

WISE TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday, April 22, 2025; 7:00 P.M.
WISE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS
501 WEST MAIN STREET - WISE, VIRGINIA 24293

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor
Laura Taylor
Teresa Adkins
Robin Dotson
S. Duane Phillips

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INVOCATION:

Mayor Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roy Bright, resident of Big Stone Gap, Virginia, provided the invocation.

AGENDA CHANGES:

Town Manager Laura Roberts informed Resolution #16, 2025 would be added to the agenda as item # XIV.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Robin Dotson made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the March 25, 2025 regular Council meeting, minutes of the April 8, 2025 Budget Workshop, the March 2025 Treasurer's Financial, Police, and Water Plant Reports, and the April 2025 Fire Department, Recreation Specialist, Planning Department, and Special Events Reports. Laura Taylor seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

Larry Deel, resident of 743 Middle Of The World Road, Dante, Virginia, addressed Council regarding his arrest on June 14, 2024, by Officer John Baker of the Wise Police Department. He provided an overview of the circumstances surrounding the incident and informed he was seeking compensation for expenses incurred due to the arrest. He requested Council's assistance in determining if he could be reimbursed. Deel was advised he would be contacted by a representative of the Town.

Shannon Showalter, member of Bearcreek Bowmen Archery Club, requested Council's approval for the Rinehart 100 Archery Tournament to be held at the Town of Wise Sports Complex August 14 – 17, 2025. He highlighted the success of last year's tournament and requested the facility use fee be waived by the Town. Laura Taylor made a motion for the Town to co-sponsor the event with Bearcreek Bowmen Archery Club. Teresa Adkins seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor	"Aye"
Teresa Adkins	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
S. Duane Phillips	"Aye"

DISCUSSION OF WEST MAIN STREET PEDESTRIAN PROJECT:

Town Planner Reagan Walsh informed, per Virginia Department of Transportation requirements, the Town must undergo a right-of-way phase due to easements needed for the West Main Street Pedestrian Project. She noted the phase would result in delays to the project timeline. Walsh added an opportunity for questions in a public setting was also a required component of the right-of-way phase. She informed Engineers Greg Widener and Tim Mullins from Thompson & Litton, Inc. were present to address project-related inquiries. Councilman Dotson requested the beginning date for the project, which was estimated to be between late 2025 and Spring 2026.

RESOLUTION #14, 2025:

Town Manager Laura Roberts reviewed Resolution #14, 2025, advising its adoption would authorize the conveyance of existing water and sewer lines, along with associated appurtenances, to Land Star Ventures, LLC. Duane Phillips moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA CONVEYING BY DEED TO LAND STAR VENTURES, LLC THE EXISTING WATER AND SEWER LINES AND ASSOCIATED APPURTENANCES LOCATED ON PROPERTY PURCHASED BY LAND STAR VENTURES, LLC FROM MIDSOUTH DEVELOPMENT, LLC". Teresa Adkins seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor	"Aye"
Teresa Adkins	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
S. Duane Phillips	"Aye"

RESOLUTION #15, 2025:

Town Manager Laura Roberts noted the Town had multiple properties suitable for residential subdivision development. She explained a preliminary engineering report would be necessary to provide the information required to advance to a full-scale development project. There being no further discussion, Laura Taylor made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WISE AND THOMPSON & LITTON, INC. FOR MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING NO. 8 UNDER THE 2023 RETAINER AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE A PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT FOR A RESIDENTIAL SUBDIVISION IN THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA". Robin Dotson seconded the motion with the vote recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor	"Aye"
Teresa Adkins	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
S. Duane Phillips	"Aye"

PROCLAMATION #2, 2025:

Mayor Smith presented Proclamation #2, 2025 to Public Works Superintendent Adrian Dale, Utilities Superintendent Jerry Kilgore, and Water Treatment Plant Chief Operator Caleb Ramsey. Laura Taylor moved to adopt "A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF MAY 18 THROUGH MAY 24, 2025 AS NATIONAL PUBLIC WORKS WEEK". Teresa Adkins seconded the motion which carried 5-0. Council members expressed appreciation to Public Works Staff for their continued diligence.

PROCLAMATION #3, 2025:

Mayor Smith presented Proclamation #3, 2025 to Town Clerk/ Treasurer Sarina Collins. Robin Dotson made a motion to adopt "A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF MAY 4 THROUGH MAY 10, 2025 AS MUNICIPAL CLERKS WEEK". Laura Taylor seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

PROCLAMATION #4, 2025:

Caynor Smith, Jr. commended Wise Fire Department Chief Jack Mullins for his service and leadership. Laura Taylor moved to adopt "A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA RECOGNIZING THE DAY OF MAY 4, 2025 AS FIREFIGHTERS' DAY". Duane Phillips seconded the motion which carried 5-0. Mayor Smith presented the Proclamation to Mullins.

PROCLAMATION #5, 2025:

Laura Taylor made a motion to adopt "A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA TO OBSERVE THE WEEK OF MAY 11-17, 2025 AS POLICE WEEK". Duane Phillips seconded the motion that passed 5-0. Council extended gratitude to Town of Wise Police Chief Kevin Yates and the entire Police Department for their commitment to the community. Mayor Smith presented the Proclamation to Yates.

PROCLAMATION #6, 2025:

Laura Taylor moved to adopt "A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA RECOGNIZING THE WEEK OF MAY 18 THROUGH MAY 24, 2025 AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK". Duane Phillips seconded the motion which carried 5-0. As no representative of Emergency Medical Services was in attendance, Town Manager Laura Roberts was directed to deliver the Proclamation to Wise Rescue Squad Captain Tim Dotson on behalf of Council.

PROCLAMATION #7, 2025:

Duane Phillips made a motion to adopt "A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA DESIGNATING MAY 2025 AS "ENDANGERED SPECIES MONTH". Robin Dotson seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

RESOLUTION #16, 2025:

Town Clerk/Treasurer Sarina Collins reported the Town's Banking Services Contract with First Bank and Trust would expire on June 30, 2025, and included an option to extend the agreement for an additional three years upon mutual consent of both parties. She noted First Bank & Trust Senior Vice President Cory Dotson had indicated the bank desired to extend the contract through

June 30, 2028. Collins reviewed the banking services utilized by the Treasurer's Department and emphasized the positive working relationship the Town maintained with First Bank and Trust. Following a brief discussion, Duane Phillips moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA APPROVING EXTENSION OF AN AGREEMENT WITH FIRST BANK & TRUST COMPANY FOR BANKING SERVICES". Teresa Adkins seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor	"Aye"
Teresa Adkins	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
S. Duane Phillips	"Aye"

DISCUSSION OF REQUEST TO ADVERTISE THE FY 2025-2026 BUDGET FOR PUBLIC HEARING:

Town Manager Laura Roberts requested authorization to advertise the FY 2025-2026 Budget and proposed increases in taxes and fees for a public hearing to be held during the May 27, 2025 regular Council meeting. Duane Phillips made a motion to approve the request for advertisement as presented. Robin Dotson seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor	"Aye"
Teresa Adkins	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
S. Duane Phillips	"Aye"

CLOSED SESSION:

On a motion made by Robin Dotson and a second by Laura Taylor, the Wise Town Council moved to convene into 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).*

OPEN SESSION:

Robin Dotson made a motion to reconvene in open session. Duane Phillips seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION – CM RESOLUTION #6, 2025:

Sarina Collins, Town Clerk/Treasurer, read Closed Meeting Resolution #6, 2025, "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:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	"Aye"
Laura Taylor	"Aye"
Teresa Adkins	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
S. Duane Phillips	"Aye"

APPOINTEE REPORTS (Informational Purposes Only) – Acknowledgment of Receipt:

Laura Taylor made a motion acknowledging receipt of the following appointee reports:

1. Cumberland's Airport Commission regular meeting from March 20, 2025
2. Cumberland's Airport Commission meeting from March 31, 2025

Duane Phillips seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

COUNCIL COMMENT:

Council members expressed appreciation to Town staff for continued hard work and dedication to the Town.

STAFF COMMENT:

Town Manager Laura Roberts discussed possible nominations to Virginia Municipal League's Policy Committees, stating elected officials and appointees were eligible for nomination. She added committee members would be required to meet once via Zoom in July. Mayor Smith expressed his desire for the Town to have representation on each of the five committees, which included community and economic development, finance, general laws, human development and education, and infrastructure. Roberts advised she would proceed with nominations.

Wise Fire Chief Jack Mullins thanked Council for recognition of his department.

Police Chief Kevin Yates commended Council for showing gratitude throughout the year to all departments.

Town Clerk/Treasurer Sarina Collins expressed appreciation to Council for their continued support of all employees.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no additional discussion by the Wise Town Council, Laura Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Duane Phillips seconded the motion that passed 5-0.


Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor


Sarina F. Collins, Town Clerk/Treasurer