

Council Meeting Minutes

June 9, 2026

Present:

Mayor Joe Beasley

Councilmember Danny Willis

Vice Mayor Jonathan Hankins

Councilmember Zach Cline

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Glen Keen, Jr.

Councilmember Elisabeth Takach

Absent:

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

The Town Council entered into Executive Session at 6:15PM.

Certification of Executive Session

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Cline

Resolution Number: ES260609

Motion Seconded by: Keen

Meeting Date: June 9, 2026

Vote: All voted Aye

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;

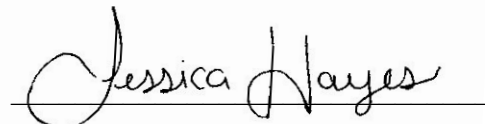
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Tazewell Town Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia Law were discussed in the executive session to which this certification resolution applies, 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, Cline, Fox, 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 Fox seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Vice Mayor Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye; Councilmember Takach, aye.

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 Fox, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye; Councilmember Takach, aye.

PUBLIC HEARING (7:15 p.m.)

Mayor Beasley opened the floor for the Public Hearing- Community Development Block Grant Funds for North Tazewell Revitalization Project at 7:15pm.

Mayor Beasley read the notice of public hearing.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Community Development Block Grant Funds (CDBG)

The Town of Tazewell will hold a public hearing at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at the Town of Tazewell Town Hall, 211 Central Avenue, Tazewell, Virginia 24651, to solicit public input on a proposed Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to be submitted to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the Town of Tazewell North Tazewell Downtown Façade Improvement Project. Residents of the project area are encouraged to attend. The Project will include the following activities. Façade Improvements.

The draft CDBG proposal will be presented for comment along with information on projected beneficiaries, including the number of low-to-moderate-income residents to benefit from the proposed project, and plans to minimize displacement. Citizens will also be given the opportunity to comment on the Town of Tazewell's past use of CDBG funds. A fact sheet on the proposed project is available at the Town of Tazewell's Town Hall. For additional information, contact LeeAnne Regon, Town Manager.

Comments and grievances can be submitted in writing to the Town of Tazewell, 211 Central Avenue, Tazewell, VA 24651 or by phone 276-988-2501, Fax 276-988-2505, TDD line 711 or email LeeAnne Regon tazmanager@taztown.org until June 8, 2026 at 4:00 pm. If you plan to attend and have any special needs requirements, please call the number listed above.

Public hearing was closed at 7:20pm

REGULAR MEETING

Mayor Beasley called the regular meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Pastor Nate Thomas led the meeting in the invocation prayer.

Special Presentations

A. Tazewell Youth Football League Support Request

Manager Regon informed the council that she had received a support request from the Tazewell Youth Football League. The league is asking for \$700 or more to help fund the football program during training and the regular season. This funding directly impacts both the development and safety of the players.

Mayor Beasley asked whether the request included the number of participants in the program. The information was illegible due to transmission issues. It was noted that last year the council approved donations for tackle wheels, and Councilmember Willis recalled that the number of participants was approximately 900.

Councilmember Fox made a motion to donate \$1,000, which Councilmember Keen seconded. During discussion, Councilmember Cline pointed out that the council is currently \$7,300 over budget and suggested considering the donation in the next fiscal year (beginning in July) as an alternative. Councilmember Cline further proposed adjusting the motion to a maximum of \$700, allocated from the FY27 budget.

Councilmember Fox initially insisted on \$1,000, but Councilmember Willis agreed that \$700 was appropriate since that was the amount requested. Councilmember Fox then amended the motion to \$700 to be paid out of the next fiscal year's budget. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Vice Mayor Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye; Councilmember Takach, aye.

B. Tazewell County Historical Society Support Increase Request

Councilmember Fox stated that the Historical Society has a video camera (live streaming) they wish to keep operating and requested funding to support this. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the camera for the community. The Society indicated they need approximately \$2,000 for this purpose, but Councilmember Fox expressed preference for a \$5,000 donation to the Historical Society overall. Councilmember Fox made a motion to donate \$5,000 to support the repairs and replacement needed for this camera and software. Councilmember Keen seconded the motion.

