

Council Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2017

The Tazewell Town Council met in a budget work session at 6:00 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 Jennifer Boyd

Staff present were: Town Manager, Todd Day; Clerk-Treasurer, Leeanne Billings; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; Recreation Director, Travis Barbee.

BOWLING ALLEY

Manager Day stated that the Town has owned the bowling alley since April 2016. It was donated to the town however the town has never determined what to do with the property. The town owns the under roof part of the building and the lot around it however part of the lot is in the flood plain. Part of the building is in good shape but the other part of the building will need to come down. We have discussed demolishing the building, we have discussed making the property a park for kids. Several options have been discussed for the property but nothing has ever been decided. Vice Mayor Mullins stated that he would like to look at the property and see what the inside of the building looks like. Manager Day stated that they should set a time to go look at the building. Councilmember Catron asked if it could be made into an industrial site for a future business. Councilmember Murray agreed and thought that was a good idea. Manager Day stated that right now there is a one year lease with the current occupant that will end in April. Councilmember Murray would like to see the property cleaned up after the tenant's lease is up. Vice Mayor Mullins asked what is the plan for the warehouses across the street. Manager Day stated that some people would like to see them torn down and some people would like to see them stay. The buildings are not condemnable, they are structurally sound. Councilmember Murray asked if there were any codes that gives the town authority to have the owners tear it down. Manager Day stated that the owner of the old Acme building is willing to sell it for

\$50,000(estimated). He also stated that there is lots of steel and metal in that building and it is very structurally sound. Vice Mayor Mullins stated that it sounds like they either need to update the building (bowling alley) and improve its appearance, tear it down, or do nothing and with what he is hearing doing nothing does not seem to be an option.

THEATER

Manager Day stated that Councilmember Fox was approached by Sharon Thomas, owner of the VIP Room, who seemed interested in the building. Also, Alan Galumbeck has shown interest in the theater. He has experience in operating movie theaters. Also, the owner of the movie theater in Claypool Hill has shown some interest. Alan has toured the theater and has gotten measurements. Mayor Buchanan asked if they could also tour the movie theater when they tour the bowling alley. Manager Day stated that would be fine to look at both facilities.

MAIN STREET GREEN SPACE

Manager Day showed a map of Main Street. The Town has purchased quite a bit of land for the purpose of the hotel. There is a road beside of the Commonwealth Attorney's office that needs to be widened. Monte Rife owns the land beside of the road and will probably be approached so the road can be widened. The new restaurant on Main Street, Seven, has Main Street busy. There are lots of vehicles up there in the evenings now. This is just from one new business, when more open up, where will they park. A letter has been sent to Chief Cooper to start enforcing two hour parking. Since the Town owns the vacant lot where the hotel will be going, we will start providing a parking lot until the hotel/parking garage is built. The Town will try to help solve the parking issues. Manager Day stated that he will be in a meeting with Jeff Mitchell and the contractor for the hotel Thursday in Blacksburg. He also stated that Irma Mitchell's restaurant is back under construction now.

INCENTIVE MARKETING REVIEW

Manager Day stated that Accounting Clerk, David Hilton had called the references provided to us by the Retail Coach and Retail Strategies. He has provided the council with that feed back in the council packet. Manager Day stated that in the second presentation the company stated that we would be lucky to get two fast food restaurants here. Manager Day also stated that the meals tax incentive that the town will give to restaurants, the new restaurant Seven and the soon to open Citgo station with the chicken restaurant in it, both do not want to take advantage of the incentive. They have both voiced their concern that they do not want to hurt the town. They want the town to grow and be successful and they did not want to take away income from the town.

Manager Day made the suggestion to table the issue of hiring the Retail Coach or Retail Strategies. Councilmember Brown and Murray both agree. Vice Mayor Mullins stated that it was his perception from the group meeting with the IDA and Tazewell Today, they would like to see something done. Councilmember Fox agrees to table the issue because of financial concerns for the Town. Councilmember Boyd also agrees. Manager Day suggested to table the issue for a little while and when they get ready to discuss it again he would ask for another group meeting between council, IDA, and Tazewell Today.

