

Council Meeting Minutes
March 11, 2014

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 Chris Brown
Councilmember Glenn Catron
Councilmember David Fox
Councilmember Terry Mullins

Absent:

Councilmember Jack Murray

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.; Fire Chief, Josh Roberts and Public Works Director, Lawrence Sheppard, Jr.

Planning Commission present were Jerry McReynolds and Kim Santolla.

PUBLIC HEARING – REZONING REQUEST 104 CARLINE AVENUE

The Planning Commission and Town Council conducted a joint public hearing to receive public input on a request to rezone property at 104 Carline Avenue from current R-2 (residential) to B-1 (business).

There were no public comments on the rezoning request for 104 Carline Avenue.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Buchanan called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance and invocation by Andre Wallace.

T&L – RICK CHITWOOD WATER ISSUES

Manager Day stated the Town still has water tank issues after the North Tazewell water tank was taken off line. Manager Day stated the Town needed to replace all of the water meters in the Town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron, seconded by Councilmember Mullins to approve the minutes of February 11, 2014. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Blankenship, seconded by Councilmember Fox to approve the financial statements for February 2014. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

PROJECT AND ACTIVITY REPORTS

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Blankenship, seconded by Councilmember Catron to approve the project and activity reports. . On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councilmember Brown stated the Economic Development Committee will meet next week and the committee looking at ways to improve and cleaning up the Town.

TRAIN DEPOT COMMITTEE

Councilmember Mullins stated the Train Depot Committee met with approximately 20 people attending. Councilmember Mullins stated the committee has a lot of interesting ideas for the restoration of the Old Train Depot.

EMS COMMITTEE

Vice-Mayor Blankenship stated the EMS Committee met and their main concern is the loss of power in the area for 8 to 12 hours to transport individuals to shelter, etc.

APPOINTMENT TO AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Motion was made by Councilmember Mullins, seconded by Councilmember Fox to appoint Karen Rife to the Tazewell County Airport Authority. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mullins, seconded by Councilmember Fox if Karen Rife doesn't accept the appointment to Tazewell County Airport to appoint Jim Talbert as the representative for the Town of Tazewell. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

PERMANENT DECAL ORDINANCE

Vice-Mayor Blankenship read the permanent Decal Ordinance for the 2nd time. Motion was made by Councilmember Catron to accept the permanent Decal Ordinance. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

Motion was made by Councilmember Mullins, seconded by Councilmember Fox to adopt the permanent Decal Ordinance. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

ELDERLY TAX EXEMPTION ORDINANCE

Vice-Mayor Blankenship read the Elderly Tax Exemption Ordinance for the 2nd time. Motion was made by Councilmember Catron, seconded by Councilmember Fox to accept the Elderly Tax Exemption Ordinance. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Mullins to adopt the Elderly Tax Exemption Ordinance. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

FEE SCHEDULE

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Blankenship, seconded by Councilmember Catron to dispense with the reading and accept Fee Schedule. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

Motion was a by Councilmember Mullins, seconded by Vice-Mayor Blankenship to adopt the Fee Schedule. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

REZONING – 104 CARLINE AVENUE

Motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Catron to approve the rezoning of 104 Carline Avenue to become effective in 30 days. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

MOWING SERVICES BID

Manager Day presented and recommended to Council a low bid of \$156,800 from Jones Lawn Care to do Town wide mowing services.

Councilmember Brown and Councilmember Catron were concerned about what the workers would be doing if Jones Lawn Care did the weed cutting and what the savings would be to the Town.

Manager Day stated the mowing would be a 21 day cycle for 7 months being in April 2014 and also will mow at the park.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Mullins to accept the recommendation of Manager Day to hire Jones Lawn Care to do weed cutting Town wide for mowing services. On vote, Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye; Vice-Mayor Blankenship, nay; Councilmember Catron, nay. Motion failed 3 to 2 vote per Attorney Pyott.

Vice-Mayor Blankenship was concerned about if this was a money savings to the Town and what the full-time employees would be doing.

