

## **Council Work Session Minutes**

April 5, 2017

The Tazewell Town Council met in a budget work session at 6:00 a.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

### **Present:**

Mayor A. D. Buchanan Jr

Vice-Mayor Terry Mullins

Councilmember Chris Brown

Councilmember Jack Murray

Councilmember Glenn Catron

Councilmember Jennifer Boyd

### **Absent:**

Councilmember David Fox

Staff present were: Town Manager, Todd Day; Clerk-Treasurer, LEEANNE BILLINGS; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster, Rescue Squad Administrator, SYNDEE SALEEM.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Buchanan reconvened the meeting.

## **RESCUE SQUAD**

Manager Day stated that at one time we had no insurance for EMS or the fire department. We went with Chesterfield Insurance to cover our volunteers. VML would not cover us because we had set times for them to be there and they did not consider that volunteer. We had to do full time so they would have insurance coverage because with Obamacare if an employee worked over 29 hours the company had to offer health insurance. In 2015 we had eight full time employees brought back on. Now we are thinking about cutting back to one truck. That would save around \$120,000.00 a year in part time pay. We have highlands and Mercy that could run calls if we were tied up. We are the only squad that is not fully funded by the county. We have sent a letter to the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors to request funding. Rescue Squad Administrator Syndee Saleem feels comfortable going back to one truck. It is estimated that it would take \$532,961 to run one truck for one year. It is estimated that one truck could bring in \$400,000.00 in revenue. Manager Day does not recommend going back to part time.

Councilmember Murray asked if Bluefield is going to be county funded. It was answered yes. Then it was asked why should the Town of Tazewell tax payers pay for calls ran in the county. He stated that he feels that we are still going to lose money and is almost to the point where he thinks it should be taken over by the county. Councilmember Brown stated that over 50% of the calls are ran in the county. The county has to provide rescue squad services. It would make since for them to give the town 54% of the cost of expenses to cover the call volume or we could turn it over to them and they could cover 100% of the expenses. Manager Day stated that the Town of

Richlands is losing ¼ of a million dollars on their rescue squad. Councilmember Brown stated that he doesn't think it should be a money maker he just thinks that they town tax payers should not be paying for outside calls. Councilmember Boyd suggest they run only in town calls if the county does not want to pay their portion. She has checked and says yes you can only run in town calls. Manager Day thinks the county is gearing up to take it because they have already hired a director. Manager Day stated that we could look at the percent of expense for county calls. We can bill the county based on the expense for those calls. We could get a one time lump sum expense check from the county each year or they can take the rescue squad over. Councilmember Murray made a motion that we wait until the regular scheduled meeting to get more information. Motion withdrew. There will be more information to go over at the council meeting.

## **BUDGET**

Manager Day showed a power point of different tax rates around the area. Tax rates were discussed, then water and sewer rates. Councilmember Brown asked why our bill to the county isn't higher if we have more expense for county service using the town plant. Manager Day stated that the master meter is read and we bill for that plus an additional 12%. We do a true up each year where they will pay us for using the sewer plant. We get our cost back plus 12%. The true up includes power, chemicals, etc. The county owns the water plant but we own the distribution center.

## **FINANCIAL BPOL**

Councilmember Murray made a motion to raise the rate to .3%. Vice Mayor Mullins seconded the motion. On vote Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, Aye; Councilmember Catron, nay; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

## **RETAIL BPOL**

Councilmember Brown made a motion to raise the rate to .3%. Councilmember Murray seconded the motion. On vote Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, Aye; Councilmember Catron, nay; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

## **CIGARETTE TAX**

Councilmember Murray made a motion to raise the cigarette tax to \$.15 per stamp. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown. On vote Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, Aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.

Manager Day thanked everyone for coming and stated that we will have to notify the businesses that the rates are going up and it may not go into effect on July 1<sup>st</sup> because we will need to have communication with them.

## **BOWLING ALLEY**

Attorney Pyott has written a letter to the tenant about vacating the building.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Brown made a motion to recess the meeting until tomorrow, April 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00am. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Catron. On vote Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Brown, Aye; Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Murray, aye; Councilmember Boyd, aye.