

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: Town Manager, Todd Day; Clerk-Treasurer, Leanne 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 percentages 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. Mayor Buchanan asked what classifies as a billable call? It was answered that if a patient is transported to the hospital it is a billable call. We are not billing refusal calls to the insurance companies. On average 75% of calls are billable. Councilmember Murray asked could we bill for the refusal calls. Councilmember Catron stated that we would need to ask an attorney.

The next topic discussed was collections. Currently we send a statement in 30 days and a final statement goes out in 180 days. It was asked if we want to hire an attorney after 180 days to collect. After discussion it was determined that someone in house can file for collections. Councilmember Catron stated that his billing clerk does collections and they charge a fee to recoup what it costs them to fill out the forms and send to collections. Manager Day then asked if council wanted the Town to begin using a collections agency. Councilmember Catron answered yes, Vice-Mayor Mullins stated he had no opinion, Mayor Buchanan answered yes, Councilmember Murray answered yes, Councilmember Fox stated that he did not want to create a hardship for anyone, Councilmember McReynolds asked how others handled it.

Mayor Buchanan stated that if we do not transport to the hospital we currently do not bill them. If we starting charging for an EMS refusal call where they did not go to the hospital what could we charge? It was answered that it costs around \$50.00 to run a refusal call (time, gas, equipment). Councilmember Catron asked if we could charge a fee for that? Manager Day asked if we do transport them and the patient does not have insurance what does council want to do? Would we pursue the patient? He stated that he needs some direction and policy from council. Councilmember Murray stated that at one time we had an EMS committee and he feels like we need to have another EMS committee. He also feels that we should go after money if we can collect it. Manager Day stated that we needed to try to collect what we can from the EMS billing and stated that if the Town wanted to keep doing projects such as welcome signs and demolitions and work on the movie theater building we just got that we need to have money for this stuff. He also stated that they have cut hours at the rescue squad to try and cut down on some costs. He also stated that he would also like to see the EMS committee come back.

The issue of transports was brought up. It was stated that TOT EMS does not do transport calls because they feel it is more important to cover emergency calls in town. It was then asked what if we had another ambulance. We could run some numbers and see that the expense versus revenue would be. Also, we are applying for another grant for another ambulance. Manager Day stated that the Town of Tazewell EMS is a bright star we just need to work with it.

Councilmember Catron thanked Rescue Squad Administrator Syndee Saleem for sticking with it and seeing the billing through. Vice-Mayor Mullins asked Manager Day how he felt about going after the uninsured. He answered that he thinks we should bill them in order to have a healthy, productive department. Mayor Buchanan asked how the hospital billed patients if they do not have insurance. It was answered that they bill the individual. However, if we are going to do that, we would need to discuss what rates to use. Councilmember Murray stated that if we are going to have an ambulance service that we need to bill patients for our services. Also, he doesn't feel that it is right that citizens in town are paying to support the rescue squad and pay for us going into the county to run calls. He would like to see the county donate some money to the Town for the rescue squad or pay so much per call or pay a lump sum once a year. Also, it needs to be decided how much a person without insurance would owe before we start changing policy.

THEATER UPDATE

It is being advertised to see if anyone would be interested in using the theater building. The town now owns the building. The IDA will assume ownership if they have someone interested in it.

OKTOBREWFEEST

Councilmember McReynolds stated that it was a great event and there were lots of people there. There were lots of younger people and even people that traveled from out of state to come.

Mayor Buchanan called to recess the meeting at 6:37pm and stated we would reconvene at 7:30pm for the regular council meeting.

