

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL-CALLED MEETING  
MONDAY, JULY 29, 2019; 5:00 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.

**Members Absent:**

Caynor Smith, Jr.

**Public Expression:**

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

**Resolution #39, 2019:**

Beverly Owens, Town Manager, advised that there had been a number of citizen complaints brought against a vacant house located at 505 East Main Street and owned by Wood Rentals, LLC. She reported that the deplorable conditions of the house and property had attracted insects, rodents, and other animals. Owens added that these conditions could endanger the health and safety of residents living near said property.

Town Planner Laura Craft noted that Wise County had found the property in violation of the County's property maintenance and litter control ordinances. She added that the Wise County Administrator, Mike Hatfield, who was temporarily serving as the County's Building Inspector, had declared the house uninhabitable. Craft presented photographs of the interior and exterior of the house which, she informed, was unsecured and littered with trash, garbage, and refuse. She further added that the house had an extensive roach infestation. She explained that the Wise County officials could address the exterior issues; however, the Town would be required to address the interior issues.

Responding to a question of whether the Town was justified to enter the property to enforce the ordinance, Town Attorney Leonard Rogers stated that after discussing the matter with Wise County Attorney Karen Mullins, he felt confident the Town had no other recourse. He explained that the Notice of Violation was being delivered to the property owner's registered agent in Grundy, Virginia.

Beverly Owens replied to questions of whether the health department had any authority in such situations, by confirming that she had reached out to the health department at both the local and state levels, to no avail.

Following the discussion, Councilman Billy Bartlett, Jr. made a motion to approve "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA PRESCRIBING REMOVAL OF TRASH, GARBAGE, REFUSE, LITTER, AND OTHER SUBSTANCES WHICH MIGHT ENDANGER THE HEALTH OR SAFETY OF OTHER RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN AND REQUESTING THE TOWN MANAGER SEND NOTICE OF VIOLATION OF ORDINANCE NO. 5, 2000 TO THE REGISTERED AGENT FOR THE OWNER OF PARCEL 013522". Councilwoman 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"

Mayor Dotson recommended the property be locked upon leaving the premises and that a photographer be on-site at the time of entry in order to have proof of any action taken and/or evidence found.

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

**Resolution #40, 2019:**

Laura Craft, Planner, presented the property owner of 505 East Main Street (Wood Rentals, LLC) who was 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. There being no additional comments or questions, 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”. 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”

**Resolution #41, 2019:**

Tommy Roberts, Water Treatment Plant Chief Operator, reported that the 2019 Ford F-150 Pickup Truck, approved for purchase under state contract at the July 23rd meeting, was no longer available. He noted that the dealership had informed that a 2020 model with the same specifications was available at an increased cost of \$413. Roberts requested direction on whether Council wished to proceed with the purchase at the additional cost, or rescind the resolution and re-bid the vehicle purchase. Mayor Dotson voiced his preference to rescind the approved purchase and re-bid in order to allow a local dealership to compete. Following a brief discussion, Laura Taylor-Baugh moved to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA TO AMEND RESOLUTION #32, 2019”. (The resolution would authorize the purchase of the 2020 Ford F-150 at an additional cost of \$413, making the total purchase price \$27,401.95). Billy Bartlett, Jr. seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

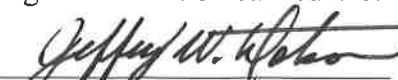
Jeffery Dotson, Mayor	“Nay”
Teresa Adkins, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Laura Taylor-Baugh	“Aye”
Billy Bartlett, Jr.	“Aye”

**Staff/Manager Comment:**

Leonard Rogers, Town Attorney, emphasized the need for ordinance codification and encouraged Council to appropriate funding in the next budget. Council directed the Town Manager to obtain quotes for the codification service for Council consideration.

**Adjournment:**

There being no additional business to come before the Wise Town Council, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Teresa Adkins and a second by Laura Taylor-Baugh. The motion carried 4-0.

  
Jeffery W. Dotson, Mayor

  
Robin R. Meade, Clerk of Council