

Council Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2025

Present:

Mayor Michael Hoops (Virtual)

Vice Mayor Joe Beasley

Councilmember Danny Willis

Councilmember Jonathan Hankins

Councilmember Zach Cline

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Councilmember Davis Davis

Absent:

Staff members present were Town Manager, LeeAnne Regon; Executive Assistant, Susan Reeves; Attorney, Brad Pyott; Police Chief, Stan Lampert; Accounts Payable, Sabrina Schooley.

WORK SESSION

The Tazewell Town Council met in a budget work session at 5:00pm in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

1. Budget

Manager Regon presented the proposed budget for 2025-2026, recommending a new revenue line for bank card fees. She suggested raising dumpster fees by \$1.50 per month, increasing revenue by \$8,280, with commercial rates providing an additional \$1,458. Residential rates would also increase by \$1.00 per month creating an additional \$21,000. Councilmember Cline inquired if this would help offset garbage truck costs.

Manager Regon noted that Bluefield's garbage program includes renting dumpsters to customers. Mayor Hoops suggested offering free dumpster pickup for a year to attract new restaurants. Manager Regon will investigate further. Vice Mayor Beasley recommended a declining fee structure (80%, 60%, 40%), while Councilmember Cline believed that affordable rates alone could be an incentive for local businesses.

Vice Mayor Beasley mentioned considering the provision of trash cans and implementing a rental fee for them. Many towns and cities have such requirements, including specific types of trash cans for pickup. Vice Mayor Beasley stated that due to general inflation, it makes sense to implement this rate increase. Manager Regon presented rate comparisons for localities in our area, indicating that our rates are on the lower end. The council recommended an increase.

Councilmember Cline requested an examination of Business License rates, specifically the different rates between business class codes. Insurance is exempt from BPOL tax, and banks are exempt because they pay Bank Franchise Tax. Manager Regon explained each class code and the types of businesses that fall into each category. Councilmember Cline noted that overhead costs are not considered, as the rates are based on gross receipts rather than final profit. Treasurer Hayes will refer to the state code on BPOL tax to determine if any adjustments can be made.

Treasurer Hayes sent a spreadsheet detailing donation expenses for the years 2021-2025, with breakdowns including community expenses of \$32,777, other expenses \$4,278, school expenses \$8,418, and town-related expenses \$155,397.93. Councilmember Hankins suggested establishing guidelines for the dates when requests come in. Councilmember Cline noted that the total community donations constitute 2.4 percent of the annual budget and recommended focusing on community development. Vice Mayor Beasley proposed implementing more structure and review on the annual donations to ensure the council remains fair and consistent with the donation requests, potentially using a tier system based on the size of the event or number of people involved.

Councilmember Davis stated that Tazewell Today is an extension of the Town of Tazewell and have maintained the Main Street Designation. Councilmember Cline seeks to understand the criteria necessary to retain this designation. Tazewell Today President Nate Thomas Thomas indicated that they recently discussed these criteria with a representative from DHCD. Councilmember Davis explained that it involves a two-part process, and she has some screenshots of a review they recently completed. She plans to go over several details regarding the review with Main Street America. Tazewell Today President Nate Thomas Thomas mentioned that the DHCD representative would be willing to present to the council to provide more detailed answers for the May agenda.

Councilmember Cline expressed a desire to increase transparency regarding the relationship with Tazewell Today, suggesting quarterly reports shared with the council and volunteer hours. Councilmember Cline noted that \$10,000 was raised by Tazewell Today in fundraising, with contributions included in the total. Councilmember Cline inquired about the level of outside support being directed towards Tazewell Today, questioning whether they are moving toward greater self-sufficiency or relying on less outside support. Councilmember Davis responded that spending had been adjusted to align with the budget, opting for a fixed amount to avoid frequent requests to the council for funds. Councilmember Davis indicated they are trending positively. Vice Mayor Beasley reported that 20 percent of their revenue came from contributions in 2024, with fundraising totals of \$23,710 and expenses of \$21,143 in 2023, and fundraising of \$23,000 and expenses of \$13,220 in 2024.

