

## **Council Meeting Minutes**

**February 23, 2026**

Present:

Mayor Joe Beasley

Councilmember Danny Willis

Vice Mayor Jonathan Hankins

Councilmember Zach Cline

Councilmember Glen Keen, Jr.

Councilmember Elisabeth Takach

Absent:

Councilmember David Fox

Staff members present were Town Manager, Leeanne Regon; Executive Assistant, Susan Reeves; Clerk-Treasurer, Jessica Hayes

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

The Town Council entered into Executive Session at 6:00PM.

## Certification of Executive Session

### RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Keen

Resolution Number: ES260223

Motion Seconded by: Cline

Meeting Date: February 23, 2026

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Real Property, Personnel  
Matters, Consultation Legal Council

### 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;

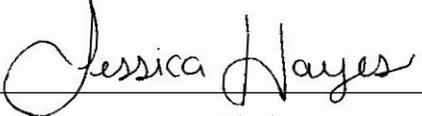
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Tazewell Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the executive session to which this certification resolution applies,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

Nays: none

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



Treasurer Hayes, Clerk

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

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

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Beasley called the budget work session meeting to order at 6:45pm in the Town Hall Council Chambers

### **Recreation Committee Appointments**

Councilmember Keen moved to appoint Dustin Spivey and Shea Moore for 3 years, Neric Sheperd for 2 years, and Amy Childress for 1 year to serve on the Recreation Committee. Vice Mayor Hankins seconded the motion. Councilmember Keen amended the motion to include the sitting councilmember, YMCA Program Director, and Recreation Director, with terms running through December 31st. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Vice Mayor Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye; Councilmember Takach, aye.

### **Budget Work Session**

Manager Regon has been diligently preparing the upcoming budget. She requests that rate increase proposals be reviewed first, as these may impact the budget and necessitate adjustments. The rates under discussion pertain to rental facilities and optional fees. Council concurs that an increase in pool admission fees is warranted to offset rising maintenance and operational costs. It was suggested that admission be increased from \$4 to \$5 Tues - Thursday. Friday - Sunday including Aqua Park would increase from \$5 to \$7. No increase in season passes that way we can still offer a value plan for our citizens. There is consensus on raising shelter rental fees to \$25 (3 hours), \$50 (6 hours), and \$75 (12 hours). The same rates would apply to Dunford Park. It was agreed that pool party rentals should be increased to \$150 for 2 hours and \$300 for 4 hours additional \$25 for additional life guard.

The proposed increase for the softball field is also acceptable for \$75 and \$100 with lights for field rentals. It was agreed that tournaments should be required to rent the field, whereas youth sports activities—specifically games or practices with no gate fees—should not incur charges. The importance of enforcing playfield rules to prevent damage was emphasized. Councilmember Willis mentioned that the Old Junior High Gym floors require attention, and suggested continuing to offer no-charge rentals while possibly negotiating reciprocal use of the high school gymnasium for youth sports.

Garbage instructions and collection logistics were discussed pertaining to the American Legion facility. It was agreed that the proposed rental increase for the American Legion from \$75 to \$100 for regular rental and \$200 to \$250 alcohol allowed rental (with proper ABC permit) plus the \$50 refundable deposit. Research into noise ordinances, including regulations regarding amplified sound and the possibility of allowing alcohol (following the model used by the American Legion), was requested for the Clinch River Pavilion. Proposed rental rates include \$100 for 6 hours and \$150 for 12 hours. If alcohol is served \$250 for rental (with proper ABC permit). The Farmer's Market will provide signage for the Pavilion in exchange for a rental fee waiver. Food truck licensing requirements were revisited, with Councilmember Takach highlighting efforts to creatively accommodate trucks offering unique cuisines, especially those operated by brick-and-mortar businesses. The Peddler/Merchant License was presented by Councilmember Cline as a solution for food trucks operating within Town limits, and Mayor

Beasley suggested hosting a food truck festival at the Pavilion, with council considering per-space rental rates. Councilmember Cline noted that the Pavilion project is underway and suggested that if there are any remaining funds from the project could we allocate it to an LGIP for ongoing maintenance of the property and requested updates when figures become available.

Councilmember Willis proposed acquiring the stone house located near the Pavilion as a potential venue space it is located across the creek.

Warhawk Park is nearing completion, with 90% of work finished; painting and striping of the courts as well as parking lot improvements are underway. Rental fees are to be set at \$25, \$50, and \$75 matching the other shelter rental rates.

Fire Department digital sign advertising was discussed and with potential revenue to go towards our Fire Department. Councilmember Cline recommended contacting the county to explore an asset sharing agreement for our area. There is concern with the cost and need for purchasing a new Fire Truck.

Manager Regon discussed the need to increase our water and sewer tap fees. These fees have not been updated in many years and is grossly underpriced. Provided inflation of materials she feels it is necessary to bring these fees to current pricing standards. An adjustment to increase an additional \$450 above the (material) quoted amount was suggested to reach breakeven by the councilmembers. For example, a ¾" water line would increase from \$540 to approximately \$1,800 (the quoted price is approx. \$1,350 for materials-not including labor and machinery) Manager Regon noted that the FY 27 water and sewer rate increases were previously approved due to Route 460 and WWTP upgrade projects.

Manager Regon sought feedback on whether to continue last year's practice of contracting out sections of mowing. Councilmember Willis advocated for extending the contracted mowing area up to the Hardee's intersection and suggested contracting lake mowing as well, and for it to be mowed every two weeks. It was agreed that the town can solicit bids and retain the option to manage mowing internally. Advertising for lake mowing will proceed.

Councilmember Cline emphasized that, in light of the focus on the comprehensive plan, a strategic approach is necessary for future water and sewer rates, recommending the implementation and annual update of a five-year capital improvements plan to assist the council in rate planning. Consideration was given to setting a specified dollar amount for the IRF fee. Which may help mitigate future fee burdens. Councilmember Keen voiced concern for residents on fixed incomes regarding adding and IRF fee, while Councilmember Cline pointed out challenges related to potential county outsourcing the water plant, which could result in higher fees. This issue remains a significant concern moving forward.

### **Adjournment**

Councilmember Takach motioned to adjourn. Councilmember Willis seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, nay; Vice Mayor Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye; Councilmember Takach, aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm