

## **Council Meeting Minutes**

**March 8, 2016**

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

The Town of Tazewell held a public hearing for the proposed alleyway closure between Third Street and Mitchell Street in North Tazewell. Mayor Buchanan called the public hearing to order at 7:15 p.m. At this time he asked if anyone wished to speak for or against this issue.

Danny Willis of 636 West Riverside Drive, North Tazewell, Virginia came before council and stated that when he was on council this issue was brought up and they voted to keep it open. Why is it being brought back up. Manager Day stated he had been getting complaints of activity in this alleyway and stated that there is no practical use of the alleyway for the Town; however we will keep the utility rights through there. Manager Day stated that he feels that it is in the best interest for safety and kids to address this issue. We will assure in the deeds that we intel the utility rights. Mr. Willis asked if there had been any arrests made in the alleyway in the last four years. Chief Cooper stated that he would have to research it and see. Mr. Willis stated that he has spoken to the residents there and they want to keep it open. Councilmember Catron asked if children would still be able to play there. It was stated that it would be up to the property owner. Mr. Willis is requesting that the Planning Commission look further into it and keep it open.

Calvin Mitchell of 420 West Riverside Drive, North Tazewell, Virginia also owns the property at 504 West Riverside Drive. He stated that the only complaints that he has is that his grandchildren play in that alley way and ride their bikes there. They themselves have no complaints about the alleyway being open. He then asked what would happen to the land that is the alleyway. Manager Day stated that if the alley was closed the land would be equally split among the adjoining land owners.

Mayor Buchanan asked if anyone else would like to speak for or against this matter. No one else came forward to speak however, Mayor Buchanan has a written letter from Jimmy Earls of 107 Third Street that he read at this time. They are in 100% agreeance with shutting down the alleyway and stated that they would feel safer and would like it to be closed.

Mayor Buchanan asked if anyone else wished to speak. At the time no one else came forward to discuss this issue and Mayor Buchanan declared the public hearing closed.

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

Present:

Absent:

Mayor A. D. Buchanan Jr

Vice-Mayor Terry Mullins

Councilmember Chris Brown

Councilmember Glenn Catron

Councilmember Jack Murray

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Jerry McReynolds

Staff present were: Town Attorney Brad Pyott; Town Manager, Todd Day; Treasurer, Sharon Davis, Police Chief, DeWitt Cooper; Fire Chief, Josh Roberts; Rescue Squad Administrator, Syndee Saleem; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; Zoning, Building, Property Official, Chris Hurley; Town Clerk, Leeanne Billings; Public Work Director, Donny Pruitt.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Buchanan called the meeting to order and opened with the pledge of allegiance and invocation given by Town Manager Todd Day.

Mayor Buchanan stated that there would be a change in the agenda. The One Act Play Team is not present to be recognized. However, they finished second in state and the Town would like to recognize them for that achievement.

Also, the alleyway closure will not be voted on tonight.

### **RESOLUTION FOR ACADEMIC TEAM**

Mayor Buchanan congratulated the Tazewell High School Academic Team. Mr. McAvoy introduced them to the council and Mayor Buchanan read the resolution to be presented to the THS Academic Team. He also stated that Griffin McAvoy went to the state spelling bee and did a good job.

### **SESQUICENTENNIAL MONOPOLY**

Treasurer Sharon Davis, came before the council and stated that there have been many events planned for the Sesquicentennial. The committee has designed TazTownopoly. This will be a spin off of the classic board game Monopoly. Businesses owners will be able to purchase a space on the board and become a part of Tazewell's history. If anyone is interested contact Sharon Davis by March 31<sup>st</sup>. They hope to have the games on sell by the fall.

## **AUDIT REPORT FROM JUSTIN MARTIN WITH BROWN EDWARDS & COMPANY**

Justin Martin with Brown & Edwards came before council to discuss the Town's audit findings. He first thanked Manager Day and Treasurer Davis for their work. He discussed suggestions to strengthen controls and adjustments and required reporting. Mayor Buchanan stated that Treasurer Davis has had a big job and has done a good job with the audit. He asked then if any councilmembers had questions about the audit and at this time no one had any discussion.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **TAMMY SMITH**

Tammy Smith of 103 East Riverside Drive North Tazewell, Virginia came before council and said that she has talked with Kim Santolla and she is going to donate flowers to the North Tazewell area and local residents will take care of them and water them. The North Tazewell Committee will be having a community litter pick up and Manager Day is willing to donate bags and have our sanitation department pick them up.

### **CLAUDINE BLANKENSHIP**

Claudine Blankenship of 423 Lyons Avenue, Tazewell, Virginia came before council and thanked them for the time they have spent working on the community and stated that she thinks we are turning the corner. She is here on behalf of the Tazewell Area Chamber of Commerce and would like to discuss an event they would like to have. It is called Blues -Q- & Brew. They have spoken to John Gunter with the Department of ABC and got the necessary information from them to have a liquor license. They would like the Town to support their event. They do not have a defined date yet for the event.

Also, there is a group planning a Farm to Table event. The farmers and farmers market will be supplying and preparing the food. They would like to have the event on Main Street and the idea is to line the middle of Main Street with tables and serve fresh grown and raised products from our community. Councilmember Fox stated that he thought this was a good idea and would support their efforts and thanked them for their works. Councilmember Catron also said that he likes that idea and thanked them, as well as Vice-Mayor Mullins. Councilmember Brown made a motion to approve the festival they have requested. Councilmember Catron seconded the motion. On vote, Vice-Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Murray to approve the minutes of February 9, 2015. On vote, Vice-Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye;

Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

Motion was made by Vice-Mayor Mullins to approve the minutes from the work session held on February 23, 2016. Motion was seconded by Councilmember McReynolds. On vote, Vice-Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

#### **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron, seconded by Councilmember McReynolds, to approve the financial statements for February 2016. On vote, Vice-Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

#### **APPROVAL OF PROJECT REPORTS**

Motion was made by, Councilmember Murray, seconded by Councilmember Fox to approve the project reports for February 2016. On vote, Vice-Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

#### **ROUTE 61 UPDATE**

Manager Day stated that this project is underway and it will be a 580 day project. When the project is complete they will have two commercial entrances to the property.

#### **LINCOLNSHIRE DAM**

Manager Day stated there is no change.

#### **ROUTE 61 BRIDGE**

Manager Day stated that is no change.

#### **METER REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Manager Day stated that there are about 500 more meters to be installed and we have 1,700 already in place.

#### **NORTH TAZEWELL UPDATE**

Manager Day stated there was a meeting last week and they had some wonderful ideas. They would like for us to advertise about the PRV's on the water bill and go door to door to make sure people know about it.

Doug Sheets with CVCA has said that they are able to offer assistance for people hooking up to the sewer.

There was discussion about the pot holes on Main Street. It was stated that Rodgers Group will be milling up the road and repaving it free of charge to the Town. They will also be doing this on Maplewood Lane.

Mayor Buchanan stated that he was glad to see citizens of the community stepping up and he was very proud of them, people are getting excited and the citizens are coming together.

Councilmember Murray stated that he would like to see the Town paint their building that is at North Tazewell and said if we did this it would look much better. Manager Day said we could do that. Councilmember Murray asked if we could contact the other building owners and ask them if they could do the same to their building.

Discussion then went to the recycling bins. The Town is keeping in contact with Lester Development but they are still reviewing the information we sent to them.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEE**

Councilmember Murray gave an update. He stated that they held a public hearing for the Comprehensive Plan and they voted to approve it.

## **TRAIN DEPOT COMMITTEE**

Vice-Mayor Mullins gave an update for the Train Depot Committee. He stated they will meet next week on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Barry Rakes will be there. The restoration is under way and on target.

## **AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

Councilmember McReynolds gave an update. He stated that they are having a slow start due to the weather and economy. They are still working on the west end maintenance but it may be held up due to some legal issues. There will be an airshow and car show in August.

## **SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE**

Susan Reeves stated that there is a whole year of events planned. They now have ornaments to sell. They will have special eggs at the Easter Egg Hunt. If they find the special eggs they will be able to get a free TazTownology game or shirt. There will be a Main Street Mile Walk, a Sesquicentennial Ball, Independence Day Celebration, Parade, Haunted Ghost Tours, and more. Mayor Buchanan thanked her and the committee for all their hard work and said they are doing a great job.

