

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 23, 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. Robert Adkins, Wise County Board of Supervisors, provided the invocation.

**Consent Calendar:**

Billy Bartlett, Jr. made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the Tuesday, June 25, 2019 meeting and the June 2019 Police, Water Plant, and Fire Department reports. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

**Public Expression:**

Robert Adkins, 163 Straughan Lane, for a second consecutive meeting, pleaded for Council to address the flooding issues in the Town of Wise. He made reference to the June 28<sup>th</sup> flash flood during which the Town received over four inches of rain in less than forty-five minutes. Adkins encouraged each member of Council to take their responsibility seriously and get the Army Corps of Engineers involved.

**Resolution #31, 2019:**

Town Attorney Leonard Rogers explained that he and the Town Manager had met with some of the property owners who lived on a street in Vicars Subdivision commonly referred to as Martin Street. He advised that the owners had issues with the conditions of the roadway, including drainage issues. Rogers informed that during research of the ownership of the road he found that the Vicars family recorded a deed transferring ownership of lots 32 and 50 to the Town of Wise in 1970; however, the Town had no record of the conveyance or acceptance of the conveyance. He noted that in order for the Town to take ownership of the street and make the necessary roadway repairs, Council would need to accept the conveyance and execute a Deed of Acceptance through adoption of the resolution under discussion. Rogers explained that the street was only a twenty-five foot right of way and was not eligible for VDOT funding. There being no additional questions or comments, Councilman Caynor Smith, Jr. moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, ACCEPTING THE CONVEYANCE OF LOTS 32 AND 50 IN BLOCK NO. B PLAT NO. 1 OF VICARS SUBDIVISION". Vice-Mayor 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"

**Donation Request – Regional Fire School Sponsorship:**

John Bledsoe and Alex Thompson, on behalf of the Wise Fire Department, requested a monetary donation to help offset the expenses of hosting the annual Wise Regional Fire School. The men noted the event was scheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>. They explained that the local training provided an economic boost to the area since the event brought in approximately 250 students who stayed in local

hotels and ate at local restaurants. Following a brief discussion, Billy Bartlett, Jr. made a motion to approve a donation of \$1,000 to the Wise Fire Department for the Regional Fire School. Caynor Smith, Jr. seconded the motion that passed 5-0. 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”

**ORDINANCE #8, 2019:**

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade submitted, for Council review and acknowledgement, delinquent tax lists as of June 30, 2019 pursuant to Virginia Code §58.1-3924. Following a brief discussion, Billy Bartlett, 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:

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

**Resolution #32, 2019:**

There being no discussion, Teresa Adkins moved to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE NEW ½ TON PICKUP TRUCK THROUGH A STATE AGENCY CONTRACT”. 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”

**Resolution #33, 2019:**

Following a brief discussion, Laura Taylor-Baugh moved to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, AWARDED A CONTRACT TO FREEDOM FORD OF WISE, VIRGINIA FOR TWO 2020 FORD UTILITY POLICE INTERCEPTORS”. 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”

**Resolution #34 - 38, 2019:**

Laura Craft, Planner, presented five (5) 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. Vice-Mayor Teresa Adkins questioned why Council chose to exempt from enforcement select property owners who were in violation of the Town's mowing ordinance. Adkins referenced Council's June 25<sup>th</sup> decision to exclude (by taking no action) three property owners from the mowing requirements. She emphasized that if the ordinance needed to be revised as had been discussed, then revisions should be made. Councilman Billy Bartlett agreed that revisions to the ordinance were needed. Councilwoman Laura Taylor-Baugh added the ordinance needed to be enforced fairly and consistently. Town Manager Beverly Owens informed that Ordinance #12, 2009 delineates the responsibility of enforcement to the Town Manager "or her designee"; therefore, effective immediately she had transferred those duties from the Town Planner to the Wise Police Department. Councilman Smith noted that there were other issues with the ordinance that needed to be addressed. Owens responded that Lieutenant Chris Kent would be spearheading those responsibilities and would be referring the matter to the Administrative Committee for discussion of ordinance revisions. Following the discussion, Billy Bartlett, Jr. made a motion to approve "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, and PURSUANT TO ORDINANCE NO. 12, 2009 PRESCRIBING TIME FOR CUTTING OF WEEDS AND OTHER FOREIGN GROWTH ON DEVELOPED AND UNDEVELOPED PROPERTIES" for the following non-compliant property owners:

-Judith Riner  
-Coffey Properties, LLC

-Lindsey Oakes  
-Deborah Beverly

-Adrian Lynn Brewer

Caynor Smith, Jr. seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

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

**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). **AND**

*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).

Laura Taylor-Baugh 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 #10, 2019:**

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade, read Closed Meeting Resolution #10, 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"

**Council Comment:**

Caynor Smith, Jr. commented on the upcoming bluegrass music concert to be held at the Big Glades Amphitheater on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. He stated that he was pleased with the attendance at the Chillin' & Grillin' event held July 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>.


Billy Bartlett, Jr. commented on an email received from Water Plant Chief Operator Tommy Roberts regarding the reservoir fish stock. Following a brief discussion, Mayor Dotson requested that Tommy Roberts obtain additional information from the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries regarding the problems being caused by large-mouth bass at the reservoir and present a recommendation for a solution to Council at a later date.

Teresa Adkins mentioned that she had received a request for the Town to keep the restrooms at Big Glades open during the day at Big Glades. Beverly Owens responded that continued vandalism was the primary concern with leaving the restrooms open during the day. She reported that the restrooms had to be closed during Saturday night Chillin' & Grillin' events due to multiple liquor bottles being flushed down the toilets. Owens further added that Arrowhead Park restrooms were continuously vandalized.

Mayor Dotson, responding to complaints from local businesses regarding the Town's vehicle bidding procedures, suggested in the future the Town bid all vehicles and compare the bids with the state contract, rather than by-passing the bidding process all together. He added that the Town should attempt to keep the award of vehicle purchases local, since those businesses pay taxes to the Town. He added that local businesses need to be reassured that the town "played fair" with procurement practices. Councilman Smith replied to Dotson's comments by stressing the Town always followed state mandated procurement guidelines. Smith also noted that all dealerships had the opportunity to bid for the state contract. Dotson responded that smaller, local dealerships could not compete with larger dealerships in bidding for the entire state contract. Mayor Dotson reiterated previous comments regarding Chillin' & Grillin'. Dotson shared comments he had received from local business owners regarding recent Town flooding. He reported that a few owners, who had been impacted, claimed that they would not have been as badly damaged if traffic was not permitted to continue traveling on Main Street during flooding incidents. Mayor Dotson suggested the Town be vigilant in efforts to secure funding for flooding issues. He referenced an email from the Town Manager stating that she was attempting to coordinate a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers. Councilman Smith agreed with the urgent need for Council to take action regarding continual flooding.

**Adjournment:**

There being no additional business to come before the Wise Town Council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Billy Bartlett, Jr. and a second by Teresa Adkins. The motion carried 5-0.

  
Jeffery W. Dotson, Mayor

  
Robin R. Meade, Clerk of Council