

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2022; 7:00 P.M.
WISE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS
501 WEST MAIN STREET - WISE, VIRGINIA 24293**

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor
Ben Conway, Vice-Mayor
Jeffery Dotson
Robin Dotson
Caynor Smith, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INVOCATION:

Councilman Robin Dotson led the Pledge of Allegiance. Adrian Dale, Town of Wise Street Superintendent, provided the invocation.

AGENDA CHANGES:

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

CONSENT CALENDAR:

Councilman Smith made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the, September 27, 2022 regular Council meeting, the minutes of the October 12, 2022 continued Council meeting, the June, 2022 Treasurer's Financial Report, the September, 2022 Police, Water Plant, and Fire Department Reports, and the October, 2022 Recreation Specialist, Planning Department, and Special Events Reports. Vice-Mayor Conway seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

Henrietta Dotson, on behalf of the Town and Country Garden Club, requested permission to place a bench on each side of the Wise County Courthouse. She said the benches would be similar to the one located at the Blue Star Memorial Garden in front of the Wise Municipal Building. Following a brief discussion, Council members approved the request and concurred with the recommended location. Councilman Smith added that authorization was granted with the understanding that the benches could be moved for certain events if needed, or if a better location was found. Mrs. Dotson also requested that the Town Council consider adopting an "owl" as the mascot for the Town of Wise. She noted that the "owl" was the logo for the Wise Business Association. Town Attorney Leonard Rogers confirmed that a resolution would need to be adopted for such action. Mayor Adkins informed that a resolution would be placed on the next month's agenda.

RESOLUTION #45, 2022:

Bonnie Aker, Chair of the "Wise County Famous Fall Fling" gave a brief history of how the Fall Fling festival began in the spring of 1980 and how it had evolved through the years. She thanked the Town of Wise for being a partner in the event for over 40 years. Ms. Aker stated that there was a whole lot of work and a whole lot of love put into the Fall Fling each year. She stated that although she was stepping down as "Chair" of the Fall Fling, she hoped the event continued to grow, adding she would always be available to offer assistance.

Mayor Adkins read “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA HONORING BONNIE M. AKER AT HER RETIREMENT FROM CHAIRING THE WISE COUNTY FAMOUS FALL FLING FESTIVAL COMMITTEE”. She asked for Council member comments. Councilman Jeff Dotson stated that he had always enjoyed the Fall Fling through the years and he thanked Ms. Aker for her dedicated service. Vice-Mayor Conway stated that he felt the Fall Fling was what made the Town of Wise special. Councilman Smith commended Ms. Aker for her dedication and noted that the Town should be celebrating Bonnie Aker and the idea she had 42 years earlier to hold a festival in downtown Wise, which had brought years of joy and made years of memories for so many. Councilman Robin Dotson stated that the name Fall Fling and Bonnie Aker were synonymous, adding that he did not know how the Town and the event would go on without her. Following Council comments, Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to adopt Resolution #45, 2022. Jeff Dotson seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	“Aye”
Ben Conway, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”
Robin Dotson	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

Mayor Adkins presented Ms. Aker with a copy of the resolution and other gifts from the Town of Wise.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

Rick Pientka, 313 Cherry Street (Gay Dawn Acres) stated that he had lived at the same residence for more than 29 years and the Town had always maintained the road. He noted that this year he was told the road was a private drive and would no longer be maintained. He mentioned that his neighbors on the opposite side of the road were letting weeds and grass grow out into the road. Leonard Rogers, Attorney, suggested the matter be referred to a committee. Mayor Adkins informed Mr. Pientka that the Town Manager would inform him of the date of the committee meeting in order for him to be in attendance. Caynor Smith, Jr. moved that the request be referred to the Public Works Committee for review and recommendation. Robin Dotson seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

DISCUSSION OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REQUESTS:

Robin Meade, Town Clerk/Treasurer, announced that the Treasury Department would be implementing a new format for utility statements to replace the current postcard type statement. She noted that the new invoice would be letter size and include a return envelope for customer convenience. She stated that she had researched the change for a number of years, but the cost of the letter size invoice far exceeded the postcard statement, until this year. Meade noted that the postcard had nearly tripled in cost and the letter size was now more economical. In addition, she informed that she had contracted with a new third-party printing and mailing vendor who would be able to save the Town in printing and mailing costs. She added that with the current postcard style invoice, the characters available for messages were limited. She further added the new letter size format would allow for other departments or agencies, interested in enclosing informational flyers to citizens, to include such notifications for only the printing fee charged by the vendor for

the flyer, but at no extra postage cost (depending on the weight of the enclosure).

Natasha Proulex, Special Event Coordinator, notified that the Health Wagon had received a donation of 200 vouchers for turkeys and other food to be handed out to those in need and had requested use of the Wise Town Hall parking lot to hold a "drive thru" distribution event on November 12th. Proulex also mentioned an idea for getting the community involved in decorating the Big Glades for Christmas, which she referred to as "Deck the Glades". She explained that different organizations or individuals could bring their own tree to the Big Glades and decorate it on November 19th from 12 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. She noted that a deadline for tree removal would also be announced.

PUBLIC HEARING - RESOLUTION #46, 2022:

Mayor Adkins announced that a public hearing was being held on "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA ADOPTING THE UPDATED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND THAT THE PLAN BE KNOWN AS THE "2022 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA". Reagan Walsh, Planner, briefly reviewed the 2022 Comprehensive Plan including highlights of a new transportation section, updated demographic facts and figures, and the addition of new goals and objectives for outdoor recreation. She mentioned that she had purchased mapping software that would allow the creation of mapping products for the Town of Wise. Walsh informed by using data from Thompson & Litton, she was able to create a water and sewer map, as well as a recreational facilities map. She noted that she would be able to update the maps as needed and the Town would no longer be reliant on Lenowisco for mapping needs. Following the summary, Mayor Adkins opened the floor for the public hearing. There being no additional comments or questions, the public hearing was closed. Vice-Mayor Ben Conway made a motion to adopt Resolution #46, 2022. Councilman Jeff Dotson seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	"Aye"
Ben Conway, Vice-Mayor	"Aye"
Jeffery Dotson	"Aye"
Robin Dotson	"Aye"
Caynor Smith, Jr.	"Aye"

RESOLUTION #47, 2022:

Laura Roberts, Town Manager, briefly reviewed "Opportunity Appalachia" which offered a funding program to provide technical assistance, including architectural and engineering services, to localities within the Appalachian Regional Commission's service area. She noted that the funding was up to \$75,000 with a \$5,000 required match. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Robin Dotson made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING THE PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF AN OPPORTUNITY APPALACHIA GRANT APPLICATION FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR PROJECTS LOCATED ALONG THE PARK AVENUE/VANOVER AVENUE/DARDEN DRIVE CORRIDOR". Vice-Mayor Ben Conway seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	“Aye”
Ben Conway, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”
Robin Dotson	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

RESOLUTION #48, 2022:

Town Planner Reagan Walsh briefly informed of grant funding available for crosswalk improvements. She advised that seven crosswalks had been identified as in need of improvements. She provided an estimated improvement project cost of \$235,752 and noted that the Highway Safety Improvements Program (HSIP) funding was a 90/10 split with 90% federal dollars and 10% state or local match. Following a brief discussion, Councilman Jeff Dotson made a motion to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING SUBMITTAL OF A REQUEST TO THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ESTABLISH FUNDING FOR THE WISE CROSSWALK IMPROVEMENT PROJECT”. Vice-Mayor Ben Conway seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	“Aye”
Ben Conway, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”
Robin Dotson	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING:

- Water Customer Account Complaint and Request to Waive Fees - Ben Conway, Chair, summarized the meeting of the Public Utilities Committee held to discuss a water customer account complaint and request to waive the fees. Conway advised that the customer was present and asserted that he did not have a water leak, even though his bill was for more than 50,000 gallons of water. He added that following a meeting with the account holder, committee members thoroughly reviewed all relevant data, including the results of a recent meter accuracy test, which showed the Town's water meter was recording water usage accurately. Conway reported that because the customer maintained he did not have a leak, the committee did not recommend waiving any water bill charge or fee. Town Clerk/Treasurer Robin Meade added that it was decided that the penalty added to his account during the review would be credited to the customer's account. There being no additional comments or questions, Councilman Caynor Smith made a motion to accept the Public Utilities Committee report as presented. Councilman Jeff Dotson seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	“Aye”
Ben Conway, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”
Robin Dotson	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

CLOSED SESSION:

On a motion made by Robin Dotson and a second by Jeff Dotson, the Wise Town Council moved

to convene into closed meeting for the purpose of and including:

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:

Vice-Mayor Ben Conway made a motion to reconvene in open session. Councilman Robin Dotson seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION – CM RESOLUTION #10, 2022:

Robin Meade, Town Clerk/Treasurer, read Closed Meeting Resolution #10, 2022, “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:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	“Aye”
Ben Conway, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”
Robin Dotson	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Jeff Dotson commented on another successful Fall Fling event.

Ben Conway provided a status report on the Public Works Salt Storage Shed.

Caynor Smith, Jr. commented on the Central High School Homecoming Parade and encouraged the Town to get involved with more school events. Smith requested everyone to keep the Easterling family, who lost their son Trevor earlier in the day, in their prayers.

Robin Dotson stated how blessed the Town was to have Bonnie Aker in the community. He suggested the Town consider honoring her in the future, by having a "Bonnie Aker Day".

Mayor Adkins informed that the Annual Employee Christmas Luncheon was scheduled for December 7th at the new Public Works Facility. She stated that due to the increased costs associated with the luncheon, she requested a donation of an additional \$500 from Council contingency, for the event. Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to approve the \$500. Ben Conway seconded the motion. Roll call vote:

Teresa Adkins, Mayor	“Aye”
Ben Conway, Vice-Mayor	“Aye”
Jeffery Dotson	“Aye”
Robin Dotson	“Aye”
Caynor Smith, Jr.	“Aye”

STAFF/MANAGER COMMENT:

Laura Roberts, Town Manager, reminded that the Central High School pep rally would be held on Thursday, October 27th at Big Glades. She informed that the Trunk or Treat was scheduled for Saturday, October 29th, followed by a movie sponsored by the UVA-Wise Alumni Association. Roberts further informed that there would also be a UVA-Wise ballgame held Saturday, October 29th. She reported that the second phase of the AMLER funding was unsuccessful. She noted that the VDOT contract had been received and was currently under review.

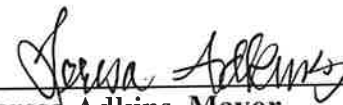
Robin Meade provided a status report on the Town's Ordinance Codification Project, noting that the Civic Plus had indicated the file was almost ready to be turned over to the legal team for review.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no additional discussion by the Wise Town Council, Jeff Dotson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Caynor Smith, Jr. seconded the motion that passed 5-0.



Robin R. Meade, Town Clerk/Treasurer



Teresa Adkins, Mayor