

Work Session Minutes

February 23, 2016

The Tazewell Town Council met in a work session at 5:30p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present:

Mayor A. D. Buchanan Jr

Vice-Mayor Terry Mullins

Councilmember Chris Brown

Councilmember Glenn Catron

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Jerry McReynolds

Absent:

Councilmember Jack Murray

Staff present were: Town Attorney Brad Pyott; Town Manager, Todd Day; Treasurer, Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; Town Clerk, LeeAnne Billings.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Buchanan called the meeting to order and opened with the pledge of allegiance.

Mayor Buchanan thanked Councilmember Brown for the pictures that have been hung in the council chambers.

Manager Day would like to request direction from the council for the upcoming budget. Staff has until March 15th to present requests for the 2016-2017 budget. We have raised water and sewer rates the last three years and last year we balanced the budget. The water fund is building and looking good. The rescue squad billing has been a big issue this year and we will have additional cost with the rescue squad because of having to provide health insurance. Our economy has been hit hard because of job loss in our area and it will affect our businesses in town which will then affect the revenue the Town collects, such as BPOL taxes. We are currently trying to work on tax incentives to offer businesses. We need to draw businesses in and make them want to come to the Town of Tazewell.

RECAP OF THE LAST YEAR:

Manager Day discussed several projects that have been ongoing over the past year. Such projects include:

- Rt. 61 widening
- Paving (the company that paved for us last year will be milling up the pavement on Main Street and redoing it in the spring)
- Train Depot
- Rescue Squad grant
- Lincolnshire Park
- Rt. 61 bridge
- Tax incentives
- Condemnation of houses
- Walking trail
- Boundary adjustments discussions
- Pool repair
- Mountain Mudder event

AREAS TO LOOK AT FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL YEAR

- Future economic growth
- Welcome sign for the eastern end
- Rescue Squad
- County taxes-town residents pay town and county, do away with some of the tax they pay to the county
- Back of the Dragon
- PRV
- Obamacare
- Paving
- Get SGA (student government association) at THS involved in council meetings

Councilmember Brown would like to focus on:

- A three-five year growth plan
- Park & Recreation director
- Hiking trail, bike trail, primitive camping at Lincolnshire
- Sidewalks

Councilmember Catron would like to focus on:

- The sewer plant upgrades previously discussed

Vice-Mayor Mullins would like to focus on:

- Welcome to Tazewell sign
- YMCA improvement with programs
- Town Recreation Department growth
- Trails, bike route on Rt. 61 to Narrows

Councilmember McReynolds would like to focus on:

- Bringing businesses in town.
 - What can we do with the big empty car lot (Ramey Ford)?
 - Attorney Pyott stated that Jennifer Turley and Robert Ramey are over that property.
 - It was discussed maybe we could look at getting a skate park or batting cage, or rock climbing.
 - Would they possibly lease the property?
 - Property is in a flood plain.

Mayor Buchanan would like to focus on:

- A three year plan
- Repairs to sewer plant
- Putting back money for future equipment purchases
- Marketing plan for the Town

Councilmember Fox would like to focus on:

- Taxes
 - Town residents pay both town and county taxes.
 - He would like to see us be able to reduce the amount of county taxes they have to pay.
- PRV
 - Along with the Town giving customers a free PRV, he would like to see the Town install them.
 - We purchased the PRV's through grant money.
 - Attorney Pyott discussed the Town's liability if we work on customers private property and does not recommend we do that.

Manager Day thanked everyone for their ideas and thanked them for coming to the work session.

Motion was made by Councilmember McReynolds to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Mullins. Mayor Buchanan adjourned the meeting at 7:05 p.m.