

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 28, 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  
Ben Conway  
Jeffery Dotson  
Caynor Smith, Jr.

**Members Absent:**

None

**Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation:**

Councilman Jeff Dotson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Reverend Ben Murphy of the Wise First Church of God, provided the invocation.

Mayor Adkins presented to Reverend Murphy, an honorary "Key to the Town of Wise" in appreciation of his twenty years of ministry in the town. Reverend Murphy stated that he and his wife would miss the community when they must relocate in August.

**Consent Calendar:**

Jeff Dotson made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the June 23, 2020 Regular Council Meeting, the July 7, 2020 Organizational Meeting, the July 7, 2020 Special-Called Council Meeting, the June 2020 Police, Water Plant, and Fire Department Reports. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

**Public Expression:**

Kelly Sorah, 314 Oakwood Avenue, S.E., introduced herself as the newest appointee to the Wise Planning Commission. Councilmembers joined together to welcome Mrs. Sorah and thanked her for volunteering to serve.

**Resolution #20, 2020:**

Beverly Owens explained that the purchase of two capital outlay items, a dump truck and a pipeline camera inspection system, appropriated in the current year's budget were eligible for potential grant assistance through USDA Rural Development. She added that the funding, if awarded, would be for 15% of the purchase price, or approximately \$16,000. Owens noted that the resolution under discussion would authorize the Town Manager to execute all documents associated with the grant funding application. There being no questions, Jeff Dotson made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA TO OBTAIN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A DUMP TRUCK AND A PIPELINE CAMERA INSPECTION SYSTEM". Caynor Smith, Jr., 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"

**ORDINANCE #4, 2020:**

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade submitted, for Council review and acknowledgement, delinquent tax lists as of June 30, 2020, pursuant to Virginia Code §58.1-3924. Following a brief discussion, Caynor Smith, Jr., moved to adopt "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE,

VIRGINIA ADOPTING THE PROCEDURES FOR UNCOLLECTIBLE TAXES AND DELINQUENTS AS PROVIDED IN VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 58.1-3921 AND 58.1-3924, REQUIRING PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF CERTAIN LISTS AND DIRECTING THE PUBLICATION THEREOF". 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"

**Discussion of Flood Mitigation Improvements:**

Beverly Owens reminded that at the June meeting, Council instructed staff to meet with the appropriate authorities to evaluate necessary steps to establishing a flood improvement project on Glade Creek from School Avenue to the Payless Shopping Center. Owens stated that a meeting was held on July 8<sup>th</sup> with David Nishida from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and Claire Trent with the US Army Corps of Engineers. She provided a written summary of suggestions from both authorities, as well as potential steps that could be taken as defined by Mr. Nishida and Ms. Trent. She added that both agreed that all of the problems identified by the Town as flooding contributors, were indeed issues that needed to be addressed. Owens reported that both authorities were of the same opinion that the only effective answer would be a holistic system-wide approach. She added that both strongly suggested the Town try to obtain a congressionally authorized plan of action to address flooding in the town, due to the extensive nature of the project being recommended. Responding to a question regarding action that could be taken by the Town without having engineering studies completed, Owens explained that a 300-foot creek clearing project could be completed with only local permitting, which would cost up to \$600. She informed that she had asked if multiple projects could be completed at one time and how often permits for such projects could be applied for; however, had not received an answer. She added that Council would have to define the 300-foot project area for each permit. Councilman Smith requested that Owens ask if Wise County Schools could apply for a local permit for the area of the creek located near the primary and middle schools at the same time the Town applied for a permit for the creek area above the school property. Responding to a question from Councilman Conway, Owens advised that private property owners could complete specified work in the creek on their own property, without a permit. Following an extensive discussion, Mayor Adkins requested that the Town Manager obtain answers to the questions regarding permitting for 300-foot sections and forward the information to Council members to allow time for each member to consider the best course of action to take.

