

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
RE-SCHEDULED MEETING - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 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  
Laura Taylor-Baugh  
Billy Bartlett, Jr.  
Caynor Smith, Jr.

**Members Absent:**

None

**Pledge of Allegiance / Invocation:**

Mayor Dotson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Reverend Jack Blanton of the Stevens Chapel Freewill Baptist Church provided the invocation.

**Consent Calendar:**

Caynor Smith, Jr. moved to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the Tuesday, April 23, 2019 regular meeting and the April 2019 Financial, Police, Water Plant, and Fire Department reports. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

**Public Expression:**

Robert Adkins, 163 Straughan Avenue, voiced his concern with the continual flooding of Yellow Creek, which runs under the old Dari-Barn restaurant and behind his rental property on East Main Street. He noted that he had owned property on the creek bank since 1958 and he, along with many other Town citizens, had suffered thousands of dollars in damages from flooding since that time. He emphasized that the problem had been ignored far too long. Mr. Adkins stated the creek was extremely narrow in certain areas from overgrown weeds and debris. He stated that although he realized there was some opposition to the clearing of the creek, doing so would be for the betterment of the majority of the citizenry of the Town of Wise. Adkins urged Council members to address the issue before additional flooding damage was incurred. He emphasized his willingness to assist by any means possible including allowing crews to cross his property to access the creek. Mayor Dotson requested the Town Manager to consider Mr. Adkins request and decide the best course of action for the Town of Wise to address the flooding issue.

**Resolution #20, 2019:**

Mayor Dotson read in its entirety "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, COMMENDING THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FORENSICS TEAM AND COACHES". Billy Bartlett moved to adopt Resolution #20, 2019. 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"
Billy Bartlett, Jr.	"Aye"
Caynor Smith, Jr.	"Aye"

Mayor Dotson presented a plaque in recognition of the Forensic Team's achievements to Coaches Debra Taylor and Jan Thompson (who was unable to attend). A copy of the resolution was provided to each member of the team.

**Public Hearing on New Water and Sewer Service Rates for FY 2019-20:**

There was a public hearing held on a new schedule of charges for water and sewer service. There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, Mayor Dotson closed the public hearing.

**Public Hearing – Proposed FY 2019-20 Town of Wise Budget:**

There was a public hearing held on the proposed fiscal year 2019-20 Town of Wise budget. There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, Mayor Dotson closed the public hearing.

**Public Hearing – Ordinance #4, 2019:**

Laura Craft, Planner, provided a brief summary of the proposed amendment to Ordinance #22, 2013 regarding alcohol sales on town streets, sidewalks, public rights-of-way, and Big Glades Community Square under certain conditions. Smith spoke in favor of the amendment, adding that localities that allow alcohol sales during special events had indicated that revenue generated from the alcohol sales helped pay for special events. He added that he was willing to try the change to alcohol sales as a means of generating revenue to pay for the town's special events. Councilwoman Teresa Adkins stated that she supported the sale of alcohol at town events only in confined areas such as the current "beer garden". Town Police Chief Danny French agreed that the Town should at least try the proposed change to alcohol sales. Councilman Smith questioned Chief French if he was confident that the police department could handle any situation that might arise from the municipal sale of alcohol at town events. Chief French responded that he hoped the department could handle any issues. Councilman Billy Bartlett voiced his support of the proposed amendment. Councilwoman Laura Taylor-Baugh informed that she had spoken with the Town Manager of Big Stone Gap, Steve Lawson, who spoke in favor of alcohol sales and confirmed that revenue generated from sales funded future special events, with minimal disruptions. Mayor Dotson opened the floor for the public hearing. Robert Adkins voiced his opposition to the amendment and cautioned Council on the message the proposal was sending to the town's young people. Adkins stressed that Wise was a Christian community and the Wise Baptist Church was a neighbor of the Big Glades Amphitheater. There being no additional comment, the floor was closed.

There was a question regarding whether the ordinance could be adopted immediately following the public hearing. Following the determination by the Town's Attorney Leonard Rogers that the ordinance could be adopted without any waiting period, Councilman Billy Bartlett, Jr. moved to adopt "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, PERMITTING DULY ORGANIZED NONPROFITS, CORPORATIONS, AND ASSOCIATIONS TO SELL BEER AND/OR WINE IN TOWN STREETS, SIDEWALKS, PUBLIC RIGHTS-OF-WAY, AND BIG GLADES COMMUNITY SQUARE UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS; AND PRESCRIBING REGULATION THEREOF; AND REPEALING PREVIOUS ORDINANCES, PENALTIES AND FEE REQUIREMENTS". Caynor Smith, Jr. seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Jeffery Dotson, Mayor	"Nay"
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor	"Nay"
Laura Taylor-Baugh	"Aye"
Billy Bartlett, Jr.	"Aye"
Caynor Smith, Jr.	"Aye"

The ordinance passed on a vote of 3-2.

**Proclamation #6, 2019:**

"A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA RECOGNIZING LUCIAN PRIODE FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO MUSIC EDUCATION TO THE STUDENTS OF J.J. KELLY HIGH SCHOOL AND TO THE CITIZENS OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA" was

approved on a motion made by Caynor Smith, Jr. and seconded by Billy Bartlett, Jr. The motion carried 5-0. Councilman Smith stated the proclamation would be presented at the upcoming swing band concert scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Big Glades. Smith recalled Mr. Priode's influence on high school student's lives.

**Resolution #21, 2019:**

Caynor Smith, Jr. moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, REAPPOINTING GREGORY D. WIDENER TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION". 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"

**Resolution #22, 2019:**

Billy Bartlett, Jr. made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, REAPPOINTING DUANE PHILLIPS TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION". 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"
Billy Bartlett, Jr.	"Aye"
Caynor Smith, Jr.	"Aye"

**Properties to Prescribe Time for Cutting of Weeds and Other Foreign Growth:**

Laura Craft, Planner, presented eleven (11) property owners who were in violation of the town's regulation regarding the height of uncut grass, weeds, and other foreign growth and who had failed to comply with the cleanup notice delivered to them. Following a brief discussion, Billy Bartlett, Jr. recommended that Council table any action on all the grass and weed cutting resolutions until the next Council meeting due to the large volume of rain that had fallen in the area that made mowing impossible. Councilmembers concurred with the recommendation.

**Closed Meeting:**

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

*Legal Matters – Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel as permitted by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(8).*

Billy Bartlett, Jr. seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

**Regular Session:**

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

**Certification of Closed Meeting – CM Resolution #8, 2019:**

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade, read Closed Meeting Resolution #8, 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”

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

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion acknowledging receipt of the Cumberland Airport Commission report from the May 16, 2019 meeting. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

**Council Comment:**

Caynor Smith, Jr. thanked Council for honoring his request to reschedule the May Council meeting. He thanked everyone for their thoughts, prayers, and other acts of kindness shown his family following the recent passing of his father. Smith voiced his concern over the 3-2 vote of the alcohol sales ordinance. Smith reminded that the ordinance was a work in progress and could be amended if the change did not work as expected. He stressed the need for change in the way Big Glades events were being paid for, noting that the Town’s taxpayers could no longer be expected to fund the free concerts and movie events as they had since the opening of Big Glades. He praised the town’s staff for the exceptional 95% water accountability rate. Councilman Smith encouraged Council members to bring as many people as possible to the Good Shot Judy swing band concert at Big Glades on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Billy Bartlett, Jr. commended the town public works crewmen and the job they do.

Teresa Adkins suggested, as another means of bridging the gap between the town and the college, the town purchase and display a banner to welcome students back to Wise following the college’s summer and winter breaks. Following a brief discussion, Councilwoman Adkins moved that the Town of Wise purchase a banner welcoming UVA students back following the college’s summer and winter breaks, at a cost not to exceed \$500. Billy Bartlett, 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”

Councilwoman Adkins notified that she would be out of town for the June 25<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, but would be available by telephone if needed since the budget was scheduled to be adopted.

Laura Taylor-Baugh reiterated Councilman Smith’s comments that the alcohol ordinance was a work in progress and could be amended again if necessary. She added that she felt it was worth trying.

Mayor Dotson said that coming from a law enforcement background he knew alcohol brought out the worst in people. He added that he remained cautious over the alcohol sale changes. He urged the police department to be vigilant in maintaining order at events. He commented on the Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) recently released seat belt safety video, featuring Wise Police Officer Reagan

McClagherty who participated in the filming of the video. Mayor Dotson encouraged attendance at the upcoming swing band concert to be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Big Glades. He informed that he had forwarded all the town events to the radio station WDIC for free advertisement. Mayor Dotson encouraged the town's staff to order the new town banners supporting Central High School and UVA-Wise.

**Staff / Manager Comment:**

Town Planner Laura Craft (from the audience) provided a brief summary of Town events.

**Adjournment:**

There being no additional business to come before the Wise Town Council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Caynor Smith, Jr. and seconded by Mayor Dotson. The motion carried 5-0.

  
Robin R. Meade, Clerk of Council

  
Jeffery W. Dotson, Mayor