

Council Meeting Minutes September 10, 2013

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

Present:

Mayor A. D. Buchanan, Jr.
Councilmember Chris Brown
Councilmember Glenn Catron
Councilmember David Fox
Councilmember Jack Murray
Councilmember Terry Mullins

Absent:

Vice-Mayor Chris Blankenship

Staff present were Clerk, Linda S. Griffith; Town Attorney, Buck Brittain; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; Police Chief, DeWitt Cooper; Zoning Administrator, Donald Pruitt, Jr. and Fire Chief, Josh Roberts.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Buchanan called the meeting to order with a moment of silence for the 9/11 victims. Everyone stood for the pledge of allegiance and invocation by Josh Roberts.

VETERAN'S DAY PARADE

Edith Jackson gave a report from the Veteran Day Parade Committee stating the parade will be held on November 10, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Jackson stated the parade should be bigger and better this year due.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron, seconded by Councilmember Murray to approve the minutes of August 6, 2013. On vote, Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray, seconded by Councilmember Fox to approve the minutes of August 13, 2013. On vote, Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron, seconded by Councilmember Murray to approve the financial statements for August 2013. On vote, Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

PROJECT AND ACTIVITY REPORTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Mullins, seconded by Councilmember fox to approve the project and activity reports for August 2013. On vote, Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

Mayor Buchanan thanked Tracie Lewis for putting together the employee picnic.

Councilmember Brown stated he had heard a lot of complaints of the Town Hall being closed for the employee's picnic doing working hours. Councilmember Brown stated that the employees deserved those hours and that showed appreciation to the employee.

FISHING AT LINCOLNSHIRE PARK

Councilmember Fox stated the Lincolnshire Park should be open 24 hours a day for fishermen to be able to fish.

Councilmember Murray asked Councilmember Fox asked why the fishermen that were interested in fishing don't come to Council meeting.

Councilmember Brown stated he didn't have a problem with the lake being open 24 hours, but was concerned about the Town's liability.

Chief Cooper stated he was also concerned about the safety of everyone entering the park.

Councilmember Mullins agreed with Councilmember Murray about the interested fishermen to show up at the meetings.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Murray to table the matter until the next meeting. On vote, Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

PAVING APPROVAL

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron, seconded by Councilmember Fox to accept the low bid from W&L Construction & Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$252,126.30 for street paving. On vote, Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

GARBAGE TRUCK BIDS

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Murray to accept the bid from Mid-State Equipment Co., Inc. in the amount of \$148,125 due to company being located in Virginia. On vote, Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

LINE OF CREDIT

Treasurer, Linda S. Griffith asked Council to authorize her to sign documentation to obtain a line of credit in the amount of \$350,000 from First Community Bank.

Motion as made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Fox to authorize Treasurer, Linda S. Griffith sign documents to obtain a line of credit in the amount of \$350,000 from First Community Bank. On vote, Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

INTERNET ONLINE BILL PAY

Treasurer, Linda S. Griffith advised Council that the online bill pay should be up and running by October 1, 2013 in time for tax collections.

TOWN STICKERS

Accounting Clerk, LEEANNE BILLINGS presented options to Council on the decal implementation for the “forever decal”.

Councilmember Brown stated he was not in favor of a handicap tag being at no charge for a Town decal.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Murray to hold a public hearing on October 8, 2013 at 7:15 p.m. for the “forever decal”. On vote, Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

MOUNTAIN ADVISOR DISTRIBUTION

Councilmember Murray stated he has been fighting for five months to get Mountain Advisor to quit throwing paper all over town on sidewalks and in the ditches.

Jim Talbert with the Clinch Valley News stated he would talk to the circulating manager of the paper concerning this matter.

Chief Cooper stated he had many complaints about the papers being thrown out in the driveways.

ELDERLY TAX EXEMPTION

Councilmember Murray apologized for voting no on the elderly tax exemption and at the time he didn't realize who it would affect. Councilmember Murray stated he would like to reconsider the elderly tax exemption to help the elderly widows that need this exemption.

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray, seconded by Councilmember Fox to approve the elderly tax exemption. On vote, Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

POLITICAL SIGNS

Mayor Buchanan tabled the political signs issue to the Planning Commission.

SIDEWALKS – MAIN STREET

Motion was made by Councilmember Mullins, seconded by Councilmember Fox for Manager Day to bid out the materials for the sidewalk in front of Tazewell County Courthouse. On vote, Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

APPROVAL OF CONDEMNATION – 302 PISGAH ROAD

Zoning Administrator, Donald Pruitt came before Council requesting the condemnation of 302 Pisgah Road, which was damaged by a fire on July 4, 2012.

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron, seconded by Councilmember Fox to condemn 302 Pisgah Road. On vote, Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

STREET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR UNNAMED STREET BETWEEN HANKLA AND FINVIEW STREET

Councilmember Fox stated the Street Committee recommendation for the unnamed street between Hankla and Finview Street to be named Claude Lane.

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron, seconded by Councilmember Murray to name the street between Hankla and Finview Street Claude Lane. On vote, Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

STREET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION FOR CROSSWALK – N'TELOS FOURWAY

Councilmember Fox stated the Street Committee recommended that a crosswalk be placed in front N'Telos at Fourway.

Council advised that this needed to be done after the paving is done.

STREET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION – GUARDRAIL MAIN STREET CURVE

Councilmember Fox stated the Street Committee recommended that a guardrail be placed at corner of Main Street and asked for a cost estimated for the guardrail.

KIDS FISH DAY

Mayor Buchanan advised Kids Fish Day will be October 5, 2013 at Dunford Park.

FOOTBALL HOMECOMING PARADE

Mayor Buchanan advised the Football Homecoming Parade will be Thursday, October 3, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Buchanan stated he would like to hold Council meeting earlier during the winter months.

With no further business to come before Council, meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.