

Council Meeting Minutes

July 9, 2024

The Tazewell Town Council met in an executive session at 7:30p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present:

Mayor Michael Hoops

Vice Mayor Glenn Catron

Councilmember Jonathan Hankins

Councilmember Zach Cline

Absent:

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Staff present were: Town Manager; Leeanne Regon; Executive Assistant, Susan Reeves, Attorney, Will Hunter; Police Chief, Stan Lampert; Fire Chief, John Thomas; Zoning and Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley; Water Clerk, Sabrina Schooley.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hoops called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. Invocation by Nate Thomas.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

TAZEWELL HIGH SCHOOL BAND BOOSTER DONATION REQUEST

Manager Regon stated that we have received a donation request from the THS Band Boosters. They will be holding band camp in July and have asked for a donation of \$500. Last year we gave them a donation of \$400.

TAZEWELL TORPEDOES SWIM TEAM

Tammy Gillespie, a representative from the swim team, came before council to ask for a donation to help repair a lane line reel. She stated there are 14 kids on the swim team from town. She stated the piece of equipment costs \$2,000. Mayor Hoops asked Manager Regon if the town purchased the original equipment. She stated she wasn't sure but could try to find out.

LOCAL BUSINESS RECOGNITION

FLY NAILS BY EMILY

Emily Vance, new owner of Fly Nails, located on Main Street, came before council to introduce herself. She said that she has been in with another salon but she has now opened her own shop.

Mayor Hoops welcomed her and congratulated her on her new business. He presented her with a small gift of appreciation.

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Zoning and Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley, stated we have received an application to expand Tazewell Community Health. They will be putting in an internal pharmacy. The original contractors of the project will be doing this work as well. Council will vote by email and ratify the vote at the next meeting.

RT. 460 WATERLINE PROJECT UPDATE

Manager Regon stated that they held a bid opening and there was one bid come in for the project. After review of the bid packet the bid for materials was awarded to Core & Main. Their bid was for \$1,243,475.00. We have ordered some of the supplies to get started on the project and as soon as we get the parts, we will begin. There are three phases for the project and we are going to begin with the phase that will have the greatest impact to our water system.

ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES RETAINER AGREEMENT UPDATE

Manager Regon stated that the Town held a bid opening and there were two bids submitted for this service. There was a small committee formed and we interviewed both companies. Thompson and Litton and New River Engineering from Charleston, WV. Both companies did a very nice interview. Thompson and Litton were scored higher and we have awarded the bid to them.

PLACER AI DISCUSSION

Manager Regon stated that she and Executive Assistant Reeves had a demo of Placer AI and it was really neat to see what it could do. She explained that it was a mobile intelligence module and it uses apps on cell phones to track locations of people. She did also say that if a person has their phone set to not allow tracking, it will not count those people so the numbers can be skewed. They provided two quotes to us. One quote is for a year contract at a cost of \$13,000 and the other is a two year contract at \$27,000. This would allow for unlimited data pulls.

LINCOLNSHIRE PARK BALL FIELDS UPDATE

Manager Regon stated that at the last meeting there was a request to improve fields at Lincolnshire Park so we can have a softball league again. Public Works Director, Donny Pruitt has contacted someone from Johnson City and they have come to look at our fields and will be giving us different options for quotes and even mentioned turf. As soon as she has quotes for this she will share with council.

REVIEW PROCUREMENT POLICY

Councilmember Cline stated that the Town Code and State Code were not lining up and this was more of a housekeeping item and we are looking to improve transparency and make purchasing more competitive for our vendors. Council will continue to review and we will revisit at another meeting.

TAZEWELL COMMUNITY HEALTH RENOVATIONS

Zoning and Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley stated that he received an application to expand Tazewell Community Health. They will be putting in an internal pharmacy. It is in the overlay district so this requires approval from Planning Commission and Town Council. Planning Commission has unanimously voted to approve. Since there is not a quorum at tonight's meeting Manager Regon will be sending out email information and asking for a vote thought email, as the contractors are awaiting an answer. The vote can then be ratified at the August meeting.

LAW CHANGES EFFECTIVE JULY 1ST

Attorney Hunter stated that each year Town Council adopts any traffic laws that may have changed or been added. As there is not a quorum present, we will table for this meeting and put it on the agenda for August.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Nathan Thomas of Camp Pocohontas came before council to thank them. Each year he is over the youth camp at Camp Pocahontas and during the two weeks that he had campers there were over 100 kids come through. Those children were able to go to the pool and aqua park with a reduced rate given by the Town Council and he just wanted to thank them for their generosity and helping make a difference.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember Cline asked Manager Regon were we stand with the group from Feeding Southwest Virginia. Manager Regon stated that Executive Assistant Reeves had tried to contact them a couple times and left messages however, she has not received a phone call back yet.

Councilmember Hankins stated that he would like to thank Chief Lampert and Lt. Menefee for helping a senior citizen who had suffered from an episode of confusion and drove himself from Tazewell to Botetourt County and these officers were able to help get him and his car back home. He thanked them for their service and assisting the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10pm.