

Council Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2025

Present:

Vice Mayor Joe Beasley
Councilmember Danny Willis
Councilmember Jonathan Hankins
Councilmember Zach Cline
Councilmember Glen Keen, Jr.

Absent:

Councilmember David Fox

Staff members present were Town Manager, LeeAnne Regon; Executive Assistant, Susan Reeves; Attorney, Brad Pyott; Clerk-Treasurer, Jessica Hayes; Police Chief, Stan Lampert; Zoning and Building Official Chris Hurley; Fire Chief John Thomas.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

The Town Council entered into Executive Session at 6:30pm.

Certification of Executive Session

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Keen

Motion Seconded by: Hankins

Vote: All voted Aye

Resolution Number: ES251209

Meeting Date: December 9, 2025

Purpose: 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;

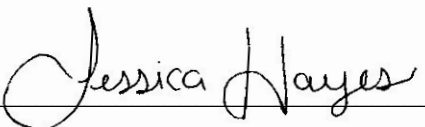
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Tazewell Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the executive session to which this certification resolution applies,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

Nays: none

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


Treasurer Hayes, Clerk

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

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

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING OF COUNCIL & PLANNING COMMISSION

Vice Mayor Beasley called the Public Hearing to order for the Zoning Map Corrections for Riverside Drive Properties (B&W Auto and Tazewell Farm Bureau) to be zoned B-2 from R-2, and to add a Zoning Use for B-1, B-2, and M-1 to allow Fire, Police, and Local Government.

Notice of Joint Public Hearing

NOTICE is hereby given that on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 7:15 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 and Town of Tazewell Planning Commission will hold a JOINT PUBLIC HEARING, pursuant to Virginia Code § 15.2-2204, Town Charter Sec. 3-8, and Town Code Secs. 23-2 and 23-6, to provide the citizens of the Town an opportunity to be heard with respect to a proposal for the Town to amend Chapter 23, “Zoning”, of the Code of the Town of Tazewell. Said amendment is necessary to correct the zoning map as it applies to properties located on Riverside Drive, specifically Tax Map Parcel Nos. 094A3A 0067, 094A3A 0068, 094A3A 0069, 094A3A 0070, 094A3A 0072, 094A3A 0073, and 094A3A 0074 to be zoned as Business, General B-2, and to add one new “use” - “municipal services” - to supplement the list of permissible uses identified in Town Code Sec. 23-48 for properties located in the Business, General B-2 District. A correction or amendment to the current zoning map is being considered.

A copy of the proposed Ordinance amendment 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.

Town Charter
Sec. 3-8

Town Code
Secs. 23-2, 23-6, Sec. 23-48

Va. Code
§ 15.2-2204

Eric Young, County Administrator, gave brief remarks, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to speak. He explained that they have been searching for a location to establish a part-time Fire Department. They secured a \$600,000 grant, provided they find an existing building. Currently, they are considering the Former B & W property, which he believes would be an ideal central spot to serve Adria, Bishop, Bandy, Baptist Valley, Tannersville, and Thompson Valley.

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 Street led the meeting in the invocation prayer.

Special Presentations

A. Swearing in of Mayor Joe Beasley

Mayor Joe Beasley was sworn in by Tazewell County Clerk of Court Charity Hurst, with his term beginning immediately and concluding on December 31, 2026.

B. Police Department Recognition of the Moose Lodge

Chief of Police Lampert announced that the department received a generous donation from the Moose Lodge, a longtime community partner. This contribution, which totaled \$16,464.84, was designated for holsters, firearms, and ammunition—resources the department greatly needed. Chief Lampert expressed his gratitude to the Moose Lodge for their ongoing support of both the Police Department and the wider community. During the council meeting, Moose Lodge representatives, Mr. Moss, Mr. Ward, and Mrs. Cochran presented the donation check to the Tazewell Police Department.

Local Business Recognition [None]

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Willis made a motion to approve minutes from the November 18, 2025 meeting and the December 1, 2025 Special Called Joint Meeting of Council, Planning Commission, and I/EDA. Councilmember Hankins seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye.

Approval of Financial Statements & Financial Report

Councilmember Keen made a motion to approve financial statements and financial reports for November 2025. Councilmember Cline seconded. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye.

Committee/Conference Updates

A. Planning Commission Committee

Building and Zoning Official Hurley reported that the Planning Commission met briefly on December 1 after the joint meeting. The only topic was a request to vacate the western part of Bishop Street, which will be voted on later. The resident who owns parcels on both sides requested the change.

B. Industrial/Economic Development Authority (I/EDA)

Manager Regon reported that last Monday, Sharon Thomas gave a Cinema project update before the joint meeting. The project is progressing well and is on track to open next year. Work is actively underway again.

C. Tazewell Today

Nate Thomas provided an update on recent events. This month featured several activities, including the Turkey Trot held on Thanksgiving morning, which saw 170 registered participants, with 145 attending and 132 completing the race. Despite cold and wet weather conditions, the event was highly successful and well attended.

On Saturday, the Winter Market and Parade took place. Although adverse weather led some vendors to withdraw, the event remained a positive experience for the community, with high attendance and strong engagement. The parade was particularly successful, drawing a large crowd.

Currently, preparations are underway for the 2026 work plan, with further discussions scheduled following the budget review. The team is optimistic about the upcoming year.

Unfinished Business [None]

New Business

A. Set Public Hearing for the Appointment to fill the Councilmember seat vacated by Councilmember Beasley's transition to Mayor, for Monday, January 5, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Applications will be accepted now through January 5th at 10:00 a.m.

Mayor Beasley entertained a motion. Councilmember Cline made a motion to set the Public Hearing for Appointment to fill the vacant Councilmember seat for January 5, 2026 at 7:00pm. Councilmember Hankins seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye.

