

## **Council Meeting Minutes**

**September 14, 2021**

The Tazewell Town Council met for a public hearing at 7:15 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present:

Mayor Michael Hoops

Vice Mayor Terry Mullins

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Councilmember Glenn Catron

Councilmember Chris Brown

Absent:

Councilmember David Fox

Staff present were: Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; Attorney, Eric Whitesell; Water Clerk, Angela Buchanan; Property Maintenance & Zoning Administrator, Chris Hurley; 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant, Ben Leighton.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

#### **SPECIAL EXEMPTION PERMIT FOR 203 FINCASTLE**

Mayor Hoops called the public hearing to order at 7:15 p.m. The Town of Tazewell held a public hearing for a special exemption permit for 203 Fincastle. Mayor Hoops read the notice of public hearing. Mayor Hoops asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this matter.

Councilmember Brown stated that he would like to speak as a member of the public. He welcomed the new owners of Donut Diva. He stated he was their neighbor and very excited to have them and wished them the best.

Councilmember Davis stated that her daughter was very excited for them to open and they are also close by neighbors to the business.

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

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.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Hoops called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. Invocation by Zach Hash.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION/REQUEST(S)**

### **HOSPITALITY TRAINING**

Venus Laney came before the council representing a new training program from the Virginia Tourism and Southwest Virginia Community College. They are partnering together to offer a training focusing on customer service skills. Smaller businesses would be able to use this training and have a program that would be consistent across the state. The first venture is going to be offered in Tazewell. It is called the Five Star Service Hospitality Training Customer Care 101. They want to offer the best experience possible. They want to create better customer service for our area and state wide. It will teach courteous customer care, how to deal with difficult customers, proper and profession etiquette and going above and beyond. She wanted to get the information out but to also get feedback and suggestions. This is free to attend and it is a two and a half hour seminar on a Zoom format. Councilmember Catron says halleluiaah that someone is doing this. He has thought this needed to be done for some time. He wonders if we could do something to encourage people (businesses) to take this program, offer them some type of incentive. Councilmember Davis suggests reaching out to Tazewell Today to see what kind of incentives we could all come up with. Maybe even buy lunch for their business for the day. Vice Mayor Mullins stated he was thrilled to hear about this and that businesses and restaurants definitely needed it. He even suggested the train station employees be a part of it. Councilmember Brown stated that in his business, they train on this all the time and he is already thinking of who he can send to this training. He suggested maybe offering cool door prizes as a way to encourage businesses to support this program and send people to it. Mrs. Laney stated that there is six weeks until the training date. They are working to get flyers etc. together so they can get the word out. She stated that her email address is [venus.laney@sw.edu](mailto:venus.laney@sw.edu) if anyone wants to contact her or call the college.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Mullins seconded by Councilmember Brown to approve the minutes of August 10, 2021. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

## **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron and seconded by Councilmember Brown to approve the financial statements for August 2021. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye;

Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

## **PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEE**

Councilmember Davis stated that the Planning Commission met and discussed a special exception permit. A property owner on Main Street has an apartment above their storefront and would like to rent it out. The Planning Commission went through their required check list to see if it met the guidelines and they did not see any issues on it. They voted to approve and send to council and set a public hearing. They also discussed a proposed zoning change. There was a public hearing at the last council meeting and several people spoke in concern of this change. The change was set to go to the Town Council but after the public hearing it was sent back to the Planning Commission. They have discussed the change and have decided to take no action in the matter. It would be up to the Town Council if they wished to take further action. It was also stated that the over lay district is still in effect and covers our business zones. The basic concern was, if we said someone cannot put a residential home in a business zone, and there is an existing home there now and something happen to it and it needed to be replaced, the new change would say that home could not be built in a business zone.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> READING OF AMENDMENT TO EXISTING ORDINANCE OF CHAPTER 23, "ZONING"**

After the update from the Planning Commission Mayor Hoops asked if there still needed to be a second reading for the proposed change. Attorney Whitesell stated they could dispense the second reading if they wished to do so. Councilmember Brown made a motion to waive the second reading of the change. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Catron. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron to table the proposed change to Chapter 23. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Brown. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

## **SPECIAL EXEMPTION PERMIT FOR 203 FINCASTLE**

Councilmember Brown made a motion to approve the special exemption permit for 203 Fincastle. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

## **LINCOLNSHIRE PLAYGROUND RECOMMENDATION**

Executive Assistant Brewster had given them a handout of the proposed playground equipment for Lincolnshire Park. She needs approval to move forward with the project and the cost of the project will be \$209,040.58. Councilmember Brown made a motion to approve. Councilmember

Catron seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

### **LINCOLNSHIRE SPLASH PAD RECOMMENDATION**

Executive Assistant Brewster had given them a handout of the proposed splash pad. She stated that on the second sheet, there is a break-down of prices to review. One option is for a filtration system and the other option is for a water to waste system. They reviewed the two options and the break down she has provided. Executive Assistant Brewster stated that Public Work Director Pruitt stated that the second option with the recirculation system with reservoir and pumps would be the option that would last the longest for us and be the easiest to install and that would recommend that option. Councilmember Brown made a motion to approve Public Work Director Pruitt's recommendation of the second option with the recirculation system. Motion was seconded Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

### **EMS FORD TRANSIT TYPE II AMBULANCE (Estimated Cost: \$135,000)**

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron to purchase a Ford Transit Type II Ambulance at the estimated cost of \$135,000. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

### **MOU ACCEPTANCE/APPROVAL FOR SPORTS COMPLEX**

Motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Thompson and Litton for the sports complex was made by Councilmember Brown. Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Mullins. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

### **PERMISSION TO ALLOW PLANNING COMMISSION TO EVALUATE GOLF CART ORDINANCE AFTER DISCUSSION WITH POLICE DEPARTMENT AND OTHERS**

Executive Assistant Brewster stated that Manager Day is received phone calls about people wanting to use golf carts on trails. He has gathered ordinances of other localities and would like direction from council as to whether they would like the Planning Commission to look into this and discuss or if they would not be interested in it. Councilmember Catron stated that he would be interested in it. Council held discussion. It was stated that people asking would like to be able to ride their golf cart or four wheelers on the streets to the trails. They asked 1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant Leighton what he thought about it. He stated that he didn't like the idea and that there would have to be a lot of rules but it was something that could be looked into. Chief Mills and Assistant Chief Lampert are digging into it and they will be able to report what they find on it. Mayor Hoops stated to allow the Planning Commission to look into this matter further and they could review that information and make a decision based on information presented to them later on.

## **TEAM VIRGINIA THE FALLEN OUTDOORS REQUEST**

Assistant Chief Lampert joined the meeting via telephone to discuss this request. He said that the manager had been contacted by Ducky Lique who is over the Virginia Fallen Outdoors. Their organization puts together hunting trips for Team Virginia. This would be for urban archery. They would like the Town to consider letting them use land the locality may have to do urban archery, mainly bow and crossbow. They recommend having two permission slips, one to be in plain view in the hunters vehicle and one to be with the hunter while on the property. Discussion was held. Councilmember Brown stated that we would need to check with our insurance. It was also stated that the hunters would need to sign a waiver so that the Town would not be held liable. There was concern about hunters being on property where a walking trial was as well. Attorney Whitesell advised reviewing the statute Virginia has regarding agricultural land owners and their liability for such instances. Mayor Hoops stated that we will gather more information such as waivers and we would look into this and try to move forward.

## **APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM**

Executive Assistant Brewster stated that we are required by VDOT to approve a resolution so that we can receive federal money that we apply for. This will be for Rt 61 sidewalk projects Phase 1 and Phase 2. This has been divided into two projects due to the cost. There will be a public information meeting held of Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm. Mayor Hoops read the resolution. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilmember Davis. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On a roll call vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

## **APPROVE RESOLUTION FOR REVENUE SHARING**

Executive Assistant Brewster stated that revenue sharing is a 50/50 match. This will be for the project going from Peery Street to Route 460. This will be to reconstruct the pavement along Fincastle Turnpike from Peery Street to Route 460. Mayor Hoops read the resolution. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilmember Beasley. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Catron. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

## **SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT REQUEST FOR 131 MARION AVENUE FOR OCTOBER 12, 2021 AT 7:15 PM**

Property Maintenance and Zoning Administrator Hurley stated that we have received a special exception permit from Blissful Holdings. They would like to open an Air BNB with their apartment located at 131 Marion Avenue. Planning Commission reviewed it and approved the application. If council will approve, we need to set a public hearing. Motion to approve and set a public hearing for October 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:15pm was made by Councilmember Brown. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

None.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:17pm.