**Discussion of Virginia Department of Labor and Industry's Temporary Emergency Standard for COVID-19:**

Beverly Owens presented a brief summary of the state's COVID-19 workplace safety mandates and penalties. She explained that the new "Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS)" was adopted July 15<sup>th</sup> in response to an executive order issued by Governor Northam. Following a brief summary, Jeff Dotson made a motion to authorize the Town Manager, with the assistance of the Town Attorney, to develop a policy to comply with the Emergency Temporary Standard. Laura Taylor Baugh seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

**Resolution #21, 2020:**

Caynor Smith, Jr., made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA APPOINTING KELLY SORAH TO SERVE ON THE TOWN OF WISE PLANNING COMMISSION". 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”

**Recreation Committee Meeting Report:**

Caynor Smith, Jr., Chair, presented the Recreation Committee’s meeting report and recommended amounts for the two unbudgeted donation requests for fiscal year 2020-21:

- Wise Senior Citizens \$500
- Health Wagon \$250

Jeff Dotson made a motion to approve the Recreation Committee report as presented. 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”

**Recommended Committee Assignment FY 2020-2021 and FY 2021-2022:**

Mayor Adkins presented the following list of committee assignments for the fiscal years 2020-21 and 2021-22:

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE:**

Teresa Adkins, Chair  
Laura Taylor-Baugh  
Town Manager  
Appropriate Dept. Head

**AUDIT/FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Laura Taylor-Baugh, Chair  
Teresa Adkins  
Town Manager  
Clerk/Treasurer

**CEMETERY COMMITTEE:**

Jeff Dotson, Chair  
Ben Conway  
Town Manager  
Bob Nixon  
Mark Sturgill

**PUBLIC PROPERTY COMMITTEE:**

Ben Conway, Chair  
Teresa Adkins  
Town Manager  
Appropriate Dept. Head

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:**

Jeff Dotson, Chair  
Caynor Smith, Jr.  
Chief of Police (if police or traffic matter)  
Fire Chief (if fire dept. matter)  
Rescue Squad Captain (if rescue squad matter)  
Street Superintendent (if traffic matter)

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE:**

Ben Conway, Chair  
Laura Taylor-Baugh  
Appropriate Dept. Head

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE:**

Caynor Smith, Jr., Chair  
Jeff Dotson  
Appropriate Dept. Head

**(RECREATIONAL/CULTURAL) COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES:**

Caynor Smith, Jr., Chair  
Ben Conway  
Appropriate Dept. Head

**SISTER CITY COMMITTEE:**

Laura Taylor-Baugh, Chair  
Caynor Smith, Jr.

**TOWN/UVA'S COLLEGE AT WISE ADVISORY COMMITTEE:**

Teresa Adkins (Mayor, Town of Wise)  
Jeff Dotson  
Manager, Town of Wise  
Chancellor, UVA’s College at Wise  
Vice-Chancellor, UVA’s College at Wise  
Director, Southwest VA Office of Cooper Ctr for Public Service

There being no additional discussion, Caynor Smith, Jr., moved to adopt the committee assignments as

presented. 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”

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

Caynor Smith, Jr., made a motion acknowledging receipt of the Cumberland's Airport Commission report from the regular meeting held July 21, 2020. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

**Council Comment:**

Ben Conway thanked Council for welcoming him to the governing board.

Caynor Smith, Jr. voiced his personal disappointment over having to cancel the Town's summer events, especially the Chillin' & Grillin', due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that the Town had never looked more beautiful.

Laura Taylor-Baugh commended the Water Treatment Plant employees on the awards recently received.

Jeff Dotson asked for a status report on the safety glass installation. Robin Meade, Clerk/Treasurer, acknowledged that the glass was completed with a few cosmetic issues that would need to be repaired. She noted that there was a scratch on one of the tempered glass panels that would be replaced by the contractor. Dotson thanked the Town employees who had continued to work amidst the pandemic. He asked if there had been any discussion regarding reopening the Municipal Building.

Laura Taylor-Baugh responded to Dotson's reopening inquiry by suggesting the office remain closed until adoption of an Emergency Temporary Standard plan as discussed earlier in the meeting.

Teresa Adkins thanked the Town employees and those who had assisted her during her transition to the office of Mayor.

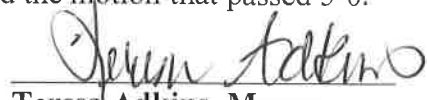
**Staff/Manager Comment:**

Caleb Ramsey, Water Treatment Plant Chief Operator, reported that Water Treatment Plant employee Mike Fields and retiree, Tommy Roberts, had received the distinguished "Friend of VRWA Award".

**Adjournment:**

There being no additional business to come before the governing body, the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Caynor Smith, Jr. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

  
Robin R. Meade, Clerk of Council

  
Teresa Adkins, Mayor