

WISE TOWN COUNCIL
Monday, January 26, 2026; 7:00 P.M.
WISE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS
501 WEST MAIN STREET - WISE, VIRGINIA 24293

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Laura Taylor

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INVOCATION:

Mayor Smith led the Pledge of Allegiance. Bill Skeens provided the invocation.

AGENDA CHANGES:

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

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilman Phillips made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the November 25, 2025 regular Council meeting, minutes of the January 8, 2026 special-called Council meeting, the November and December 2025 Police and Water Plant Reports, the yearly 2025 Police Report, and the January 2026 Fire Department, Recreation Specialist, Special Events, and Wise Rescue Squad Reports. Councilman Dotson seconded the motion that passed 4-0.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

Sabrina Fox, President of Warriors Little League, requested Council consideration of a fee waiver and approval of a route along East Main Street for the Warriors Little League opening day parade to be held on March 28, 2026. Following a brief discussion, Robin Dotson made a motion for the Town to co-sponsor the parade by waiving the fee and approving the route to run along East Main Street from the intersection of Spring Avenue to Railroad Avenue. Duane Phillips seconded the motion that carried 4-0.

AUDIT/ FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:

Town Manager Laura Roberts informed the Audit/ Finance Committee met with Larry Sturgill, CPA, to review the FY2024-25 audit report, advising he stated the Town was in excellent financial condition and had received an unmodified, clean opinion. Roberts noted the Water and Sewer Funds were self-funded for the fiscal year, requiring no subsidization from the General Fund. Mayor Smith reiterated the positive comments from Sturgill's presentation. Teresa Adkins moved to approve the committee meeting report as presented. Robin Dotson seconded the motion that passed 4-0.

RESOLUTION #3, 2026:

Town Manager Laura Roberts reported one bid was received for the High Visibility Crosswalk Project, to be funded through the Virginia Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Improvements Program. She noted the bid received totaled \$595,920, with \$235,800 provided through the awarded grant. Following review of the bid with VDOT and Thompson and Litton, Inc., she stated it was recommended the bid be rejected and the project be rebid. Roberts further

noted VDOT, the project engineers, and Town staff would make a concerted effort to increase contractor interest in the project. Following a brief discussion, Duane Phillips made a motion to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA REJECTING THE BIDS RECEIVED FOR THE HIGH VISIBILITY CROSSWALKS FUNDED THROUGH THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION’S HIGHWAY SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM AND TO AUTHORIZE THE PROJECT TO BE RE-BID”. Robin Dotson seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	“Aye”
Teresa Adkins	“Aye”
Robin Dotson	“Aye”
S. Duane Phillips	“Aye”

RESOLUTION #4, 2026:

Councilman Phillips moved to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AMENDING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING NO. 5 BETWEEN THE TOWN OF WISE AND THOMPSON & LITTON, INC. FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO MEET VDOT REQUIREMENTS AND READVERTISE FOR BIDS THE HIGH VISIBILITY CROSSWALK PROJECT”. Councilman Dotson seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	“Aye”
Teresa Adkins	“Aye”
Robin Dotson	“Aye”
S. Duane Phillips	“Aye”

CLOSED SESSION:

On a motion made by Robin Dotson and a second by Teresa Adkins, the Wise Town Council moved to convene into closed meeting for the purpose of and including:

LEGAL MATTERS WAS REMOVED FROM CLOSED SESSION DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF TOWN ATTORNEY LEONARD ROGERS.

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).

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:

Robin Dotson made a motion to reconvene in open session. Duane Phillips seconded the motion that carried 4-0.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION – CM RESOLUTION #1, 2026:

Sarina Collins, Town Clerk/Treasurer, read Closed Meeting Resolution #1, 2026, “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”
Teresa Adkins	“Aye”
Robin Dotson	“Aye”
S. Duane Phillips	“Aye”

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

The Town of Wise Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals submitted annual reports for calendar year 2025 for Council review and acknowledgment of receipt. There being no questions or comments, Robin Dotson made a motion acknowledging receipt of the annual reports. Teresa Adkins seconded the motion, which carried 4-0.

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

Duane Phillips made a motion acknowledging receipt of the following appointee reports:

1. Cumberland's Airport Commission meeting from November 20, 2025
2. Cumberland's Airport Commission meeting from January 15, 2026

Teresa Adkins seconded the motion that passed 4-0.

COUNCIL COMMENT:

Councilman Dotson asked department heads to convey the Town's appreciation to employees for their continued work in frigid weather conditions.

Duane Phillips extended gratitude to Town staff for another favorable audit report and thanked all employees and emergency services personnel for their dedicated service during cold weather.

Teresa Adkins conveyed her appreciation to all Town staff, especially those who work overnight during adverse weather conditions.

Mayor Smith noted the upcoming 250th anniversary of America and expressed his intent to establish a committee to plan related activities within the Town. He asked Teresa Adkins to consider joining him on the committee.

STAFF COMMENT:

Town Manager Laura Roberts summarized upcoming Town events.

Police Chief Kevin Yates recognized Public Works personnel for the exceptional assistance provided during a recent water leak in the Police Department offices.

Town Clerk/Treasurer Sarina Collins reported Larry Sturgill, CPA, recommended investing additional funds in the Town's VRS Pension Reserve to fully cover the Town's total liability, as

outlined in the FY2024-25 audit report. She stated an additional \$673,000 was required to meet this obligation. Following a brief discussion, Duane Phillips moved to authorize the investment of \$673,000 for the VRS Pension Reserve. Robin Dotson seconded the motion, with the vote recorded by roll call:

Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor	“Aye”
Teresa Adkins	“Aye”
Robin Dotson	“Aye”
S. Duane Phillips	“Aye”

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no additional discussion by the Wise Town Council, Robin Dotson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Teresa Adkins seconded the motion that passed 4-0.



Sarina F. Collins, Town Clerk/Treasurer


Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor