

## **Council Meeting Minutes**

**April 14, 2016**

The Tazewell Town Council met in work session at 7:00 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; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Buchanan called the meeting to order.

### **SEWER RATE STUDY**

Manager Day discussed the sewer rate study. It calls for a capital improvement project at the sewer plant. Last year we balanced the budget. This year we need to balance the budget again. The PSA will be having a rate increase over the next six years. David Dawson who did the sewer rate study is also present at this meeting.

David Dawson discussed the sewer rate study and the funding of the operations. He stated that looking over our budget he can see areas that have decreased which has helped, such as overtime at the sewer plant.

- How to pay for capital improvement projects? Some options are to pay as you go or have a long term debt. When comparing rates with other communities it is hard to do because we may not know the history such as have they put back money in the past to fund some of their improvement projects, etc.

- We can increase revenue by increasing meter accuracy; increasing customer base; increasing the rates.
- Manager Day stated that Mr. Dawson had toured the plant and he had a good idea of the things that need to be addressed.
- Manager Day stated that he can give a very close estimate of what it takes to run the sewer plant as well as a water plant.
- Manager Day recommends for Mr. Dawson to come back with a couple options for council to look at. He suggest that we do these small projects in house with the money we have or encumber some debt and do a PER over 5 or 10 years and build into next fiscal year's budget with a 5 year amortization or 10 year amortization and raise sewer rates to reflect them.
- Councilmember Murray asked is there grants that we can get to help with the updating of the plant. Grants have just about dried up maybe some low interest or 0 interest loans.
- Councilmember Catron stated that he thinks we need a phased in plan, a three year or five year plan. Councilmember Murray agreed and thinks we need to plan for the updates.

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron to allow Mr. Dawson to prepare a recommendation with options on how to proceed. 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.

## **BACK OF THE DRAGON**

Manager Day stated that he had a meeting with Larry Davidson and Danny Addison. They have let the Chamber of Commerce head this event. The Chamber has a board of directors however only has one office employee, Pam Meade the Chamber Director. She is doing a great job however she has all these events that she has to be over. He would like to see the event grow and draw the large number of people that we know it has in the past. He asked them both what it would take to do that kind of event again and they said they just didn't have that kind of money to put on that big of a show again. He asked if the Town would give money and get the County to match what we gave (\$30,000.00) if it would be possible and they said they thought it would and they would be able to have the Monster shows, concert, etc. Manager Day asked would they be willing to track the money and give a financial report and they said yes they could do that. He said that the Town could order the events and oversee it and Larry and Danny could have say so as well. He says take the tax dollars that the people of the town pay and put it in something to give back to the community. Councilmember Brown would like to make sure if we are spending tax dollars, that there is accountability of where that money is being spent and he would like to see a marketing plan. Manager Day suggested that we create a board made up of members of the Town of Tazewell and Tazewell County. They held discussion on charging admission vs no admission. Manager Day suggests that the Town supports him as we have in the past for this year's event and stated that there is money built in to next fiscal year's budget to support him with a greater financial contribution.

## **BUDGET DISCUSSION**

Manager Day held discussion on the proposed budget for the next fiscal year. The water fund was voted on at the last budget work session. Manager Day is recommending a rate of \$27.50 for the first 2,000 gallons of sewer. That is a \$.25 increase from the current rate of \$27.25. Over 2,000 gallons \$.85 per 1,000 gallons increase for in town and \$41.65 which is a \$.35 increase on 2,000 or less and \$.85 anything over 2,000 gallons for out of town. This still does not balance the budget. This still leaves \$4,000 in red. He has cut everywhere he can cut and he has raised rates and by doing so the budget balanced.

## **VDOT ALLICATIONS**

VDOT did a study and now we have lost state funding for some of the streets we maintained. The total amount of money we lost is about \$200,000.00. We will be looking into trying to get the streets included again in the state funding we receive.

## **RECREATION DEPARTMENT**

Manager Day stated that Travis Barbee the new recreation director is being extremely aggressive. He will be wanting to build that department up and wanting to start some programs up with our recreation department. Building this recreation department up will come with a cost. It will take some funds to get it where we want it but we need it, the Town needs it and the County needs it. He is getting an adult softball league together for this year.

## **MOVIE THEATER**

Don Dunford has approached the Town and he would like to donate the movie theater to the Town. Grundy owns and operates their own theater. They sell over 3,000 tickets a month. Theirs is all digital. They have eight full time employees working in that theater. After looking at the building, it will have to be remodeled; curtains, carpet, countertops, etc. There are a couple of options that the Town would have. We could remodel and open the theater or we could take the donation, bid it out and give it to the IDA or we could interview foundations and sell it to the foundation for a dollar. Discussion was held that there may be grants that we can apply for to help update equipment, etc. We would probably have to borrow money to renovate. It has a new roof on it that is only five years old. Councilmember Catron made a motion to accept the donation of the movie theater from Don Dunford. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. Providing that the building is a sound structure the Town will accept the donation. On vote, Vice-Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown.