

**WISE TOWN COUNCIL  
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING  
Tuesday, April 1, 2024; 4:00 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

**AGENDA CHANGES:**

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

**PUBLIC EXPRESSION:**

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

**DISCUSSION OF THE FY 2024-2025 BUDGET:**

Town Manager Laura Roberts reviewed the first draft of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-2025, noting a 3% increase over the current year's budget. She reported the proposal included full staffing for all departments and added funding in contingencies for the potential creation of two new positions. A 3% cost of living adjustment and a 3% automatic step raise for eligible employees was also included, with no increase in health insurance premiums, Roberts added. She stated revenue estimates were conservative and no increases in Real Estate taxes, Personal Property taxes, or Business License taxes and fees had been proposed. Also noted by Roberts was the inclusion of a new monthly tank and line maintenance fee for all water and sewer customers to offset the cost of annual tank maintenance fees and upgrades to the Town's water and sewer lines. She advised there were no proposed increases in water and sewer rates for the upcoming fiscal year. Ben Conway opined increasing water and sewer rates would be more beneficial than a maintenance fee in that the increase would be distributed evenly, citing minimum billing customers as an example. Councilman Smith stated that increasing the rates could potentially deter new residents from moving to Wise.

Department heads were asked to present departmental requests to Council:

**Doug Bates, Recreation Specialist:**

- Installation of Tee Ball fields

Bates informed Town personnel would likely perform most of the work on the Tee Ball fields. Councilman Jeffery Dotson opined that the Public Works Department needed to focus on tasks requiring attention inside the corporation limits through the end of the 2024 calendar year in preparation for the Town's Centennial Celebration events. Councilman Smith advised work on the new Tee Ball fields would commence after the Centennial Celebration. Jeffery Dotson stated he was proud of all improvements that had been completed at the Sports Complex.

Adrian Dale, Street Superintendent:

- Traffic control cones and barrels
- Local paving and pavement marking
- Various Public Works facility improvements
- Sidewalk construction/ reconstruction
- Traffic light replacement
- Guardrail replacement
- Purchase of new Ford F-150 pickup truck
- Food Truck Incubator project
- Ornamental street lamps
- Fire alarm system for Public Works facility

Jerry Kilgore, Utility Superintendent:

- Water and sewer line replacement
- Fire hydrant replacement
- Radio-read water meters
- Generator repairs

Caleb Ramsey, Water Treatment Plant:

- Purchase of a new John Deere 3043D compact tractor with mowing attachment for Dam
- Filtration equipment maintenance
- Wastewater basin pumping

Councilman Smith inquired if Ramsey had received guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) regulation. Ramsey indicated there were no regulations to date.

Natasha Proulex, Special Events:

- Replacement of movie projector at Big Glades
- Purchase of new Side-by-side ATV or golf cart for use during special events
- New Christmas decorations
- Centennial Celebration event expense

Reagan Walsh, Town Planner:

- Economic Development Authority start-up and programming expenses

Caynor Smith, Jr. informed he had received positive feedback regarding the Town's Economic Development Authority. Mayor Adkins suggested Town Council and the EDA have a joint annual meeting.

Kevin Yates, Police Chief:

- Replacement of expired equipment – taser cartridges
- Computer Server replacement
- Radar Equipment
- New body camera equipment (if Byrnes Justice Grant received)

Councilman Smith commended Chief Yates, stating he had received positive feedback regarding Yates' presence in the community as Chief of Police. Jeffery Dotson suggested the Town fund the purchase of body cameras for the Police Department if grant funding was not received, explaining the importance of the equipment.

Sarina Collins, Town Treasurer/ Clerk of Council:

- Purchase of new AS400 IBM Power System S1014 to replace aging machine
- Purchase of new Dell Poweredge R550 Web Server to replace aging machine

Town Manager Laura Roberts noted a proposed increase in the Town's donation to the Wise Rescue Squad for FY 2024-2025, citing new drug administration requirements and the need for matching funds for the purchase of a new Rescue Squad vehicle as reasons.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

On a motion made by Jeffery Dotson and a second by Caynor Smith, Jr. 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:**

Caynor Smith, Jr. made a motion to reconvene in open session. Robin Dotson seconded the motion that carried 5-0.

**CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED SESSION – CM RESOLUTION #3, 2024:**

Sarina Collins, Town Clerk/Treasurer, read Closed Meeting Resolution #3, 2024, "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" |

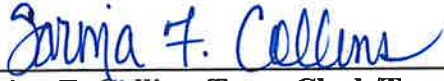
**COUNCIL COMMENT:**

Caynor Smith, Jr. stated the new banners placed on ornamental light posts throughout Town were nice.


Jeffery Dotson requested Council approval to have Fire, Police, Rescue, and Veteran banners placed on the three light posts located in front of Town Hall in support of emergency services and veterans. Council concurred with the request.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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



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

  
**Teresa Adkins, Mayor**