

Board of Supervisors – February 10, 2022 Regular Meeting

The Wise County Board of Supervisors met in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, February 10, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Education Center located at 628 Lake Street in Wise. The following members were present:

Honorable J. H. Rivers – Chairman
Honorable John Schoolcraft – Vice-Chairman
Honorable Fred Luntsford
Honorable Randy Carter
Honorable Robert R. Adkins
Honorable Steve Bates
Honorable James R. Lawson
Honorable Tim Boardwine - members of said Board and
Michael W. Hatfield – County Administrator
Karen T. Mullins – County Attorney
Annette Underwood – Executive Secretary

PRAYER

Bob Adkins led in prayer.

PLEDGE

All led in the pledge.

MINUTES

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by James Lawson, to approve the 1-13-2022 minutes of the Organizational Meeting, and the minutes of the Regular Meeting of 1-13-2022 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Randy Carter, seconded by Tim Boardwine, to approve the agenda as presented to include items in red. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RATIFY SETTING PUBLIC HEARING – TAX ABATEMENT ORDINANCE

A motion was made by Tim Boardwine, seconded by Bob Adkins, to ratify setting a public hearing for 2-10-2022 @ 6:00 p.m. on a proposed ordinance to allow a locality to offer a tax abatement. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RATIFY RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT – HOUSE BILL 894

A motion was made by James Lawson, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to ratify the resolution in support of House Bill 894: Generation of electricity and energy development in the Commonwealth. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 7 - 2022

(Said resolution is on file in the County Administrator's Office)

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE TAX ABATEMENT

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments on a proposed ordinance to allow a locality to offer a tax abatement as incentive for rehabilitated, renovated or replacement of existing residential and commercial structures.

There being no public input the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCE TO LEVY MEALS & BEVERAGE TAX

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments on a proposed ordinance to levy a meals and beverage tax in Wise County.

There being no public comments, the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: EMPOWER 457 RETIREMENT PLAN

Charlie Brennan, Regional Sales Director for Empower, provided the Board with a power point presentation on Empower' 457 Retirement Plan, and its modern technology platform.

IN RE: NATIONWIDE 457 RETIREMENT PLAN

Selmon Robinson, a Retirement Specialist for Nationwide, provided the Board with a power point presentation on Nationwide's 457 Retirement Plan and the many benefits that are offered to the employees. He reviewed the Deferred Comp Plan to show how you can grow savings and meet your retirement needs.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION

Teresa Robinette, representing the Art Gallery, made a request to the Board for a contribution of \$3,000 for the Art Gallery in the upcoming budget. She gave a brief overview of the Art Gallery's activities and its future goals.

Stacey Carson, Mayor of Pound, stated that the Town of Pound has been given a year to get the Town going in the right direction or lose its charter. Ms. Carson said she and others are working on different

ways they can correct mistakes that have been made and bring the Town together. She said that any assistance from the Board of Supervisors is appreciated.

Treasurer Delores Smith provided the Board with an overview of the County collection rate as of January 2022.

There being no further comments, the public expression period was closed.

IN RE: CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

IN RE: RESOLUTION – HAMILTOWN SEWER PROJECT

Approved the Resolution of Compliance for the Hamiltontown Phase II Sewer Project

RESOLUTION # 8 - 2022

(Said resolution is on file in the County Administrator's Office)

IN RE: RESOLUTION – CITY OF BRISTOL – REGIONAL JAIL AUTHORITY

Adopted the Resolution Approving City of Bristol Becoming Member of the Regional Jail Authority

RESOLUTION # 9 - 2022

(Said resolution is on file in the County Administrator's Office)

The motion to approve the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

IN RE: ORDINANCE – TAX ABATEMENT

A public hearing was held on 2-10-2022 to receive citizens' comments on the proposed tax abatement ordinance for Wise County with no public comments being made.

A motion was made by Randy Carter seconded by Tim Boardwine, to approve the Ordinance Allowing a Locality to Offer a Tax Abatement as an incentive for rehabilitated, renovated or replacement of existing residential and commercial structures. The motion was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE # 1--2022

(Said ordinance is on file in the County Administrator's Office)

IN RE: ORDINANCE TO LEVY A MEALS & BEVERAGE TAX IN WISE COUNTY

A public hearing was held on 2-10-2022 to receive citizens' comments on the proposed Meals & Beverage Tax Ordinance for Wise County with no public comments being made.

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the Ordinance to Levy a Meals and Beverage Tax in Wise County. The motion was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE # 2 -2022

(Said Ordinance is on file in the County Administrator's Office)

IN RE: BUDGET COMMITTEE

Chairman Rivers stated that he would like for all Board members, if possible, to participate in preparing the upcoming budget. He asked Administrator Hatfield and Finance Director Villard to gather the budget information, and if possible, have a budget workshop early March.

IN RE: BUDGET AMENDMENTS

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Tim Boardwine, to approve budget amendments #22 thru #28 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: CLOSED SESSION

A motion was made by John Schoolcraft, seconded by Randy Carter, to go into closed session as permitted by the Code of Virginia per the following Code Sections:

- Section 2.2-3711(A)(6) Investing of public funds
- (A)(7) Consultation with legal counsel
- (A)(1) Personnel

The motion was unanimously approved.

Following closed session, a motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by Tim Boardwine, to reconvene the regular meeting. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RESOLUTION CLOSED SESSION CERTIFICATION

Fred Luntsford read the certification for closed meeting.

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by Randy Carter, to approve the resolution certifying that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard or discussed by the Board of Supervisors. The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION # 10- 2022

(Said resolution is on file in the County Administrator's Office)

IN RE: ORDINANCE to LEVY A MEALS & BEVERAGE TAX – (AMENDMENT)

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to amend the Ordinance to Levy a Meals & Beverage Tax in Wise County by adding the effective date of the Ordinance as July 1, 2022. The motion was unanimously approved.

(Amendment to the Ordinance to Levy a Meals & Beverage Tax in Wise County)

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Administrator Hatfield informed the Board that the IDA, at its Special Called Meeting on Wednesday, appointed Brian Falin as the Interim Executive Director for the IDA.

He gave an update on the status of the IDA Audit.

BOARD COMMENTS

Supervisor Bates spoke briefly on the need to re-visit funding for the rescue squads.

Supervisor Schoolcraft asked that the Board do some type of recognition for Carl Snodgrass for his many years of service to Wise County and its citizens. His hard work and expertise in his field of business has greatly benefited the County.

J. H. asked Board members to review the handout on the Rescue funds prior to next Board meeting

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Tim Boardwine, seconded by James Lawson, to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTEST:

WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Michael W. Hatfield, Clerk

J. H. Rivers, Chairman