

## **Council Meeting Minutes October 8, 2013**

The Tazewell Town Council met in regular session at 7:15 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

**Present:**

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

**Absent:**

Councilmember Chris Brown

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

### **AMENDMENT TO DECAL ORDINANCE**

The Tazewell Town Council held a public hearing at 7:15 p.m. to receive public comments on a proposed amendment to the Decal Ordinance for a forever decal to be purchased and the \$10 will be added to the citizen's personal property taxes each year. The town decal will be sold each May for \$10 per decal.

Mayor Buchanan asked for public comments on the forever decal.

There were no public comments.

### **ELDERLY TAX ORDINANCE**

The Tazewell Town Council held a public hearing at 7:20 p.m. to receive public comments on an Elderly Tax Ordinance. The Elderly Tax Ordinance would allow those citizens that register and qualify based on financial income to receive a discount at a rate 44% off their real estate taxes.

There were no public comments.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray, seconded by Councilmember Fox to approve the minutes of September 10, 2013. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray, seconded by Councilmember Fox to approve the financial statements for September 2013. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, 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 Catron to approve the project and activity reports for September 2013. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

## **DRY TOWN SEWER PROJECT**

Manager Day stated on the Dry Town Sewer Project that we are still working on easements and land acquisition for condemnations.

## **ROUTE 61**

Manager Day stated was in the process of obtaining land acquisition and the Route 61 Project is scheduled for bid 2015 and should be fully funded.

## **LINCOLNSHIRE DAM**

Manager Day stated the Town has received several small grants for Lincolnshire Dam.

## **CONSTRUCTIONS**

Manager Day stated that Town Maintenance crew will be working on the sidewalks on Main Street beside of courthouse, shelters at Lincolnshire Park, and the Little League Field.

## **LINE OF CREDIT**

Manager Day stated the Town should be closing on the Line of Credit on Thursday, October 17, 2013.

## **GUARDRAIL BELOW MAIN STREET**

Donald Pruitt, Zoning Administrator stated he received a quote for guardrail below Main Street for \$6,000.

## **MOUNTAIN PLANNER DISTRIBUTION**

Tommy Dowdy and Sonny Corpus came before Council to discuss distribution of Mountain Planner in the Town of Tazewell. Mr. Dowdy stated that an independent contractor distributes the Mountain Planner to residents in the Town of Tazewell. Mr. Dowdy stated the residents have an option to cancel if they so desire to not receive the Mountain Planner.

Councilmember Murray asked why the Mountain Planner could not be distributed to the businesses for citizens to pick up there. Councilmember Murray stated he was not in favor of the papers being distributed all over Town.

Mr. Dowdy stated had hired an independent contractor to go back and pickup papers.

Manager Day stated they were a lot of papers lying on the sides of the road and in driveways.

## **FISHING AT LINCOLNSHIRE PARK**

Manager Day stated he had spoken with fisherman concerning fishing at Lincolnshire Park and they are in agreement to keep the Lincolnshire Park as they are and look at hours in the spring.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Mayor Buchanan stated the Economic Development Committee met on October 22, 2013 and had a very productive meeting to improve the economy.

Councilmember Murray stated everyone needed to support the business in the Town of Tazewell.

Vice-Mayor Blankenship stated the Town of Tazewell has a better relationship with Tazewell County.

## **AMENDMENT TO DECAL ORDINANCE**

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Murray to amend the decal ordinance to enact a “forever decal” of \$10 per vehicle to be added to their property tax ticket. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

## **ELERDLY TAX ORDINANCE**

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray, seconded by Councilmember Fox to adopt an elderly tax ordinance On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

## **BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE**

Mayor Buchanan thanked the Beautification Committee for the beautiful decorations on Main Street.

## **HYBRID RETIREMENT PLAN**

Robin Brewster, Executive Assistant, advised Town Council she had checked with localities concerning the hybrid retirement plan and she felt it would be to the best interest to remain with the Virginia Retirement System and the new Hybrid Retirement Plan for the upcoming new employees hired after January 1, 2014.

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray, seconded Councilmember Fox to remain with the Virginia Retirement System for current employees and the new Hybrid Retirement Plan for employees hired after January 1, 2014. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

## **POLITICAL SIGNS**

The political signs discussion was tabled until next meeting.

## **PERSONNEL MANUAL**

Manager Day stated a Councilmember requested to have the Holidays changed in the personnel manual.

Council stated to table the personnel manual changes to holidays until have a budget work session.

Councilmember Mullins stated the Town was not able to give raises, but could give back to employees with more time off with Holiday pay.

## **HALLOWEEN HOURS**

Council set Halloween Hours for October 31, 2013 from 5:30 p. m. to 8:00 p.m.

## **PUBLIC HEARING REZONING INDUSTRIAL PARK**

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray, seconded by Councilmember Fox to hold a Public Hearing on November 12, 2013 at 7:15 p.m. for rezoning of the Industrial Park. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

## **HISTORICAL SIGNS**

Councilmember Mullins questioned the historical signs.

Manager Day stated the signs have been ordered.

## **INTERNET – AMERICAN LEGION**

Councilmember Murray questioned the internet expense at the American Legion Building and it was his understanding the Town was going to hookup onto the Tazewell County internet services.

## **VETERAN DAY PARADE**

Mayor Buchanan advised the Veterans Day Parade will be held on November 10, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

## **VML CONFERENCE**

Manager Day advised that he and the Mayor will be attending the VML Conference next week.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

### **RESOLUTION**

Motion made by: Councilmember Murray  
Motion Seconded by: Councilmember Fox  
Vote: All voted aye

Resolution Number: ES10082013  
Meeting Date: October 08, 2013  
Purpose: Legal Matter

### **CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Whereas, the Tazewell Town Council has convened an executive session on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

Whereas, 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Council that such executive session was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Tazewell Town Council hereby certifies 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 executive session to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session were heard, discussed or considered by the Tazewell Town Council.

### **VOTE**

Ayes: Councilmember Blankenship, Catron, Fox, Murray, Mullins

Nays: None

(For each nay vote, the substance of the departure from the requirements of the Act should be described.)

Absent during vote: Councilmember Brown

Absent during meeting: Councilmember Brown

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**Clerk, Linda S. Griffith**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before Council meeting we adjourned at 9:15 p.m.