

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL CONTINUED MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020; 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
Caynor Smith, Jr.

Members Absent:

Billy Bartlett, Jr.

Agenda Amendment:

Town Clerk/Treasurer requested an item regarding surplus equipment be added to the agenda. Caynor Smith, Jr. moved to approve the amended agenda. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, which carried 4-0.

Public Expression:

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

Closed Meeting:

Laura Taylor-Baugh moved to convene into a closed meeting 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).

Caynor Smith, Jr. seconded the motion that passed 4-0.

Regular Session:

Laura Taylor-Baugh moved to reconvene into the regular session. Caynor Smith, Jr. seconded the motion that carried 4-0.

Certification of Closed Meeting – CM Resolution #4, 2020:

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade, read Closed Meeting Resolution #4, 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:

Jeffery Dotson, Mayor	“Aye”
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Laura Taylor-Baugh	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Personnel:

Councilwoman Laura Taylor-Baugh made a motion that the Town of Wise create a new position called “Director of Public Works” and be classified as grade 14A on the Town’s pay scale. Councilwoman Teresa Adkins seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

Jeffery Dotson, Mayor	“Aye”
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Laura Taylor-Baugh	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Discussion of FY 2020-2021 Budget:

- Town Manager Beverly Owens explained that financial planning was difficult because the severity and duration of the COVID-19 pandemic was impossible to predict. She presented the Executive Summary for the proposed budget for fiscal year 2020-2021, noting that it represented a decrease of \$978,590 or nearly 8% under the current year’s budget.
- Councilman Smith questioned Police Chief French on the three new police vehicles that were being requested. French responded that the three vehicles would replace all 2011 models. He added that repairs on the vehicles were increasing and he worried that the vehicles would not last another year.
- Smith stated that although he supported the idea of Ordinance Codification, he felt with the decreased revenue due to the pandemic, this fiscal year was not the appropriate time. At the Mayor’s request, Beverly Owens responded by informing that in January 2019, legislation was introduced that stipulated that anyone charged in a locality for a violation of an ordinance that had not been codified could assert an affirmative defense that the locality failed to provide adequate notice to the public as to the contents of an ordinance; therefore, could not be charged. She added that although the legislation failed in 2019, it was reintroduced in 2020 and it passed through the House Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns on a vote of 22-0. She noted that it was then referred to the Courts of Justice Committee where it was tabled. Owens said the point was that every year support of the legislation increases. She also informed that the codification company contacted to complete the work, advised that it would take one year to obtain, research and codify the ordinances. Councilwoman Laura Taylor-Baugh noted that she requested the item be appropriated in the budget because it was passed on last fiscal year. Other members of Council concurred that it was time to move forward with the project.
- When asked about street maintenance funding from the state, Beverly Owens informed that the General Assembly would reconvene in the fall to evaluate the effects of COVID-19 on the state’s budget; therefore, there was no way of knowing what they would do with any of the allocations to localities.
- Owens explained that the final expenditures on the VDOT TAP Streetscape Project – Phase II would have to be carried into the upcoming fiscal year because it was not possible to get the project completely finalized before June 30th.
- Owens briefly reviewed the status of the Hazard Mitigation Project, which included thirteen (13) properties.
- Councilman Caynor Smith, Jr. notified that Greg Cross had cancelled the 2020 Chillin’ & Grillin’ due to regulations of the Governor’s orders in regard to COVID-19.
- Beverly Owens advised that the transfers from the General Fund to the Water and Sewer Funds were appropriated in anticipation of water and sewer losses associated from the loss of revenues from school, college, and business closings due to the global pandemic.

Business Support (COVID-19):

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to approve a request that was emailed from Town Planner Laura Roberts for an additional \$800 from Cultural Enrichment to Community Development for the business contests discussed at the April Council meeting. 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”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Surplus Property:

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade requested authorization to donate surplus computer equipment from the Treasurer’s Department to the Public Works Department, Fire Department, and Wise Rescue Squad. Laura Taylor-Baugh made a motion authorizing the Town Treasurer to donate surplus computer equipment throughout the Town as deemed necessary. Teresa Adkins seconded the motion that carried 4-0.

Council Comment:

Caynor Smith, Jr. voiced his disappointment with the cancelation of the Chillin’ & Grillin’ event.

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 4-0.


Robin R. Meade, Clerk of Council


Jeffery W. Dotson, Mayor