GYM RATE DISCUSSION

Manager Day stated that Recreation Director, Travis Barbee has prepared recommendations for council's approval. He is suggesting a 70/30 contract for our martial arts program. He has found that a 70/30 contract is common based in the market. Manager Day stated that she does a wonderful job with martial arts and she has helped a lot of young people and they do great community demonstrations. Recreation Director Barbee stated that last month she was paid \$468.00 and Office Clerk, Tracie Lewis manages her files. Councilmember Murray asked if the instructor receives a 1099. It was answered that yes she does. Recreation Director Barbee stated that if we do it on a percentage basis the more students she has the more she will make. Also, this may cause her to push the class more and get new students enrolled; it would give her incentive to recruit new students. By signing this contract with the Town she would get to pick her day and set time and have it each week without getting bumped for other rentals. It was also mentioned that if other programs would want to come in at the gym we should have the option to negotiate the contract. However, the contract will have a 70/30 maximum ceiling. Councilmember Brown asked about the basketball scheduling in the gym. It was stated that the YMCA had two particular days and the wrestling team had two particular days that they use the gym. Councilmember Brown stated that the YMCA says they can't find practice space for their teams because they want to leave their basketball court open for members of the YMCA to use it and this is why they want to use our gym for basketball. Councilmember Catron stated that our relationship with the school system would come in good if there could be a way they could use the school gyms. Recreation Director Barbee stated that this is important however, whomever handles basketball would have to discuss it with the school and in this case that would be the YMCA.

GRASS CUTTING

Manager Day stated that we have sent a letter to Daniel Jones letting him know that the Town will be doing the grass cutting this year. Public Works Director Donny Pruitt believes that we can do it in house cheaper than paying a contractor to. It is an estimated savings of \$30,000.00 this year. We will hire part time help.

PARKING

Manager Day stated that he has some information regarding parking on Main Street that he would like council to review and vote on during the meeting. In this information it also states that no parking tickets will be given out after 5:00pm. At this time he then read the information to the council.

Council Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2017

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 Jennifer Boyd

Staff present were: Town Attorney, Brad Pyott; Town Manager, Todd Day; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; Police Chief, Dewitt Cooper; Fire Chief, Josh Roberts; 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

PROCLAMATION FOR SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

Mayor Buchanan read the proclamation. Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to accept the proclamation designating January 22-28 Tazewell Choice Week. 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 Boyd, aye.

NO PUBLIC COMMENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron, and seconded by Councilmember Murray to approve the work session and council minutes of December 13, 2016. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

TOWN MANAGER'S UPDATE ON ONGOING PROJECTS

Manager Day stated he did not have any updates at this time.

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Councilmember Murray stated there was no meeting for the month of January.

TRAIN DEPOT COMMITTEE

Vice-Mayor Mullins stated that they have not had a meeting however he has spoken with Barry Rakes and he is working with VDOT to get accurate information and would like to see the bid advertised January 22nd.

BACK OF THE DRAGON

Councilmember Catron stated that the committee meets every two weeks. There will be a demolition derby held on June 9th. On June 10th there will be Monster stunt riders, music, etc. On June 11th they will hold the Jimmy Ramey memorial ride.

MISCELLANEOUS

Attorney Pyott stated that we need to hold a public hearing for the Lumos Franchise. Motion was made by Councilmember Murray and seconded by Councilmember Catron to hold a public hearing February 14th at 7:00pm. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

Attorney Pyott stated that we need to hold a public hearing regarding street naming. Motion was made by Councilmember Brown and seconded by Vice Mayor Mullins to hold a public hearing February 14th at 7:15pm. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

REAPPOINT TOWN MANAGER

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray to reappoint Todd Day as town manager. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Catron. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

REAPPOINT CLERK

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron to reappoint Leanne Billings as Clerk. 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 Boyd, aye.

REAPPOINT TOWN ATTORNEY

Motion was made by Councilmember Brown to reappoint Brad Pyott as town attorney. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Catron. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

FILL VACANCY, DISCUSS & APPROVE PLANNING COMMISSION REAPPOINTMENT

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray to reappoint Benny Moore, Richard Taylor, and Susan Reeves to new four year terms since their term has expired. 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 Boyd, aye.

Council will discuss filling the vacant seat on the planning commission at the February meeting and will vote to fill the position then.

DISCUSS & APPROVE IDA REAPPOINTMENT

The members terms that have expired are, Bob Buchanan, Chad Murray and Junior Boothe. Manager Day stated that the way the terms are set up, one of those member have to come off. The council will need to vote to reappoint two of the members. Councilmember Brown made a motion to reappoint Junior Boothe and Chad Murray to the IDA. 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 Boyd, aye.

FILL VACANCY, DISCUSS & APPROVE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS REAPPOINTMENT

On this committee the terms are five year terms. The current members are Benny Moore, Anthony Brewster, Bill Weeks, and Joe Bowen. Councilmember Murray made a motion to reappoint these members. 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 Boyd, aye.

There is one vacancy on this committee and it will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

DISCUSS & APPROVE TAZEWELL COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY REAPPOINTMENT OF JIM TALBERT

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray to reappoint Jim Talbert to the Tazewell County Airport Authority. 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 Boyd, aye.

REPEAL OF MEALS TAX DISCOUNT

Town Attorney Pyott stated that our current code says a .05% discount will be given to businesses that pay their meals tax on time. Motion was made by Councilmember Brown amend the code to read that no discount will be given for paying on time. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Murray. On a roll call vote to adopt, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray to adopt this as an emergency ordinance, effective immediately. Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Mullins. On a roll call vote to confirm, Vice

Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

REPEAL CIGARETTE TAX DISCOUNT

Town Attorney Pyott stated that our current code says a .0006 per cent per stamp discount will be given to businesses that purchase cigarette stamps. Motion was made by Councilmember Catron to amend the code to read no discount will be given. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On a roll call vote to adopt, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray to adopt this as an emergency ordinance, effective immediately. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On a roll call vote to confirm, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

BOZA ORDINANCE UPDATE

Town Attorney Pyott stated that the BZA had a meeting last year where a resident was asking for a variance to a zoning regulation. It was found that this customer had delinquent real estate taxes. He has prepared a draft of an ordinance that would require residents requesting special use permits be able to produce a paid receipt for real estate taxes. He then read the drafted ordinance for the first reading. The second reading will take place at the February meeting.

GYM RATE

Motion was made by Councilmember Brown to propose a 70/30 contract with the martial arts program instructor and allow Recreation Director Barbee to have the ability to negotiate any future contract labor, setting 70/30 as the maximum ceiling for the contracts. Also, the rate of the gym rentals will now be \$15.00 per hour. 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 Boyd, aye.

AMENDMENT OF PARKING ORDINANCE

Manager Day presented during the work session the current issue with parking on Main Street. He has asked Chief Cooper to start enforcing the two hour parking more aggressively, with no tickets being issued after 5:00pm. Attorney Pyott read an amendment to the current parking code. Motion was made by Councilmember Murray to pass this as an emergency ordinance. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown. Councilmember Fox asked is there would be any kind of conflict with VDOT if this was passed. Attorney Pyott stated that the Town Charter gives authority to address the issue. On a roll call vote to adopt the amended ordinance, Vice Mayor

Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron to adopt the ordinance as an emergency to take effect immediately. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Murray. On a roll call vote to confirm, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilmember Catron asked why accountability levels were not better. He thought with the new meters accountability would be better. Manager Day stated that the meter accuracy was better but the accountability was down due to the leaks in town.

Councilmember Murray stated that Manager Day suggested reestablishing the EMS committee. He would like to see it active again. Councilmember Brown made a motion to reestablish the EMS committee. The 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 Boyd, aye.

The terms to be one year terms. The members on the committee will consist of, Councilmember Murray, Councilmember Fox, and Councilmember Catron.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Murray made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 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 Boyd, aye.

Mayor Buchanan adjourned the meeting at 8:17 pm.