

Board of Supervisors - December 12, 2019 Regular Meeting

The Wise County Board of Supervisors met in a Regular Meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2019 @ 6:00 pm in the School Board Education Center located at 628 Lake Street in Wise. The following members were present:

ABSENT

Honorable Robert R. Robbins, Jr. – Vice-Chairman
Honorable J. H. Rivers
Honorable John Schoolcraft
Honorable Fred Luntsford
Honorable Bobby Cassell
Honorable Robert R. Adkins, members of said Board and
Michael W. Hatfield – County Administrator
Karen T. Mullins – County Attorney
Annette Underwood – Executive Secretary

Honorable Dana G. Kilgore – Chairman
Honorable Steve Bates

PRAYER

Bob Adkins led in prayer.

PLEDGE

All led in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

AGENDA

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by J. H. Rivers, to approve the agenda as presented to include the items in red. The motion was unanimously approved.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the minutes of November 14, 2019 as presented. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE 2ND AMENDMENT SANCTUARY----- PUBLIC EXPRESSION

A delegation of 300 or more filled the Board room regarding the proposed 2nd Amendment Sanctuary Resolution that is being considered by the Board of Supervisors. A proposal on gun restrictions is expected to be brought before the General Assembly in January by Governor Ralph Northam and the Democratic state lawmakers. There have been 84 counties that have approved a resolution in support of the Second Amendment Sanctuary.

The following individuals voiced their opposition to any gun control proposals that are being brought before the General Assembly in January: Rusty Peters, Jamie Hopkins, Ron Norris, Tyler Hopkins, Charles Baird, Hughie Ellis, Mark Caruso, Christina Pillow, Scott Beverly, Danny Robinson, Andy Skeens, Steve Countiss, and Travis Anderson. Comments, to mention a few, were as follows:

- More Americans are killed by hammer attacks than guns

- Giving government more control over people
- Gun control is crossing the line for our rights
- We the people will fight for our rights
- These proposals on gun control could some day be used to confiscate guns
- Gun owners standing on the 2nd Amendment are prepared to fight if necessary
- Citizens are being forced to defend their gun rights
- Gun control will only give criminals more freedom, and less safety for law-abiding citizens to defend themselves
- There is no middle ground on this issue
- No one wants violence but the people will stand for their rights
- Don't blame the guns, blame the person holding the gun

The Board was given a petition with 2,000 signatures opposing the proposals being submitted to the General Assembly in January on gun control. Also, a delegation of gun rights advocates is planning a trip to Richmond in January to send a message to lawmakers that the people are ready to fight for their rights.

Administrator Hatfield read the proposed resolution.

Board members thanked the citizens for coming out, and standing together, to defend their rights. The Board realizes that taking citizens guns is not the answer to this problem.

A motion was made by J. H. Rivers, seconded by Bob Adkins, to approve the resolution expressing the Board's intent to support and defend the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article 1, Section 13, and further declares Wise County, Virginia as a "Second Amendment Sanctuary". The motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

RESOLUTION # -2019

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

RECESS

The Board took a recess at 7:18 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 7:23 p.m.

AGENDA - AMENDMENT

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by Bobby Cassell, to move the consent agenda before Roads and Highways for consideration by the Board. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: CONSENT AGENDA

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by J. H. Rivers, to approve the consent agenda as follows:

IN RE: APPROPRIATIONS – THIRD QUARTER

Approved the 3rd quarter appropriations

IN RE: CALENDAR – 2020 HOLIDAY AND PAYDAY

Approved the 2020 Holiday and payday calendar

IN RE: FREE WILL BAPTIST FAMILY MINISTERIES, INC

Approved setting a public hearing (1-9-2020 @ 6:00 p.m.) on a proposed tax-exempt ordinance for the Free Will Baptist Family Ministries, Inc.

The motion to approve the consent agenda was unanimously approved.

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – PRE-EMPLOYMENT FINGER PRINTING

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments regarding a proposed Ordinance on Pre-employment Finger Printing.

There being no public comments regarding the proposed ordinance, the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: PUBLIC HEARING – TAX-EXEMPT ORDINANCE - FAMILY CRISIS SUPPORT SERVICES

A public hearing was duly advertised for this date to receive citizens' comments regarding a proposed Tax-exempt Ordinance for the Family Crisis Support Services.

There being no public comments regarding the proposed ordinance, the public hearing was closed.

