

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL CONTINUED MEETING  
& BUDGET WORKSHOP  
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026; 5:00 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

**PUBLIC EXPRESSION:**

There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, Mayor Smith closed public expression.

**CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF FOOD TRUCK RODEO:**

Discussion resumed regarding the Food Truck Rodeo. Town Manager Laura Roberts provided additional information from the Public Works Department and expressed appreciation to Council for allowing sufficient time to review the request and ensure it could be accommodated without negatively impacting staffing or the budget. She noted clean-up of the Farmers & Miners Bank parking lot could be completed by 8:00 a.m. the following morning without incurring overtime expense. Roberts further informed Public Works staff had indicated a willingness to assist with event logistics, including constructing a secure storage box for tables and umbrellas. Council discussed potential event layout, traffic flow, and placement of food trucks and seating, noting that final arrangements would likely be refined after the first event. Following the discussion, Councilman Phillips made a motion for the Town to co-sponsor the Food Truck Rodeo. Vice-Mayor Taylor seconded the motion, with the vote recorded by roll call:

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

**DISCUSSION OF THE FY2026-2027 BUDGET:**

Town Manager Laura Roberts reviewed the first draft of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027, noting an overall increase of 31% compared to the current fiscal year. She reported the inclusion of a 5% cost of living adjustment and a 3% step increase for eligible employees, with an increase of 12.83% in health insurance premiums. Roberts advised the proposed budget reflected a reduction in the Real Estate tax rate following the recent Wise County Reassessment, which resulted in an average increase of 34% in real property values. She further noted a proposed increase in the Personal Property tax rate, zoning fees, pool admission fees, picnic shelter rental fees, and water rates were also included in the draft budget. Roberts informed the Fire Department budget had been changed to eliminate line-item expenditures by providing an annual lump sum

donation. Council indicated expenditure reports would be requested from the Fire Department in the upcoming fiscal year to ensure funding was being allocated appropriately.

Town Manager Laura Roberts reviewed Capital Outlay departmental budget requests for consideration:

Police:

- Computers

Fire & Rescue:

- Pumper Truck & Cutting Tools
- Computers
- Turn Out Gear
- Fire Programs Grant

Public Works Administration:

- Traffic Control Cones & Barrels
- Shop Improvements

Street Maintenance:

- Pavement Marking
- Sidewalk Construction/Reconstruction
- Traffic Light
- Guardrail
- F150 Pickup Truck
- Dump Truck Chassis
- Food Truck Incubator Project
- Ornamental Street Lamps
- West Main Pedestrian Project
- Crosswalk Project
- East End Pedestrian Improvement Project
- Paving

Storm Drainage:

- Phase 1 – Design, Permitting & Construction of 3 Culverts
- Phase 2 – Drainage Improvements
- Box Culvert – Hurricane Road
- DCR Community Flood Preparedness Fund - Resiliency Plan

Buildings & Grounds:

- Fire Alarm System for Public Works & Water Treatment Plant Facilities
- HVAC Replacement – Town of Wise Municipal Building

Programs, Parks & Playgrounds:

- Wood Chips for Playground
- Reservoir Trail Phases 3 & 4

Town of Wise Sports Complex:

- Skagg Mower
- Tee Ball Fields

Municipal Swimming Pool:

- Pump
- Pool Repair
- Heater & Zero Depth Entry Resurfacing
- Paving – Pickleball Court

Planning & Community Development:

- Community Revitalization
- Planning Grant for Business District Revitalization Grant

Economic Development Authority:

- Programming Expenses & Housing Initiatives
- Façade Improvement Program

Water Treatment Plant:

- Pumps/Motors
- Wastewater Basins
- Building Improvements/Maintenance

Water Distribution:

- Line Replacement
- Fire Hydrant Replacement
- Equipment
- Radio Read Meters

Sewer Collection:

- Line Replacement


Following review of the draft budget, Town Manager Laura Roberts was directed to present the final draft of the proposed budget at the April regular Council meeting.

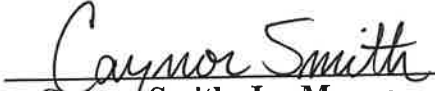
**COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Mayor Smith commended Town staff for their effective management of the Town's finances. He noted that while Council is appreciative of the ability to fully staff departments and provide employee salary increases for the upcoming fiscal year, past budget conditions have not always allowed for such measures, and cautioned that similar constraints could arise in the future.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no additional business to come before the governing body, Laura Taylor moved to adjourn the meeting. Teresa Adkins seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

  
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Sarina F. Collins, Town Clerk/Treasurer

  
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Caynor Smith, Jr., Mayor