

Council Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2021

The Tazewell Town Council met in executive session at 6:15 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present:

Absent:

Mayor Michael Hoops

Vice Mayor Terry Mullins

Councilmember Glenn Catron

Councilmember Chris Brown

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Staff present were: Town Attorney, Brad Pyott; Town Manager, Todd Day; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; Clerk/Treasurer, Leeanne Regon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made to go into executive session by Councilmember Davis. Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Mullins. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye. Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Davis

Resolution Number: ES210209

Motion Seconded by: Catron

Meeting Date: 21 February 09

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Prospective Business, Award of Public Contract Involving the Expenditure of Public Funds, Consultation with Legal Counsel, 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

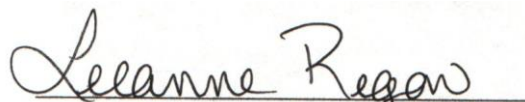
Ayes: Catron, Brown, Davis, Mullins, Fox, Beasley

Nays: none

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

Absent during vote:

Absent during meeting:



Leeanne Regon, Clerk

Motion was made to come out of executive session by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye. Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Mayor Hoops stated the reason they went into executive session was for Prospective Business, Award of Public Contract Involving the Expenditure of Public Funds, Consultation with Legal Counsel, Personnel Matters. He then read the resolution for Certification of Executive Session. On a roll call vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye.

Mayor Hoops adjourned the executive session.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Hoops called the public hearing to order at 7:15 p.m. The Town of Tazewell held a joint public hearing for a rezoning request for 499 Main Street and 523 Main Street. He read the notice of public hearing. He asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this matter.

Danny Willis asked where were these properties located. Zoning, Building, Property Official, Chris Hurley stated that these properties were between the fire station and the Commonwealth Attorney's Office. He stated it is currently R2 and everything around them is B2. With no other comments, Mayor Hoops closed the public hearing

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

Present:

Absent:

Mayor Michael Hoops

Vice Mayor Terry Mullins

Councilmember Glenn Catron

Councilmember Chris Brown

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Staff present were: Town Attorney, Brad Pyott; Town Manager, Todd Day; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; Clerk/Treasurer, Leeanne Regon; Zoning, Building, Property Official, Chris Hurley; Police Chief, David Mills; Assistant Chief, Stanley Lampert; Dispatcher/Administrative Assistant, Flora Sinkford.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hoops called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. Invocation by Manager Day.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION/REQUEST(S)

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Flora Sinkford came before council to make a presentation for Black History Month. She introduced herself and thanked council and Manager Day for asking her to do this presentation.

She discussed local people who made a difference in the black community. She talked about Minnie Holley Barnes. She started girl scouts in Tazewell. She was very well educated and she taught for the deaf and blind.

Brenda Davis spoke about how Minnie was a part of a sorority and the difference she made. She also talked about her time in the girl scouts and said that Minnie taught them sign language. She was a great leader and teacher.

Elene Combs also spoke about Minnie and said how knowledgeable she was and how respected she was. She stated that Minnie had shared several books with her and she held up one of the books and showed everyone. She said that she had donated some to the local chapter of the girl scouts to put in their archive. She shared some of her memories of Minnie. She told about the golden gloves. The girl scouts had golden gloves and Minnie taught them to use those gloves as a reminder of the golden rule, do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

Wanda Smith also spoke about Minnie. She shared memories from day camp with her. She said that Minnie taught that if you were good, you got to carry orchids and if you were bad you had to carry an onion. Wanda had to carry the onion. But she told about the motivation that Minnie gave to them and taught them to walk with their chin up and treat everyone with respect.

Flora Sinkford spoke about other members of the community that had made a difference. She spoke of Aldreth George Dickerson who was a mentor to the black community and an author. He was very active in his church and community. He was a great example to follow.

Sandra Peery spoke of her experience with integration and segregation. She said that she was always taught to make a contribution to society. During her years in school, she learned that they would be able to have the same opportunities as other kids. She was always taught to have respect, character, and courage. But she also remembers the feelings caused by racism and the sadness she felt.

Flora Sinkford spoke about Jim Higginbotham. He was another great leader in the community. He was the first black deputy in Tazewell County. He was the first black police chief. He was police chief for the Town of Tazewell from 1987-1994. He was a War World II Veteran.

Vice Mayor Mullins discussed the Tazewell Female Seminary. It was located on Fincastle Turnpike and the building burned in the 1890's. He presented a photograph of them. He stated that it showed women of color and they were dressed to impress. He has tried to research what the picture may have been about but he can't find any information on it but it must have been for something important.

Flora Sinkford thanked Vice Mayor Mullins for trying to find more information on the photograph.

Jeanette Wilson spoke on John Rainey. He was an all-star football player at Tazewell High School. He went to UVA and was the first African American on their football team. They made a documentary on him. She then shared about her grandfather George Dickerson. He wrote a poem book called Voice of Virginia Hills and she shared a couple of them with us. She read the poem titled Tazewell Town and Tazewell's Love For Tazewell's People.

Flora Sinkford thanked everyone for presenting and thanked the council again for the opportunity.

BARGAIN BOB'S FLEA MARKET

Bob Harrington came before council to introduce himself and stated that he will be holding a flea market in the old Magic Mart. He hopes to bring revenue to our area and people from other areas into our town. He brings concerns about the licensing fees for the vendors that would be set up. He would like to suggest that if they are there just one or two times a year, they wouldn't have to get a license. But if they are there three or more times they would need to get a license. The group discussed this and discussed yard sales. Manager Day asked him to explain once more what type of exemption he is requesting. Mr. Harrington stated that he would like for vendors to be able to set up once or twice a year and not be required to get a license, if they set up three or more times then they would have to get a license. Manager Day stated that right now the code states that every vendor must get a license. He stated that they would look at it and get back to him.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Brown, seconded by Councilmember Catron to approve the minutes of January 12, 2021 and January 20, 2021. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye. Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron, seconded by Councilmember Beasley to approve the financial statements for January 2020. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye. Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Councilmember Davis gave an update. She stated that an individual has come to them to put in a business that would be in the overlay district and it is on the agenda for discussion tonight.

SGR (PRIMARY EXTENSION)

Manager Day stated that the town streets have water line that runs down them. We have been awarded funds to pave Tazewell Avenue. He had asked VDOT for an extension to pave it because he was considering a water line replacement project before the street was paved. However, we will be doing a different water line replacement project in the near future and cannot see trying to do both at the same time. So, we will be moving forward to getting Tazewell Avenue paved.

RT 460 WATER LINE PROJECT UPDATE

Manager Day stated that this water line replacement project would start, at best, in August. It is a three year project.

REZONING REQUEST FOR 499 MAIN STREET AND 523 MAIN STREET

Zoning, Building, Property Official, Chris Hurley stated that these addresses are the properties between the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and the Fire Department. There is a request for rezoning from R2 to B2. He has notified all surrounding land owners and none showed for the public hearing. Manager Day stated that all legal routes were followed. Motion to approve the rezoning request was made by Councilmember Brown. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye. Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

RECYCLING CENTER HOURS DISCUSSION

Manager Day stated that Councilmember Davis had a request to extend the hours of the recycling center. He stated that the landfill closes at 4:00pm on Saturday and we would have to start emptying early on Saturday. He is requesting to leave it closed on Sunday because we can't empty the bins that day. The group held discussion and all agreed to close on Sunday because they don't want to have the bins overflowing. They discussed putting set hours up instead of down to dusk. It was stated that the police department opens and closes it. Everyone agrees that we will have it open six days a week and we will leave it from dawn to dusk.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Executive Assistant Brewster stated that the first few budget amendments are to show for funds that we received that were not originally in the budget. The next budget amendments are to reallocate funds that are in the current budget. Manger Day stated that there were a couple specific budget amendments that he wanted to go over. He stated that the county had given us CARES funds of \$100,000.00 to go toward EMS salaries. He already had their salaries budgeted. So, we are taking money out of salaries and reallocating it to other line items that need it. Then we are adding the funds the county gave us back into the EMS salaries line item. Councilmember Davis asked what Game of Skills tax was. Clerk/Treasurer Regon stated that the tax was on the slot machine type games that are in local convenience stores. Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve the budget amendments. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye. Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

PLANNING COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION -REQUEST FROM BULLDOG SELF STORAGE/OLD DOMINION CONSTRUCTION, LLC

Zoning, Building, Property Official, Chris Hurley passed out a site plan for Bulldog Self Storage. They discussed where the lot was, right down from David Nichols office at the corner lot. He stated that there may not be as many storage buildings on the lot once built, but they had asked him to put the maximum amount on they would do on the site plan. Planning Commission addressed landscaping and property maintenance, drainage issues and lighting. Councilmember Davis stated that the owner had also mentioned a time and temperature sign and they discussed that it could not be very bright or flashy. Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to approve

the Planning Commissions recommendation. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye. Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

APPOINT REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE MEMBER

Manager Day stated that every 10 years the county has a committee to redistrict and they appoint members from local governing bodies to form this committee. There will be more information on this at a later date.

MISCELLANEOUS

RECOMMENDATION FOR IEDA MEMBERS

Nancy Brooks was recommended to fill one of the vacant positions on the IEDA. Councilmember Davis makes a motion to appoint Nancy Brooks to the IEDA. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye. Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Zach Hash was recommended to fill one of the vacant positions on the IEDA. Vice Mayor Mullins made a motion to appoint Zach Hash to the IEDA. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye. Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD OF BUILDING CODE OF APPEALS MEMBER

Danny Willis was recommended to fill a vacant position on the Building Code of Appeals Board. Councilmember Catron made a motion to appoint Danny Willis to the Building Code of Appeals Board. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye. Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Danny Willis asked about the progress on the bridge at Pisgah. Manager Day stated that he could let him know a projected completion date tomorrow after he spoke with VDOT.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Brown thanked Flora Sinkford for a great program this evening.

Councilmember Davis said she did a wonderful job. She stated that at her father's funeral, all her brothers and sisters had their spouse to walk out with and she was single at the time and when she was walking out Ruth Smith stood up and walked out with her so she would not be alone.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilmember Davis and seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye. Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:51pm.