

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Tuesday, January 30, 2024; 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:**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INVOCATION:**

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 November 28, 2023 regular Council meeting, the October 2023 Treasurer's Financial Report, the November – December and Yearly 2023 Police Reports, the November – December 2023 Water Plant and Fire Department Reports, the January 2024 Recreation Specialist and Planning Department Reports, and the December 2023 Special Events Report. 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.

**CREATIVE COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP GRANT REQUEST:**

Pro-Art Executive Director Michael McNulty, on behalf of the Pro-Art Association, requested the Town's continued support of Pro-Art through the Virginia Commission for the Arts Creative Communities Partnership Grant. He advised the application deadline for the Grant was April 1, 2024. McNulty also informed that the Symphony by the Lake program held at UVA-Wise would be changed to the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday in July beginning in 2025 to avoid a scheduling conflict with Chillin' and Grillin' in the Glades. Mayor Adkins requested McNulty to relay Council's appreciation to the Symphony for making the schedule change and thanked Pro-Art for bringing programs to the community. Adkins added the request for monetary support would be discussed during FY 24/25 budget preparation.

**DISCUSSION OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REQUESTS:**

Special Events Coordinator Natasha Proulex advised the Wise County Chamber of Commerce Gala would be held on April 6, 2024 and inquired as to whether Council wished to sponsor a table for the event. Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion for the Town of Wise to sponsor a table at the

Wise County Chamber of Commerce Gala to be held on April 6, 2024. Ben Conway 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”

Proulex also requested Council’s direction on having a “Free Day” event in 2024 at the Wise Municipal Pool, as previously held each year. She stated issues often arose at the event due to overcrowding. Councilman Conway opined that “Free Day” should continue to be held to ensure that children who might not otherwise have the opportunity could attend. Council concurred that “Free Day” at the Wise Municipal Pool would be held in 2024 and suggested additional staff be present to better accommodate the crowd.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT - RESOLUTION #1, 2024:**

Town Manager Laura Roberts summarized the Administrative Committee’s January 9, 2024 meeting held to discuss the Town’s policy regarding employees called to serve for jury duty. Roberts explained the current policy paid employees for the full day(s) of work missed without requiring the use of accrued paid time off but also required employees to remit any court compensation received to the Town. She advised the Committee recommended the Town continue to pay employees for the full day(s) of work missed, up to five consecutive days, without requiring the use of accrued paid time off and the employee would no longer be required to remit court compensation to the Town. Roberts added that if employees were required to serve for more than five consecutive days, the Committee recommended that they be required to inform the payroll department of the amount of compensation received for the jury duty time served over the consecutive five-day period, which would subsequently be deducted from the employee’s next paycheck. Following a brief discussion, Jeffery Dotson moved to adopt “A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WISE, VIRGINIA ADOPTING A PERSONNEL POLICY REGARDING TOWN EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION WHEN SERVING ON JURY DUTY”. 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.	“Aye”

**DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL SMART SCALE PROJECT:**

Town Planner Reagan Walsh provided a brief overview of the Virginia Department of Transportation Smart Scale Project, a project intended to address congestion and safety challenges for the portion of US-23 from the Norton Interchange with US-58 to the Glamorgan intersection. She stated a significant stretch of the roadway fell within Town limits, involving three intersections with US-23. Walsh advised solutions with a range of options had been developed to address the challenges faced at each intersection and the Town could apply to have the option of its choice

completed at no cost if selected for funding. Following a brief discussion, Council referred the matter to the Public Safety Committee for further review.

**RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM PROPERTY OWNER DURING MULTI-DAY EVENTS-**

Vice-Mayor Ben Conway reviewed the Recreation Committee meeting from January 4, 2024, held to discuss a request from a downtown property owner for assistance with parking control during multi-day events. He stated the owner of the Payless Shopping Center and the Manager of the Hometown IGA grocery store expressed concerns regarding customers having no place to park during events held downtown such as Fall Fling and Chillin' & Grillin', therefore affecting revenues. Conway advised the property owner requested assistance during events from the Town of Wise Police Cadet Program to ensure the first two rows in the shopping center's private parking lot were available for customer parking only, however, Police Chief Kevin Yates had stated there were not enough participants in the program to volunteer for the duration of multi-day events. The Recreation Committee recommended the property owner contact security companies to determine the charge to police the parking lot for multi-day events and possibly charge for parking in the spaces not reserved for customers.

**INDOOR RECREATION FACILITY, ARCHERY TOURNAMENT, AND VARIOUS PROJECTS AT BALLFIELDS-**

Caynor Smith, Jr., Chair, summarized the Recreation Committee's January 24, 2024 meeting held to discuss the following:

**Indoor Recreation Facility:**

Smith advised the Town would be exploring a possible partnership with UVA-Wise for the construction of the indoor recreation facility that had recently been under discussion. He stated the Committee requested Town Manager Laura Roberts meet with Chancellor Donna Henry to discuss the project in greater detail and for the College to have representation on the Recreation Committee regarding the facility should a partnership on the project be pursued.

**Archery Tournament:**

Smith reminded the upcoming Archery Tournament was scheduled to take place April 26-28, 2024 at the Town of Wise Sports Complex. He advised the Complex would be unavailable for regular sports use during the tournament for safety reasons. Councilman Smith stated he was hopeful that hosting such a tournament would bring larger events to the Complex in the future.

**Sports Complex:**

Smith informed work was continuing at the Town of Wise Sports Complex, including the installation of additional fencing, and decorating of the entryway by adding signage and landscaping to the gate area. He added the schedule for the upcoming 2024 season would be completed soon.

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Jeffery Dotson, Chair, reviewed the meeting of the Public Safety Committee held on January 24, 2024 to discuss a request to change a portion of Water Street to one-way only. He explained the

request originated from residents who had been involved in motor vehicle accidents at the intersection of Norton Road and Water Street. Chairman Dotson stated accident reports from the past five years were obtained from the Town of Wise Police Department and reflected a total of 13 accidents with no injuries. He noted businesses in the area such as The Inn at Wise and Wise Dental would be burdened if the road was changed to a one-way street. Following a brief discussion, Dotson stated the Public Safety Committee did not recommend changing the portion of Water Street from the intersection of Norton Rd to Spring Avenue to a one-way street.

**PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT:**

Caynor Smith, Jr., Chair, summarized the meeting of the Public Works Committee held on January 24, 2024 to discuss a request to purchase up to 300,000 gallons of treated water per day from the Town of Wise for 30-90 days. He advised Davis Water Service had requested to purchase the water to sell to Fleming-Neon, Kentucky. Smith stated that although the Committee wanted to help the neighboring area, it did not recommend pursuing an agreement to sell water as requested, citing additional water treatment and staffing costs, potential requests from Wise County Public Service Authority to purchase water, and reduced water storage capacity due to upcoming tank maintenance as reasons for the recommendation. Councilman Robin Dotson made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Public Works Committee as presented. Ben Conway seconded the motion that passed 5-0.

**ANNUAL REPORTS (Informational Purposes Only) – Acknowledgement of Receipt:**

The Town of Wise Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals submitted annual reports for calendar year 2023 for Council review and acknowledgment of receipt. There being no questions or comments, Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion acknowledging receipt of the annual reports. Ben Conway seconded the motion, which carried 5-0.

**APPOINTEE REPORTS (Informational Purposes Only) – Acknowledgement of Receipt:**

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion acknowledging receipt of the following appointee report:

1. Cumberlands Airport Commission regular meeting from January 18, 2024

Robin Dotson seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

**COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Councilman Caynor Smith, Jr. paid tribute to William Christopher “Chris” Rose, a talented, well-known musician in Wise County, who passed away on November 29, 2023. He informed Rose taught music at Mountain Empire Community College and UVA-Wise and was a dear friend to the community who loved to participate in charitable events through his love for music. Smith stated Rose would be sorely missed.

Ben Conway advised work on the Bear Creek Reservoir Trail Project was underway.

Mayor Adkins commended the Public Works Department for keeping roadways clear during the recent winter storm.

Councilman Jeffery Dotson requested Council approval to have Fire, Police and Rescue banners placed on the street light posts in front of the Town of Wise Municipal Building to honor those who serve and put their lives on the line to help others. Council concurred with Dotson's request.

**STAFF COMMENT:**

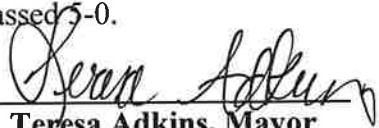
Town Manager Laura Roberts reminded the Council/Staff Retreat would be held on February 10, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at UVA-Wise Alumni Hall. Roberts asked Council to be prepared to discuss Capital Outlay projects desired to be included in the FY 2024-2025 budget.

Police Chief Kevin Yates commended the Public Works Department for a job well done on clearing snow from roadways during the winter storm.

**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.

  
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**Sarina F. Collins , Town Clerk/Treasurer**

  
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**Teresa Adkins, Mayor**