Council Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2009

The Tazewell Town Council met in regular session at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present:
Mayor Jack Harry
Vice-Mayor Charles Grindstaff
Councilmember Chris Blankenship
Councilmember A. D. Buchanan
Councilmember Kim Long
Councilmember Danny Willis
Councilmember David Fox

None:

Staff present were Town Manager, Jerry G. Wood; Administrative Assistant, Robin Brewster; Attorney, Brad Pyott; Police Chief, Brian Hieatt; Public Works Director, Steve Frederick and Recreation Director, Betty Conn.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

(6:00 p.m.) A public hearing was held for the second reading of the FY10 Budget. Mayor Harry inquired if there was anyone to speak or have comments regarding the FY10 Budget. There was no one to speak. With no further comments Mayor Harry closed the Public Hearing.

(6:15 p.m.) A joint public hearing was held with the Planning Commission to receive public comment on a request to rezone property at the south side of West Main Street from a current R-1 (residential) to B-1 (business).

Mayor Harry read the Public Notice that was advertised in the local newspaper.

Manager Wood stated there were no letters regarding this rezoning received. There was one telephone call from David Altizer in opposition.

David Altizer addressed his concerns regarding the rezoning. He presented pictures showing the lot in question.

Concerns: #1 Business would be right in his back door and property has always been zoned residential.
#2 Concerned that his property will be adversely affected.
#3 Don't know change being made, may decrease property value, increased noise, increased traffic, environmental issues (presented picture of wetlands on this lot), sink holes & caves on lot, deeded easement through field for drainage (above ground & below) (presented picture of drain line that runs across property), excavation - limestone runs through this lot, his property, and several other

neighbors (presented picture). Stated he would like to see this lot remain residential. With no further comments Mayor Harry closed the Public Hearing.

(6:45 p.m.) A joint public hearing was held with the Planning Commission to receive public comment on a request to rezone property at Fincastle Turnpike from a current R-1 (residential) to B-1 (business).

Mayor Harry read the Public Notice that was advertised in the local newspaper.

Manager Wood stated there was a letter submitted by Elizabeth Coates in opposition to the rezoning. Manager Wood had seven (7) telephone calls in opposition and Robin Brewster had one telephone call from Lindsey Harman in opposition.

<u>In Support:</u>
Dr. Steve Lutz stated he has outgrown his current facility and needs a larger facility for his dental business.

Henry Nickels stated he was interested in developing property and thought it would be nice to have a nice building in the neighborhood. He discussed many buildings his company has built or improved over the years in Tazewell. He would like them to consider what they have done in the past and what they can offer to the community.

<u>In Opposition:</u>
Nancy Turner stated her concern of increased traffic on Fincastle.

Lindsey Harman stated his concern of increased traffic on Fincastle and water drainage from the lot after it is paved. He questioned Mr. Nickels if he had investigated the drainage problem. Mr. Nickels stated he had talked with a company that handles this. He also stated commercial property is thoroughly inspected regarding drainage before a project is started. Manager Wood agreed with Mr. Nickels and also stated to Mr. Harman that any entrance or driveway would have to be brought before the planning commission for approval. Mr. Harman stated he is not completely in opposition, but would like it to be done correctly.

Ann Coates stated she would like it to stay residential because of increased traffic and how it would change the entire neighborhood's residential flavor.

Manager Wood stated there had been concern about a possible Methadone Clinic being built, but assured everyone none of the zoning in Town allows this type clinic.

Charles Vanhoozier stated his concern of water drainage and increased traffic.

Ernest Hess stated Mr. Nickels should develop this lot with residential development instead of commercial.

With no further comments Mayor Harry closed the Public Hearing.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harry called the regular meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance and invocation by Ernest Hess.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dennis Lee (Drug Task Force) has postponed his presentation until the July Council meeting.

Steve Halley (Brian Injury Services in Abingdon) made a request to Town Council to allocate money in the FY10 Budget for funding of his company. Manager Wood stated the budget had to be approved before bringing information from this group to Town Council. Mayor Harry allowed Mr. Halley to go ahead and tell what his company does. Mr. Halley introduced Thomas Charmbey to speak on behalf of Mr. Halley's services. Mr. Charmbey discussed his brain injury and how Mr. Halley's services have helped him.

Dennis Robinson of 101 Tazewell Avenue inquired on the status of the red light at the intersection at Fincastle, the status of trash cans to be put on the poles, and the status of the Town clock. Mayor Harry stated VDOT is doing a study on the red light. Manager Wood stated the trash cans had been approved to put on the poles by APCO before the Main Street Heritage Festival. Mayor Harry stated Councilmember Fox is working on the Town clock.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Grindstaff, seconded by Councilmember Long to approve the Council Meeting Minutes and Work Session Minutes of May 12, 2009. On vote, Vice-Mayor Grindstaff, aye; Councilmember Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Buchanan, aye; Councilmember Long, aye; Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Buchanan, seconded by Councilmember Blankenship to approve the financial statement for May 2009. On vote, Vice-Mayor Grindstaff, aye; Councilmember Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Buchanan, aye; Councilmember Long, aye; Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye.

OPERATING REPORTS

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Grindstaff, seconded by Councilmember Fox to approve the operating reports for May 2009. On vote, Vice-Mayor Grindstaff, aye; Councilmember Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Buchanan, aye; Councilmember Long, aye; Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye.

RECOMMENDATION FROM PLANNING COMMISSION

Chairman Mac Payne stated there would be no change on property located at West Main Street. On vote, all aye with one to abstain.

Chairman Mac Payne stated there would be no change on property located at East Fincastle. On vote, 4-2 in favor of no change.

2ND READING OF FY10 BUDGET & APPROVAL

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Grindstaff, seconded by Councilmember Long to approve the FY10 Budget. On vote, Vice-Mayor Grindstaff, aye; Councilmember Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Buchanan, aye; Councilmember Long, aye; Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye.

REPORT ON NORTH TAZEWELL WATER TANK

Manager Wood reported he received a report from engineers that in the next 30-45 days there would be an upgrade to put pumps in at the Sewer Plant. He was informed there would not be a need to bid them out since they have to be replaced.

REPORT FROM PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Councilmember Blankenship reported on paving. He stated we had currently spent $155,000. The committee would like to pave Fairground Road from 19-460 to the railroad tracks, Pine Street (from the church to Tazewell Avenue), from the North Tazewell Post Office to the railroad tracks, and restripe streets with remaining money.

MISCELLANEOUS

Steve Frederick stated the paving company had to pull out and go to Grundy, but they should be back this week. Mr. Frederick stated there is approximately one day of paving remaining to complete.

Steve Frederick stated on the agenda of the May Council meeting the American Legion roof bids were approved and by this meeting the roof is already completed and looks wonderful.

Brian Hieatt gave a presentation regarding a technology training he attended in San Diego.

Councilmember Willis stated a business owner had approached him regarding the “Street Closed” sign at end of Main Street. The business owner stated it was confusing some of his customers about whether the street was closed or not. Manager Wood stated the sign plainly stated the street is closed only to tractor trailer trucks during a certain period of time. Councilmember Willis stated he would relay this information on to this business owner.

Councilmember Fox discussed the drainage problem for Pine Street after being paved. He also inquired on the status of the condemnation houses on Depot Street and Hopkins Street. Manager Wood stated the house on Hopkins Street would be torn down this year.

Councilmember Buchanan inquired on the status of the 911 addressing. Manager Wood stated we are 85% complete.

Councilmember Buchanan instructed Manager Wood to give a status report on the last Broadband meeting. Manager Wood discussed the information that was given at the meeting.

Councilmember Buchanan inquired about the status of the CDBG grant . Manager Wood stated they were waiting to hear from CDBG.

Mayor Harry reminded everyone the Main Street concerts begin this week and flag day is June 14th.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before Council, Mayor Harry adjourned the meeting until the next scheduled meeting.