Council Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2016

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

Present:

Mayor A. D. Buchanan Jr

Vice-Mayor Terry Mullins

Councilmember Chris Brown

Councilmember Jack Murray

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Jerry McReynolds

Absent:

Councilmember Glenn Catron

Staff present were: Town Attorney, Brad Pyott; Town Manager, Todd Day; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; Police Chief, Dewitt Cooper; Fire Chief, Josh Roberts; Rescue Squad Administrator, Syndee Saleem Clerk-Treasurer, Leeanne Billings; Public Work Director, Donny Pruitt; Property Maintenance/ Zoning Administrator, Chris Hurley; Recreation Director, Travis Barbee.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Buchanan called the meeting to order. He then opened with the pledge of allegiance. Invocation was given by Town Manager Todd Day.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION FROM DELEGATE MOREFIELD

Delegate Morefield is here on behalf of the General Assembly. He would like us to know that he has been working for young people to be able to stay in Virginia and to make a life for themselves and raise a family here. He also stated it is encouraging to see leaders in his home town trying to work and make Tazewell a better place. He read a resolution for the 150th anniversary of the Town's incorporation. He wished the Town of Tazewell a happy 150th anniversary from the House of Delegates.

PROCLAMATION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Mayor Buchanan read a Proclamation for Domestic Awareness Month. He presented the Proclamation to Marilyn Miller with Clinch Valley Community Action.

PUBLIC COMMENT

AMI PATTERSON

Ami Patterson of 221 N Central Avenue, Tazewell, Virginia came before the council to discuss the sports programs in the town. She would like to know if there is anything the Town can do that would help the kids with sports. The YMCA has done what they can do. Her family has experienced problems with the soccer and basketball programs, and her children are now playing elsewhere because they are being challenged more in the other programs. She feels that Tazewell's sports programs are being left behind. She would like to encourage everyone to work together. She also said that she has already spoke to the recreation director and the YMCA director.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, and seconded by Councilmember Murray to approve the council minutes of September 13, 2016. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

APPROVAL OF PROJECT REPORTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Brown and seconded by Councilmember Murray to approve the project reports for September 2016.

After discussion was held, the town staff will be cutting down on the information that is put in the project reports.

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

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE ON ONGOING PROJECTS

Manager Day gave the following updates. The Train Station lease for the parking and use of lot was sent out today. The Town now owns the movie theater and the council would like to see it brought back to life. The DHCD grant will be closing soon and the Town is applying for several more grants.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilmember Brown stated that he thought it would be a good idea if we created a committee for sports and recreation. He said that he would be willing to serve on the committee. At this time Councilmember Brown made a motion to create a committee for sports and recreation. Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Mullins. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Councilmember Murray stated at the last meeting they discussed the boundary adjustment, street names and street numbers.

TRAIN DEPOT COMMITTEE

Vice-Mayor Mullins stated he was glad to hear we got the lease from Norfolk Southern. The committee wanted to restore the station to the look of the station in 1928. They had to submit to the Historical Resource and they wanted to do something different. They have now come to an agreement on the looks of the depot.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Councilmember McReynolds did not have an update on the airport but did encourage everyone to visit the airport.

SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Clerk/Treasurer Leeanne Billings gave an update on the Sesquicentennial Committee. Susan Reeves has ordered the Taztownopoly games and they should be here in time for Christmas and said they would make good gifts. She also stated that Susan Reeves has done a fantastic job and that she deserves a big thank you for all the work she has done and encouraged everyone if they saw her to tell her what a good job she has done.

WAYFINDING SIGNS DISCUSSION

Property Maintenance/ Zoning Administrator, Chris Hurley showed everyone a sample of the sign that would be placed at the end of the exit ramps on Rt 460. There will be 22 signs total. The sign presented costs \$161.00. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Mullins to approve the sign. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

APPROVE VDOT RESOLUTION FOR REVENUE SHARING

Mayor Buchanan read the resolution for the revenue sharing program. Councilmember Murray made a motion to approve the resolution. Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Mullins. Manager Day added that this is for \$647,000.00 designated for street paving. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

APPROVE VDOT RESOLUTION FOR HB2

Mayor Buchanan read the resolution for HB2. Councilmember Murray made a motion to approve the resolution. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

DONATION REQUEST FROM THS STUDENT JOHN BROWN TO PARTICIPATE IN HIGH SCHOOL PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION LEADERSHIP SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

Councilmember Brown made a motion to give \$200.00 to John Brown to go to the inauguration. Vice Mayor Mullins seconded that motion. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

TRUNK OR TREAT AND TRICK OR TREAT UPDATE

Manager Day reminded everyone that Trunk or Treat and Trick or Treat will be held on Monday, October 31st. He stated that last year there was a huge crowd on Main Street for Trunk or Treat and hopes it is another great event this year.