## **WATER AUDIT**

Manager Day discussed the water audit. He stated that we have an agreement with the Tazewell County Public Service Authority where we buy water from them and estimate the cost and once a year we have a true up and settle up. Treasurer Davis is still working with Brown Edwards for the sewer audit. They owe us \$3,000.00 according to the audit. A motion was made to approve the water audit by Councilmember Catron. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Murray. On vote, Vice-Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

## **WATER TRUE UP**

Motion was made by Councilmember Brown to approve the true up of \$3,822.00. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Murray. On vote, Vice-Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

## **UPDATE ON BOWLING ALLEY**

Attorney Pyott stated that there is an SCC requirement needed by the current property owner that is holding up the process but hopefully next month it will be deeded over to the Town. Councilmember Murray asked if the renter of the building had a year to get out and Attorney Pyott said yes, it will be March 1, 2017.

## **MOUNTAIN MUDDER**

Manager Day stated that last year the Mountain Mudder was held at the Tazewell County Fairgrounds. This year it will be held at Lincolnshire Park. Last year Plum Creek Winery had an ABC license for the event. They would like to do it again. There would be a two drink max. The date is July 30<sup>th</sup>. Motion was made by Councilmember Catron to approve the Mountain Mudder event and allow them to have a liquor license. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown. Mayor Buchanan questioned the swim meet schedule. Manager Day stated that Tracie Lewis has communicated with them and we will work with them if we need to. Councilmember Murray stated that he was not in favor of serving alcohol but he would not vote against it. Manager Day stated that he admired and respected the comment and that the Town Police Department will do everything they can to make sure the community is safe. Councilmember Catron stated that he use to run these types of events and they had always regulated and limited consumption. On vote, Vice-Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

## **DONATION REQUEST FOR SVCC**

Manager Day stated that last year we gave a \$500.00 donation. Councilmember Murray made a motion that we donate \$500.00 to SVCC. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Vice-Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

## **SEC. 10-54 (B) DISCUSSION**

Manager Day stated that it has been brought to his attention that in previous years there was a vote made to do away with the discount we offered on cigarette tax stamps however the update never made it to our code book and we need to fix that. Councilmember Fox made a motion to correct and update the code to take off the discount for cigarette tax stamps. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Murray. On vote, Vice-Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

## **DEER RUN LANE DISCUSSION**

Attorney Pyott stated that in years past the property at Deer Run Lane was subdivided. We have now found out that part of the property in the roadway of Deer Run Lane is owned by an individual. The owner is willing to dedicate it to the Town, however there needs to be a motion to allow the manager to accept the property. Motion was made by Councilmember Murray and seconded by Councilmember Catron to allow the manager to accept the property. On vote, Vice-Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

## **CLEAN UP MONTH**

Mayor Buchanan stated that in the past we have had clean up month during the month of May. This year it is proposed for it to be held from April 15<sup>th</sup>-May 15<sup>th</sup>. Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to hold clean up month April 15<sup>th</sup> –May 15<sup>th</sup>. Motion was seconded by Councilmember McReynolds. On vote, Vice-Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT BILLING**

Manager Day stated that the General Assembly has passed that fire departments can bill for fire calls. They are able to bill for the deductible only. The insurance provider must provide the home owner with that insurance. Fire Chief Roberts has review and support this as long as we will not go after the home owner to collect a nondeductible cost. If the council will approve, we will use the EMS billing software we are getting to also bill for the fire department. Attorney Pyott will prepare the correct procedure for this issue. This will be for fire calls only, not for motor vehicle accidents. Councilmember McReynolds made a motion to allow Manager Day to proceed with the fire department billing. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Vice-Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye. Attorney Pyott will have an ordinance prepared for the next meeting.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

## **BUDGET WORK SESSION**

Manager Day stated that there needed to be a budget work session held. There will be a meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 at 5:00pm.

## **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

Manager Day stated that the Comprehensive Plans that they were given is a draft and the fonts in it will have to be worked on and asked them to please bring it back at the next meeting and it will go to ad in May or June.

## **YOUTH & GOVERNMENT DAY**

Manager Day stated that we will be a part of Youth & Government day this year. We will host students here on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES**

Councilmember Fox asked why a resident of the Town pays personal property to the Town and the County. Manager Day stated that Tazewell County has personal property and real estate tax and it funds the library, social services, 911 dispatchers, etc. The Town taxes support town functioning and the state code allows for it.

## **ELDRELY EXEMPTION**

Mayor Buchanan stated that the Elderly Exemption forms are due April 1<sup>st</sup> to qualify for 2016 tax relief.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Buchanan adjourned the meeting in recess until March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 5:00pm for a budget workshop.