

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2020; 10:00 A.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.

Resolution #29, 2020:

Caynor Smith, Jr. stated that for some time the Town had wanted to install an improved entrance-way to the Dotson Park. He said he had recently learned that Shirley Barnette had a metal gate that she was willing to donate to the Town of Wise and would only need a receipt for the donation for tax purposes. He presented a rendering of the gate. Following the brief summary, Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor-Baugh moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA ACCEPTING A DONATION TO BE UTILIZED FOR PUBLIC PURPOSES". Councilman Ben Conway 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"

Mayor Adkins requested that the Town Manager send Mrs. Barnette a formal "thank-you" letter from the Town of Wise.

Request to Hold a Tournament at Dotson Park as a Fund Raiser for Launch of a New Youth Baseball Program:

Larry Adkins, a resident of Wise who has been involved with youth sports since 1973, stated that he was helping launch a new youth baseball program that would be called Wise Youth Sports. He added that the program was starting from ground zero and they were requesting permission to hold a baseball tournament on March 7th – 8th at Dotson Park to raise money for the new program. Adkins added that his son had volunteered to mow and weed-eat all the fields for the first year. He explained that Roger Viers, CPA, would be handling the organization's filing for a tax-exempt status. He noted that a board of directors had been established. Following the discussion, Vice-Mayor Taylor-Baugh made a motion to approve the request from the Wise Youth Sports to hold a fund-raising tournament at Dotson Park to help with expenses of establishing the new youth baseball program. Councilman Smith seconded the motion. 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"

Discussion of Hiring a Food Concessions Coordinator for Dotson Park:

Caynor Smith, Jr. said there was discussion of hiring a coordinator to organize, operate, and maintain the concession at Dotson Park and to be accountable to the Town of Wise. Larry Adkins stated that his wife, Sandra, would gladly volunteer her time to serve as the coordinator but could not, because of tax purposes, accept payment for her services. Doug Bates stated that there would be several of the volunteers who would complete the food handling certification course on the Virginia Department of Health website. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Smith made a motion that the Town of Wise hire a Food Concessions Coordinator for Dotson Park at an expense not to exceed \$599 annually, to be paid monthly. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, with the vote being recorded by roll call:

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

Beverly Owens, Town Manager, explained that the Town Attorney would need to draft a contract similar to the Dotson Park Coordinator position, for Council to approve at the January, 2021 meeting.

Request for Transfer of Funds from General Fund Contingency to Replace Damaged Fencing at Fields in Dotson Park:

Caynor Smith, Jr. informed that there was damaged fencing at the back field at Dotson Park that needed to be repaired or replaced. He mentioned that a gate also needed to be installed at the first baseline dugout. He stated that dugouts could then be built. Smith noted that Sykes had agreed to help with the work. Councilman Ben Conway stated that he was familiar with fence repair and volunteered to meet with Dotson Park Coordinator Doug Bates, at the ballfields, to look at the fencing. Following the discussion, Councilman Jeff Dotson made a motion that \$10,000 be transferred from the General Fund Contingency line item to replace any necessary fencing and any other equipment or items that may be needed to be replaced at Veldon Dotson Park. Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion with the vote being recorded by roll call:

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

Resolution #30, 2020:

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade informed that she had applied for Covid-19 Municipal Utility Relief Program funds, which were part of the CARES Act federal funding program. She reported that the Town had been awarded \$74,219.84 to assist utility customers who were having difficulty keeping water and sewer bills paid due to cash flow and economic issues caused by the pandemic. She explained that agencies administering the program, including the Department of Housing and Community Development, had recommended that late payment penalties and interest be forgiven for those customers who enrolled in the utility customer relief program. Following a brief discussion, Laura Taylor-Baugh made a motion to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF ACCRUED PENALTIES AND/OR INTEREST ON DELINQUENT WATER AND SEWER ACCOUNTS”. Jeff Dotson seconded the motion. 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”

Council Comments:

Jeff Dotson stated that 2020 had been a tough year on everyone, including all the employees. He thanked the employees for all the extra work that had been devoted to dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

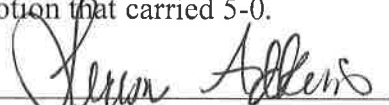
Laura Taylor-Baugh stated that in her opinion the Town of Wise was top-notch in every aspect and she was proud to be associated with the town.

Caynor Smith, Jr., stated that on Christmas Eve he had to drive to Big Stone Gap, during the heavy snows, and the town roads were much better than Norton or Big Stone Gap. He wanted to commend the Town of Wise Street Department for the excellent snow removal and asked the Town Manager to pass that compliment along to the employees.

Mayor Teresa Adkins thanked all the employees for the work they do and especially the extra work put in to helping the citizens and customers of Wise.

Adjournment:

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


Teresa Adkins, Mayor


Robin R. Meade, Clerk of Council