IN RE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Economic Development Director Carl Snodgrass, and Assistant Economic Development Director Brian Falin provided a power point presentation on Wise County Economic and Industrial Development beginning with the creation of the Industrial Development Authority in 1966. The following topics were reviewed in detail:

- Wise County IDA Activity Highlights
- Property Transactions
- Property Management & Maintenance
- Business & Financial Activity
- Mineral Gap Solar Site Prep Project
- VCEDA Seed Capital Grant Recipients
- Other activity
- Wise County IDA Fiscal Impact
- Significant Projects Assessed Value - \$1,410,110,507.00
- Generating \$9,885,397.65 annual tax revenue
- Total net new jobs: 1,961

Mr. Snodgrass noted that when all of these components are brought together in a unified approach, the result is a solid foundation for economic development success.

IN RE: MARKETING AND TOURISM UPDATE

Marketing and Tourism Director Michael Wampler provided the Board with an update on tourism and community development. The following topics were reviewed in detail:

- Noteworthy accomplishments
- Local and Regional Partners
- Board Representation
- Website Development
- High Knob Master Plan
- Appalachian Back Roads
- Spirits of the Clinch
- Thomas' Blackbird Farms Corn Maze
- Heart of Appalachian Tourism Authority
- Southwest Virginia Historical Museum State Park
- The Crooked Road
- Country Cabin
- Lays Hardware Center for the Arts
- Clinch River State Park
- Clinch Life Outfitters
- Spearhead Trails
- Blue Ridge Outdoor Magazine
- SolSmart Silver Designation
- Economic Impact

Supervisor Rivers and Supervisor Robbins noted that the County needs to market farm land in Wise County.

IN RE: ORDINANCE PRE-EMPLOYMENT FINGER PRINTING

A public hearing was held on 12-12-2019 to receive citizens' comments regarding a proposed Ordinance on Pre-employment Finger Printing. There was no opposition to the ordinance.

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by Bobby Cassell, to approve the Ordinance on Pre-employment Finger Printing. The motion was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE # -2019

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

IN RE: ORDINANCE TAX-EXEMPT -----(Family Crisis Support Services)

A public hearing was held on 12-12-2019 to receive citizens' comments regarding a proposed Tax-Exempt Ordinance for Family Crisis Support Services. There was no public opposition to the ordinance.

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by John Schoolcraft, to approve the Tax-Exempt Ordinance for the Family Crisis Support Services in Wise County. The motion was unanimously approved.

ORDINANCE # 2019

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

IN RE: RESOLUTION NEW TAX CLASSIFICATION

A motion was made by J. H. Rivers, seconded by Fred Luntsford, to approve the resolution in support of the proposed legislation amending Virginia Code Section 58.1-3221.3 to allow a tax classification for large land holdings of 1000 acres or more. The motion was unanimously approved.

RESOLUTION # 2019

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

IN RE: CHAIRMAN TO SIGN CHECKS

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by J. H. Rivers, to authorize the 2019 Chairman to sign checks until new signature plates arrive for the 2020 Chairman. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING DATE

A motion was made by Bob Adkins, seconded by Bobby Cassell, to set the organizational Meeting for Thursday, January 9, 2020 @ 5:50 p.m. in the School Board Educational Center. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – PLANNING COMMISSION

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by Bobby Cassell to re-appoint Duane Miller to the Planning Commission for a term to expire 11/30/2023. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – RECREATIONAL AUTHORITY

A motion was made by Fred Luntsford, seconded by Bobby Cassell, to re-appoint Kay Shortt to the Recreational Authority for a term to expire 11/30/2023. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN: APPOINTMENT – SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD

A motion was made by Bobby Cassell, seconded by Fred Luntsford, to re-appoint Duane Miller to the Social Services Board for a term to expire 11/30/2023. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: AGENDA AMENDMENT

A motion was made by J. H. Rivers, seconded by Bob Adkins, to amend the agenda to consider the RIFA appointment. The motion was unanimously approved.

IN RE: APPOINTMENT – REGIONAL INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES AUTHORITY (RIFA)

J. H. Rivers nominated Michael W. Hatfield for re-appointment to the Regional Industrial Facilities Authority. Fred Luntsford made a motion that nominations cease, and Michael W. Hatfield be re-appointed to RIFA by acclamation. Bobby Cassell second the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

BOARD COMMENTS

Board members voiced their support for the 2nd Amendment Sanctuary, and the need to work with other counties in pooling funding sources to help fight against these new gun restrictions if adopted.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by Bobby Cassell, seconded by Fred Luntsford, to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. The motion was unanimously approved.

ATTEST:

WISE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Michael W. Hatfield, Clerk