Councilmember Davis mentioned an upcoming large event in May that will benefit from a successful fundraiser, enhancing the event's impact. Councilmember Cline emphasized the need for a contract to clarify expectations and enhance transparency regarding fund allocation.

Councilmember Davis noted attempts to establish a contract between the Town and Tazewell Today, though none has been finalized. She stressed that such a contract should outline expectations clearly to avoid misunderstandings. The Town did not sign previously due to procurement processes and because it was considered a donation request.

Tazewell Today President Nate Thomas clarified that Tazewell Today is not just a nonprofit organization but a partner with the Town of Tazewell, operating on its behalf. He suggested considering an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) in the future to formalize this partnership. Tazewell Today President Nate Thomas assured that Tazewell Today will strive to maintain a positive relationship with the Town of Tazewell.

Continued budget review. Manager Regon reviewed the details of general fund revenues and discussed the Transfers In revenue line item, which would be used at the end of the year to be pulled out of the budget into an LGIP and then put back into the new budget for paving fees on Route 460. Manager Regon is requesting \$125,000, but this can be revisited later if more funds are available for improvements.

Fire Department Revenue: She found minutes from past meetings where the council approved billing for residential fires covered by homeowners' insurance. Councilmember Cline recommended considering adding camping at the park to generate revenue for the department. EMS is sending two ambulances to auction, and there is one on order since COVID that is expected to be received this year. Funds for the 80/20 grant have been allocated. The council approves pursuing a loan for a transport van and will revisit paying it off in the next budget year.

Community Development: Mayor Hoops believes it is important to bring in a position to promote economic growth in the Town of Tazewell. Vice Mayor Beasley mentioned last month's discussion about having a planner assist the Manager with these projects instead of hiring someone focused solely on economic development. Councilmember Willis agrees that if a position is created, it should be as an assistant to the Manager for economic and community projects. Mayor Hoops thinks hiring a director-level position would attract more certified and qualified applicants, with a pay band similar to current director positions. Councilmember Cline noted the county director is funded by grants and asked if CPROP could help fund this position initially. However, funding through CPROP would not continue beyond FY 26, when CPROP wraps up in August 2025. The Mayor will inquire about application deadlines. Councilmember Cline is concerned there may not be enough need to justify a director position.

Councilmember Cline reported on the recent IEDA meeting. Attorney Pyott proposed utilizing the mini park to erect a statue in recognition of Billy Wagner's induction into the Hall of Fame. The proposal was well received. He believes it would be a valuable addition and potential attraction for Main Street. Furthermore, it would involve refurbishing the minipark. There is a possibility of securing a grant from Hills Studios to assist with this project. Currently, he is gathering more detailed information regarding costs and other specifics.

He has communicated with the board of supervisors and the county administrator. One of the cost estimates for creating the statue is approximately \$12,000. He is awaiting additional quotes. He is also researching the most suitable materials and associated costs. The mural could cost between \$25,000 and \$50,000, covering expenses for brickwork, masonry, and drainage.

Efforts are being made to engage teams that Billy Wagner has played for, Sports Illustrated, and baseball card creators to see if they would be interested in participating, particularly with the mural component. He aims to align this project with Oktobrewfest, though the timeline for completion by that event is uncertain. The first step is preparing a presentation to reach out to potential donors.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilmember Davis made a motion to enter into the executive session. at Councilmember Hankins seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Hankins

Resolution Number: ES250408

Motion Seconded by: Fox

Meeting Date: April 8, 2025

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Prospective Business and
Personnel Matters

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;

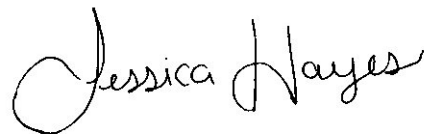
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Tazewell Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the executive session to which this certification resolution applies, 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: Willis, 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.)



Treasurer Hayes Hayes, Clerk

Councilmember Hankins made a motion to leave the executive session. Councilmember Fox seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

Vice Mayor Beasley read the resolution for the Certification of Executive Session. On roll call vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:00 pm Council held a public hearing in the council chambers.

Credit Card Processing Fees- Notice of Public hearing was read by Vice Mayor Beasley.

NOTICE is hereby given that on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building for the Town of Tazewell (“Town”), located at 211 Central Avenue, Tazewell, Virginia, the Tazewell Town Council will hold a PUBLIC HEARING, pursuant to Virginia Code §15.2-1427 and Town Charter Sec. 2-209 to provide the citizens of the Town an opportunity to be heard with respect to the Town’s adoption of an Ordinance implementing a credit card convenience fee of 3% per transaction on any consumer who remits payment to the Town by credit card instead of by check, cash, or ACH (“Automated Clearing House”) transfer. A copy of the proposed Ordinance is available for review and inspection during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) at the Town of Tazewell Municipal Building, as referenced hereinabove.

Public Hearing

At 7:20 pm Council held a public hearing in the council chambers.

Transfer of Town of Tazewell Property Located at 1616 Riverside Dr. (Tax Map #: 094A302 000A2,000A3) to the Town of Tazewell I/EDA- Notice of Public hearing was read by Vice Mayor Beasley

NOTICE is hereby given that on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 7:20 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building for the Town of Tazewell (“Town”), located at 211 Central Avenue, Tazewell, Virginia, the Tazewell Town Council will hold a PUBLIC HEARING, pursuant to Virginia Code §15.2-1800 and Town Charter Sec. 2-301 to provide the citizens of the Town an opportunity to be heard with respect to the Town’s transfer of real property identified by Tax Map Parcel Nos. 094A302 000A2, -000A3 (1616 Riverside Drive) to the Industrial/ Economic Development Authority of the Town of Tazewell. Copies of the proposed Deed and GIS Map are available for review and inspection during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) at the Town of Tazewell Municipal Building, as referenced hereinabove.

Call to Order

Vice Mayor Beasley called the public council meeting to order at 7:30pm in the Town Hall Council Chambers

Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Nate Thomas led the meeting in the invocation prayer.

Special Presentation/Request(s)

[A] Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce Oktobrewfest Event Request.

During the last meeting, it was realized that moving the Oktobrewfest event to the Back of the Dragon caused issues. The Chamber is now requesting to move the event back to Main Street. Councilmember Fox made a motion to allow the Oktobrewfest to be relocated to Main Street. Councilmember Cline seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, nay; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

[B] Juneteenth Support Request

Jeanette Wilson addressed the council on behalf of the Friends of Juneteenth, requesting financial support for their upcoming two-day event. Although they receive some organizational assistance from Tazewell Today, additional donations are needed. Councilmember Cline inquired about any new additions to this year's event, to which Ms. Wilson responded that efforts are being made to recruit more volunteers and contributors for future events.

Vice Mayor Beasley asked about the expected turnout, and Ms. Wilson indicated that attendance typically ranges between 150-250 participants, with increasing interest from surrounding counties. Council Member Fox motioned \$3,000 in support of this organization and event. Due to her employment with Tazewell Today, Council Member Davis recused herself from the discussion and vote due to the involvement of Tazewell Today. Councilmember Cline seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

[C] Tazewell Class of 1973 Peak Foundation Request

Debra Wilson is here on behalf of the Tazewell Class of 1973 Peak Foundation. She reported that the organization has experienced growth over the past year. Ms. Wilson presented a certificate awarded to them by the General Assembly, which she gave to the council for display at Town Hall. She also prepared a presentation for the council. The foundation was established in 2023 to honor achievements such as the PBS documentary.

They were awarded \$3,000 in scholarships and launched the Heritage Collection. Additionally, they partnered with Convoy of Hope to deliver supplies to Tazewell County following the hurricane. In November 2024, the General Assembly will hold a Joint Resolution Celebration at the Tazewell vs. Graham High School football game to honor the class of 1973 Peak Foundation.

The foundation is launching Roots to Real in partnership with Communities in Schools and VA Cooperative Extension. This initiative aims to combat rising obesity and diabetes in the area through hydroponics, real food, real health, real community, and real solutions. The program will bring awareness to students by providing them with crockpots and starter sets to help them take the next step and focus on good nutrition.

They are collaborating with Jacob Dillinger from PBS and have presented a trailer created for them. They are working with Jacob to complete the documentary, which will include specific chapters. The PBS Media Package translates to 61 million viewers and 5,000 visitors, with an estimated \$150 per visitor. They are receiving support from Virginia Tech for the documentary and have partnered with surrounding Walmart stores and Newell Branding on the Roots to Real project. The foundation plans to expand the program with different recipes and kitchen appliances to promote healthy nutrition. Their goal is to raise \$90,000 for the documentary, and they have raised \$30,000 to date. They request financial support or in-kind partnership opportunities. Councilmember Cline proposed making a resolution for support, the council is reviewing the budget for the upcoming year and will take this into consideration. Councilmember Hankins seconded the proposal. The resolution will be prepared at the next meeting. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

[D] National Police Week Support Request from Ashley Fisher

Manager Regon received a letter from Ashley Fisher of Fisher and Company. She hosts an annual event to feed local law enforcement officers, scheduled for May 12, 2025. They hope to continue this event. Last year, we donated \$200.00. Councilmember Willis made a motion to donate \$200.00 for this event. Councilmember Davis seconded the motion. Councilmember Hankins recused himself from this discussion and vote because of his position in law enforcement. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

Local Business Recognition

[A] Books, Blooms, & Britches

Anna-Tiffany Masferrer introduced herself and her new business, a consignment shop. She is partnered with her mother and her husband. They opened about a month ago. They sell books, hand-crafted ribbon flowers, new and used clothing, shoes, and accessories for men,

women, and children. The shop is located across from the Train Station and offers affordable prices. The business has a 50/50 split on consignments and provides an online portal for consignors.

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve minutes from the March 4th, March 11, 2025 meetings. Councilmember Hankins seconded. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, nay; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

Approval of Financial Statements & Financial Report

Councilmember Cline made a motion to approve financial statements and financial reports for March 2025. Councilmember Fox seconded. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

Committee/Conference Updates

(A) Planning Commission Committee

Councilmember Davis updated the council on a property requesting a zoning change from conservation to residential, which will be addressed later on the agenda. The Committee also wants another nearby parcel considered for rezoning. A Business B1 zone property located on Riverside Drive has not been reflected correctly on our zoning maps. Building and Zoning Official Chris Hurley will have its correct zone reflected in the updated maps. This property is surrounded by residential properties. The Planning Commission has the final approval for any business placements or constructions in that area. Attorney Pyott has been asked to review and update the subdivision ordinance, which has not been revised since 1965 and contains outdated provisions. The Planning Commission also discussed the timeline for the Health Foundation.

Unfinished Business

(A) 2ND Reading of Shipping Container Ordinance Amendment (M1 Use)

Councilmember Davis made a motion to waive the reading of the Shipping Container Ordinance Amendment. Councilmember Hankins seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

Vice Mayor Beasley made a motion to approve the Shipping Container Ordinance Amendment as it applies to definitions including shipping containers. Councilmember

Davis seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye ; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

(B) Set a Public Hearing for Charter Amendment for Town Manager Residency Mileage Extension for Tuesday May 13, 2025 at 6:45pm

Councilmember Davis made a motion to set a public hearing for Charter Amendment for Town Manager Residency Mileage Extension for Tuesday May 13, 2025 at 6:45pm. Councilmember Fox seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

(C) Ratify Vote in Support of Virginia Housing Workforce Grant Application on behalf of Taz Moto for 320 Main Street Tazewell Historic Revitalization Project

Councilmember Cline informed Councilmember Willis about the requested support of Virginia Housing Workforce Grant application on behalf of Taz Moto. This is for 320 Main Street and part of the Tazewell Historic Revitalization Project. Councilmember Willis stated his concern is that there have been properties bought within town, but there is a refusal to work on them. Taz Moto manages these properties, though they are not the owners. He expressed concern about the maintenance of these properties.

Councilmember Fox made motion to support the Virginia Housing Workforce Grant application on behalf of Taz Moto for 320 Main Street Tazewell Historic Revitalization Project. Councilmember Cline seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, nay; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

New Business

[A] 1st Reading of Card Processing Fees Ordinance

Attorney Pyott read the first reading of the card processing fee ordinance. The second reading will be held at the next meeting on May 13th, 2025.

[B] Transfer of Town of Tazewell Property Located at 1616 Riverside Drive

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the transfer of Town of Tazewell property at 1616 Riverside Drive and for a designation from the Mayor to sign off on the deed on

behalf of the council. Councilmember Cline seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

[C] Set Public Hearing for 2025/2026 Budget for

Councilmember Davis made a motion to set a public hearing for the 2025/2026 Budget on May 13th, 2025. Councilmember Fox seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

[D] Auction for Surplus

Twice a year, equipment can be sold through a local auctioneer. Approval is being requested to send two ambulances to auction. The police department has two vehicles and a PortaCool Jetstream fan that require consideration for either donation or auction. It is unclear whether the fan is operational. Councilmember Davis made a motion to allow the town to send two ambulances, two police cruisers, to be sent to auction. If the PortaCool Jetstream fan is unable to be donated, then this is to be sent to auction with the vehicles. Councilmember Hankins seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

[E] Project updates

Manager Regon gave the following updates on projects for the Town of Tazewell.

Rt 460 Waterline Replacement Project

After a few bumps in the road, we met with Virginia Department of Health Office of Drinking Water and provided sufficient information to them showing the Town's capability of seeing this project to fruition. We satisfied any concerns they had and we were able to move forward with loan closing. We closed on the loan March 28, 2025.

We have received a shipment of materials and are in the process of getting a shipment of pipe. We anticipate beginning this project in May. Our plan is to perform work on Fincastle on what we call 4-way hill (the hill that goes down to Hardees) during the summer. We will be closing the road for through traffic on Fincastle from Fincastle Motor Inn to Nationwide Insurance. We will be detouring traffic by means of Ben Bolt Avenue. Our goal is to perform this work while the schools

are out for summer break and have the road open by the first day of school so that we do not interfere with school traffic.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

On February 26th we held a bid opening for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade. Orders Construction came in with the lowest bid. We have not awarded this project yet as we are waiting to see if we can get additional principal forgiveness/loan. We have been in contact with Thompson & Litton and DEQ very frequently on this additional funding and are awaiting to hear from them.

North Tazewell Revitalization Project

We have received a preliminary report from Hill Studio. We were scheduled to have a meeting yesterday however; it was cancelled and reschedule is pending.

Farmers Market

We have applied for a grant of \$296,500 from the Tobacco Commission to assist with site development and construction We have applied for a \$15,000 grant from the Cumberland Forest Community Fund to assist with the river access and river walk. We are also applying for an AFID grant through VDACS (Virginia Department of Agricultural Consumer Services). This grant was recommended by the Tobacco Commission. It is due April 30th and the max award is \$50,000.

EMS Congressional Directed Spending

On March 11th we met with engineers from Thompson and Litton at the EMS building to discuss options and how we can get necessary improvements and stay within budget for this project. The engineers toured the facility inside and out and took measurements and gathered information. We are awaiting to hear back from them on the progress.

Deed Transfer for IEDA /Town of Tazewell

Held Public Hearing for this tonight. Attorney Pyott has been working on preparing deeds for the transfers. He will now be able to move forward and proceed with his process.

IRF Loan

Documents required for the project to continue were due on February 12th. They have been signed and executed and accepted by DHCD. Additional actions needed such as a Promissory Note and Deed of Trust have been drafted by Attorney Pyott and sent to DHCD. They have just responded and approved the drafts. Once signed and executed by all parties, reimbursement requests can begin on the project. The project has 18 months from initial signing to be complete.

Warhawk Park

Town crews have been at the site of Warhawk Park completing site development for the basketball court, two pickleball courts and shelter site. Weather permitting it will be paved next week. Basketball goals have been ordered and delivered. The shelter is in progress of being ordered. Next will be utility hookups and installation. There has been discussion with the vocational teacher and he said that his students can help build the shelter and picnic tables for the shelter.

Sunnyside Project aka The Traveler

Executive Assistant Reeves has been working on an invitation for the official grand opening of The Traveler. This is a requirement of the grants that were received for the project and we have been waiting for warmer weather. The event will take place on Monday, April 28th at 2:00pm.

Mountain Biking Project

Recently we have been discussing using a town owned piece of property to develop a mountain biking trail. This is on our 503 acres property out Gratton. At last months council meeting council voted to set aside \$350,000 in an LGIP for this project. Treasurer Hayes has submitted to create this account and I received confirmation Friday that it was created. She will be transferring the funds in the upcoming days. Councilmember Cline, Councilmember Davis and I attended a meeting yesterday with Tazewell County Officials and there is a possibility of funding in the amount of \$60,000. We should hear back on this by the end of the month. Next steps will be obtaining right of ways from other property owners and preparing for procurement advertising for a company to design the trails.

[F] Set Public Hearing for Rezoning Harris Lane Properties for Tuesday May 13, 2025 at 7:15pm

Building and Zoning Official Chris Hurley notified the council that Trinity Church intends to amend one of their property's zoning from conservation to R-1. There is a prospective

buyer, but the transaction is pending until the zoning modification is approved. Councilmember Davis motioned to set a public hearing for rezoning Harris Lane properties for May 13, 2025. Councilmember Willis seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

[G] Miscellaneous

Manager Regon announced that the annual Chamber of Commerce dinner is approaching, and those interested in attending should inform Executive Assistant Reeves.

Lynn Quillen discussed a roadway with Councilmember Fox. The property includes Crocket Drive as its driveway. There are plans to eventually develop this property. They inquired if the town could assist in maintaining the road. Building and Zoning Official Chris Hurley mentioned that it would be costly to meet VDOT requirements for a dedicated road.

Public Comments

Nick Richmond, residing at 227 Blacksburg Street in North Tazewell, identified himself as a decorated Army veteran who has served in all three branches of the military. He stated that he is an academic scholarship recipient and appeared to discuss two incidents that occurred on March 1st and 14th, 2025. Mr. Richmond aims to address what he perceives as an injustice by officers in the Police Department, accusing them of police negligence, misconduct, entrapment, and violations of his 1st, 2nd, 5th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 14th amendment rights.

Mr. Richmond reported that Betty Joe Wallace had violated an Emergency Protective Order (EPO), which resulted in her arrest a few days later for the same situation he discussed with Officer Matthew S. Peery.

He claims that Officer Peery and others observed a gang of aggressors at his residence blocking the road and that despite informing the officers of the situation, he was the only individual arrested at that time, which he considers unjust. Following his initial complaint to Police Chief Lampert, Chief Lampert responded that the complaint was unfounded. On April 8th, Chief Lampert expressed disappointment over the lack of sufficient time given to address the complaint.

Mr. Richmond stated that Officer Perry had Mrs. Wallace in sight on March 1st. Officer Perry informed the aggressors about Mr. Richmond's identity and disclosed his name to individuals connected to Mrs. Wallace. These aggressors arrived unannounced, parked in his driveway, and trespassed on his property. Despite repeated requests to leave, two individuals, Mitzy Johnson and

Shelma Williams, refused. Additionally, Eva McDonald, Edwina Cecil, Laqueta Viney, and Betty Wallace were present at the scene. Two of these six individuals reside in North Carolina.

On March 14th, Officer Perry, along with Sergeant Ben Leighton, initially denied Mr. Richmond access to a magistrate, thereby impeding his First Amendment rights and obstructing justice as outlined in the Virginia State Code. However, the Sheriff's Department later arranged for him to see a magistrate that day, resulting in charges against two individuals. Mr. Richmond claims that Officer Perry told him that "nothing will stick" and that he was "wasting his time." During this period, Mr. Richmond did not have any contact with the Chief of Police and did not receive a call back. The only individuals who communicated with him regarding this matter were the Town Manager Regon and the Sheriff's Department.

Mr. Richmond concluded his statement by thanking the council for allowing him to speak and then left without further discussion.

Council Comments

Adjournment

Councilmember Willis made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Cline seconded the motion, On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Vice Mayor Beasley, aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40p.m.