

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, June 24, 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. Worley Smith, resident of the Town of Wise, Virginia, provided the invocation.

**AGENDA CHANGES:**

Town Manager Laura Roberts advised there were no changes to the agenda.

**CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Duane Phillips made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the May 27, 2025 regular Council meeting, the May 2025 Treasurer's Financial, Police, and Water Plant Reports, and the June 2025 Fire Department, Recreation Specialist, Planning Department, and Special Events Reports. Laura Taylor seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

**PUBLIC EXPRESSION:**

Delores Smith, resident of 910 Coeburn Road, requested Council consideration to conduct a study aimed at facilitating the planning and completion of a sidewalk project along Coeburn Road. Smith highlighted the dangers of pedestrians navigating the narrow street while sharing it with vehicles, often traveling at excessive speeds. She added the many events sponsored by the Town are only accessible by vehicle for Coeburn Road residents, as the existing roadway created major safety concerns for pedestrians. Smith expressed her willingness to assist with such a project in any way she could be of help. Mayor Smith advised her request would be forwarded to the Public Works Committee for further discussion.

**REQUEST FROM WISE RESCUE SQUAD:**

Billy Garrison, on behalf of Wise Rescue Squad, requested utilization of Wise Police Department's existing Verizon data plan to obtain three data access lines of service, one for each ambulance. Garrison explained cardiac monitors relied on wireless connectivity to transmit data to both hospitals and devices used by Rescue Squad personnel. He advised obtaining service independently would result in higher charges for the Squad, as they did not have an existing Verizon plan. Garrison added the Squad would reimburse the Town for all charges associated with the data access. Following a brief discussion, Laura Taylor moved to approve Wise Rescue Squad's request to add three data access lines to the Wise Police Department's existing Verizon Wireless account. Robin Dotson 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 FACILITY FEES:**

Mayor Smith summarized a request from Wise County to eliminate the 2009 and 2013 amended Facilities Fee Agreement with the Town of Wise. He stated the Agreement allowed Wise County to grow its residential, commercial, and industrial tax base while providing the Town of Wise with a one-time payment for the perpetual repair, maintenance, and eventual replacement of water and sewer infrastructure. Smith advised that following several meetings with Wise County Administrator Michael Hatfield and members of the Wise County Board of Supervisors, as well as countless hours of staff research, Town Council had concluded the Facilities Fee Agreement should not be eliminated. He reminded that Wise County Board of Supervisors had recommended the Facilities Fee Agreement in 2009 in lieu of a revenue-sharing agreement. Town Manager Laura Roberts stated she did not support the elimination of the Agreement and was pleased that Council concurred. Following a brief discussion, Laura Taylor moved to approve the Town's response to Wise County's request, which would keep the Facilities Fee Agreement in place. Robin Dotson 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" |

*(The response letter to the Wise County Administrator is attached hereto and made part of the minutes.)*

**RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:**

Caynor Smith, Jr., Chair, summarized the Recreation Committee's June 18, 2025 meeting held to discuss recommendations for additions and adaptations for the Wise Municipal Pool Complex in Thompson & Litton's Preliminary Architectural Feasibility Report. Smith advised the Committee made the following recommendations based on the report:

1. Add a separation fence between the pool area and the sports court area.
2. Remove the existing storage building.
3. Reconfigure the existing volleyball court.
4. Add two pickleball courts.
5. Add a gate and parking at the far end of the sports court area.
6. Make the following repairs to the existing pool complex:
  - a. Replace the pool heater.
  - b. Repair or replace the pool filter.
  - c. Repair the 0-entry "beach area".
  - d. Remove and replace the wood structure near the concessions area.
  - e. Remove the wood structure near the lap pool deck area.

Smith stated the added amenities would provide recreational opportunities for community members of all ages. Committee member Robin Dotson opined efforts by Council to increase recreational opportunities for the community, particularly those that are free of charge, would be worthwhile. Duane Phillips made a motion to accept the Committee's recommendations as presented. Laura Taylor 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" |

**ORDINANCE #4, 2025:**

Laura Taylor moved to adopt "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA ADOPTING AN INCREASE IN THE TAX RATE FOR REAL PROPERTY, AN INCREASE FOR BOTH IN-TOWN AND OUT-OF-TOWN WATER AND SEWER RATES, AN INCREASE IN RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL GARBAGE COLLECTION RATES, AN INCREASE IN METER ACCURACY TEST FEES, ROAD CUT FEES, ROAD BORE FEES, NEW UTILITY SERVICE FEES, TRANSFER FEES, RETURNED CHECK FEES, AND RECONNECTION FEES AND REIMPOSING AT THE PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED RATES FOR TANGIBLE PERSONAL PROPERTY, SETTING THE PERCENTAGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AT A LEVEL ANTICIPATED TO FULLY EXHAUST FUNDS PROVIDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH FOR THE PROGRAM, AND RE-IMPOSING, RE-ESTABLISHING, AND LEVYING AT THE PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED RATES A TAX LEVY FOR BUSINESS LICENSES, BANK STOCK, UTILITIES, EXCISE TAXES, AND ALL OTHER TAXES, LEVIES, FEES, AND CHARGES AT THE SAME RATE AS PREVIOUSLY IMPOSED BY THE TOWN WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THOSE HEREIN LISTED FOR INCREASES". 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" |

**ORDINANCE #5, 2025:**

Robin Dotson made a motion to adopt "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE TOWN OF WISE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026, AND PROVIDING EMPLOYEE BONUSES FOR SAID MUNICIPALITY". 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" |

**ORDINANCE #6, 2025:**

Laura Taylor moved to adopt "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR ALL CONTEMPLATED EXPENSES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026". 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 Laura Taylor and a second by Robin Dotson, 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:**

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

**CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION – CM RESOLUTION #8, 2025:**

Sarina Collins, Town Clerk/Treasurer, read Closed Meeting Resolution #8, 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" |

**COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Robin Dotson commended Natasha Proulex, Tim Dotson, and all pool staff for smooth and efficient operations during the heavily attended free admission day and throughout the season at the Wise Municipal Pool. Dotson also noted he was looking forward to the Town's upcoming Chillin' and Grillin' event.

Laura Taylor conveyed her appreciation to all staff members for their ongoing commitment to the efficient operations of the Town.

Duane Phillips expressed gratitude to staff and all first responders in the community for their dedicated service to the Town of Wise.

Teresa Adkins shared enthusiasm for the Town's upcoming scheduled events, stating it was an exciting time to be a part of the Town of Wise.

Caynor Smith, Jr. encouraged the attendance of all Council members and staff at the upcoming Chillin' and Grillin' event.

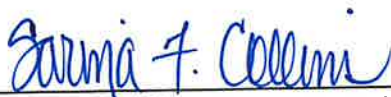
**STAFF COMMENT:**

Town Manager Laura Roberts reviewed the Town's upcoming events and provided status updates on projects currently in progress.

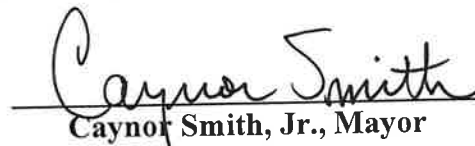
Town Clerk/Treasurer Sarina Collins expressed appreciation to Council for their continued support of all staff.

**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**



OFFICE OF  
TOWN MANAGER

**Town of Wise**  
501 West Main Street  
P.O. Box 1100  
Wise, Virginia 24293

(276) 328-6013  
Fax (276) 328-2519  
[www.townofwise.net](http://www.townofwise.net)  
E-mail: [MGR@townofwise.org](mailto:MGR@townofwise.org)

June 17, 2025

Mr. Michael Hatfield, PE  
Wise County Administrator  
P. O. Box 570  
Wise, VA 24293

RE: Wise County Request to Eliminate Facilities Fee Agreement with Town of Wise

Dear Mike,

The Town of Wise Council has given many hours of careful thought and consideration to Wise County's request to eliminate the 2009 and 2013 amended Facilities Fee Agreement with the Town of Wise. The County's position is that the Facilities Fees are hindering development in Wise County, and that the taxpayers throughout Wise County should not have to pay Facilities Fees to the Town of Wise.

After several meetings with you and members of the Board of Supervisors along with many hours of staff research, the Town of Wise Council has concluded that the facilities fees do not hinder development within Wise County and that all Wise County Citizens benefit from the growth of Wise County's real estate tax base and personal property tax base because the County does not have to increase their tax rate as long as the tax base is growing.

In 2009, the Wise County Board of Supervisors recommended a Facilities Fee Agreement with the Town of Wise to provide water and sewer service outside its corporate limits to developments in Wise County, in lieu of a Revenue Sharing agreement with the Town of Wise. This Facilities Fee agreement allowed Wise County to grow its residential, commercial, and industrial tax base while providing the Town of Wise with a one-time payment for the perpetual repair, maintenance and eventual replacement of water and sewer infrastructure. Many residential, commercial and industrial developments were

either recently constructed, under construction, or in the planning stages for construction. The Town of Wise was, and continues to be, the water and sewer service provider for at least ten Wise County residential community developments and for commercial and industrial developments within the Wise County owned Lonesome Pine Technology Park on Airport Road.

From 2009-2011, Wise County paid the Town of Wise \$250,000 in capital contributions to help offset the cost of the previous residential, commercial and industrial developments that were, and continue to be, served by the town. Also, from 2009-2023, Wise County paid the Town of Wise a total of \$837,250.00 in one-time facility fees. Wise County received and will continue to receive annual real estate taxes and personal property taxes, among other revenues from these developments. Wise County received an estimated \$5.0 million dollars in real estate taxes from 2009-2023 from residential developments that are served by the Town of Wise water and sewer utilities. Wise County paid the Town of Wise one-time Facility Fees payments totaling \$1.0 million during the same period.

In 2024, Wise County billed \$350,064.99 in Real Estate Taxes for 10 residential developments to which the Town of Wise provides water and sewer service. The total real estate assessments of these ten Wise County residential developments served by the town's utilities were \$50,734,056.52. Because there were no new water or sewer connections during the FY24 billing period, the Town of Wise received \$0.00 in facility fees.

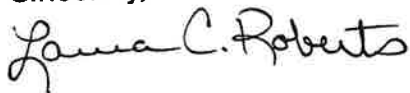
You should note that over the fifteen years that the Facilities Fee Agreement has been in place, there have been no increases in the fees to Wise County. Per the agreement, the Town of Wise could increase the fees up to 3% per year. Furthermore, the agreement was amended in 2013 to favor the development in Wise County by eliminating facilities fees for non-profits and county-owned development; by allowing county to spread large facility fee payments over a 10-year period; and by allowing the county the option to pass up to 25% of the facility fee costs to developers and homeowners using a tiered approach to the costs, if the County so desires.

As infrastructure ages, repairs become more frequent and costly and eventually require total replacement of lines and appurtenances. The Facility Fees for water and sewer utilities are one-time fees paid to the Town of Wise from Wise County. To illustrate the cost of repairs and maintenance, in FY25 the Town of Wise crew replaced 800 lf of water line in front of the Wise County Justice Center on Coeburn Mountain Road for a cost of over \$50,000 in materials alone. In FY26, the Town intends to begin replacing a two-mile stretch of line along Oak Lane off Coeburn Mountain Road with the cost of replacing 600 lf of \$60,000 for materials alone. If these repairs were to be completed by a contractor, costs for the entire Oak Lane project would exceed \$1.0 million.

The Town of Wise is very proactive in protecting its infrastructure and is also fiscally responsible. One such improvement was increasing the capacity of the Bear Creek Reservoir through a \$3 million dam expansion project. The town also spent over \$1.0 million on improvements to the town's water treatment plan to continue to provide quality drinking water to its customers. The town has a ten-year maintenance contract for its seven water tanks. By maintaining its utility infrastructure, the Town of Wise has a monthly accountability of 95%-98%, which results in lower water and sewer rates for its customers as compared to the Wise County PSA and its neighboring towns. Finally, but most importantly, the town attracts and retains experienced and qualified personnel by offering competitive pay and benefits, which results in excellent service and quality drinking water.

Because of these reasons, the council has decided not to change the Facility Fee Agreement; however, the council is open to discussion of Revenue Sharing with Wise County, should the county be so inclined.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura C. Roberts".

Laura Craft Roberts  
Town Manager