

WISE TOWN COUNCIL
Tuesday, September 23, 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. David Nidiffer, resident of Wise County, provided the invocation.

AGENDA CHANGES:

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

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Robin Dotson made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the August 26, 2025 regular Council meeting, the August 2025 Police and Water Plant Reports, and the September 2025 Fire Department, Recreation Specialist, Special Events, and Wise Rescue Squad Reports. Duane Phillips seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

Amanda Hall, President of Wise Main Street Association, provided an update on the ongoing Food Truck Rodeo co-sponsored by the Town. She reported the event was in its eighth week of a thirteen-week series, with an estimated 2,640 visitors attending to date. Hall noted local restaurants and other Main Street businesses had experienced increased foot traffic and sales during the event, emphasizing the Rodeo was intended to serve as a community gathering space as well as a food venue. Hall also presented plans for two potential upcoming events:

Community Tailgate and Celebrity Chef Chili Cook-off:

Hall outlined plans for a Community Tailgate and Celebrity Chef Chili Cook-Off, proposed for Saturday, November 8, 2025. She explained food truck owners would serve as the designated "celebrity chefs", preparing chili on their respective trucks, and attendees would be able to purchase chili from the participants, with a community voting process determining the winner. Hall noted the event setup would mirror that of the current Food Truck Rodeo and would take place in the Tacoma Avenue parking lot. She requested the Town's co-sponsorship of the event, including the use of tables, restrooms, and a speaker, as well as a waiver of fees and meals tax, consistent with the Food Truck Rodeo arrangement. Councilman Duane Phillips made a motion to approve the event. Laura Taylor seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

Veterans Day Celebration:

Hall advised Wise Main Street Association proposed hosting "Honoring Our Heroes: A Veterans Day Recognition Ceremony at Big Glades" on November 11, 2025. She informed the event would

honor veterans and their families from all service branches, potentially featuring the presentation of colors and arms by the UVA Wise ROTC, guest speakers, musical performances by choirs from area schools, and a post-ceremony gathering offering refreshments at the Masonic Lodge. Hall noted sponsors for the event were the Masonic Lodge and Wise Kiwanis Club, and requested co-sponsorship from the Town of Wise as well. She solicited a fee waiver for the use of Big Glades and use of the screen, projector, and sound system at the venue. Robin Dotson moved to approve the request. Duane Phillips seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

ORDINANCE #10, 2025:

Town Manager Laura Roberts explained the ordinance under discussion corrected a typographical error on the Town's Small Purchase Procedures policy. Laura Taylor moved to adopt "AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA UPDATING AND CORRECTING THE POLICY FOR SMALL PURCHASES: REPEALING ANY PREVIOUS ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION NO. 19, 2023". 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"

RESOLUTION #24, 2025:

Town Manager Laura Roberts advised Virginia Roberts desired to continue serving on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Duane Phillips made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA RECOMMENDING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF VIRGINIA ROBERTS TO THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS". Teresa Adkins 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"

RESOLUTION #25, 2025:

Town Manager Laura Roberts reported the lowest bidder, Ricart Ford Automotive, in response to a recently advertised Request for Bids, had the truck in stock and ready for purchase, ensuring its availability for use during the upcoming snow season. Laura Taylor moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AWARDED A CONTRACT TO RICART FORD AUTOMOTIVE OF COLUMBUS, OHIO FOR A NEW SINGLE AXLE CLASS 5 4X4 DUMP TRUCK/PLOW TRUCK FOR SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL". 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 #26, 2025:

Town Manager Laura Roberts stated the property under discussion was part of the Phase I Drainage Project for Glade Creek. She noted the acquisition of the property would provide a direct route for relocating utilities necessary for the widening of the creek bed. She further noted the purchase price of the property was equal to its appraised value. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Dotson moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE AND ACCEPTING THE DEED FROM THE WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF REAL PROPERTY WITH IMPROVEMENTS LOCATED AT 111 MODOC STREET IN THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA". Vice-Mayor 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"

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:

Mayor Smith, Chair, summarized the Public Safety Committee's September 2, 2025 meeting held to discuss a request from Wise Rescue Squad for a new/demo ambulance. Smith reported the Committee suggested Wise Rescue Squad personnel contact Robert Hilt, the area specialist for Rural Development, promptly to discuss potential eligibility for a Community Facilities Grant to fund the purchase of an ambulance. He added the Committee also suggested issuing a letter of intent to Penn Care to secure an ambulance when available in early 2026, if eligible for the grant. Smith stated the Committee desired to meet with the entire Council and Town Attorney to determine the assistance the Town could potentially provide if a Community Facilities Grant was not an option. Laura Taylor made a motion to accept the Committee's recommendations as presented. Robin Dotson seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

CLOSED SESSION:

On a motion made by Laura Taylor and a second by Duane Phillips, 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).

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 #13, 2025:

Sarina Collins, Town Clerk/Treasurer, read Closed Meeting Resolution #13, 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:

Robin Dotson made a motion acknowledging receipt of the following appointee reports:

1. C-N-W Board’s regular meeting from September 10, 2025
2. Cumberlands Airport Commission meeting from September 18, 2025

Duane Phillips seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

COUNCIL COMMENT:

All Council members honored the memory of the late Tommy McAmis, recognizing his significant contributions to the community.

Robin Dotson informed Sabrina Fox, President of Warriors Little League, had contacted him regarding the Town’s potential participation in the District 13 Little League fundraising golf tournament scheduled for October 3, 2025. He noted Fox stated sponsoring a team and a hole for a total of \$500 would cover the District 13 dues for Warriors Little League. Robin Dotson made a motion to sponsor a team and a hole in the golf tournament. 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”

Dotson expressed appreciation to Amanda Hall for her exceptional efforts in coordinating the Food Truck Rodeo.

Laura Taylor extended her gratitude to the Wise Rescue Squad, Wise Fire Department, and Wise Police Department for their unwavering commitment and service to the community.

Duane Phillips noted the success of the recent Regional Fire School held by the Wise Fire Department.

Teresa Adkins conveyed her enthusiasm for the upcoming Fall Fling and extended her appreciation to all Town staff and emergency services volunteers for their ongoing dedication and service.

Mayor Smith highlighted the upcoming Wise Fall Fling, describing it as one of the Town's largest and cherished events, and emphasized the importance of preparing and beautifying the Town for the occasion.

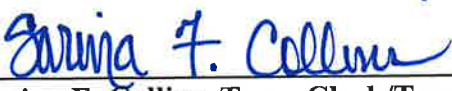
STAFF COMMENT:

Police Chief Kevin Yates provided an update on a recently submitted grant application, indicating a determination regarding its award status was expected by October 1, 2025.

Fire Chief Jack Mullins noted the success of the recently held Wise Regional Fire School.

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