Manager Day stated this would free up the employees to do others things that needed to be done.

Councilmember Brown stated he would like to see a list of things the employees would be doing.

DONATION TAZEWELL COUNTY FAIR

Councilmember Blankenship stated he was concerned about just giving Tazewell County Fair a donation of only \$2,500, when the fair benefits the community more than other organizations.

The donation was tabled until further discussion.

DONATION FESTIVAL OF THE ARTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Mullins, seconded by Councilmember Fox to donate \$500 to the Festival of the Arts. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

DONATION – THS PROJECT GRADUATION

Motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Catron to donate \$1,000 to Tazewell High School Project Graduation. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

DONATION – BACK OF THE DRAGON

Motion was made by Councilmember Mullins, seconded by Councilmember Brown to donate \$5,000 to the Back of the Dragon. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

DONATION – BRAIN INJURY SERVICES

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Mullins to donating \$500 to Brain Injury Services. Motion failed for the lack of enough votes. Check into were the donations are spent.

DONATION – FOOTBALL BOOSTERS

Council tabled donation to Tazewell High School Football Boosters.

DONATION - MISS VIRGINIA TEEN UNITED STATES COMPETITION

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Brown to donate \$50 to Stephanie Brown representing Tazewell County at the Miss Virginia Teen United States Competition. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

LEGAL ISSUES INVOLVING HEALTH INSURANCE

Attorney Pyott recommended hiring Sands Anderson for agreements to represent the Town of Tazewell for legal issues involving Health Insurance. Attorney Pyott stated Sands Anderson represents the Commonwealth of Virginia on affordable health care they have is more knowledge on this matter.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded Councilmember Catron for Sands Anderson to represent the Town in legal matters for health care for Town employees. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

SPRING CLEAN UP

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Catron to proclaim May 2014 as Spring Clean Up Month. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

JULY 4TH FIREWORKS

Motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Vice-Mayor Blankenship to have the Fireworks on Thursday, July 3, 2014. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

APPROVAL OF SEWER PLANT AUDIT

Motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Vice-Mayor Blankenship to approve the Sewer Plant Audit for PSA true-up. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

STREET SIGNS

Manager Day stated the Town has been cited by VDOT for non-compliance with road signage. Tazewell Avenue and Fincastle Turnpike costs for the update signs will be approximately \$3,000.

SUPPORT FOR SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEMS, INC.

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron, seconded by Councilmember Brown approved a letter of support for Southwest Virginia Community Health Systems, Inc. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

William Looney, a former resident of the Town, came before Council to thank the Police Department and Town Council for what they had done for him and the Town. Mr. Looney stated if it wasn't for the Police Officers looking out after him he would not be here today.

WEED CUTTING IN THE TOWN

Manager Day requested for Council to reconsider the request for Council to bid out weed cutting in the Town. Manager Day stated it would be a good move so the employees can focus on other jobs like potholes, sidewalks, cut brush water main and sewer.

Councilmember Catron stated to Manager Day if he feels this was a good move for the Town he would vote for the weed eating contract for this year.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Brown to allow the Town Manager to contract the weed eating to Jones Lawn Care for \$156,800. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, nay; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye. Motion passed 4 to 1 vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Buchanan recessed meeting at 9:30 p.m. until Thursday, March 20, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. for a Budget Work Session.

**Budget Work Session
March 20, 2014**

The Tazewell Town Council met in regular session at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Chambers.

Present:

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

Absent:

None

Staff present were Town Manager, Todd Day; Linda S Griffith; Clerk and Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster.

Mayor Buchanan called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance and invocation by Linda S. Griffith.

Representatives from H. D. Supply did a presentation on a new meter reading system to increase the accuracy of water accountability and increase revenue with replacing old meters.

Discussed unreduced retirement for employees.

Discussed the 4% increase in health insurance for 2014/2015.

Discussed retiree health insurance and LEO's for police officers.

Manager Day present the draft copy of the Budget FY15 to Council for review and questions.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m.