

Council Meeting Minutes
May 13, 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 (left early)
Councilmember David Fox (arrived late)
Councilmember Terry Mullins
Councilmember Jack Murray

Absent:

None

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

PUBLIC HEARING – 2015 BUDGET

Mayor Buchanan read the first reading of the Proposed 2015 FY Budget.

There were no public comments.

RESOLUTION – THS THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD

Mayor Buchanan presented Larry Hypes and Tazewell High Students with a Resolution for Thomas Jefferson award.

CHARLOTTE AMMONS – THUNDERING BEAUTIES

Charlotte Ammons with the Thundering Beauties came before Council advising them of the Thundering Beauties Women bikers that will be touring Tazewell on July 26, 2014. Ms. Ammons asked that the local business be notified of their presence. (approximately 100 women bikers will be in the area)

Council was very excited about the Thundering Beauties came through Tazewell on July 26, 2014 due to the Main Street Festival being on the date they will be traveling.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Catron to approve the minutes of April 8, 2014. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye. (Councilmember Fox was not present.)

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Blankenship, seconded by Councilmember Brown to approve the financial statements for April 2014. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye. (Councilmember Fox was not present.)

PROJECT AND ACTIVITY REPORTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Mullins, seconded by Councilmember Murray to approve the project and activity reports for April 2014. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye. (Councilmember Fox was not present.)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Councilmember Brown stated the Economic Development Committee is working with the local businesses for the Back of the Dragon event.

TRAIN DEPOT COMMITTEE

Councilmember Mullins stated everything is coming together well with repurposing the Old Train Depot Station. A lot of people have contacted the committee to donate several items back to the Old Train Depot that were originally in the depot. The committee is discussing things that will be displaced in the Old Train Depot.

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Councilmember Murray stated the Planning Commission Committee is working on the zoning for the area that was annexed into the Town and discussing political signs.

EMS COMMITTEE

Vice-Mayor Blankenship stated the EMS Committee is still working on shelters for emergency situations.

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (VHD)

Rick Chitwood with Thompson & Litton came before Council stating the Town could apply funding from Virginia Department of Health (VHD) for 2015 Drinking Water Construction Assistance a loan of \$108,598 at 2.25% interest for 30 years with \$164,000 as principal forgiveness. This will allow the Town to do upgrade pump stations and provide another water tank with the Tazewell County PSA paying for 50% of the cost of a tank.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Murray to apply for the funding from Virginia Department of Health (VHD) for 2015 Drinking Water Construction Assistance a loan of \$108,598 at 2.25% interest for 30 years with \$164,000 principal forgiveness. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye. (Councilmember Fox was not present.)

DONATION - TAZEWELL HIGH FOOTBALL BOOSTERS

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray, seconded by Councilmember Catron to feed the Tazewell Bulldogs. On vote, Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye. Vice-Mayor Blankenship abstained from voting. (Councilmember Fox was not present.)

DONATION – THE CROOKED ROAD

Council tabled the donation request for “The Crooked Road.

DONATION - SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Jason Kinser, Captain of Jeffersonville Rescue Squad, encouraged Council to donate \$500 to the Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services. Mr. Kinser stated that Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services benefits the entire local EMS.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Fox to donate \$500 to Southwest Virginia Emergency Medical Services. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye.

ACA COMPLIANCE

Robin Brewster, Executive Assistant, stated that Attorney Jessica Rogers with Sands Anderson is reviewing coverage’s for the Rescue Squad employees and seasonal workers for compliance with the Affordable Care Act per our personnel manual.

OLD GYM AND AMERICAN LEGION MAINTENANCE

Councilmember Brown brought before Council stating the gym was in need of being cleaned. Councilmember Brown stated a puddle of water was standing in the bathroom floor and the gym floor need to be redone. Councilmember Brown also stated the American Legion floor needed to be buffed and cleaned in between rentals.

Manager Day stated the Town has a full time cleaning person during the week, but not on weekends.

Councilmember Murray asked if the cleaning person would change her schedule around to do the cleaning on weekends.

TRANSIENT OCCUPANCY TAX

Motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Murray to hold a public hearing on June 10, 2014 at 7:15 p.m. for Transient Occupancy Tax. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye. (Councilmember Fox was not present.)

VRS – RESOLUTION

Employer Contribution Rates for Counties, Cities,
Towns, School Divisions and Other Political Subdivisions
(In accordance with the 2014 Appropriation Act Item 468(H))

Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Tazewell 55369 does hereby acknowledge that its contribution rates effective July 1, 2014 shall be based on the higher of a) the contribution rate in effect for FY 2014, or b) eighty percent of the results of the June 30, 2013 actuarial valuation of assets and liabilities as approved by the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees for the 2014-16 biennium (the "Alternate Rate") provided that, at its option, the contribution rate may be based on the employer contribution rates certified by the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees pursuant to Virginia Code § 51.1-145(I) resulting from the June 30, 2013 actuarial value of assets and liabilities (the "Certified Rate"); and

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the Town of Tazewell 55369 does hereby certify to the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees that it elects to pay the following contribution rate effective July 1, 2014:

The Certified Rate of 6.09%

BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the Town of Tazewell 55369 does hereby certify to the Virginia Retirement System Board of Trustees that it has reviewed and understands the information provided by the Virginia Retirement System outlining the potential future fiscal implications of any election made under the provisions of this resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the officers of Town of Tazewell 55369 are hereby authorized and directed in the name of the Town of Tazewell to carry out the provisions of this resolution, and said officers of the Town of Tazewell are authorized and directed to pay over to the Treasurer of Virginia from time to time such sums as are due to be paid by the Town of Tazewell for this purpose.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Murray to approve the VRS Resolution. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye. (Councilmember Catron was not present for the vote)

RESOLUTION FOR EARLY RETIREE HEALTH INSURANCE

RESOLUTION

Concerning participation by retirees in health insurance program

WHEREAS, the Town of Tazewell provides all full time employees with medical health insurance through a health insurance plan “the Plan” and

WHEREAS, the Town of Tazewell has the option to provide employees retiring from the Town of Tazewell the ability to purchase health care insurance through the Town of Tazewell’s plan until such time as they become eligible for Medicare health coverage as determined by the federal government. At that time retiree coverage will end or the retiree will elect a Medicare Supplement from the Plan and

WHEREAS, only those employees retiring who meet the eligibility requirements retiring after 50 years of age and ten years of service with the Town of Tazewell or 55 years of age and five years of service with the Town of Tazewell may participate in this plan. Age and service requirements are waived if the retiring employee is documented to be disabled and

WHEREAS, the participating former employee who elects early retiree coverage will pay twenty percent (20%) of the premium cost and the Town will cover eighty percent (80%) of the premium cost at regular intervals as determined by the Plan for retiree coverage. The former employee will pay all of the premium cost at regular intervals as determined by the Plan if they elect a Medicare Supplement from the Plan after retiree coverage has ended. If the employee chooses not to elect a Medicare Supplement from the Plan upon Medicare eligibility then their coverage will end. Failure to timely pay the premium due will result in the immediate cancellation of the former employee’s plan and

WHEREAS, the option is available only to those retiring on or after July 1, 2014 and

WHEREAS, the Town of Tazewell reserves the right to modify or discontinue health care plans and third party providers at its discretion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Tazewell does hereby extend the option for retired employees to purchase health care insurance coverage through the Plan.

ADOPTED this 13th day of May 2014.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Murray to approve the resolution for Early Retiree Health Insurance. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye. (Councilmember Catron was not present for the vote)

SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

Flora Sinkford, Safety Committee Chairman, advised Council how overwhelmed she was with the year-end report for workmen's compensation for 2013. There was only (1) one reportable accident.

Chief Cooper stated he was very excited for what Flora Sinkford and the Safety Committee has accomplished with doing spot checks for use of safety equipment and no accidents with a 225% savings.

ADVERTISING AND SIGNS ORDINANCE

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray, seconded by Councilmember Brown to adopt advertising and sign ordinance.

Councilmember Brown stated that Council needed to look at the ordinance more before passing.

Attorney Pyott stated Council needed to look at the Town Code before replacing the proposed ordinance.

Councilmember Murray stated that he was concerned about the time period and size of signs to be placed during election time. Motion was made by Councilmember Murray, seconded by Councilmember Brown to withdraw motion and let the Planning Commission review and report back.

BRAIN INJURY SERVICES

Council received a request from Brain Injury Services for \$500 donation.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Mullins to donate \$500 to Brain Injury Services. On vote, Vice-Mayor Blankenship, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Mullins, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye. (Councilmember Catron was not present for the vote)

SPRING EXPO

Councilmember Brown advised Council the Spring Expo will be on Saturday, May 17, 2014 free to public and asked that they show their support.

TAZEWELL COUNTY AIRPORT

Councilmember Brown stated he was very impressed with Tazewell County Airport and appreciated the invitation to tour.

TOWN CREW

Councilmember Fox stated he appreciated all the hard work the Town workers do.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before Council, meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.