

WISE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING
TUESDAY, JULY 7, 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

Closed Session:

Caynor Smith, Jr. moved to convene into a closed session for the purpose of and including:

***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).*

Jeffery 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”

Regular Session:

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to reconvene in open session. Jeffery 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”

Certification of Closed Session – CM Resolution #7, 2020:

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade, read Closed Meeting Resolution #7, 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	“Aye”
Ben Conway	“Aye”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Public Expression:

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

Resolution #18, 2020:

Town Manager Beverly Owens informed that Joseph Mullins, owner of property located on Christmas Lane, was in the process of building a new home and had requested a new water tap. She explained that during a routine field study and hydraulic analysis, which was part of the water tap application review process, acting Public Works Superintendent Jerry Kilgore discovered that a water line installed and used by the Town to serve that community, did not have a recorded easement on file. Owens added that it was the general understanding that the original line was installed at the request of the previous owner, Velma Mullins; however, no documentation could be found. In working through the issues with Mr. and Mrs. Mullins and with the assistance of the Town Attorney, a set of documents were developed to address the issue. Owens explained that one of the documents was an easement that she had the authority to execute granted under a previously adopted ordinance and the other was a resolution accepting a deed of conveyance of the two-inch water line serving the community. There being no additional discussion or questions, Jeffery Dotson made a motion to approve "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA ACCEPTING A GRANT FROM JOSEPH SCOTT MULLINS AND TONJA-LEIGH H. MULLINS FOR WATER IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED IN CHRISTMAS LANE IN WISE COUNTY". Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, which 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 #19, 2020:

Beverly Owens explained that RPC Rentals, LLC, owned a house at 606 Railroad Avenue, NE, which was currently being rented. Owens stated that the current occupants of the rental wanted to receive rural route delivery of mail. She said the occupants were told by the post office personnel that a mailbox would have to be installed on the opposite side of Railroad Avenue, on property owned by the Town of Wise and requested permission to place a mailbox on the town owned property. Owens advised that the Town's attorney had drafted a license agreement for Council review and adoption if members were inclined to grant the request. Councilman Smith questioned whether the Town could rescind the agreement if necessary. Prior to responding to the question, Leonard Rogers disclosed that he legally represented RPC Rentals, LLC and disclaimed any interest in the matter under discussion. Rogers stated that he suggested a license agreement be drafted, rather than an easement, because easements were more permanent and would pass along with the land; whereas, a license agreement was designed specifically to an individual or company and could be terminated at any time upon notice. Following the discussion, Laura Taylor-Baugh moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA APPROVING A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH RPC RENTALS, LLC FOR PLACEMENT OF A MAILBOX ON PROPERTY OWNED BY THE TOWN AND FRONTING RAILROAD AVENUE". Jeff Dotson seconded the motion, which 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 Usage of Dotson Park:

Beverly Owens provided Council with a written summary of the minimum mandatory state requirements for recreational sports and business sectors that became effective on July 1st as Virginia transitioned to COVID-19 Phase 3 reopening. She reminded that Council decided to close Dotson Park to the public beginning July 6th through July 10th for maintenance work. Owens reported that according to the City of Kingsport, Tennessee, both Domtar and Brickyard Parks were closed with no immediate plans to reopen. She stated that she knew that area schools had closed their fields and that Bullitt Park in Big Stone Gap was closed as of June 23rd, but she was not certain if it remained closed. She asked Council for direction in regard to Dotson Park. Following a lengthy discussion, Mayor Adkins polled each member of Council and it was agreed that given the extensive mandated guidelines issued by Governor Northam and the potential liability to the Town if the park re-opened, Dotson Park should remain closed to the public until further notice.

Council Comments:

Councilmen Dotson and Smith congratulated newly appointed Mayor Teresa Adkins and Vice Mayor Laura Taylor-Baugh on their new offices.

Caynor Smith, Jr. stated for the record that he fully supports the selection of the office of Mayor by the elected governing Council as had been the practice of the Town of Wise for as long as he could remember. He stated that he hoped the Town would never change the method to a direct election of the office of Mayor by the public, because he added, it would then turn political.

Jeffrey Dotson stated that it had been a privilege to serve as Mayor of the Town of Wise for the last two years.

Vice-Mayor Taylor-Baugh congratulated Ben Conway on his election to Council and to Teresa Adkins for her appointment as Mayor.

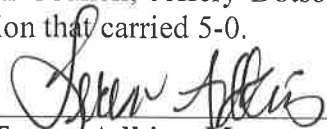
Mayor Adkins thanked Caynor Smith, Jr. and Jeffrey Dotson for their service to the Town. She also thanked the appointees for their years of service to the Town.

Staff/Manager Comments:

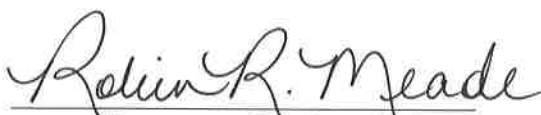
Leonard Rogers handed out information regarding a free Virginia FOIA Training Day to be held virtually on August 7th. He noted that Local Officials Training must be completed by new councilmembers within two months of taking office, including incumbents to office.

Adjournment:

There being no additional business to come before the Wise Town Council, Jeffery Dotson 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