APPROVAL OF BACK OF THE DRAGON EVENT –BILL DIXON

Manager Day stated that there has been money donated to the event from the Town and from the County. He stated that with the town and county attorney's approval there will be a Monster stunt show like there has been in the past. Councilmember Brown made a motion to let the town

attorney review the issue and approve if he sees fit. Vice Mayor Mullins seconded the motion. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

APPROVAL OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT RESOLUTIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

Mayor Buchanan read the resolution for Rural Development. Councilmember Brown made a motion to adopt the resolution. Vice Mayor Mullins seconded the motion. Manager Day stated that every year we apply for a grant for police cruisers and this will be a 50/50 grant. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Mayor Buchanan read the resolution for the Code of Conduct. Councilmember Brown made a motion to adopt the resolution. Motion was second by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

RESCUE SQUAD BILLING DISCUSSION

Manager Day stated that we now bill in house instead of using a third party billing. We changed our name and it caused a problem in getting funds from Medicaid and Medicare. We have fixed the issue with Medicare and should now be getting money continuously from Medicare. The TOT EMS is one of three full time squads in the county. Rescue 945 may be closing and McDowell County Rescue has closed. We can't run in the black operating as we are now. We are a public service. How do we want to proceed with customers that do not pay their bills? Do we want to bill customers that do not have insurance coverage? Councilmember Murray made a motion to bill individuals that do not have insurance coverage and go to a higher level to collect. Councilmember Brown seconded the motion. Councilmember Brown stated if the insurance company does not pay all of the bill the customer should be responsible for the remainder of the bill. On a roll call vote to confirm charging individuals without insurance coverage: Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, no; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

Councilmember Brown made a motion to bill the patient the remainder of the bill the insurance company does not pay. Councilmember Murray seconded the motion. On a roll call vote to confirm: Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

PROJECT & ACTIVITY REPORT DISCUSSION

At the previous meeting there was discussion about cutting down the information in the project and activity reports. Manager Day asked the council what they would like to take out of the report. It was decided to take out public works report, the garage report, and the chief's report however leave the police department report they would still like. They also said the sewer plant report could be left out. Vice Mayor Mullins stated that whoever does the project and activity report does a good job putting it together.

RESCHEDULE NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETING TO NOVEMBER 1ST

Councilmember Fox made a motion to move the council meeting to November 1st due to Election Day falling on the regular scheduled date of the meeting. Councilmember Murray seconded the motion. On vote: Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Buchanan reminded everyone that Election Day would be coming up soon.

Mayor Buchanan reminded everyone about the date and times for Trick or treat.

Mayor Buchanan thanked the beautification committee and thanked everyone who worked on the events during the summer.

Councilmember Murray asked why the speed limit was being raised to 65 on Rt 460 through the Town of Tazewell. Chief Cooper answered that it happened 11 years ago and they are just now putting it in place.

Councilmember McReynolds reminded everyone of the Veteran's Day Parade.

Councilmember Fox thanked Larry & Claudine Blankenship for their involvement of the events on Main Street this summer.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Murray

Resolution Number: ES101016

Motion Seconded by: Fox

Meeting Date: 10October16

Vote: All Aye

Purpose: Legal counsel

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 the Tazewell Town Council.

VOTE

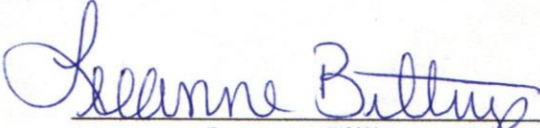
Ayes: Brown, Mullins, Murray, Fox, McReynolds

Nays:

(For each nay vote, the substance of the departure from the requirements of the Act should be described.)

Absent during vote: Catron

Absent during meeting: Catron



Leanne Billings, Clerk

Motion was made to come out of executive session by Councilmember Murray. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

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

Mayor Buchanan stated that the Town had received a thank you letter from Rachel Mulkey and a thank you letter from Farm to Table.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Buchanan adjourned the meeting at 9:15 pm.