She stated the item would be included on the agenda for the April 26, 2022 regular Council meeting.

COUNCIL COMMENT:


Caynor Smith, Jr. stated that every decision made by the Town Council was to accomplish the vision of the future.

Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor reiterated the comments of Councilman Smith. She thanked the Town's staff for the work they do.

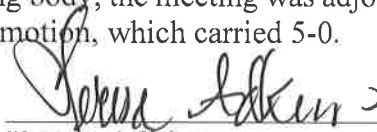
Jeff Dotson stated that the first draft of the budget for fiscal year 2022-23 was a good budget and thanked the Assistant Town Manager and staff for the work that was put into it.

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 5-0.



Robin R. Meade, Town Clerk/Treasurer



Teresa Adkins, Mayor