

Council Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2016

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

Present:

Mayor A. D. Buchanan Jr

Vice-Mayor Terry Mullins

Councilmember Glenn Catron

Councilmember Jack Murray

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Jerry McReynolds

Absent:

Councilmember Chris Brown

Staff present were: Clerk-Treasurer, Leeanne Billings, Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; Rescue Squad Administrator, Syndee Saleem.

Manager Day recommended a work session before the council meeting for a rescue squad update. In December 2015, Keith Waycaster with Priority Medical Claims came before the council because we were having difficulties while using this third party billing company. Now over six months later we have had a lot of changes. We have changed the name to Town of Tazewell EMS, we have begun doing our billing in house. We have now begun getting payments from Medicare. Our first payment from them was \$24,000.00. The Medicare money is starting to come in steadily. Manager Day handed out a report showing rescue squad revenue from 2010 to current. The report showed an average of \$240,000.00 to \$250,000.00 per year.

This is revenue before taking over the county calls. Our calls have doubled, so our revenue should double. Syndee now has more help to do billing. They have entered 236 calls in four days. She has 600 more to bill and will have that completed by the end of the month. Since we have let Priority Medical Claims go we have not lost any money from Medicare or Medicaid. Town of Richlands has stated that they use PMC to do their billing also and they are having issues with them as well. They were very interested to learn that we are doing our billing in house. Town of Bluefield has also commented on us doing our billing in house.

Twenty percent of the called we run do not bring in revenue. Less than one percent of patients without insurance pay us. What does council recommend that we do about this? It is estimated that we could collect around \$100,000.00 for these calls. We provide a service and we are not

collecting for all we could. The rescue squad services of 945 and McDowell County are shutting down.

Rescue Squad Administrator Syndee Saleem stated that on average we bill \$330.00 on Medicare insurance calls. We billed for 74 claims and collected \$24,868.00. Councilmember Catron asked what percentage of calls were for Medicare. She answered over half are. She then gave some statistics to the council. From September 2015 to September 2016 they average 157 calls a month with 48% of calls being out of town limits, 12% of calls are self paid and 19 calls a month we will not collect for.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Buchanan called the meeting to order. He stated that he would like us to remember 9-11 and the events of that day and those that lost their lives. He then opened with the pledge of allegiance. Invocation was given by Fire Chief Josh Roberts.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

KIM SANTOLLA

Mayor Buchanan presented Kim Santolla with a plaque of appreciation for all her hard work and dedication she has shown for helping the Town look nice.

ALL STAR LITTLE LEAGUE TEAMS

Mayor Buchanan presented Tazewell Little League Teams with a certificate on a job well done. The 9/10 team went to the state tournament and finished eighth in the state. One team played in the Little League World Series. The Junior Allstar Softball team finished second in the state. The Senior Allstar Softball team finished third in the state.

LARRY BLANKENSHIP PROPOSED TOWN SIGNS

Larry Blankenship of 423 Lyons Avenue Tazewell, Virginia, came before council and stated that Tazewell Today has received a \$3,000.00 grant and feels the need to improve signage off the ramps of Rt. 460. They would like to have signs that tell where things are such as Main Street. Hill Studio has designed the signs however; they will not be able to do it for \$3,000.00. They would like to ask the Town to provide \$1,500.00 and the County to provide \$1,500.00 to complete their project. He also stated that businesses could advertise on the signs and the money collected from that could be used to place flower boxes around the signs. Councilmember Brown asked how many signs they could get for \$6,000.00. It was answered roughly thirty signs. Also, the council would be able to approve the signs before they were put up. Councilmember Catron made a motion to give Tazewell Today \$1,500.00 toward signs. Motion was seconded by Vice-Mayor Mullins. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

LARRY BLANKENSHIP EVENTS COMMITTEE

Larry Blankenship also wanted to discuss developing an events committee. He stated that Manager Day has spent a lot of time working with these events and if we had an events committee it would take it off of Manager Day.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Will Adams of 28010 Gov. G. C. Peery Hwy Tazewell, Virginia, came before council to discuss signage. He stated that the Welcome to Tazewell sign placed near Ramey Chevrolet on Rt 460

blocks his view when he pulls out and he stated that where the sign is isn't in town limits. He asked if we had permission from the state to put a sign there and Public Work Director Pruitt stated that we have a permit from VDOT for the sign however there are certain specifications we have to meet.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, and seconded by Councilmember McReynolds to approve the work session minutes of August 9, 2016. 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 Councilmember Fox, and seconded by Councilmember McReynolds to approve the council minutes of August 9, 2016. 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 Brown and seconded by Councilmember Murray, to approve the financial statements for August 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 Vice Mayor Mullins and seconded by Councilmember Fox to approve the project reports for August 2016.

After discussion was held, it was stated that there are a lot of reports that do not need to be in the packet now. It was said that it was a waste of employees time and the Town's money. When Manager Day first came it was good to see how the Town was saving money by doing work in house however now it is not necessary. Councilmember Murray made a recommendation to Manager Day that some of the reports be removed.

On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

MAYOR'S UPDATE ON ONGOING PROJECTS

RECYCLING BINS

Public Works Director Pruitt stated that we are in the process of getting materials together for the recycling bin project. However, other jobs came up and took priority, such as water leaks etc. Councilmember Brown asked if it would be open by the end of the year. It was stated that we hope so. Also, we will be working on a bridge at Dunford Park for the soccer players.

STATUS OF PROPERTY CLOSURES

Attorney Pyott stated that he hopes next week we can get closed on the property for the hotel site.

MISCELLANEOUS

Recreation Director Barbee will give an update at the next meeting.

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Councilmember Murray stated at the September 12th meeting they remembered Member Kenneth Mulkey who has just passed away. They discussed street names and addressing. They also discussed a house on Hopkins Street that will be up for demolition.

TRAIN DEPOT COMMITTEE

Vice-Mayor Mullins stated that they are moving forward. They are waiting on approval from VDOT and other entities. They hope to be complete by next fall.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Councilmember McReynolds gave an update on the airport. He stated that the airshow was very well attended and everyone had a good time. He also stated that all the airplane hangars are now full.

SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Clerk/Treasurer Leeanne Billings gave an update on the Sesquicentennial Committee. There has been a good revenue flow over the past month. The committee is getting ready to place the order for the monopoly boards.

Mayor Buchanan stated that at the next meeting we will have a Proclamation from the General Assembly for the Town's 150th year.

HOLIDAY TIME OFF

Executive Assistant Brewster stated that Manager Day would like to ask council to approve giving the whole day of Wednesday before Thanksgiving off. The policy currently says the Town will have half of that day off. He is asking for the whole day. Also, since Christmas falls

on the weekend, he would like council to approve that the Town have all day Friday and Monday off for Christmas. As for New Years it also falls on the weekend, he would like the council to approve Monday as the day off for that holiday. Motion was made to approve the requested time off by Councilmember Fox. Motion was seconded by Councilmember McReynolds.

During discussion Councilmember Murray stated that it would be almost a full week off at Thanksgiving and he didn't think it needed to be. Councilmember Fox stated that the guys deserved it because of all the time they put in during the events from the summer. Councilmember Brown stated that if the council is going to vote on this every year the policy manual needs to be updated to reflect these changes.

On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

APPROVE WEST BOUND WELCOME TO TAZEWELL SIGN LOCATION

Executive Assistant Brewster stated that the proposed sign would be placed before the Pyott Boone turn off. We have gotten VDOT approval for this location. Motion to approve the sign location was made by Councilmember Murray. 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.

APPROVE LETTER OF REQUEST AND RESOLUTION FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE FOR PARKING DECK FOR HOTEL

Mayor Buchanan read the resolution for funding assistance for the parking deck for the hotel. Motion was made by Councilmember Catron to approve the resolution. 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.

APPROVE ORDERING SHIRTS FOR TOWN EVENTS FOR MAYOR, TOWN COUNCIL, TOWN MANAGER

Executive Assistant Brewster stated that if the council would approve, the Town would order shirts for them to wear when they came to Town events. Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to order shirts. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Mayor Buchanan stated that if anyone had a recommendation for a Planning Commission Member to forward it to Manager Day.

CONDEMNATION OF PROPERTY ON 217 HOPKINS STREET

Zoning & Property Management Official Chris Hurley stated that the Planning Commission has recommended sending this before the council to get their vote. He stated that he has officials approval to move forward however he needs council approval. Motion was made by Councilmember Murray to proceed with the demolition process. 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.

MISCELLANEOUS

Attorney Pyott stated that regarding the alley closure on Third Street, there have been letters sent out as required and we have interest from property owners there to purchase part of the property.

Councilmember Fox would like to remind everyone of the Veteran's Day Parade on November 6th at 2:00pm and he would like to see a large crowd show up and support our veterans. Councilmember McReynolds made a motion that the Town give \$3,000.00 to support the parade. Councilmember Fox seconded the motion. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Murray made a motion that they go into executive session to discuss real property acquisition and legal concerns. Vice Mayor Mullins seconded the motion. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Murray

Resolution Number: ES130916

Motion Seconded by: Mullins

Meeting Date: 13September16

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Real Property Acquisition
& Legal Concerns

CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Tazewell Town Council has convened an executive session on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, 2.1-344.1 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this Council that such executive session was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Tazewell Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the executive session to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the executive session were heard, discussed or considered by

Motion was made to come out of executive session by Councilmember Brown. 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.

Mayor Buchanan stated the reason they went into executive session was to discuss real property acquisition and legal concerns. He then read the resolution for Certification of Executive Session. On a roll call vote to confirm, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

Councilmember Catron Made a motion for Attorney Pyott to proceed in the property acquisition. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Murray. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

Mayor Buchanan adjourned the meeting at 9:18 pm.