

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2020; 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
Jeffery Dotson
Ben Conway
Caynor Smith, Jr.

Members Absent:

None

Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation:

Wise Girl Scout Troop #389 led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Jim Mitchell, of the Cave Church, provided the invocation.

Consent Calendar:

Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the October 27, 2020 regular Council Meeting, the November 5, 2020 Continued Council Meeting, the August, 2020 Treasurer's Financial Report, and the October, 2020, Police, Water Plant, and Fire Department Reports. Vice-Mayor Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

Public Expression:

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

Presentation of Audit for FY 2019 - 2020:

Larry Sturgill, CPA, presented highlights from the audit report for the fiscal year 2019-2020. He noted that the audit engagement for the period ending June 30, 2020 was performed in accordance with the auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards. He stated that no control deficiencies were found during the audit procedures, resulting in an unmodified or clean opinion. Sturgill also noted that there was a net profit in both the water and sewer funds, which had not been seen since he started auditing in 1987. He noted there were a couple of typographical changes to be made, which would not affect the bottom line of the funds, nor the financial statements. Following the review, Laura Taylor-Baugh made a motion to accept the audit report for fiscal year 2019-2020 as presented. Ben Conway 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"

Resolution #28, 2020:

Caynor Smith, Jr. moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA CANCELING THE REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2020". Laura Taylor-Baugh 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”

Closed Session:

On a motion made by Councilman Dotson, and seconded by Councilman Smith, the Wise Town Council moved to 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 excused herself from participating in the closed session.

Open Session:

Ben Conway made a motion to reconvene in open session. Caynor Smith, Jr., seconded the motion that passed 4-0. Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor Baugh abstained from the closed session discussion.

Certification of Closed Session – CM Resolution #12, 2020:

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade, read Closed Meeting Resolution #12, 2020, “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	“Abstain”
Ben Conway	“Aye”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Council Comment:

Councilman Smith commended the Public Works Department for making the town look beautiful and festive for the Christmas season.

Responding to discussion regarding the annual tree lighting ceremony, Town Attorney Leonard Rogers reminded that with Governor Northam’s new social distancing directives in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic there could be no tree lighting ceremony.

Laura Taylor-Baugh bragged on the Public Works employees who take pride in making the town look beautiful. She asked that the Town Manager forward her commendation to the crewman. She stated that she was proud of the employees responsible for the excellent audit report each year.

Jeff Dotson reiterated commendations to the employees of the Town of Wise.

Mayor Teresa Adkins reminded of the Employee Christmas Luncheon was scheduled for December 8th, from 11 :30 a.m. until 1 :00 p.m. She asked any Council member who could to come by and greet employees as they pick up their boxed lunch and gift.

Staff / Manager Comment:

Council members directed Town Planner Laura Roberts to continue decorating the poles located in The Inn's parking lot as had been the practice in the past. Roberts, on behalf of the Wise County Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Wise County Tourism office and the Wise Business Association, requested a donation toward a county-wide "Christmas Business Bingo". Following a brief discussion, Caynor Smith, Jr. moved to donate \$200 toward the "Christmas Business Bingo". Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

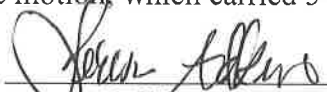
Teresa Adkins, Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor-Baugh, Vice-Mayor	"Aye"
Ben Conway	"Aye"
Jeffery Dotson	"Aye"
Caynor Smith, Jr.	"Aye"

Adjournment:

There being no additional business to come before the governing body, the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Laura Taylor-Baugh. Ben Conway seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.



Robin R. Meade, Clerk of Council



Teresa Adkins, Mayor