

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 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. Scott Bunting, minister of the Gladeville Presbyterian and Pound Presbyterian Churches, provided the invocation.

**Consent Calendar:**

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the July 23, 2019 regular meeting, the July 29, 2019 special-called meeting, the June 2019 Treasurer's Financial Report, and the July 2019 Police, Water Plant, and Fire Department reports. Billy Bartlett, Jr. seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

**Public Expression:**

Chip Brickey, President of the Wise Little League, commented on a recent meeting that he and another member of the Wise Little League had attended with Mayor Jeff Dotson, Councilman Caynor Smith, Jr. and Town Manager Beverly Owens in regard to a request from Sykes Corporation to sponsor a "Travel League" Baseball Tournament at the Veldon Dotson Park fields. He recollected that over a year ago the Wise Town Council asked that he be in charge of scheduling the use of the fields, which he agreed to. He continued that although the League was not opposed to the travel ball teams using the fields the members of the Wise Little League were offended that the League was threatened with future funding and assistance from the Town if they did not support and cooperate with the Travel League Tournament. Brickey stated that a few of the issues with holding the tournament included moving the pitcher's mound and adding baselines, which would require the grass at the fields to be removed; the use of electricity at the League's expense; turning the fields, concession stands, and equipment over for others use without a guarantee items would be replaced if damaged; and especially the liability insurance. Councilman Smith denied Mr. Brickey's allegations of "threats" being made during the meeting. He clarified that he simply stated that if the Wise Little League and the Travel League would work together instead of competing against one another the Town Council would be more supportive of continued work on the fields. Smith emphasized that Brickey's interpretation of what was said during the meeting was incorrect. He continued by stating that the meeting was simply to ask for Mr. Brickey's assistance in scheduling the travel ball tournament. Mayor Dotson agreed with Councilman Smith's comments regarding the conversation during the meeting and did not recall any type of intimidating remarks. Councilwoman Laura Taylor-Baugh requested additional information on the meeting and the committee who scheduled the meeting. Mayor Dotson advised that he was approached by the Travel League and Sykes who was interested in hosting a tournament at the fields. Laura Taylor-Baugh commended Chip Brickey for the tremendous service he had provided to the community; however, she disagreed with the exchange of words taken place during public expression. Councilman Billy Bartlett, Jr. stated that he did not understand why the Town of Wise owned property outside the corporation limits that caused never-ending turmoil. He stressed that he would support selling Veldon Dotson Park. Councilmembers Billy Bartlett, Jr. and Laura Taylor-Baugh agreed that scheduling of the tournament should have gone through Chip Brickey, as Council decided a year earlier.

Councilman Smith explained that Chip Brickey and the Wise Little League were responsible for

scheduling of field use during the little league season. The Sykes request was received after the little league season had ended. Councilwoman Teresa Adkins added that if the Wise Little League could not work with the Travel League, then Council could get involved. She added that if the leagues could not work together, she would support Councilman Bartlett's suggestion to sell the property. Mayor Dotson added that the lack of cooperation between the two leagues was one of the reasons the request came to him.

Allen Couch, Administrator for the District 13 Little League, cautioned Council that events not Little League related would not be covered under the League's insurance liability coverage.

Tammy Belcher Tiller, 739 Old Hurricane Road, stated that she volunteered her time and money to insure that any child wishing to play little league ball was able to do so. She stressed that Little League was extremely important to the community. Tiller added that most of the equipment used in the concession stand at the baseball fields was purchased by her personally and she would not allow the travel league to use the equipment without her supervision. She voiced her support for Chip Brickey and the Wise Little League organization.

Christi Brickey, 8909 D Birchfield Heights, spoke in support of her husband, Chip Brickey. She stated that she did not appreciate the way her husband had been spoken to earlier in the meeting. She added that she could not count the number of hours that he volunteered his time and energy for the good of the children and the community.

**Resolution #42, 2019:**

Tom Costa, (History Professor at UVA-Wise) and Preston Mitchell, along with Debra Taylor (teacher at Central High School) discussed the Community Remembrance Project, aimed at documenting local lynching incidents against African-Americans. Following the presentation, Councilwoman Laura Taylor-Baugh moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, ACKNOWLEDGING, WITH REGRET, THE EXISTENCE AND ACCEPTANCE OF LYNCHING WITHIN THE COMMONWEALTH AND CALLING FOR RECONCILIATION". Councilman Billy Bartlett, Jr. 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"

**Public Hearing – Ordinance #9, 2019:**

Mayor Dotson opened the floor for the public hearing on "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AMENDING ARTICLE 4 SECTIONS 1.2.5, 1.2.6, 2.2.7, 2.2.8, 3.2.7 AND 3.2.8 OF THE TOWN OF WISE ZONING ORDINANCE AND SUBDIVISION REGULATIONS ADOPTED MARCH 23, 1987 TO ELIMINATE CONDITIONAL USE REQUIREMENT AND FURTHER AMEND LANGUAGE TO ALLOW GROUP HOMES AND RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES OF NO MORE THAN EIGHT RESIDENTS IN THE R-A, R-B, AND R-C ZONING DISTRICTS." There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, the floor was closed. Laura Craft, Planner, stated that the amendment would bring the Town's Zoning Ordinance into compliance with state statute. There being no additional discussion, Billy Bartlett, Jr. made a motion to approve Ordinance #9, 2019. 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 #43, 2019:**

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, RECOMMENDING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF RUTH WELLS TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS”. 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”

**Recreation Committee Meeting Report:**

Caynor Smith, Jr., Chair, presented the Recreation Committee’s meeting report and recommendation as follows:

- 1) 2019-20 Donation Requests:  
Wise Senior Citizens \$500  
Health Wagon \$250
- 2) VDGIF Recommendation to Maintain Balanced Fish Population:  
Recommended adopting Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries recommendation for harvesting to reduce the bass population and requested the agency provide the appropriate signage at Bear Creek Reservoir.
- 3) Request for HVAC Unit Donation:  
Recommended that the request for an HVAC unit for the Central High School baseball dressing room at the baseball field (Shupe Field) be denied due to the fact that the field belonged to the Wise County Schools.
- 4) Request for Opening of Bathrooms at Big Glades during Summer Months:  
Recommended that the restrooms remain locked unless there was an event at Big Glades to reduce vandalism, maintenance costs, and for safety reasons.
- 5) Sykes Request to Host Travel Baseball Tournament at Dotson Park with Town to Co-Sponsor:  
Recommended the town co-sponsor the tournament and work with Sykes. Teresa Adkins added that Sykes would be required to provide insurance during the event. Billy Bartlett, Jr. questioned why the tournament request was not forwarded to the Town’s staff. He encouraged Council to avoid micromanaging the Town’s staff and let the employees do their jobs.

There being no additional discussion, Laura Taylor-Baugh moved to accept the Recreation Committee’s report as presented. Town Attorney Leonard Rogers suggested that Council vote on the donation of money separately. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

Laura Taylor-Baugh made a motion to approve the Recreation Committee’s recommendation for a donation to the Wise Senior Citizens in the amount of \$500 and the Health Wagon for \$250. Billy Bartlett, Jr. seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call vote:

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

Laura Taylor-Baugh made a motion to approve the Recreation Committee’s recommendation to accept VDGIF recommendation regarding the fishing population at Bear Creek Reservoir. Billy Bartlett, Jr. seconded the motion. The vote carried 5-0.

Billy Bartlett, Jr. made a motion to accept the committee’s recommendation regarding the request for the HVAC unit for Shupe Fields. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Billy Bartlett, Jr. made a motion to accept the committee’s recommendation regarding the restrooms at Big Glades. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

Billy Bartlett, Jr. made a motion to approve the Recreation Committee’s recommendation to co-sponsor the Travel League Tournament and accept the recommendation from the Wise Little League to negotiate use of the fields. The motion failed for a lack of a second.

Billy Bartlett, Jr. made a motion to accept the Recreation Committee’s recommendation in regard to the Travel League event at the Veldon Dotson Park as presented. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0.

**Properties to Prescribe Time for Cutting of Weeds and Other Foreign Growth – Resolution #44, 2019:**

Police Chief Danny French, presented one property owner 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. Caynor Smith, 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” located at 224 Patton Avenue and owned by Dallas and Brenda Hale. Laura Taylor-Baugh 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:

*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. Laura Taylor-Baugh seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

**Certification of Closed Meeting – CM Resolution #11, 2019:**

Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade, read Closed Meeting Resolution #11, 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:**

Teresa Adkins asked Beverly Owens for a status update of contacting the Army Corp of Engineers. Owens responded that she had not had an opportunity to proceed with contacting the agency; however, she would do so.

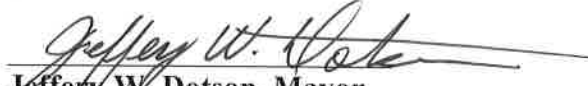
Laura Taylor-Baugh asked for a status report of possible revisions to the mowing ordinance. Beverly Owens advised that she had obtained ordinances from approximately five different localities and had forwarded them to Chris Kent, who was in the process of developing recommendations to address the various concerns that had been previously mentioned by members of Council.

Mayor Dotson, on behalf of Fire Chief Duane Phillips, invited Council and staff to the annual Fire School dinner on Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Dotson requested that pavement marking for the parking spaces on Main Street be added to the downtown improvement project. Laura Craft advised that there was no pavement marking included in the project. Caynor Smith, Jr. suggested that the downtown parking spaces be included in the spring pavement marking project, in order to avoid the winter months. Council concurred with the suggestion.

**Adjournment:**

There being no additional business to come before the governing body, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Billy Bartlett, Jr. and a second by Laura Taylor-Baugh. The motion carried 5-0.

  
Jeffery W. Dotson, Mayor

  
Robin R. Meade, Clerk of Council