

WISE TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday, May 27, 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:

Wise Fire Chief Jack Mullins led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ronald Large, resident of Wise County, Virginia, provided the invocation.

AGENDA CHANGES:

Town Manager Laura Roberts informed a new Agenda had been provided to include the April 2025 Treasurer's Financial Report, as it was omitted in error on the original document.

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Laura Taylor made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the April 22, 2025 regular Council meeting, the April 2025 Treasurer's Financial, Police, Water Plant, Fire Department, Recreation Specialist, and Wise Rescue Squad Reports, and the May 2025 Special Events Report. Duane Phillips seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

Regina Gibson, on behalf of the Health Wagon, requested approval to place banners on Town-owned property in advertisement of the Move Mountains Medical Mission to be held on July 18th and 19th, 2025 at the Health Wagon facilities located on Patriot Drive in Wise, and "Davey's Shuffle", a back to school event to be held on July 31st, 2025 at the Shelly Mullins, Sr. Fairgrounds in Wise County. In addition, Gibson requested use of the marquee sign located at Big Glades for advertisement of both events. Town Manager Laura Roberts stated the Town's policy restricted the advertisement of events on the marquee to only those held at Big Glades. Following a brief discussion, Laura Taylor made a motion to approve the request for the placement of the banners in the Town of Wise. Robin Dotson seconded the motion which passed 5-0. Due to the existing marquee policy, Council did not authorize the events to be advertised on the sign.

Sabrina Fox, President of Warriors Little League, informed an end-of-season celebration for the league was scheduled to be held at the Wise Municipal Pool in June. She advised the pool would need to be rented on three separate days to accommodate all players and their families. Fox requested that Council consider waiving or reducing the rental fee for the pool to assist the league financially. Mayor Smith noted a donation to Little League had not been made in the current fiscal year, as had been done upon request in previous years. Following a brief discussion, Laura Taylor made a motion for the Town to donate \$600 to Warriors Little League. Duane Phillips 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"

PROCLAMATION #8, 2025:

Mayor Smith read "A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA TO OBSERVE JUNE 30, 2025 AS DRINKING WATER AND WASTEWATER PROFESSIONALS' DAY". Robin Dotson moved to adopt Proclamation #8, 2025. Laura Taylor 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"

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ENACT AND PUBLIC HEARING – NEW SCHEDULE OF CHARGES:

Town Manager Laura Roberts provided an overview of the proposed schedule of charges, highlighting planned increases for FY 25-26. She noted the water and sewer fee increases were necessary to cover the Town's costs. Laura Taylor advised the sewer service fee for the upcoming fiscal year would be set at 150% of water charges. She explained this rate had previously been established but was reduced to 125% several years ago to ease the financial impact on customers due to rising water rates. Mayor Smith opened the floor for a public hearing on "A notice setting forth a new schedule of charges for In-Town and Out-of-Town water and sewer rates, residential and commercial garbage collection, and an increase in real estate tax for FY 25-26". There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, the public hearing was closed.

HOUSING COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT: COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION FUND – PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE #3, 2025:

Councilman Robin Dotson, Chair, summarized the meeting of the Housing Committee held to discuss a draft ordinance establishing the Town of Wise Community Revitalization Fund and associated program guidelines. He advised potential development sites within the Town were also evaluated. Dotson reported the committee recommended the adoption of the draft ordinance. He further noted discussion with full Council and the Town Attorney was recommended regarding potential development sites for consideration in the Preliminary Engineering Report. Town Manager Laura Roberts informed site-related discussions would take place later in the meeting during Closed Session. A public hearing was held on "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA ESTABLISHING LOCAL FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION FOR THE PREVENTION OF NEIGHBORHOOD DETERIORATION AND AUTHORIZING THE PROGRAM GUIDELINES IN ACCORDANCE WITH VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 15.2-958.5". There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, Mayor Smith closed the public hearing. Laura Taylor moved to adopt Ordinance #3, 2025. 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"

PUBLIC HEARING – FY 2025-2026 BUDGET:

A public hearing was held on the FY 2025-2026 Budget. There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, Mayor Smith closed the public hearing. Town Manager Laura Roberts advised a vote would be held on the FY 2025-2026 Budget during the June 24, 2025 regular Council meeting.

PROCLAMATION #9, 2025:

Mayor Smith read "A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA DESIGNATING JUNE 1-7, 2025 AS "NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK". Laura Taylor moved to adopt Proclamation #9, 2025. Duane Phillips 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"

RESOLUTION #17, 2025:

Town Manager Laura Roberts stated the Town had engineering retainer agreements with Thompson & Litton, Engineering Services, and The Lane Group, which included the option to renew for one-year terms for as-needed engineering services. Roberts advised each of the three firms had demonstrated satisfactory performance to date. Duane Phillips made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, EXTENDING THE TERMS OF THE THREE ENGINEERING RETAINERS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FROM THE DATE OF THE ORIGINAL RETAINER AGREEMENT". Laura Taylor 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"

AUTHORIZATION TO AWARD SURPLUS PROPERTY BIDS:

Town Manager Laura Roberts provided a list of bids received from the recently advertised surplus sale, requesting authorization to award purchase contracts to the highest bidders. She stated

authorization was also requested to dispose of or donate items for which no bids were received, as deemed appropriate by department heads. Laura Taylor made a motion to authorize the award of surplus property bids and disposal of equipment as requested. Duane Phillips seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Chair, reported the Public Works Committee met to consider a request from Wise County regarding the elimination of water and sewer facilities fees. He advised the committee recommended the matter be discussed with all members of Council and the Town Attorney present, which would occur during the upcoming Closed Session.

CLOSED SESSION:

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

Personnel – Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body as permitted by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(1).

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 #7, 2025:

Sarina Collins, Town Clerk/Treasurer, read Closed Meeting Resolution #7, 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 May 15, 2025

Teresa Adkins seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

COUNCIL COMMENT:

Robin Dotson conveyed a positive outlook on Council's direction and the potential for substantial accomplishments moving forward.

Vice-Mayor Laura Taylor stated the Town of Wise was supported by an optimistic Council and dedicated employees, contributing to an overall positive and encouraging atmosphere. She emphasized the strong potential for continued progress. Taylor also commended Wise Rescue Squad for the quality and thoroughness of its monthly reports and acknowledged the dedication and hard work of all first responders.

Duane Phillips expressed his appreciation to Wise Rescue Squad, Wise Fire Department, and Wise Police Department, acknowledging the dedication and extensive hours contributed by first responders in service to the community.

Teresa Adkins thanked Council on behalf of the Town and Country Garden Club of Wise for Proclamation #9, 2025, in observance of National Garden Week. She expressed appreciation to Public Works staff for their efforts in maintaining the flowers planted throughout the Town.

Mayor Smith commended Wise Rescue Squad for the professionalism reflected in their monthly report. He added improving employee morale had been a goal of the current Council and expressed his belief that this objective had been successfully achieved.

STAFF COMMENT:


Fire Chief Jack Mullins informed Wise Fire Department had obtained a 2005 Pierce Dash Fire Truck from the Fredericksburg City Fire Department.

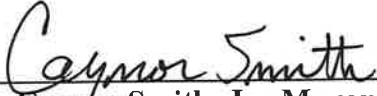
Town Manager Laura Roberts provided an overview of the Town's upcoming events.

Police Chief Kevin Yates commended Wise Rescue Squad, noting that he consistently requests their presence during high-risk situations due to his confidence in their capabilities.

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.


Sarina F. Collins, Town Clerk/Treasurer


Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor