

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, August 22, 2023; 7:00 P.M.**  
**WISE MUNICIPAL BUILDING COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**501 WEST MAIN STREET - WISE, VIRGINIA 24293**

**MINUTES**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INVOCATION:**

Town of Wise Police Chief Kevin Yates 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:**

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to approve the consent calendar, which included the minutes of the July 25, 2023 regular Council meeting, the May 2023 Treasurer's Financial Report, the July 2023 Police, Water Plant, and Fire Department Reports, and the August 2023 Recreation Specialist and Special Events Reports. Robin Dotson seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

**PUBLIC EXPRESSION:**

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

**PUBLIC HEARING - RESOLUTION #44, 2023:**

Town Manager Laura Roberts informed Wise County Public Schools submitted a Conditional Use Permit application for the construction of a new gymnasium at L.F. Addington Middle School, located at 324 Railroad Avenue. She advised the Town of Wise Planning Commission recommended that Town Council approve the application for a Conditional Use Permit subject to the following conditions: 1) If a road cut was needed for storm drainage across School Avenue, the road would be repaired to VDOT standards 2) All requirements for a final site plan be incorporated by the August 22, 2023 Town Council public hearing. Richard "Dick" Houchins from Thompson and Litton, Inc. reviewed the site plan with Council. Following a brief discussion, Mayor Adkins opened the floor for the public hearing. There being no one from the public audience wishing to comment, the public hearing was closed. Councilman Robin Dotson made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA APPROVING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION AND FINAL SITE PLAN APPLICATION SUBMITTED BY WISE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW GYMNASIUM TO BE LOCATED IN AN R-B MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENCE ZONING DISTRICT". Ben Conway seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

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

**DISCUSSION OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REQUESTS:**

Town Planner Reagan Walsh informed that Chris Sturgill of Bearcreek Bowmen Archery Club of Wise had contacted the Town regarding potentially hosting a Rinehart 100 Archery Tournament at the Town of Wise Sports Complex in 2024. She requested Council's approval to collaborate with the Archery Club in an effort to bring the tournament to Wise. Council concurred with the request. Walsh added the Town had not been chosen to hold the Archery Shooting Association (ASA) National Archery Tournament in 2024, but stated the Rinehart 100 tournament was smaller in size. Councilman Smith suggested the Town obtain a direct contact with the ASA to increase the likelihood of the larger tournament being held in Wise in the future.

Police Chief Kevin Yates informed he had spoken with Mr. William Austin, Principal of the Wise County Career-Technical Center, as well as addressed the entire student body regarding the driving habits of students following the conclusion of both the morning and afternoon class sessions at the school. He advised he had received numerous complaints from citizens regarding safety concerns along Birchfield Road and Lake Street related to students of the Career-Technical Center. Yates added that he and other officers have had an increased presence in the area to control the issue.

Duane Phillips, Wise Fire Department Fire Chief, invited Council to attend the upcoming annual Regional Fire School hosted by the Department and scheduled for September 7 - 10, 2023. Councilman Smith reflected on his attendance at the Fire School in previous years and commended Phillips and his team for a job well done.

**PROCLAMATION #8, 2023:**

Mayor Adkins informed that she and Town Manager Laura Roberts had attended the 26th Biennial Reunion for the Appalachia Training Central Bland Alumni Association. Vice-Mayor Ben Conway moved to adopt "A PROCLAMATION BY THE MAYOR OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA RECOGNIZING THE 26<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL REUNION OF THE APPALACHIA TRAINING CENTRAL BLAND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION". Councilman Robin Dotson seconded the motion with the vote recorded by roll call:

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

**RESOLUTION #45, 2023:**

Town Manager Laura Roberts informed a bid opening was held on August 15, 2023, for the construction of a salt storage building but no bids were received. She stated Engineering Services

recommended the project be bid on as four separate contracts to include groundwork, concrete pouring, roof installation, and asphalt coating in order to attract bidders. Roberts added that Engineering Services would incur additional costs to revise the bid package into four contracts, bid four contracts, and provide the construction administration and inspection for four contracts. Engineer Mike Clisso of Engineering Services advised Council that the multi-faceted project had four distinct operations that were unrelated, creating the need for four separate contracts. Following a brief discussion, Jeffery Dotson moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA, APPROVING AMENDMENT NO. 2 TO THE CONTRACT FROM ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR FOUNDATION AND WALL DESIGN TO INCLUDE BIDDING AND CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION SERVICES FOR A SALT STORAGE BUILDING". Ben Conway seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

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

**RESOLUTION FOR SOCIAL MEDIA ARCHIVING SERVICES:**

Special Events Coordinator Natasha Proulex advised that Archivesocial, a social media archiving service, would retain posts from the Town's social media accounts to protect the Town from any legal proceedings that may arise from such posts. Proulex informed the prorated cost for up to twelve social media accounts for the remainder of the fiscal year, August 23, 2023 - June 30, 2024, would be \$4,080.06. She stated the Town had four social media accounts. Councilman Jeffery Dotson and Vice-Mayor Conway advised Proulex to compare pricing with other archiving services, opining the cost was excessive given the number of accounts the Town hosted and the fact that commenting was not allowed on the Town's posts. Councilman Smith stated the Town Attorney should handle any issues with social media posts, therefore he was not in favor of the service. Vice-Mayor Ben Conway made a motion to table the resolution under discussion. Robin Dotson seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

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

**RESOLUTION #46, 2023:**

Police Chief Kevin Yates advised Council the Police Department was in the process of purchasing thirteen (13) new patrol rifles with funds from the ARPA Law Enforcement Grant. He informed that the Resolution under discussion also authorized the retention of the existing thirteen (13) patrol rifles to be purchased by the individual officers for the fair market value of \$200.00 per rifle. Jeffery Dotson made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF FIREARMS FOR THE WISE POLICE DEPARTMENT USING THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT LAW

ENFORCEMENT GRANT FUNDS". Caynor Smith Jr. seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

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

**RESOLUTION #47, 2023:**

Town Manager Laura Roberts advised a "Request for Bids" was advertised for the purchase of two 2024 four-wheel drive 1.5-ton dual-wheel service trucks. She added that two bids were received, with the lowest bidder being \$6000.00 over the approved budgeted amount. Roberts stated the remaining funds would be transferred from the Water Distribution and Sewer Collection vehicle and equipment expense accounts. Following a brief discussion, Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AWARDED A CONTRACT TO FRIENDSHIP FORD OF BRISTOL, TENNESSEE FOR TWO 2024 FORD FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE 1.5-TON DUAL WHEEL SERVICE TRUCKS". Jeffery Dotson seconded the motion with the vote recorded by roll call:

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

**RESOLUTION #48, 2023:**

Town Manager Laura Roberts advised the Town belonged to the HGAC Government Cooperative Buying and Procurement Services for local governments. She informed McClung-Logan was also a member, enabling the Town to purchase equipment locally through the Procurement Service. Ben Conway moved to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE TB240CRA TAKEUCHI EXCAVATOR EQUIPPED WITH BQC12518 QUICK COUPLER, 18" QUICK COUPLER BUCKET, HYDRAULIC THUMB, AND BQC12513 13" QUICK COUPLER BUCKET TO MCCLUNG-LOGAN THROUGH HGAC GOVERNMENT COOPERATIVE BUYING AND PROCUREMENT SERVICES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS". Caynor Smith, Jr. seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

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

**RESOLUTION #49, 2023:**

Street Superintendent Adrian Dale advised the attachments included with the purchase of the TL8R2-CRH Takeuchi Loader provided the Town with considerable savings. Caynor Smith, Jr.

made a motion to adopt "A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA AWARDED A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE TL8R2-CRH TAKEUCHI LOADER EQUIPPED WITH 72" LOW PROFILE BUCKET-SMOOTH WITH BOLT ON EDGE, TADV36 AUGER DRIVE, TRAV9 ROCK AUGER 9" BIT, AND TPWR72HA POWER RAKE TO MCCLUNG-LOGAN THROUGH HGAC GOVERNMENT COOPERATIVE BUYING AND PROCUREMENT SERVICES FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS". Robin Dotson seconded the motion and the vote was recorded by roll call:

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

**RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT:**

**-Request from Wise County Youth Soccer:**

Caynor Smith, Jr., Chair, summarized the meeting of the Recreation Committee held to discuss a request from Wise County Youth Soccer to remove an existing dilapidated portable storage building and replace the structure with a new similarly sized portable storage building at the Town of Wise Sports Complex. Smith advised the Committee recommended the approval of the request. Jeffery Dotson made a motion to approve the request from Wise Youth Soccer to remove and replace the dilapidated storage building as recommended by the Recreation Committee. Robin Dotson seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

**-Update on Various Recreation Projects:**

Caynor Smith, Jr., Chair, provided updates discussed by the Recreation Committee on various recreation projects underway:

1. Fitness Court Grant -Fitness Court Project: The Fitness Court equipment was received and placed in storage at the Town's Public Works facility. A concrete contractor and installation crew had been scheduled, with a project completion date of mid-November 2023.
2. AMLER Grant - Ballfield Lighting Project: The Ballfield Lighting design for the Town of Wise Sports Complex was completed, and the Town was awaiting authorization to advertise for construction bids, which was anticipated to be in September 2023. The project was expected to be completed by Spring 2024 if a contract was awarded.
3. Archery Competition Application: The Town was unsuccessful in securing the Archery Shooting Association (ASA) National Archery Tournament to be held at the Town of Wise Sports Complex in 2024. The Town can apply again to host the 2025 Tournament, however, holding an archery tournament of this size would require extensive and costly upgrades to the electrical capacity and wireless internet availability at the Sports Complex.
4. Cal Ripken Regional Softball Tournament: The Town would be notified by December 2023 if it was selected to host a Cal Ripken Regional Tournament in July 2024, which would consist of 12 teams from multiple states in the southeastern United States.

5. Indoor Sports Facility: The Town and County of Wise have partnered on a feasibility study for an indoor sports facility. As a result of an initial report that estimated the facility's cost to be at or above \$30,000,000.00, the consultant was asked to evaluate a smaller project, with the evaluation to be completed by mid-September 2023.
6. Bear Creek Reservoir Trail: The construction of the trail around Bear Creek Reservoir had halted during summer months due to excessive vegetation and lack of volunteers but would resume during fall months with help from Town Crews and volunteers. Smith recommended that Council meet at the site of the trail to discuss ideas on moving forward with the design, including the potential need for bridges throughout the trail. Town Attorney Leonard Rogers reminded that a formal meeting would be required if Council decided to meet onsite.
7. Parks and Recreation Master Plan: A Parks and Recreation Master Plan would be created to provide guidance for planned growth at the Town of Wise Sports Complex and use of Town properties purchased with FEMA/VDEM Hazard Mitigation Grant funds. The Town Manager and Town Planner, along with the Recreation Committee and the Town Recreation Specialist would coordinate efforts with a consultant to prepare the Plan.
8. Projects at the Town of Wise Sports Complex: The Recreation Committee recommended several projects to be completed at the Town of Wise Sports Complex prior to Spring 2024, including landscaping and adding gate decor at the front entrance, shingle replacement on select dugouts, storage of donated brick dust from UVA-Wise, and the request of an outdoor batting cage from Wise County Public Schools for placement at the Town of Wise Sports Complex.

Smith added the projects discussed are ongoing and the Committee intended to provide regular updates to Council. Jeffery Dotson made a motion to accept the Recreation Committee's report and for the Committee to submit a report to Council at a future date to include specifics and dollar amounts for approval of the projects discussed in the Recreation Committee meeting report. Caynor Smith, Jr. seconded the motion. The vote was recorded by roll call:

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

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

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

1. Cumberland Airport Commission regular meeting from July 20, 2023
2. Town of Wise Economic Development Authority meeting from August 10, 2023

Robin Dotson seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

**COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Caynor Smith, Jr. stated the recent tournament held at the Town of Wise Sports Complex was a huge success and had a positive economic impact on the Town. He informed that another tournament would be scheduled for September, with the exact dates to be determined.

Ben Conway stated the "V" logos painted on Town streets in support of UVA-Wise looked nice. He added he would have free time available if anyone would like to volunteer to work on the Bear Creek Reservoir Trail.

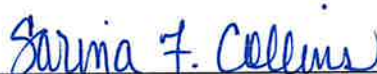
Jeffery Dotson informed there were several favorable social media comments regarding the "V" logos painted on Town streets in support of UVA-Wise. Dotson stated he attended the UVA-Wise Back-to-School Bash sponsored by the Town and opined there was a need for College staff to encourage students to attend such events. In addition, he thanked the Recreation Committee for its hard work on various Town projects and expressed the need for vegetation removal near the entrance of the Town of Wise Sports Complex to make it more visible from the roadway when approaching the Complex and for fencing extending to the property line.


**STAFF COMMENT:**

Town Manager Laura Roberts stated the Town of Wise Economic Development Authority held its first meeting on Thursday, August 10, 2023. She informed that members introduced themselves and provided a background overview of skills and experience that would prove useful to the Authority. Members discussed upcoming potential projects and set the Authority's organizational meeting for Thursday, September 28, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Wise Municipal Building.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarina F. Collins , Town Clerk/Treasurer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Teresa Adkins, Mayor