

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 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 *(arrived at 7:05 p.m.)*
Laura Taylor-Baugh
Billy Bartlett, Jr.
Caynor Smith, Jr.

Members Absent:

None

Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation:

Mayor Dotson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Jeff Sams, Associate Pastor of Glamorgan Chapel Church, provided the invocation.

Agenda Amendment:

Town Manager Beverly Owens requested an item be added to the agenda under discussion during the closed meeting section pertaining to "Personnel". Caynor Smith, Jr. moved to approve the amended agenda. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Consent Calendar:

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the October 22, 2019 regular meeting, the September 2019 Treasurer's Financial Report, and the October 2019 Police, Water Plant, and Fire Department reports. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

Public Expression:

Thomas Kennedy, 609 Mars Street, thanked Council for allowing the community to have a travel ball tournament at the Veldon Dotson Park fields and thanked Sykes as being the corporate sponsor of the event. He reported that the travel ball teams were able to get a lot of work done at the fields in a short amount of time. Kennedy stated that he felt the park was headed in the right direction. He looked forward to partnering with the Town of Wise on future improvements. He informed that Sykes spent in excess of \$12,000 as host of the tournament.

Councilman Smith publicly thanked Sykes for sponsoring the tournament. He acknowledged his amazement with the number of people who volunteered and the amount of work that had been completed at the park.

Todd McReynolds, representative of Sykes, stated that he hoped to sponsor at least four additional tournaments in the upcoming year.

Brett Easterling, on behalf of the Travel League Baseball Teams, presented Council with a plaque of appreciation. Council members thanked the parents, coaches, team members, and Sykes for all their hard work.

Ashley Deloach, 215 East Main Street (Mercantile on Main), requested permission to allow Lincoln Road, a mobile coffee vendor, to set up in a parking space on Main Street during the Christmas parade. Mayor Dotson stated that the mobile food vendor would have to comply with the guidelines. Town Attorney Leonard Rogers explained that vendors could set up on public property, instead of private property, only during special events. Following a brief discussion, Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to approve the request as presented. He encouraged town staff to work with the new business on any issues that might arise with the special event request. Billy Bartlett, Jr. seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

Public Hearing – Resolution #50, 2019:

There was a public hearing held concerning the conveyance of a 6.190 acre portion of property from the Town of Wise to the Wise County Industrial Development Authority. There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, Mayor Dotson closed the public hearing. There being no additional discussion, Councilwoman Laura Taylor-Baugh made a motion to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA TO SELL CERTAIN PROPERTY TO THE WISE COUNTY INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY”. 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”

Authorization for the Town Manager to Sign VRA Commitment Letter – Health Department Rehab Tank Project:

In a written memorandum, Town Manager Beverly Owens briefly reviewed the Health Department Rehabilitation Tank Project. She explained that financial assistance for the project was being provided by the Virginia Department of Health through the Virginia Water Supply Revolving Fund and included a loan of up to \$104,700 at 2.5% interest rate for 30 years and a grant of up to \$104,000 as a principal forgiveness loan. Owens explained that the loan was secured by a “double barrel” pledge of net water and sewer revenues and the full faith and credit of the Town (general obligation). She stated that loan closing was subject to satisfaction of VDH conditions which included a commitment to increase in-town water rates 3% each year for the next five years. Owens provided copies of VRA’s Commitment Letter, Funding Agreement, and Financing Agreement for the project. She requested Council’s authorization to allow the Town Manager to sign the documents on the Town’s behalf. There being no additional discussion, Councilman Bartlett moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the VRS Commitment letter. Councilwoman Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Public Hearing – Ordinance #11, 2019:

There was a public hearing held to receive comments on the proposed issuance of a general obligation bonds to help finance the rehabilitation costs of the 250,000 gallon water tank built in 1983 and located behind the local Health Department on Roberts Avenue. There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, Mayor Dotson closed the public hearing. There being no additional discussion, Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt “AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF GENERAL OBLIGATION WATER AND SEWER BONDS OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$110,000”. Councilwoman Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion. 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 #51, 2019:

Councilman Bartlett made a motion to adopt “A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE, SALE AND AWARD OF A TAXABLE GENERAL OBLIGATION WATER AND SEWER BOND OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$104,700, HERETOFORE AUTHORIZED, AND PROVIDING FOR THE FORM, DETAILS AND PAYMENT THEREOF”. Councilwoman 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”

Recreation Committee Meeting Report:

- *Issues at Dotson Park* – Caynor Smith, Jr., Chair, provided a summary of the Recreation Committee meeting held on November 14, 2019. He explained that since the development of Dotson Park, youth sports recreation programs had expanded to include not only little league baseball, but also football, soccer, cross country running, golf, and travel team ball. He added that the increased participation in varying sports had created many conflicts between participants wanting use of the facilities and increased complaints about lack of access, neglected maintenance, and difficulties in sponsoring tournaments. Smith reported that the Recreation Committee decided it was time that the Town provide leadership in the oversight of the park. He stated the goals of the committee was to better serve all interested youth and families in the area and maximize the use of the fields. To meet those goals, the committee recommended the following:

1. New locks be placed on all buildings on the property.
2. The Town develop an application process for requesting use of the fields and/or facilities.
3. The Town publish notice of the new process in the local newspaper, on the Town’s website, social media, and by direct mail to all known recreation group utilizing the park.
4. The Town work to establish a framework of policies and practices to guide the Town’s management of the park moving forward.

Mayor Dotson thanked the committee for their efforts. Councilman Smith emphasized that the guidelines were a work in progress.

Following the brief discussion, Billy Bartlett, Jr. moved to accept the Recreation Committee Report as presented. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

Presentation of Audit for FY 2018-2019:

Larry Sturgill, CPA, presented highlights from the audit report for the fiscal year 2018-2019. He noted that the audit engagement for the period ending June 30, 2019 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 2018-2019 as presented with the immaterial changes noted. Billy Bartlett, Jr. seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

Closed Meeting:

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

Acquisition of 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 Code §2.2-3711(A)(3);

AND

Personnel – Discussion, consideration, or interview 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).

Teresa Adkins seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

Regular Session:

Billy Bartlett, Jr. moved to reconvene into the regular session. Teresa Adkins seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

Certification of Closed Meeting – CM Resolution #14, 2019:

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade, read Closed Meeting Resolution #14, 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”

Resolution #52, 2019:

Teresa Adkins 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, 2019”. Caynor Smith, 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”

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

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion acknowledging receipt of the Cumberland Airport Commission report from the regular meeting held October 17, 2019 and November 21, 2019. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

Council Comment:

Caynor Smith, Jr. and other members of Council commented on the excellent audit report. He mentioned a pavement breakdown issue with the section of road between the Wise Inn and Thompson & Litton that will require attention.

Teresa Adkins reminded Council members of the Employee Christmas luncheon on December 12th.

Mayor Dotson requested that Norton Road be closed during the Christmas Tree Lighting on December 2nd from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. or whatever time the event is over.

Billy Bartlett, Jr. made a motion to close Norton Road during the Christmas Tree Lighting event on December 2nd. Caynor Smith, Jr. seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.


Councilman Bartlett congratulated the Town Manager and Town Treasurer for their contributions that allowed the Town to receive a great audit report.

Staff/Manager Comment:

Town Treasurer Robin Meade, on behalf of all Town employees, thanked Council for their Christmas bonus.

Adjournment:

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


Robin R. Meade, Clerk of Council


Jeffery W. Dotson, Mayor