

WISE TOWN COUNCIL CONTINUED MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019; 6:00 P.M.
WISE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS
501 WEST MAIN STREET - WISE, VIRGINIA 24293

Minutes

Members Present:

Jeffery Dotson, Mayor
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor
Laura Taylor-Baugh
Billy Bartlett, Jr.
Caynor Smith, Jr.

Members Absent:

None

Public Expression:

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

Request for Use of the Wise Reservoir:

Virginia Conservation Police Sargent James Hale, on behalf of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, requested use of the Wise Reservoir on Saturday, June 8, 2019 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. for a “Free Fishing Weekend”. He informed that the event was being held to encourage the public to enjoy the outdoors in Southwest Virginia. Sargent Hale further noted there would be vendors on-site including Cabela’s, Robinson Taxidermy, and Trout Unlimited to provide information and demonstrations. Following a brief discussion Laura Taylor-Baugh made a motion to approve the request for use of the Wise Reservoir for the free fishing event. Billy Bartlett, Jr. seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

Resolution #16, 2019:

Beverly Owens provided a written summary of the bids received for the purchase of a new 2019 Case wheeled loader with the lowest bid being Contractors Machinery Tri-Cities of Kingsport, Tennessee. She advised that the company was providing a trade-in allowance of \$12,000 for the Town’s 2007 Komatsu loader making the final purchase price \$57,934. Following a brief discussion, Laura Taylor-Baugh moved to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, AWARDING A CONTRACT TO CONTRACTORS MACHINERY TRI-CITIES FOR A NEW WHEELED LOADER”. Billy Bartlett, Jr. seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Jeffery Dotson, Mayor	“Aye”
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Laura Taylor-Baugh	“Aye”
Billy Bartlett, Jr.	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Resolution #17, 2019:

Beverly Owens provided a written summary of the bids received for the purchase of a new Lee Boy 150D Asphalt Paver with the lowest bid being Richmond Machinery & Equipment Co., Inc. of Richmond, Virginia in the amount of \$140,125. Following the discussion, Billy Bartlett, Jr. moved to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, AWARDING A CONTRACT TO RICHMOND MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT CO., INC. FOR A NEW WHEELED ASPHALT PAVER”. Teresa Adkins seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Jeffery Dotson, Mayor	“Aye”
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”

Laura Taylor-Baugh	“Aye”
Billy Bartlett, Jr.	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Donation Request (Central High School – After Prom Party):

Following a brief discussion regarding a donation request from Central High School’s “After Prom Party” committee, Councilman Billy Bartlett, Jr. made a motion to donate \$500 to the event. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, with the vote recorded by roll call:

Jeffery Dotson, Mayor	“Aye”
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Laura Taylor-Baugh	“Aye”
Billy Bartlett, Jr.	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Discussion of the FY 2019-2020 Budget:

Department heads were asked to briefly describe the notable expenses of each department. There was more extensive discussion over the following items appropriated within the first draft of the fiscal year 2019-20 budget proposal:

- **Professional Services for General Administration:** Funding in the amount of \$40,000 was appropriated for the codification of all ordinances in light of the introduction of state legislation requiring localities to codify, in permanently bound or loose-leaf form or in an online format. The bill provided that any person who was the subject of an action brought by a locality for violation of an ordinance was entitled to assert as an affirmative defense that the ordinance was not codified and therefore failed to provide adequate notice to the public of the contents of the ordinance. The Town Manager opined that although the bill was not approved, codification was needed for convenience of staff and the public. Councilman Caynor Smith, Jr. stated that he was not in support of this project considering the cost involved.
- **New Christmas Decorations for New Street Lights on East Main Street:** Mayor Dotson suggested that banners supporting the Central High School also be purchased from this line item. Council members concurred that this would be discussed prior to the time the banners were actually ordered.
- **Construction of New Public Works Facility:** Mayor Dotson stated that a new facility was well overdue and the public works department was in desperate need of a new building. Town Manager Beverly Owens advised that the estimate was provided by Thompson & Litton in January and the firm recommended a 7% multiplier, which had been factored in. Councilman Billy Bartlett, Jr. opposed the \$2.5 million project without some type of matching grant funding, especially with the current budget. Councilman Caynor Smith, Jr. stated that although he agreed with the comments of both Mayor Dotson and Councilman Bartlett, he felt the town would be better served by continuing to pursue grant funding. Councilwoman Laura Taylor-Baugh stated that she too had reservations about the timing of building a new public works facility with the proposal of a 3% water rate increase. She added that although the two did not correlate, the citizens might presume otherwise. Councilwoman Teresa Adkins stated that she would prefer searching for grant funding prior to appropriating funds for the project.
- **Contributions to Other Entities:** Billy Bartlett, Jr. stated that he would not support the \$50,000 contribution for the Wise Rescue Squad without the entity’s plan of action for offsetting the expenses associated with a dwindling pool of volunteers. Mayor Dotson stated that he felt funding of the Wise Rescue Squad was the responsibility of Wise County. He added that he would vote to approve an increased donation to the Squad, but would not support issuing the amount

in one lump sum. Mayor Dotson stated he would suggest keeping a portion of the funds in a contingency fund for future needs of the squad. Laura Taylor-Baugh added that she had identified a few ways that the Rescue Squad could cut costs, such as having only one paramedic and one driver per shift rather than paying two paramedics per shift. Teresa Adkins stated that all Town rescue squads within Wise County were in the same financial shape and were asking the County for financial assistance; therefore, she added, the Town could not expect the County to take on the responsibility of full funding for the rescue services. Caynor Smith, Jr. agreed with Councilwoman Adkins' comments, adding that the Town and County should share in the responsibility.

- **Transfers to the Water and Sewer Funds / Water-Sewer Fund Revenue:** Mayor Dotson reviewed the proposed 3% water rate increase. He noted that a transfer from the General Fund would be required even after factoring in the proposed increase.
- **Water Treatment Plant – Contract Services for Mowing:** Chief Operator Tommy Roberts explained that inmates at Camp 18 would no longer be available for mowing and weed eating the face of the dam. Caynor Smith, Jr. mentioned that at one-time employees of the Water Treatment Plant provided those services during their normal work shift. Roberts replied that the steep terrain that must now be mowed prevented employees from performing those tasks, as well as the decrease in the number of employees at the plant. Mayor Dotson suggested that in the future the Town consider using inmate labor for those services, as well as summer work in general.
- **Debt Service:** Town Manager Beverly Owens explained that the Town had been buying down its debt for a number of years. When asked about the Town's maximum debt limit, Owens informed that it was \$21,000,000.
- **Fund Balance:** Beverly Owens explained in a written summary that balancing the budget required a draw from savings (Fund Balance) of \$3,082,988. She noted that according to the latest audit report, the Town's unassigned fund balance totaled \$6,497,702. Caynor Smith, Jr. added that he was concerned that savings would be reduced by 48%. Mayor Dotson requested a list of budgets from the previous five years, including the amount required to be drawn from savings to balance the budget. Councilwoman Teresa Adkins requested a list of income and expenditures for the same fiscal years.

Closed Meeting:

Billy Bartlett, Jr. moved to convene into a 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)

Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

Regular Session:

Caynor Smith, Jr. moved to reconvene into the regular session. Billy Bartlett, Jr. seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

Certification of Closed Meeting – CM Resolution #5, 2019:

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade, read Closed Meeting Resolution #5, 2019, “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:

Jeffery Dotson, Mayor	"Aye"
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor-Baugh	"Aye"
Billy Bartlett, Jr.	"Aye"
Caynor Smith, Jr.	"Aye"

Continuance

There being no additional business to come before the governing body, Billy Bartlett, Jr. moved to continue the meeting until Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Caynor Smith, Jr. seconded the motion that carried 5-0.


Robin R. Meade, Clerk of Council

Jeffery W. Dotson, Mayor