B. 1st Reading of Zoning Map Corrections for Riverside Drive Properties (B&W Auto and Tazewell Farm Bureau) to be zoned B-2 from R-2, and to add a Zoning Use for B-1, B-2, and M-1 to allow Fire, Police, and Local Government Services

Attorney Pyott read the first reading of the Zoning Map Corrections for Riverside Drive properties B&W Auto and Tazewell Farm Bureau to be zoned B-2 from R-2 and add a zoning use for B-1, B-2 and M-1 to allow Fire, Police and Local Government Services.

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§ 15.2-2204

C. Set Joint Public Hearing for Closure of Western Section of Bishop Street for Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 7:15 p.m.

Building and Zoning Official Hurley presented the request brought to the Planning Commission to vacate a section of road at the western end of Bishop Street. This request was made by the land owner on either side of that part of the road. He stated that there is a section of parcel at the end of the road that is owned by another party. It appears the only access to that parcel is via that road. There is some concern as to if it would landlock that parcel. The owner is being notified of this possibility. It appears that at current conditions it isn’t accessible via that route either. It is a small section on that side of the Clinch river. It is unlikely that it could be developed in the future. He did clarify that any property owner that has land that touches that parcel in question and section that will be closed off will be notified by certified letter and invited to attend the public hearing so that they can bring any concerns if they have them. Councilmember Cline made a motion to set the

joint public hearing on Tuesday January 13th at 7:15pm. Councilmember Hankins seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye.

D. Mountain Biking Project Update

Manager Regon reported that efforts to obtain easements are ongoing. Communication has been challenging with one of the property owners; while they are interested, they have concerns about where the easement will be placed. We are open to discussing these concerns and finding a mutually acceptable solution, but we are currently waiting for their response. Another property owner requested an amendment to the easement, which has been provided and returned to them for review. Progress on the project is stalled until both easements are secured. It is advisable to hold off on starting the RFP process until the easements are finalized. Councilmember Cline recommended preparing for the RFP now so it can proceed as soon as the easements are in place, and Manager Regon agreed to move forward with this preparation.

E. Treasurer's Department Update

Treasurer Hayes provided a concise update on the progress during tax week. The department has collected 90% of Real Estate taxes, totaling \$823,675, and 78% of Personal Property taxes, amounting to \$153,960. These figures are consistent with the current budget projections, and as payments continue to be received, she anticipates reaching the established financial goals. Treasurer Hayes expressed appreciation for her team's dedication and affirmed that the office is fully staffed, with new hires actively undergoing training. She commended the staff for their effective management during this demanding period and conveyed her commitment to ongoing growth and development alongside her team.

F. Budget Amendments

Treasurer Hayes presented proposed budget amendments to the council, detailing mid-year adjustments that reallocate funds and include expensed grant reimbursements brought back into the budget. Councilmember Keen made a motion to approve the proposed budget amendments. Councilmember Cline seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye.

G. Fireworks Discussion

Manager Regon reported that, following a question at the previous meeting, she investigated the requirements for certifying individuals to conduct fireworks displays. Certification involves passing an exam that costs \$280 per person, is valid for three years, and requires a score of 70% or higher to pass. Each show also needs a display permit. The process begins with meeting experience requirements, followed by certification. Fire Chief Thomas mentioned that several

firefighters are interested in obtaining their certifications. According to the Police Chief, there are enough events in Virginia to make fulfilling the experience requirements feasible. Manager Regon stated the fireworks discussion will continue at the January meeting, and updates from the Fire Marshall's Office will be provided.

H. Discuss Reappointments (2) for Board of Building Code of Appeals

Councilmember Hankins made a motion to reappoint William Gillespie and Benny Moore for a term commencing on January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2028. Councilmember Cline seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye.

I. Discuss Reappointments (1) for Board of Zoning Appeals

Councilmember Cline made a motion to reappoint Leon O'Qinn for Board of Zoning Appeals term commencing on January 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2030. Councilmember Keen seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye.

J. Discuss Reappointments (2) for Historic Review Board

Councilmember Keen made a motion to reappoint Erica Galloway and Terry Mulins for the Historic Review Board term commencing on January 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2028.

K. Discuss Vacancies (2) for I/EDA

Council Member Hankins made a motion to appoint Rick Alley and Daniel Ingram for I/EDA term commencing on January 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2029. Councilmember Cline seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye.

L. Discuss Reappointments (1) for Tazewell County Airport Authority Representative

Councilmember Willis made a motion to reappoint Jim Talbert for Tazewell County Airport Authority Representative term commencing January 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2028. Councilmember Keen seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye.

M. Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous Public Comment

Police Chief Lampert announced that a Christmas dinner will be hosted tomorrow at the Police Department. Additionally, the Shop with A Hero event is scheduled for Saturday, December 13th, at 7:00am at the Claypool Hill Walmart. The event will feature significant collaboration among our departments and county representatives.

Council Comments

Councilmember Hankins inquired about any updates on replacing the light poles along Main Street. Manager Regon responded that AEP is responsible for the replacement. She mentioned that, as of her last update, the poles had been ordered and work was being done in that area last Tuesday. She will follow up with AEP for a status update and report back to the council.

Councilmember Hankins also expressed appreciation for the Public Works team's dedication during the recent snow and extreme cold, highlighting their excellent work maintaining streets and sidewalks.

Councilmember Cline announced that he would be unable to join the Christmas Dinner due to family travel plans. He expressed his regret at missing the event and wished everyone a very Merry Christmas.

Adjournment

Councilmember Keen motioned to adjourn. Councilmember Cline seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm