

Council Meeting Minutes

April 12, 2022

The Tazewell Town Council met in a budget work session at 6:00 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 David Fox

Absent:

Councilmember Chris Brown

Staff present were: Town Manager, Todd Day; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; Clerk/Treasurer, Leanne Regon; Fire Chief, John Thomas; Assistant Fire Chief, Jason Kinser.

GENERAL FUND BUDGET

Manager Day stated at last months meeting we discussed the budget for the water and sewer funds. We will be discussing the general funds budget now. He began with expenses first. He stated that he does have a salary increase of three percent for employees in the budget. He also stated that this will not match the industry standard as he has seen that the DOC will be increasing salaries by 20%. Discussed various areas where there were increases or decreases in the upcoming budget.

Discussed bank service charges. It is set to increase \$5,000. Councilmember Davis asked is this because of merchant services (credit card fees). It was answered yes, when Covid hit and we allowed customers to pay over the phone it increased the amount we had to pay. It was also said that we take in a lot of payments this way now and it has helped increase collections. Manager Day stated that there was a way to remedy some of that, we could begin charging a fee to pay by card, the county does. But it has been brought up before and no action was taken.

They discussed part time salaries in the recreation department. It is being cut by \$45,000. He is hoping to be able to work with the sheriff's office again and have weed eaters from the inmate crews. Sharon Thomas will be doing the concessions again this year.

The EMS vehicle maintenance is increasing, transports cause vehicles to wear out more. He stated that EMS Administrator Syndee Saleem is working on another grant. Transports are the only way we will ever have a chance to run in the black.

Community Development is being decreased by \$20,000 and we are increasing our donation to Tazewell Today to \$35,000. They will be required to show financials and documentation of expenses. This is a new program and we will reevaluate it again this time next year.

Sports Complex line item is being decreased by \$50,000.

Paving is being decreased by \$50,000. There are funds there to pave the fire department and American Legion parking lot.

These expenses are a total of \$6.5million in the general fund budget.

Now begins discussion of general fund revenues. Manager Day stated that last year real estate tax had a great collection rate. This could be because people had stimulus money, etc. and could pay. But he said not to count on it for every year.

Refuse Collection is showing an increase of \$50,000. The cost for dumpster pick up will be going up and he went over each dumpster size and the proposed cost. Councilmember Davis asked if we had to pay a fee at the landfill to dump the dumpsters. He answered no yet, but it was a possibility in the future.

EMS revenue is begin decreased by \$141,000. He stated that Covid has hurt transports so that has caused a decrease in revenue we are collecting. However, it may come back up during the next year and we may be able to raise this back up next year.

As of now he has a balanced budget. The only rate increase is the dumpster fees. He asked if anyone had questions about the budget presented. No one had any questions. He stated that he left something off the agenda because he wanted to make sure no one had questions. He would like to add to the agenda, a vote for a public hearing for the budget to be held at the May meeting. They then discussed a few budget requests he has received. Friends of Southwest Virginia is requesting \$5,000. He said if they want to donate to these, just work with him and show him where to get it from. It was asked where they are located. It was answered, Abingdon. He also has requests from Brain Injury Services, DECA will be with us later this evening, Crab Orchard Museum, and Kondwani Patterson has previously presented to them and the Town agreed to give him the property he was wanting to put a playground space at by the Clinch Valley Head Start building. He is now requesting \$25,000.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Davis

Resolution Number: ES220412

Motion Seconded by: Catron

Meeting Date: 22 April 12

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Prospective Business (Potential Development), Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Specific Legal Matters (Personnel), Personnel Matters (I/EDA Vacancy), Personnel Matters (Town Manager)

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

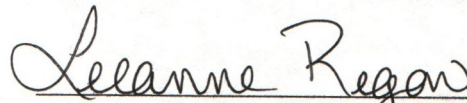
Ayes: Catron, Davis, Mullins, Beasley, Fox

Nays: none

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

Absent during vote: Brown

Absent during meeting: Brown



Leeanne Regan, Clerk

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

Mayor Hoops stated the reason they went into executive session was for Prospective Business (Potential Development), Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Specific Legal Matters (Personnel), Personnel Matters (I/EDA Vacancy), Personnel Matters (Town Manager). He then read the resolution for Certification of Executive Session. On a roll call vote Councilmember Catron, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

The Tazewell Town Council met in regular session at 7:30 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 David Fox

Absent:

Councilmember Chris Brown

Staff present were: Town Manager, Todd Day; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; Clerk/Treasurer, Leanne Regon; Fire Chief, John Thomas; Assistant Fire Chief, Jason Kinser; Zoning & Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley; Police Chief, David Mills.

CALL TO ORDER

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION/REQUESTS

MEMBERS OF THS DECA

THS DECA members came before council. They stated that they took 24 students to Virginia Beach to compete at the state level. Next Friday some will be traveling to Atlanta to compete

again. They are asking for a donation to help with travel expense. Councilmember Catron asked what our guideline says for donation amounts. It was answered \$50-\$200. Councilmember Catron made a motion to donate \$200. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Fox stated what about \$600. Councilmember Beasley stated that we needed to stick to the guidelines in order to be fair to others that have asked previously. Vice Mayor Mullins stated that he's sure they would accept additional donations. Councilmember Fox stated that he would do that and he would encourage other councilmembers to do the same. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

25th ANNIVERSARY OF 911

Captain Randyann Davis of the 911 center and Captain Jonathan Hankins of the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office came before council to discuss the 25th anniversary of the 911 communication system in Tazewell County. Captain Davis stated that the first office was at the former Piggy Bank Café on Main Street. They had very limited equipment and none of the technology we have today. In 2005 they moved to Blackwell Street above the water plant and increased to three dispatchers. In 2010 they moved to their current location by the Junior High Gym. They have three mapping systems, radio headsets, state of the art equipment. They have a new app for teachers in the schools that is a panic button that would allow them to alert 911 if there is an emergency in the school. They are having an open house tomorrow from 3:00pm-7:00pm and would like to invite everyone. Christina Shinall will be recognized tomorrow as well for her 25 years of service. Councilmember Fox stated that he appreciates the 911 dispatchers and the job they do. Police Chief Mills stated that he has worked in the police service for many years and it has greatly improved and they are doing a great job.

Captain Hankins stated that he thanks and appreciates all the dispatchers. He stated that they are the true first responders. They are the ones that handle the calls first. They are very special and so important to all law enforcement and he can't thank them enough for the job they do.

Councilmember Beasley thanked them as well and apologized for the times he has accidentally called them by mistake. Councilmember Davis thanked them as well.

TOWN REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Donnie Yates came before council to discuss the Tazewell County Fair. He stated that this will be the 150th year anniversary of the fair. The Tazewell County Fair started the same year Virginia Tech and Concord University were founded. They plan to have a mobile museum from the state of Virginia booked for three days. They are going to try their best to make it a true Tazewell County Fair. They would like to request the council choose someone to represent the Town of Tazewell on their board. It could be a councilmember or someone who is involved in the community and it would be on a volunteer basis. They would be asked to attend meetings and relay information back to the Town. They will accept suggestions from the representative as well. So far this year they have booked Cody Wickline who was on the Voice, they are still booking musical talent. They would encourage and appreciate the Town's input. Councilmember Davis asked how often they meet. It was answered that they meet once a month, the same night

as the council meetings and the meeting last about an hour. Mayor Hoops stated they will try to have a recommendation for them soon.

RECOGNIZE EMPLOYEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Manager Day stated that when he has an opportunity to recognize his employees, he likes to do so. He stated that over the last several months, Tracie Lewis and Treasurer Leeanne Regon have been taking courses through the Weldon Cooper Center, which is a division of the University of Virginia. He stated that Treasurer Regon has earned the title of Master Governmental Treasurer and Tracie Lewis has earned the title of Master Governmental Deputy Treasurer. He congratulated both of them and said it was a job well done.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Beasley to approve the minutes of March 8, 2022. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron and seconded by Councilmember Davis to approve the financial statements for March 2022. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Councilmember Davis stated that the Planning Commission met and discussed vacating an alley which is on the agenda later on. The Planning Commission approved it and sent it to council to set a public hearing. They also discussed tiny houses. It was said that tiny houses are required to meet building code requirements and it was said that we already have code that will govern this. They also had an update on the annexation, which is also on the agenda later on.

UPDATE ON ALL PROJECTS

Manager Day stated that he has received many phone calls, etc. thanking us for the work that has been done at the Little League fields. They are very appreciative. The weather has caused some delays for the field renovations but hopefully they will start on the 18th.

The Ramey Lot demolition is ahead of schedule and it's going well.

ALLEY CLOSURE REQUEST

We have received a request to close an alley off of Pinehurst Street in North Tazewell. In the packet there is a letter and map/drawings of the lots and the layouts. The request is from the land owner, Harold Marinus. He owns property on both sides of the alley. Motion was made by Councilmember Davis to set a joint public hearing for the May meeting. Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Mullins. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Manager Day stated that the fire department has found a truck they like and they have inspected it. It is a 2005 Peirce Ladder Truck. The cost is \$180,000.00. He stated that he has an email but no official documentation, that Tazewell County is donating \$100,000.00. He at first had considered getting a loan to purchase the truck, however now if we receive that donation, we could use the ARPA funds for the remaining \$80,000.00. Motion to proceed with the purchase of the fire truck was made by Councilmember Davis. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. Manager Day stated that if funding does not come from Tazewell County there will be another recommendation at the next meeting. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT -FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACROSS TAZEWELL COUNTY

Mayor Hoops read the resolution. Councilmember Fox asked if we sent a crew out for mutual aid, would there still be a crew here to cover if another call came through. Fire Chief Thomas answered yes, there would still be members available to cover town calls. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Councilmember Fox. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

PERMIT APPLICATION

Police Chief Mills stated that this permit application would make it to where there was a more controlled environment when there are events on Main Street. He stated that Attorney Pyott had review the application. This would show what is expected of anyone who would want to request to close the street. Councilmember Beasley stated that there should be a list of the vendors for the event to us for the purpose of collections, such as meals tax. Motion to approve the permit was made by Councilmember Fox. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

RESOLUTION OF HONOR FOR JIM BALDWIN'S RETIREMENT

It was stated that Mr. Baldwin had over 50 years of service. Mayor Hoops read the resolution. Motion to approve the resolution was made by Vice Mayor Mullins. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Catron. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

ANNEXATION DISCUSSION

Manager Day stated that he has spoken with Supervisor Aaron Gillespie many times about the annexation and he is doing his due diligence and the Town looks forward to working with him on the project.

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR UPCOMING 2022/2023 BUDGET

Motion was made by Councilmember Catron to set a public hearing for the May meeting for the upcoming 2022/2023 budget. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.