

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2019; 7:00 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

Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation:

Mayor Dotson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Pastor Mike Winters of the Wise Baptist Church provided the invocation.

Discussion of Additions or Deletions to the Agenda:

Caynor Smith, Jr. moved to approve the revised agenda adding the discussion of "personnel" to the closed meeting session. Billy Bartlett, Jr. seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

Consent Calendar:

Laura Taylor-Baugh moved to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the Tuesday, January 22, 2019 regular meeting, the January 2019 Financial, Police, and Water Plant reports, and the January-February Fire Department Reports. Billy Bartlett, Jr. seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Public Expression:

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

Resolution #2, 2019:

Teresa Adkins moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, COMMENDING THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION CHEER TEAM." 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"

Councilmembers congratulated the team members and provided a copy of the resolution to each participant and coach.

Creative Communities Partnership Grant:

Pro-Art Association Executive Director Jan Zentmeyer thanked Council for their continued support of Pro-Art. She stated that under the Creative Communities Partnership Grant (formerly Local Government Challenge Grant) the Virginia Commission for the Arts would match contributions up to \$4,500. Ms. Zentmeyer requested that the Town of Wise apply for VCA matching funds and maintain the same level of contribution as last year. She added that funding would be divided with the Library Gallery at the same level (80/20) as the last several years. Councilman Smith requested that Ms. Zentmeyer and Pro-Art assist the Town of Wise in promoting an upcoming swing band concert scheduled for June 22, 2019 at the Big Glades Amphitheater. Zentmeyer said that she would work with Laura Craft on the details for the event.

Authorization to Submit an Application for a Planning Grant to the Virginia Community Development Block Grant Program:

Jimmy Adkins, Regional Planner with Lenowisco, provided a brief summary of Virginia's CDBG Planning Grant program. He explained that the planning grant was designed to aid in developing clear strategies to address community development needs. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Bartlett made a motion authorizing the submittal of an application for a Planning Grant to the Virginia Community Development Block Grant Program. Council woman Adkins seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Discussion of a Resolution in Support of Ratification by Virginia of the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution:

Dylan Mabe, Equal Rights Amendment advocate, petitioned Council to approve a resolution endorsing the Virginia Equal Rights Amendment. He explained that the Equal Rights Amendment was a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution designed to guarantee equal legal rights for all American citizens regardless of sex. Mabe presented a history of the ERA since being introduced to Congress in 1923. Councilmembers Billy Bartlett, Jr. and Caynor Smith, Jr. voiced their opinion that the issue was not one to be addressed at a local level of government. Mayor Dotson added that he would like additional time to review the comprehensive amendment. Councilmember Laura Taylor-Baugh stated her concern with the legality of the amendment, irrelevant of the amendment's failure to be ratified by the Virginia General Assembly. No action was taken on the resolution under discussion.

Request for Permission to Hang a Banner:

Rachel Helton, Health Wagon Director of Development, requested permission to hang a sign in Gateway Gardens advertising an upcoming free Healthcare Fair event to be held March 14th - 15th at Zion Family Ministries. Billy Bartlett, Jr. moved to approve the request to hang a sign at Gateway Gardens. Teresa Adkins seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

Mayor Dotson suggested that Council discuss a request from the Health Wagon to hang a sign notifying of the Remote Area Medical (RAM) event scheduled for June 28th - 30th at the Wise Fairgrounds. Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to approve the Health Wagon's request to display a sign at Gateway Gardens (no earlier than two weeks prior to the event date) advertising the annual RAM event. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Resolution #3, 2019:

In a written memorandum to Council, Town Manager Beverly Owens provided information on a recent bid opening for completion of the town's paving for fiscal year 2018-19 with W-L Construction and Paving, Inc. being the lowest bid. Following a brief discussion, Billy Bartlett, Jr. moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, AWARDDING A CONTRACT TO W-L CONSTRUCTION AND PAVING, INC. FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE TOWN'S FY 2018-19 PAVING SCHEDULE." Laura Taylor-Baugh 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 #4, 2019:

Town Manager Beverly Owens provided a written summary of information on a recent bid opening for completion of the town's pavement striping for fiscal year 2018-19 with Clatterbuck Pavement Markings, Inc. being the lowest bid. Following a brief discussion, Teresa Adkins moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, AWARDED A CONTRACT TO CLATTERBUCK PAVEMENT MARKINGS, INC. FOR THE FY 2018-19 PAVEMENT STRIPING." Laura Taylor-Baugh 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"

Discussion of Loader:

Beverly Owens provided written details of problems being experienced with a 2007 Komatsu loader used by the Public Works Department. She outlined the merits of repairing the loader versus replacing the equipment and trading in the 2007 model. Owens informed that funds that were set aside as a reserve for contingencies in the current year's budget in the General, Water, and Sewer Funds, which could be used to purchase a new loader. Following a brief discussion, Billy Bartlett, Jr. moved to trade the 2007 loader in on the purchase of a new loader and transfer funds from the reserve for contingency line items for payment of the purchase. 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"

Ordinance #1, 2019:

Town of Wise Police Lieutenant Chris Kent, provided a brief overview of the updated animal control ordinance. He explained that the updated ordinance was needed to allow enforcement by the Wise Police Department. Following a brief discussion, Laura Taylor Baugh moved to adopt "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, ENACTING THE TOWN OF WISE COMPREHENSIVE ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE OF 2019; REPEALING PREVIOUS ORDINANCES; PENALTIES, ETC." 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 #5, 2019:

Police Lieutenant Chris Kent provided a brief summary of Virginia's Forfeited Asset Sharing Program as set forth in the Code of Virginia and the Department of Criminal Justice Services. He explained that the state program would allow the local police department to benefit from the seizure of monies, property, and goods connected with the illegal distribution of narcotics. Kent further informed that Council approved participation in the federal forfeited asset program in November 2017. There being no additional questions or comments, Caynor Smith, Jr. moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE

TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES FORFEITED ASSET SHARING PROGRAM.” 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”

Resolution # 6, 2019:

Billy Bartlett, Jr. moved to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, APPROVING A CONTRACT WITH THOMPSON & LITTON, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT WATER TANK REHABILITATION PROJECT.” 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”

Resolution #7, 2019:

Beverly Owens stated that a revised resolution was provided to correct a typographical error of the extended time period for the bank agreement. Billy Bartlett, Jr., moved to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, APPROVING EXTENSION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH FIRST BANK & TRUST COMPANY FOR BANKING SERVICES.” 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”

Discussion of Employee Group Health Insurance Renewal for FY 2019-2020:

Beverly Owens provided information regarding the town’s employee health insurance for fiscal year 2019-20, which indicated that premiums would not increase for the period. Following a brief discussion, Councilmember Laura Taylor Baugh made a motion that the Town of Wise approve health insurance as described in a written memorandum from the Town Manager dated 2/19/19 as follows:

- 1) Offer Key Advantage 250 Plan and Key Advantage Expanded Plan.
- 2) Fund 90% of the cost of the Key Advantage 250 Plan with comprehensive dental coverage. Provide employee option to buy up to the Key Advantage Expanded Plan and option to elect either comprehensive dental coverage or less expensive preventive and diagnostic dental coverage under the Expanded Plan.
- 3) Designate eligible enrollees as:
 - i. Full Time employees – persons regularly scheduled to work at least 30 hours per week, year round, for a definite term.
 - ii. Part Time elected officials – Town to pay 50% of the amount contributed for full time employee at all membership levels.
 - iii. Part Time Employees – persons regularly scheduled to work at least 20 and not more than 29 hours per week, year round, for no definite term with the Town to pay 50% of the amount contributed for the full time

- employee at all membership levels.*
- iv. *COBRA Qualified Beneficiaries*
- v. *Early Retirees not Eligible for Medicare*

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 #8, 2019:

Beverly Owens explained that the resolution under discussion would amend a previously adopted resolution in regard to the Wise Primary School Pedestrian Safety Project. She advised that the amendment would remove the Virginia Department of Transportation as a third-party administrator, as requested by VDOT. Caynor Smith, Jr. moved to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, AMENDING RESOLUTION #1, 2019 (in regard to a Highway Safety Improvements Project).” 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”

Closed Meeting:

Billy Bartlett, Jr. moved to convene into a closed meeting for the purpose of and including:

Legal Matters – Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel as permitted by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(8); AND

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 #3, 2019:

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade, read Closed Meeting Resolution #3, 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”

Appointee Reports (Informational Purposes Only) – Acknowledgement of Receipt:

Laura Taylor-Baugh made a motion acknowledging receipt of the C-N-W Board Meeting report from the February 6, 2019 meeting. Billy Bartlett, Jr. seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Council Comment:

Councilman Caynor Smith, Jr. stated that he was filing a formal complaint over school traffic, on behalf of the numerous citizens who had contacted him regarding their concerns with traffic. Police Lieutenant Chris Kent informed that Wise Primary School officials had changed the student pickup program that now allowed parents to drive their vehicles around the school’s Pow Wow Park, which resulted in the backup of traffic. Kent advised that he had spoken with the principal to request the program be canceled for the next school year because of the negative traffic impact. He stated that the school officials seemed unconcerned with any adverse consequences since the new traffic route was receiving praise from parents. Kent further informed that school officials had requested that police officers be at the school for traffic control by 2:30 p.m. as compared to the normal arrival time of 3:10 p.m. Councilman Smith insisted that the school’s new traffic route should be stopped immediately because of the increased traffic issues. Following the discussion, Mayor Dotson requested that Lieutenant Kent forward Council’s concerns and citizen complaints regarding school traffic to school officials.

In order to expedite the East Main Street Pedestrian Improvements Project, Councilman Smith suggested that an emergency or special-called Council meeting be scheduled for any issues that might arise that would require Council action.

Mayor Dotson informed that he, along with the Town Planner, would be attending a Virginia Department of Transportation hearing on the Norton Road Project on Thursday, February 28th at the Bristol location.

Staff / Manager Comment:

Fire Chief Duane Phillips voiced his concern that in an emergency situation fire, rescue, or other emergency personnel would not be able to get through school traffic on Main Street.

Adjournment:

There being no additional business to come before the governing body, Billy Bartlett, Jr. moved to adjourn the meeting. Teresa Adkins seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

Jeffery W. Dotson, Mayor


Robin R. Meade, Clerk of Council