

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 25, 2021; 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
Jeffery Dotson
Caynor Smith, Jr.
Ben Conway

Members Absent:

None

Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation:

Councilman Caynor Smith, Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance. Adrian Dale, Acting Street Superintendent, provided the invocation.

Amendment to the Agenda:

Mayor Adkins requested that agenda items 3 and 4 be reversed for discussion. Caynor Smith, Jr. moved to amend the agenda by reversing items 3 and 4. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

Resolution #18, 2021:

Mayor Adkins read Resolution #18, 2021 in its entirety, which recognized the accomplishments of the Central High School Cheer Team. Following the reading, Caynor Smith, Jr. moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA COMMENDING THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION CHEER TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2021 CLASS 2 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP." 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"

Council presented each team member and coach a token in recognition of the team's achievement.

Consent Calendar:

Laura Taylor-Baugh made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the April 27, 2021 regular Council Meeting, the April 2021 Treasurer's, Police, Water Plant, and Fire Department Reports, and the May 2021 Planning Department Report. Ben Conway seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

Public Expression:

Bonnie Aker and Henrietta Dotson, representatives of the Wise Business Association, presented ideas for a billboard advertisement on U.S. Route 23 from Pound to Wise. Akers said the billboard would advertise upcoming events and businesses in the Town of Wise. She added that businesses would be recruited to select the month they wanted to participate and Wise Business Association would be given priority. Akers advised that the WBA would pay for the Chillin' & Grillin' logo on the billboard. Aker presented cost estimates for a six-month period and noted that billboard advertisement replaces the costs of other types of advertisement such as newspapers. Dotson added that the goal was to get more people to come to downtown Wise. They requested the Town of Wise participate in the project. Following a

brief discussion, Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to donate \$750 to the billboard project for the six-month period. 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”

Thomas Kennedy, 303 Spring Avenue, S.E., expressed his thanks to Council for their support and improvements made to the Veldon Dotson Park ballfields.

David Booth, resident of Masonic Avenue, stated his concerns over the volume of traffic traveling the street through the residential neighborhood. He stated the situation was dangerous considering the speeds at which the traffic traveled. He also mentioned that a school bus travels this extremely narrow street.

Deborah Collins, resident of Masonic Avenue, reiterated Mr. Booth’s comments. She stated that she personally would like for the street to be made a “one-way only” street. Collins added that the school bus traveling this route was not picking up students, but using the street as a short-cut. She also suggested the street be monitored more during Halloween, because she feared a child would be hit by a card.

Police Chief French provided the findings of a three-day traffic study, which he stressed there was a tremendous amount of traffic on the street. He stressed that a more extensive traffic study was needed that would provide additional data.

Councilman Dotson added that although the 25mph speed limit was the minimum allowed, with the exception of a street in a school district, the speed was excessive for that area. He noted that VDOT should be contacted to learn if the “ripples” on the street would be allowed.

Mayor Adkins suggested the matter be discussed by the Public Safety Committee for review. Councilman Dotson recommended additional data be collected first.

UVA-Wise Connects Program:

Heather Evans, John Morton Beaty Endowed Chair in Political Science at UVA-Wise, presented information about a new program designed to build bridges between the UVA-Wise community and the community at Wise. She explained that the Academic Community Engagement (ACE) is a teaching method that combines community engagement with academic instruction. Evans provided handouts that further explained the new program. Councilman Smith provided information on different programs that the Town of Wise had tried implementing over the years to improve relationships with UVA-Wise and the students, which Ms. Evans stated that she was unaware of. Council members shared their enthusiasm about the program and the possibility of the college working toward better relations.

Public Hearing on Ordinance #2, 2021:

Laura Roberts, Planner, reviewed the rezoning request received from K&F Venture, LLC of two vacant tracts of land from an R-A Low Density to a B-2 General Business. She stated that following a public hearing held by the Planning Commission, it was recommended that the request be approved by Council. Mayor Adkins opened the public hearing. Thomas Kennedy, co-applicant, stated that he and his partner were trying to be pro-active in an effort to create an opportunity for growth and development. There being no additional discussion, Mayor Adkins closed the public hearing. Caynor Smith, Jr. made a

motion to adopt "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AMENDING THE ZONING DISTRICT MAP OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, RECLASSIFYING THE ZONING DISTRICT OF 25.97 ACRES AND .1927 ACRES LOCATED ALONG NORTON ROAD (US23-BUSINESS) FROM R-A LOW DENSITY RESIDENCE DISTRICT TO B-2 GENERAL BUSINESS ZONING DISTRICT". Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that 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"

Public Hearing on Ordinance #3, 2021:

Town Planner Laura Roberts advised that it was requested that the Planning Commission consider developing a set of guidelines for blasting within the Town of Wise in order to accommodate potential developers wishing to develop the remaining available vacant properties and also for repurposing existing properties within the Town. She briefly reviewed the proposed regulations, which she added had been reviewed by the Town's Attorney. Leonard Rogers confirmed that VDOT was exempt from the blasting regulations. Mayor Adkins opened the floor for the public hearing. There being no one wishing to speak, the public hearing was closed. Following an extensive discussion, Councilman Jeff Dotson made a motion that Ordinance #3, 2021 and the public hearing be tabled to a future meeting. 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"

Public Hearing on Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 Town of Wise Budget:

There was a public hearing held on the proposed fiscal year 2021-22 Town of Wise budget. There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, Mayor Adkins closed the public hearing.

Proclamation #5, 2021:

Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor-Baugh made a motion to adopt "A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA DESIGNATING JUNE 6-12, 2021 AS NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK" and Councilman Ben Conway seconded the motion. The vote carried 5-0.

Mayor Adkins presented Henrietta Dotson of the Town and Country Garden Club a copy of the proclamation.

Resolution #19, 2021:

Laura Roberts, Planner, explained that the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 required local governments develop and adopt natural hazard mitigation plans in order to be eligible for certain federal assistance. There being no additional discussion, Laura Taylor-Baugh made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA ADOPTING THE LENOWISCO COMPREHENSIVE HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN". Jeff Dotson seconded the motion that 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 #20, 2021:

Jeff Dotson made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA TO PURCHASE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY AND CERTAIN OTHER ASSETS FROM MELCO, LLC". Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that 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 Comment:

Caynor Smith, Jr. notified that the High Knob Music Festival was scheduled for June 19th and he encouraged everyone to attend. He mentioned the tremendous success of the ball tournament at Dotson Park. Smith mentioned the need for a golf cart at the Park to assist with the development of the fields. He noted that he was instrumental in negotiating a lower price on the lawn mowers purchased by the Town. Smith emphasized that he had personally purchased a lawn mower in March and two weeks later he was given another lawn mower. He wanted to put to rest any rumors that his work for the Town was used for his personal gain.

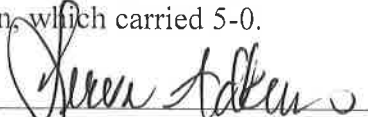
Laura Taylor-Baugh requested a status update on the mowing ordinance. Beverly Owens stated that she would have a report at the next meeting. Leonard Rogers reminded that the current mowing ordinance was still in effect.


Staff / Manager Comment:

Leonard Rogers, Attorney, suggested a smaller billboard be placed at the Dotson Park, to let people know everything available throughout the area.

Adjournment:

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


Teresa Adkins, Mayor


Robin R. Meade, Town Clerk/Treasurer

WISE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING
TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2021; 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
Caynor Smith, Jr.

Members Absent:

Ben Conway

Invocation:

Adrian Dale, Acting Street Superintendent and Pastor of the Norton First Church of God, provided the invocation.

Public Expression:

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

Resolution #21, 2021:

Town Manager Beverly Owens explained that in the process of developing specifications for the purchase of a new garbage truck, she had learned of a shortage in vehicles and vehicle parts. She stated that two model 2022 trucks with the features required by the Town of Wise was currently on order at Mid-State Equipment. Owens stated the vehicle could be secured without following the Public Procurement Procedures pursuant to Virginia Code §2.2-4343(A)(9). Leonard Rogers, Town Attorney, clarified that the resolution he drafted was worded in such a way that the Town could secure the truck by demonstrating the Town's intent to purchase; however, the actual payment would be made from the fiscal year 2021-22 budget, as appropriated for. He added that he had reservations about committing to a purchase from a budget that was yet to be adopted, but added that he would present a new resolution in July, after the 2021-22 budget had been adopted, authorizing the same purchase. Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to approve "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF A 2022 KENWORTH T370 WITH 20 CUBIC YARD PAK-MOR REFUSE COLLECTION BODY". Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	"AYE"
Laura Taylor-Baugh, Vice-Mayor	"AYE"
Jeff Dotson	"AYE"
Caynor Smith, Jr.	"AYE"

Discussion of Dotson Park:

- **Hours of Operation** – Beverly Owens, Manager, stated that Doug Bates, Coordinator of Dotson Park, had contacted her with a problem of people, not associated with a structured league, showing up to use the fields at the park during times the gate was closed. Laura Taylor-Baugh voiced her belief that the park should be open for public use before the normal gate opening at 1:00 p.m. Caynor Smith, Jr. concurred with those comments. Owens shared Bates concern with damage that could be incurred at the fields with use during unattended times. Rogers added that the Town would be at risk for liability resulting in injury with use of the parks during these times as well. Jeff Dotson suggested the park be opened, but checked several times a day by police. He also mentioned the possibility of cameras at the park. Councilmembers recommended that the water plant personnel open the gates in the mornings at 10:00 a.m. and close at dusk by the Police Department or by the Park Coordinator Doug Bates, except Sunday, which would open from 4 p.m. to dusk.

- **Use of Public Property for Private Gain** – Beverly Owens stated that Doug Bates had been approached by an individual wanting to provide lessons at Dotson Park for personnel gain. She referred to an ordinance adopted by Council in 2013, allowing private use of Dotson Park with fees imposed. Owens said that Bates did not support such activity and added that if Council no longer wanted to allow this, the ordinance would need to be rescinded. Councilman Smith voiced his opinion that Ordinance #7, 2013 provided a formal application process for such use of the fields, which Doug Bates may not have been aware of. Councilman Dotson suggested a copy of the ordinance be forwarded to Doug Bates for his review and input.

Council Comments:

Caynor Smith, Jr. advised that there was a softball tournament scheduled for the same weekend as the Chillin' & Grillin' event. He said he had informed Doug Bates that there would be no town employees available to assist at the ball park. He also reported that the last softball tournament brought in \$12,000 to Dotson Park.

Jeff Dotson suggested Council look at naming the fields with corporate sponsors at Dotson Park. Caynor Smith, Jr. noted that there were many people from the past who had contributed to the park's success, in addition to the current sponsors.

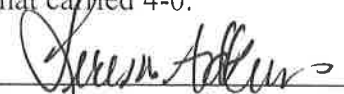
Staff/Manager Comment:

Adrian Dale reminded that a cookout was planned at Arrowhead Park on Friday, June 11, 2021, for Paul Dandy (purchasing agent) in celebration of his upcoming retirement after 30 years of service.

Adjournment:

There being no additional business to come before the Wise Town Council, Laura Taylor-Baugh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Dotson seconded the motion that carried 4-0.


Robin R. Meade, Clerk of Council


Teresa Adkins, Mayor