

Council Meeting Minutes

November 1, 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 Glenn Catron

Councilmember Jack Murray

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Jerry McReynolds

Absent:

Councilmember Chris Brown

Staff present were: Town Attorney, Brad Pyott; Town Manager, Todd Day; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; Police Chief, Dewitt Cooper; 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. A moment of silence was observed for former Tazewell Police Officer Eric McGuire's passing. Invocation was given by Town Manager Todd Day.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

SPECIAL PRESENTATION FROM SENATOR BEN CHAFIN

Senator Ben Chaffin presented the Town of Tazewell with a resolution for the Town's Sesquicentennial. He then read the resolution and congratulated Tazewell for their 150th year. He presented the resolution to Mayor Buchanan.

PRESENTATION FROM TAZEWELL COUNTY FAIR

Marcus Gilbert and Viola Asbury came before council and thanked the Town for helping with the fair. He said that if there was anything the Fair Association could help the Town with please let them know. They then presented an award to the Town for their appreciation.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray, and seconded by Councilmember McReynolds to approve the council minutes of October 11, 2016 and October 24, 2016. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE ON ONGOING PROJECTS

Manager Day gave the following updates. The Town has applied for funding help with work on seven bridges that need repair work in Town. The work on Rt 61 is moving forward. We are still working with PSA on the Pocahontas Project.

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Councilmember Murray stated they have not met yet, they will meet next week.

TRAIN DEPOT COMMITTEE

Vice-Mayor Mullins wanted to remind everyone of the brick fundraiser. The goal is to sell 100 bricks. So far they have sold 21. The forms can be found on the website and facebook. It is \$50.00 per brick. He spoke with Barry Rakes and there has been a lot of work done with VDOT and historical agencies. We now have an agreement with Norfolk Southern for the use of the lot the Depot sits on. We will pay \$300.00 a year for the lease. The project should finish on schedule.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Councilmember McReynolds invited everyone to come visit the airport. He would like to remind everyone about the Veterans Parade Sunday starting at THS at 2:00pm. There will be a dinner after the parade for the veterans at the church. Also, there will be a fly over again at the parade.

SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

Clerk/Treasurer LeeAnne Billings gave an update on the Sesquicentennial Committee. The Tazetownopoly games have been ordered and the sample has been approved. They should be here within the next couple weeks. They will be on sale for purchase and would make great gifts.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Chief Cooper introduced our newest officer, Kelly Joe Jessee. He also stated that there had been a bad wreck involving one of our officers. There was a car going the wrong way on Rt 460 and they hit Officer Blake Robinson head on. He thanked his officers for putting their lives at risk every day. There were two other deputies that arrived on scene within two minutes of the call. He thanked Donny Pruitt and his staff for all they do to help out the police department and especially wanted to thank William Asbury for all his help and for helping with fish day.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Property Maintenance/ Zoning Administrator, Chris Hurley showed the directional signs that will be placed in town to help visitors find their way around.

APPROVAL OF LETTER OF SUPPORT REQUESTED BY SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEM

Manager Day stated that he did not want to do anything that would hurt our local hospital but wants to help them if we are able. Councilmember Catron stated that there shouldn't be any harm in writing a letter. There is no vote needed in this matter.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR LOCAL BREWERY

Mayor Buchanan read a resolution in support of the Painted Peak Brewing Company. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilmember Catron. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Murray. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

Larry Blankenship thanked the council and council thanked him as well. Larry Blankenship thanked them for their support and leadership and he also thanked public works.

TAZEWELL COUNTY RADON STUDY DISCUSSION

Manager Day stated that Virginia Tech has contacted miscellaneous people to do a radon test. The Town of Tazewell does show to be a hot area for radon. They also discussed other areas in Virginia that had high readings. He stated that he would like to have radon tests for anyone that wants to check their property. He will be working with Tazewell County on this. We are no different than any other locality, there were just more responses in Tazewell County. However, all areas have radon readings, some just read higher than others.

RETAIL STRATEGIES

Manager Day stated that last week the Council, IDA, and Planning Commission met with Retail Strategies. This company tries to get other businesses to come to our town and open businesses here. The annual fee for their service is \$40,000.00. This made the local paper and somehow made national news as well. He would like to have a little more time to do more research. Councilmember Catron stated that he would like the manager to research more. Councilmember Murray stated that he would like to wait until January to make a decision.

STATE OF GOOD REPAIR UPDATE

Manager Day stated that there are eight bridges in the town that need attention. He feels comfortable saying that we will get some help with it. Public Works Director Donny Pruitt and crew did a lot of the work in house and it saved \$200,000.00. He then thanked Executive Assistant Robin Brewster for keeping up with these deadlines and filling out the forms and getting them there on time.

MISCELLANEOUS

Mayor Buchanan stated that we received a litter control grant from the state.

Councilmember Catron stated that the recycling bin project is looking good.

Mayor Buchanan stated that the events on Main Street are growing. Brewfest had a great crowd and Trunk or Treat had a great crowd.

Mayor Buchanan wanted to remind everyone that November 3rd at 6:30pm there would be a community prayer event at Altizer Stage. Also, the Veterans Day parade would be held on Sunday.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Murray

Resolution Number: ES011116

Motion Seconded by: Catron

Meeting Date: 01 November 16

Vote: All Aye

Purpose: Consultation with 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

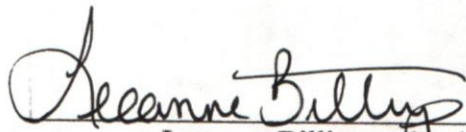
Ayes: Mullins, Catron, Murray, Fox, McReynolds

Nays:

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

Absent during vote: Brown

Absent during meeting: Brown


Leanne Billings, Clerk

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

Vice Mayor Mullins made a motion to allow Manager Day to purchase property (094B 4A 0073) for no more than \$30,000.00. Councilmember Murray seconded the motion. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember McReynolds, aye.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mayor Buchanan adjourned the meeting at 9:00 pm.