

## **Council Meeting Minutes**

**March 7, 2024**

The Tazewell Town Council met in an executive session and budget work session at 5:30p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present:

Absent:

Mayor Michael Hoops

Vice Mayor Glenn Catron

Councilmember Jonathan Hankins

Councilmember Zach Cline

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Staff present were: Interim Town Manager, Leeanne Regon; Executive Assistant, Susan Reeves, Attorney Brad Pyott; Water Clerk, Sabrina Schooley.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Councilmember Beasley to go into executive session. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hankins. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

**RESOLUTION**

Motion made by: Beasley

Resolution Number: ES240307

Motion Seconded by: Hankins

Meeting Date: 24 March 7

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Real Property & Award of  
Public Contract

**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**

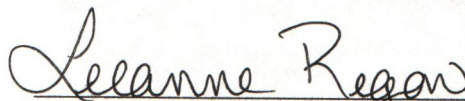
Ayes: Catron, Hankins, Cline, Fox, Davis, Beasley

Nays: none

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

Absent during vote:

Absent during meeting:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Leeanne Regan, Clerk

Motion was made by Councilmember Davis to come out of executive session. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cline. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Vice Mayor Catron stated the reason they went into executive session was for Purpose: Real Property & Award of Public Contract. He then read the resolution for Certification of Executive Session. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

### **RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR VIRGINIA OUTDOORS FOUNDATION PRESERVATION TRUST FUND GRANT APPLICATION FOR DUNFORD PARK INCLUSIVE PLAYGROUND**

Executive Assistant Reeves stated that she has been working on the grant for the inclusive playground at Dunford Park. She needs a resolution of support to submit with the grant. Mayor Hoops read the resolution. Motion was made by Councilmember Davis to approve the resolution. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hankins. Councilmember Beasley asked if the Town would be putting any funds into this. Executive Assistant Reeves stated no. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

### **BUDGET WORK SESSION**

Interim Manager Regon stated that this was the first budget work session and it was for the general fund. She showed how she determined what to budget for the FY 25 budget. She had taken all budgets from 2021 to current and averaged the last three full years and used that number as a forecast for the upcoming budget. She then discussed real estate assessments. She stated that she is not recommending a tax increase because the new assessments are already going to make people pay more. She then showed them a tax collection report for real estate and personal property taxes. Each year for the last 5 years collection rates have been above 90%. She then showed a rate comparison for taxes, BPOL, meals tax, etc.

She then discussed budget requests. Mayor Hoops had sent an email prior to the budget work session stating that there are revenue recovery funds that we still have sitting in a bank account earning interest. However, if they decide to use those funds they need to understand where that money is coming from. That is funds that were sat aside to be used for the sports complex. They need to have a discussion about the sports complex, if they want to move forward with it or officially stop the project. Councilmember Fox stated that he had heard the sports complex in

Virginia Beach was having trouble and if a sports complex in an area like that was having trouble he was concerned what could happen here if we had one. Vice Mayor Catron explained a small piece of the issues that Virginia Beach was having. He stated that we knew where he stood on the sports complex. He was wanting to bring one here to create an economy to where we would have money coming in each year to support our town. Councilmember Cline stated that we need to know where we stand on the sports complex to know how to move forward with the budget. Interim Manager Regon asked if they would be willing to let her show the slides that she has prepared for the budget requests and then discuss budget options after that. They answered yes. She then went through the slides that showed needs of the departments. Such as building repair for EMS, a paver and dump truck for public works and to finish the Maplewood sidewalk, need for more room in the police department, the need for a new tractor and side by side for the recreation department, the need for a chief's response vehicle for the fire department as well as PPE, uniforms, and equipment. When discussing the EMS building, Mayor Hoops stated that there is an immediate need there. It was stated that the living quarters up there need improvement. There are offices with beds in there for those that have to work a 24 hours shift. Councilmember Fox stated that he would like to go up there and see. Interim Manager Regon offered to go with him. Councilmember Fox stated he met with Interim Manager Regon earlier in the day and Public Works Director Pruitt stated that Michael Dotson, who has 42 years of experience in paving, would be willing to come and train our employees on the paver and show them how to care for the equipment once done.

The next item discussed was the family medical practice that we had received a donation request from. They asked for support of \$1 million. Mayor Hoops and Councilmember Cline have proposed a possible donation of \$250,000. Councilmember Cline's suggestion is that if they meet certain benchmarks, then at that time we could possibly release more funding to them, up to a total of \$500,000. Councilmember Fox wants to do something to help the senior citizens.

They then discussed the final math for the requests. There is currently \$3.1 million available. There are requests totaling \$1,955,000. This would leave a remaining balance of \$1,145,000 in that bank account. After this presentation, they began reviewing the proposed budget of FY 25. They reviewed the revenues of the general fund and discussed various line items if there were any questions as they reviewed.

They agreed to hold another budget work session for general fund expenses on Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm prior to the regularly scheduled council meeting.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cline. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:13pm.