Manager Regon noted that the upcoming budget already allocates \$2,000 for the Historical Society. Councilmember Cline reported that he had spoken with Dr. Mullins, who explained the operating costs: \$45 per month for the cameras, \$270 for electricity, \$145 per month for internet, plus water, sewer, and insurance totaling \$7,120 annually.

Councilmember Cline suggested that since funding is already included in the upcoming budget, the council could consider an amendment for the FY27 budget. He recommended tabling the matter until after the new budget year begins. Manager Regon agreed and will invite Dr. Mullins to attend the next council meeting for further discussion.

C. Mitchell Street Water Drainage Concerns

Elaine O'Quinn, accompanied by Patrick O'Quinn, addressed the council regarding runoff from Third Street onto Mitchell Street. She provided photographs illustrating the damage caused. Despite working closely with Public Works, the issues remain unresolved.

Elaine also raised concerns about a sewer clean-out installed on their property without permission. She expressed appreciation for Manager Regon's responsiveness and willingness to help, but emphasized that the situation has caused significant financial and personal strain. The driveway, being paved, has required repeated costly repairs, and flooding in their basement has led to further damage. She noted that they have reached out to the council multiple times over the years and are exhausted from dealing with the ongoing problem. Mr. O'Quinn presented packets of photos to the councilmembers, showing the effects of rainfall over several days.

Manager Regon acknowledged that the Town has made several attempts to fix the issue, but the problem appears to originate from Third Street rather than solely the O'Quinn's' property. She recommended having an engineer investigate and noted that grant funding may be available. She asked the council to approve seeking engineering assistance.

Councilmember Fox supported moving forward with an engineer. Councilmember Willis requested a clearer understanding of potential solutions. Mrs. O'Quinn added that the property did not have these issues when purchased, but conditions have since changed and the damage has become severe.

Manager Regon will arrange a meeting with the O'Quinn's and pursue engineering consultation to explore grant-funded solutions.

D. Road Conditions- Jean Davidson- Did not show.

Local Business Recognition

A. Uncharted Adventures

Billy and Libby Jeffers attended the council meeting in recognition of their business, Uncharted Adventures. They shared that the company began in West Virginia about four years ago and expressed gratitude for the warm welcome they have received in Tazewell.

The Jeffers noted their participation in the recent community event and emphasized their commitment to keeping equipment affordable for local residents. They stated that they are eager to support the community in any way possible.

Their business is located at 3315 Riverside Drive and can be reached at 276-385-7103. They are also active on Facebook. The Council presented gifts to them and congratulated on the success of their business in Tazewell.

B. Scouts Recognition

Charles Glenn the Scout Master said that he and several Scout members attended the meeting tonight to highlight the community support and acknowledge the successes of the Scouts. He took time to introduce each member with him. Two brothers helped to donate \$200 for an Eagle Scout project. One of the scout members placed first in the cabinet making competition for the State of Virginia. Each of these Scouts have made great efforts and are very successful. He wanted to take a moment to share their successes with the council. The council congratulated these young individuals for their outstanding accomplishments.

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Willis made a motion to approve minutes from the regular Council Meeting May 12th, Special Called Meeting Council & I/EDA May 13th, and Public Hearing May 28th. Council Takach seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Vice Mayor Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye; Councilmember Takach, aye.

Approval of Financial Statements & Financial Report

Vice Mayor Hankins made a motion to approve financial statements and financial reports for May 2026. Councilmember Keen seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Vice Mayor Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye; Councilmember Takach, aye.

Committee/Conference Updates

A. Planning Commission Committee

Building and Zoning Official Hurley reported three items on the agenda:

1. **Cannabis Regulations** – This matter was tabled until the State provides clarity on the law.
2. **Accessory Dwelling Units** - Tiny homes were proposed as a way to add value to unused properties, but commissioners raised concerns about setback requirements, zoning limits, and the risk of creating broader exceptions. Some members noted potential benefits, such as replacing blighted structures and increasing tax revenue, while others emphasized existing zoning protections. The discussion ended with a plan for the Town Attorney to review relevant new legislation before continuing the conversation.
3. **Shipping Containers** – Councilmember Willis asked whether existing shipping containers would be grandfathered in. Building and Zoning Official Hurley clarified that existing containers would be permitted for personal use only and could not be rented out

Councilmember Cline raised the issue of the Capital Improvements Plan, noting that it is supposed to be updated annually. He explained that the plan should include items such as road improvements and stormwater runoff projects, and could serve as a valuable tool to guide the budget process.

Councilmember Cline asked whether the Planning Commission had ever undertaken such work.

Building and Zoning Official Hurley responded that the Planning Commission has not addressed it,

nor has zoning. Manager Regon added that, in practice, road concerns are often handled in-house since they are brought directly to her and the Public Works Director. She expressed concern about relying on the Planning Commission for direction.

Councilmember Cline questioned whether this perspective was due to her involvement in day-to-day operations and cautioned against competing interests. He emphasized the importance of having a clear plan so that when citizens raise concerns, the council can provide transparent answers, such as when a project is scheduled. He noted that the plan is a five-year framework but is voted on and approved annually, and he would like to see it used as an organizational tool. The matter was tabled until next month for further discussion.

B. Tazewell Today

Nate Thomas, President of **Tazewell Today**, reported that the organization has had a very busy month. They are currently without a director following Mrs. Davis's resignation. The Board chose not to hire a replacement immediately, noting that bringing someone in the middle of the fiscal year would be difficult.

Mr. Thomas said the Board is using this period to become more hands-on and learn how to better support the community. He noted that the organization will likely shift toward fewer events but stronger, more impactful ones.

Upcoming Events

Juneteenth – June 20th on Main Street

Fourth of July Fireworks – July 3rd at Tazewell Middle School, with family activities

Main Street Moments – July 24th & 25th, featuring full-day entertainment with local and regional bands

For Main Street Moments, the **Farmers Market** will temporarily relocate to Main Street, with signage provided to direct visitors.

C. Industrial/Development Economic Development Authority

Manager Regon reported on the monthly I/EDA meeting held the previous Monday. She stated that the committee focused on tying up several loose ends and reviewing ongoing projects that continue to move forward.

She updated the council on the Pavilion, noting that it is being actively maintained and is currently in the process of hosting the Farmer's Market. Beginning in July, the Town will begin advertising the Pavilion as available for public rentals. She added that the Police Department has been routinely checking the Pavilion area and keeping an eye on the property to ensure safety and proper use.

Attorney Pyott then provided updates on the Billy Wagner Dedication scheduled for October 17th.

The statue is currently in progress, and the sculptor is working toward completion. A groundbreaking ceremony is planned for October 18th, pending final engineering instructions. He explained that they are waiting on engineering guidance specifically related to the excavation requirements for the statue's base, which must be constructed to support the installation safely and permanently.

He also noted that the commemorative brick sales are underway, with a deadline of June 19th for orders. These bricks will be incorporated into the dedication site and have generated strong community interest.

D. Comprehensive Plan Review Sub-Committee

Councilmember Cline reported that the Town is partnering with Gem City, and Mr. Wardy will attend next month's meeting to continue guiding the process. He explained that the group has already developed its goals and objectives and is now working on casting the vision for the implementation plan, which will ultimately be built into the final product. Councilmember Cline outlined the four primary target areas:

Workforce & Small Business Development Focused on reducing barriers for small business creation.

- 1616 Riverside Drive – Rural Trades and Fabrication Lab (FAB LAB).
- North Tazewell Revitalization - Emphasis on façade improvements and strengthening the commercial corridor.

Public Amenities & Recreation

- Major initiative: Gateway Park at the Ramey Lot, intended to remove blight, create space for activity and wellness, and improve youth athletics.

Tourism

- Highlight project: Mountain Biking Project, aimed at expanding outdoor recreation opportunities.

Capital Improvements

- Sidewalk improvements on Main Street
- Extending sidewalks past the Clinch River Pavilion to connect to Lincolnshire Park

He emphasized that while these projects represent significant “want-to” items, the Town will need to carefully balance **wants** with **have-tos** as planning moves forward.

Unfinished Business

A. 2nd Reading & Approval of 2026/27 Budget

Mayor Beasley recapped the general fund, water fund, sewer fund, and idea fund proposed for the upcoming budget. Each one balanced between revenues and expenses. Councilmember Willis motioned to approve the proposed FY 26-27 Budget. Councilmember Fox seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Vice Mayor Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye; Councilmember Takach, aye.

B. Follow-up to Council Comments Regarding Town Benches

Manager Regon reported that staff had provided the information requested during the previous meeting in regards to the cost of a bench and how many businesses could qualify. Councilmember Fox expressed concern about the high cost of purchasing benches and suggested passing on that option. In response, Councilmember Takach proposed exploring alternatives to acquire benches at no cost. Wanda Partika explained that the Garden Club participates in a recycling initiative, in partnership with Food Lion and coordinated by Elaina Combs, which collects specific flexible plastics to earn composite benches. The program currently provides one bench per year, but with participation from additional groups, the community could potentially secure more benches to meet

local needs. Mayor Beasley recommended placing signage at the recycling center to encourage broader involvement, noting that multiple groups working together would increase the number of benches earned. Councilmember Fox agreed that while the benches are attractive, pursuing the recycling program would be the most cost-effective way to obtain them without incurring significant expense.

New Business

A. Annual Cafeteria Plan Resolution of Support

Mayor Beasley read the resolution.

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF TAZEVELL COUNCILMEMBERS FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE TOWN OF TAZEVELL CAFETERIA PLAN

On this date, the Town of Tazewell Councilmembers did meet to discuss the implementation of Town of Tazewell Flexible Benefits Plan to be effective, July 1, 2026. Let it be known that the following resolutions were duly adopted by the Town of Tazewell Councilmembers and that such resolutions have not been modified or rescinded as of the date hereof;

WHEREAS, that the form of Cafeteria Plan, as authorized under Section 125 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, presented to this meeting is hereby adopted and approved and that the proper officers of the Employer are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver to the Plan Administrator one or more copies of the Plan; and

WHEREAS, that the Plan Year shall be for a period beginning on July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027; and

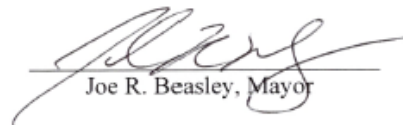
WHEREAS, that the Employer shall contribute to the Plan amounts sufficient to meet its obligation under the Cafeteria Plan, in accordance with the terms of the Plan Document and shall notify the Plan Administrator to which periods said contributions shall be applied; and

WHEREAS, that the proper officers of the Employer shall act as soon as possible to notify employees of the adoption of the Cafeteria Plan by delivering to each Employee a copy of the Summary Plan Description presented to this meeting, which form is hereby approved; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Joe R. Beasley, on behalf of Town Council certifies that attached hereto as Exhibits A and B respectively are true copies of the Plan Document, and Summary Plan Description for Town of Tazewell's Flexible Benefits Plan approved and adopted in the foregoing resolutions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that I certify and attest that the above resolutions were made with the consent of the full Town Council, each of whom were in attendance on this date.

Adopted this 9th day of June, 2026.


Joe R. Beasley, Mayor

ATTEST:


Susan Reeves, Executive Assistant

Vice Mayor Hankins made a motion to accept the resolution. Councilmember Cline seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, aye; Vice Mayor Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye; Councilmember Takach, aye.

B. Community Development Block Grant Funds for North Tazewell Revitalization Project
Resolution of Support

Manager Regon noted that a resolution was included in the packet and explained that efforts are still underway to secure participation from some property owners. She emphasized that the current number of participants listed in the resolution may change, as it could decrease slightly but is more likely to increase as additional signatures are obtained.

Mayor Beasley read the resolution.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Town of Tazewell, Virginia has as its primary objective the provision of removal of slum and blight; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Tazewell, Virginia wishes to apply for Virginia Community Development Block Grant funds in the 2026 Competitive Grant funding cycle; and

WHEREAS, the title of the town's grant project is the Town of Tazewell Façade Improvement Project; and

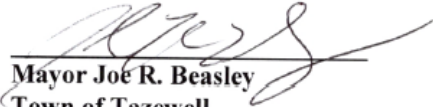
WHEREAS, the Town of Tazewell, Virginia is requesting \$1,249,992 Virginia Community Development Block Grant Funds; and

WHEREAS, 14 business facades, of which 64% are blighted properties, will be served; and

WHEREAS, two public hearings have been advertised and properly conducted and one other form of public notice and necessary assurances have been executed; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Tazewell authorizes the submission of this grant proposal for \$1,249,992 to the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the Town of Tazewell Façade Improvement Project and designates the Mayor as its representative to sign all documents pertaining thereto.

This 9th day of June, 2026.



Mayor Joe R. Beasley
Town of Tazewell

ATTEST:



Clerk Jessica Hayes

Councilmember Takach made a motion to approve the Resolution of Support. Councilmember Keen seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Willis, nay; Vice Mayor Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye; Councilmember Takach, aye.

C. Town Manager Project Updates

During her project updates, Town Manager Regon reported progress on several initiatives.

Rt. 460 Water Line Replacement Project, she noted that a few tie-ins were completed last week and that crews have begun cutting pavement to start the next portion of the work, extending from the Hardee's traffic light outward.

Mountain Biking Project, she is currently working on a grant application with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation.

Ramey Lot, is being considered for multi-use fields and greenspace, Manager Regon stated that collaboration continues with Kevin Jones an architect, with updated drawings expected in July.

Sewer Line on Lowe's property, she explained that discussions with the property owners revealed they prefer the original plan of upgrading the line from six inches to eight inches. She has referred this option back to engineering services for confirmation of its viability. Councilmember Keen made a motion to proceed with engineering services to resolve the issue permanently, seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Councilmember Willis, nay; Vice Mayor Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Keen, aye; Councilmember Takach, aye.

Paving related to the Rt. 460 project. Initially told paving would not be covered, she has since learned it can be included moving forward, and paving has officially begun. The Town will complete its section of road, with materials procured specifically for this project. Additional paving is planned for Steeles Lane, though Councilmember Willis suggested concrete would be more suitable due to truck traffic. Manager Regon emphasized that the Town is being strategic, considering lead and copper requirements in the future and the construction to streets at that time. Councilmember Cline emphasized his support for Town Manager Regon's guidance in developing the plan and he noted that the plan should align with the Town's comprehensive plan and serve as a foundation for future capital improvements. By ensuring regular updates, the Town can move forward strategically and maintain a clear vision for long-term infrastructure and development priorities.

Misc

Manager Regon reported that mowing in Riverside area was addressed today, with the contracted agency given one month to improve conditions.

The theatre project, a quarterly update was submitted to DHCD, and while progress has been made, the consultant originally assisting with design work unfortunately passed away. The Town is now seeking another design consultant. Councilmember Cline asked whether the program must be completed by August, and it was noted that an extension of up to six months has been granted.

Councilmember Keen raised concerns about shrubbery along Hurst Street that blocks visibility, questioning whether the property owner or the Town should address it. He also pointed out a grassy area near the Farmers Market with a two-foot drop-off, asking if it could be fixed and potentially used for vendors, though

compaction may be an issue. Additional concerns included restroom supplies at the Farmers Market where raised, and Manager Regon assured that these would be addressed.

The pool opens at noon, and there was discussion about designating a day for youth to use the splash pad, as well as offering adult lap swim earlier in the day. While lifeguards are not required for the splash pad, one must still be on deck per regulations. Manager Regon said that they would look into this to see if it was something that could be allowed.

Councilmember Willis invited Mr. Chandler to speak about his recent building purchase. Mr. Chandler explained that he is seeking a grant to support renovations, with plans to include a garage, retail space, and an Airbnb. He is working with Amanda Hale on the grant application, which opens in July with submissions due in August.

Councilmember Fox took a moment to recognize Recreation Director Hurst's fast action when a senior citizen fell due to a medical reason at the park recently. The care and attention she showed was very appreciated.

Councilmember Cline asked about an update regarding the Dr. Grindstaff Once A Bulldog Scholarship. It was confirmed that it was already awarded this year. He asked to invite the recipients to July meeting.

Vice Mayor Hankins thanked Executive Assistant Reeves for helping out Richlands by orchestrating the use of one of our Garbage Trucks when they were in need.

No public comment

Council Comments

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.