

Council Minutes

March 14, 2017

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Buchanan called the public hearing to order at 7:15 p.m. The Town of Tazewell held a public hearing for possible cable franchise. He read the public hearing resolution. Town Attorney Pyott stated we received one sealed bid from Lumos. They set forth specific fees and terms, they asked for a 10 year term. However, we recommend a five year term. Mayor Buchanan asked if anyone wished to speak for or against this issue. At this time, no one spoke for or against this reading.

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; Rescue Squad Administrator, Syndee Saleem; Clerk-Treasurer, Leanne Billings; Property Maintenance/Zoning Administrator, Chris Hurley.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Buchanan called the meeting to order. He thanked everyone for their support during the time of his dad's passing. He stated that Stevie Mitchem and Mack Myers had also passed away and that they had showed great leadership to the children of the community. He then opened with the pledge of allegiance. Invocation was given by H. S. Caudill.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

DUNFORD PARK TROUT STREAM PROGRAM

H. S. Caudill came before council and stated that the Department of Game and Fisheries would like to get more youth involved in fishing. They have implemented youth hunting and now have separate times for youth bear hunting, turkey hunting, and deer hunting. They are in the process of designating youth only trout streams. There have been seven streams in Virginia approved and one of those streams is Dunford Park. It will be designated as a youth fishing stream from April 1 to July 1 and the age cut off is 15 years old. If a child is 12 years old or younger they can get help baiting and casting but they cannot get help to retrieve. The limit is three a day. It will be stocked April 8th, May 7th and the end of May. He stated that we should be proud of the Town because it is taking a step to help the youth of Tazewell. Mayor Buchanan thanked him and the Department of Game and Fisheries.

PRESENTATION OF ASSET FORFEITURE

Commonwealth Attorney Mike Dennis came before council to present Chief Cooper and the Town of Tazewell with a check for \$27,645.00 from cases with asset forfeiture.

PROCLAMATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION WEEK

Mayor Buchanan read the proclamation for local government education week. The first week in April is local government education week. Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to adopt the proclamation. 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Betty Wallace of 708 West Riverside Drive, North Tazewell came before council and thanked them for all they do. She then stated she would like to welcome Jennifer Boyd to the council. She stated that she was concerned about her water bill because it goes up and down and there are only two people there in the house. She would like to make a request to see other people's water bill and compare theirs to hers. She asked if it was public record and it was answered yes. She then stated she would like to see Hurst Street be paved and also she would like to see the lot at the end of the street cleaned off, she said that it belongs to the Town. Next she stated that there is a big hump in the road on Fudge Street and it needs to be repaired. At 105 Fudge Street they own the house. They have a tenant there and feel that they are being harassed. The tenant's vehicle was towed off this morning and she feels that the police will cause them to be unable to rent their house if this keeps up. She wanted to know if the police should have let her tenant know that her car was being towed. Chief Cooper stated they tried for five minutes to get someone to the door and no one answered. The car was blocking the street and the garbage truck could not get through because of the snow and ice on the road with the way the car was sitting. Once the tenant did come out they offered to let her pay the tow bill and drop the car but she didn't pay it so they towed the car. Also the car had expired tags on it. Manager Day encourages Mrs. Wallace to stop by the office and see Chief Cooper to discuss this matter and other issues she may have.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron, and seconded by Councilmember Murray to approve the council minutes of February 14th. 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 February 2017. 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 at the meeting they discussed street names, the Ramey Ford lot, zoning on Hopkins Street and a chicken ordinance.

TRAIN DEPOT COMMITTEE

Vice-Mayor Mullins stated that they have not had a meeting and have not heard from Barry Rakes.

BACK OF THE DRAGON

Councilmember Catron stated that the committee meets every two weeks and they are finalizing plans for the bands.

POSTED SPEED LIMIT STUDY

AMT conducted a speed study. They did recommend Dogwood Road be 35 however now they have recommended it be 25. Steeles Lane they recommend 25. Tazewell Avenue is now recommended at 30. Manager Day did not ask them to change their recommendations. However he did ask if they had any justification to legally change any of these and they recommended those three changes. The Town will post that the speed limits have been changed. The following are the new speed limits:

Steeles Lane-Motion was made by Councilmember Murray to adopt the recommended speed limit of 25. 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, nay.

Dogwood Road will stay the same, no changes.

Tazewell Avenue-Motion was made by Councilmember Murray to adopt the recommended speed limit of 30. 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.

West Riverside Drive will stay the same, no changes.

East Fincastle- Motion was made by Vice Mayor Mullins to adopt the recommended speed limit of 30 & 40. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

Maplewood Lane- Motion was made by Councilmember Brown to adopt the recommended speed limit of 30. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Catron. Councilmember Fox stated that there are a lot of people on the road because of the apartments and he feels having a sidewalk through there would help. Councilmember Brown stated that the road was wider so they could have a safe space to walk. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, nay; Councilmember Fox, nay; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

Fairground Road- Motion was made by Councilmember Brown to adopt the recommended speed limit of 40 & 30. Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Mullins. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, nay; Councilmember Fox, nay; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

Crab Orchard Road – Motion was made by Vice Mayor Mullins to adopt the recommended speed limit of 55 & 45. 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.

FILLING VACANCY ON PLANNING COMMISSION

Councilmember Murray made a motion to appoint Terry Long to the Planning Commission. 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.

FILL VACANCY ON BZA

Table until next meeting.

STREET NAME DISCUSSION

Property Maintenance/ Zoning Administrator, Chris Hurley stated that the town had adopted a mirror ordinance of the Street Ordinance Tazewell County has. There can be no duplicated street names between town and county. Also, we need to get rid of east and west. Councilmember Brown asked how many streets there were in town. It was answer over 100. How many are east

and west, two. Councilmember Catron asked if we change the names of the streets, is the next step to change the numbers. Councilmember Brown asked if it would all be changed at one time. It was answered yes, street names and numbers would come out at the same time so people would not have to change their address twice. The group held discussion on street names.

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray to change the name of Four Way Crossing to Freedom Avenue. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Catron. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, nay; Councilmember Boyd, nay.

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray to change West Fincastle to Jeffersonville Street. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown. On a roll call vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, nay; Councilmember Boyd, nay.

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron to change Fairview Street to Orchard Street. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown. On a roll call vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, nay; Councilmember Boyd, nay.

Motion was made by Councilmember Murray to change Wynne Vista to Fincastle Turnpike. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Catron. On a roll call vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

MISCELLANEOUS

Lumos has submitted a bid to have a franchise with the Town. Motion was made by Councilmember Catron to approve Lumos' request to have a franchise with the Town of Tazewell contingent upon working with the Town Attorney to finalize the terms of the agreement. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown. On a roll call vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, nay; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

REVENUE SHARING RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Buchanan read the Revenue Sharing Resolution. Motion was made by Councilmember Catron to approve the resolution. 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.

Mayor Buchanan read the resolution for funding. Motion was made by Councilmember Murray to approve the resolution. 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.

APPALACHIAN POWER COMPANY EASEMENT

Manager Day stated that this would be removed from the agenda because the meeting with Appalachian Power was cancelled.

DONATION REQUEST FROM TAZEWELL THUNDER YOUNG ATHLETICS, INC. SOFTBALL CLUB

This will be discussed at a later work session.

THEATER DISCUSSION

Manager Day stated that he has met with an individual that is interested in the movie theater. Town Attorney Pyott is currently working on a legal document regarding rent or lease of the building and the terms of the agreement.

MAIN STREET HOTEL PROPERTY

Manager Day stated that he has a recommendation from the IDA to proceed with the hotel. The property is currently owned by the Town and needs to be deeded to the IDA.

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron to have the property for the theater deeded to the Town of Tazewell IDA. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Murray. On a roll call vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

Motion was made by Councilmember Brown to have all the parcels for the hotel deeded to the Town of Tazewell IDA. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Murray. On a roll call vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

TAZEWELL TODAY STRATEGIC PLAN

Irma Mitchell with Tazewell Today spoke about their committee and their strategic plan. She stated they have 50 members that make up Tazewell Today and they have held events to try and bring people to Main Street. There have been several improvements on Main Street and even business open on Main Street because of Tazewell Today. One of their main goals is to bring Main Street back to life. She then discussed the strategic plan further and asked if council would

endorse their plan. She is not asking for funds just to support their plan and growth on Main Street. Motion was made by Councilmember Catron to endorse Tazewell Today's strategic plan. 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.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN RESOLUTION

Mayor Buchanan read the resolution for the Rural Development Loan. Motion was made by Council Member Fox to adopt the resolution and for the police department to proceed to work with Rural Development. 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.

MISCELLANEOUS

Manager Day stated that he had been contacted and asked about having part of the walking path around the lake at Lincolnshire Park paved. This will be discussed in the work session at a later date.

Manager Day stated that there needed to be a time set for Spring Clean Up Month. Vice Mayor Mullins made a motion to set May as clean up month. Councilmember Murray seconded the motion. On vote, Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Murray made a motion to recess the meeting until 6:30pm on March 23rd, council will meet at the sewer plant and then meet back in the council chambers. 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 recessed the meeting at 9:02 pm.