

Council Meeting Minutes

May 10, 2022

The Tazewell Town Council met for an executive session at 6:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present:

Absent:

Mayor Michael Hoops

Vice Mayor Terry Mullins

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Councilmember Glenn Catron

Councilmember Chris Brown

Councilmember David Fox

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Davis

Resolution Number: ES220510

Motion Seconded by: Fox

Meeting Date: 22 May 10

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Personnel Matters (I/EDA Vacancy), Privacy of Individuals Unrelated to Public Business (East River Mountain Trail), Personnel Matters (Town Manager), Prospective Business (Potential Development), Prospective Business (Potential Development), Prospective Business (Potential Development)

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

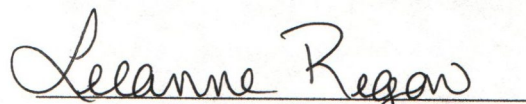
Ayes: Catron, Brown, Davis, Mullins, Beasley, Fox

Nays: none

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

Absent during vote:

Absent during meeting:


Leeanne Regon, Clerk

Motion to come out of executive session was made by Councilmember Catron and seconded by Councilmember Davis. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, 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 Personnel Matters, Privacy of Individuals Unrelated to Public Business, Prospective Business. 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 Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

PUBLIC HEARING

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

2022/2023 BUDGET

Mayor Hoops called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m. The Town of Tazewell held a public hearing for the upcoming 2022/2023 budget. Mayor Hoops read the notice of public hearing. Mayor Hoops asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this matter. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing.

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING -REQUEST TO VACATE ALLEY-PINEHURST STREET

Mayor Hoops called the public hearing to order at 7:15 p.m. The Town of Tazewell held a joint public hearing for a request to vacate an alleyway on Pinehurst Street. Mayor Hoops read the notice of public hearing. Mayor Hoops asked if anyone would like to speak for or against this matter. Hearing none, he 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 Emily Davis

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Councilmember Glenn Catron

Councilmember Chris Brown

Councilmember David Fox

Staff present were: Town Manager, Todd Day; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; Town Attorney, Brad Pyott; Clerk/Treasurer, Lianne Regon; Fire Chief, John Thomas; Assistant Fire Chief, Jason Kinser; Police Chief, David Mills.

CALL TO ORDER

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION/REQUESTS

DONATION REQUEST FROM TAZEWELL COUNTY CAREER & TECHNICAL CENTER FOR SKILLUSA STATE COMPETITION

Sarah Cooke with the Tazewell County Career and Technical Center came before council along with several students who had competed in various areas. She stated that she was the lead advisor for SkillUSA and that they would have five students competing in Nationals and they would appreciate anything we could give that would help with their expenses. Councilmember Fox made a motion to donate \$200.00. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Manager Day asked before we went to the next item on the agenda, if everyone would look outside, that the fire department had brought the newest addition to their department. Fire Chief Thomas stated that it was a 2005 Pierce Ladder Truck and it has a pump for water and foam as well.

NEW BUSINESS RECOGNITION

Mayor Hoops stated that with us tonight was Violet Asbury, owner of the new business The Violet Studio. Ms. Asbury stated thanked council and stated that she will have weekly classes, various items to paint such as, canvas, t-shirts, etc. She also has a drip room, which is where you throw paint. She said they will be offering private parties. They are located at 2835 Fincastle by Your Grate Escape. Mayor Hoops presented her with a small gift and thanked her for opening her business in our town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Davis, seconded by Councilmember Brown to approve the minutes of April 12, 2022. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Councilmember Davis stated that the Planning Commission did not have a meeting this month.

UPDATE ON RECREATIONAL ACCESS GRANT

Manager Day stated that we have still been in contact with Andy Cecil about this project however right now the project is \$325,000.00 over budget. For now we are going to have to table this project because of the cost of materials etc.

HISTORIC REVIEW BOARD VACANCY

Susan Reeves stated that they would recommend Erica Galloway, from the Tazewell County Library to serve on their board. Motion was made by Councilmember Brown to appoint Erica Galloway to the Historic Review Board. Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Mullins. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS ISSUES

Executive Assistant Brewster stated that the firework company we had booked for our Fourth of July celebration has contacted us and stated that the company they use to shoot off the fireworks has semi-retired and are not going to be able to do our event this year. She contacted Zambelli Fireworks and they wanted to charge \$26,000.00 and they could not do it on July 4th. She then called the shooters herself and asked if they could help us out just this year and they said they could not do it on July 4th but they could on July 2nd. Motion was made by Councilmember Davis to move the entire July 4th celebration to July 2nd. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

STORMWATER DRAIN-FAIRGROUND ROAD

Manager Day stated that on Fairground Road we need to replace part of the stormwater drain. There is one property owner that will not respond to us and give us permission to come across their property. Everyone else has given permission. We are going to move forward with this project and do new line on each side of this property and leave a gap on that property. Councilmember Davis asked if we got a response from the property owner later could we

connect. He answered yes. He also stated that it was at no charge to the customer and we were doing the work in house.

ALLEY CLOSURE REQUEST

Attorney Pyott stated that the Town has received a request to close an alley way on Pinehurst Drive which is off of Riverside Drive, by the storage buildings. The property owner owns both sides of the property from the alley. The alley was dedicated but never opened for public use. The landowner will be responsible for any fees associated with this closure, filing fees, advertisements fees, etc. The Town will retain an easement. Motion was made by Councilmember Davis to approve the alley closure request. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

WWTP DEBT SERVICE PAY OFF

Manager Day stated that the PSA pays us a monthly fee for their debt service on the portion they own of the sewer plant (40%). They have paid off the remainder of that debt service. They have paid us \$582,923.85 to the sewer fund. He suggests that we leave it alone and let that go toward fund balance. He stated that fund balance would be covered for years to come. Councilmember Davis stated that this will give us the cushion that VRA wants. Manager Day stated, yes it would.

PERSONAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CHANGES

Treasurer Regon stated that Commissioner of Revenue, David Anderson, had written a letter to the towns in the county and stated that there is going to be a 22% increase in the personal property category and the 02 category (motor homes, business use vehicles or trucks over 7501 gross weight pounds). He is encouraging the towns to consider some type of rate decrease or discount. She also stated that she has spoke to each town within the county and all towns have said they will not or do not have any plans to offer a discounted rate. It was asked if the county would be offering a discount. She answered that the board is discussing it. Manager Day stated that we do not have to act on this right now, we can continue to follow the progression but we wanted to make them aware of what was possibly ahead.

Treasurer Regon asked if she could also discuss one more thing. She stated that the town has numerous requests every month for us to offer an auto draft bill pay option. She stated that she has researched this and found that it would cost the town \$15.00 a month to send a file to the bank and offer the citizens auto draft bill pay. She stated that since Covid, we began letting people pay over the phone with their card. While it has helped collections, it has drastically increased the cost of debit/credit card processing fees we are having to pay. The hope is that if we can get people to sign up for auto draft, it will save money on the processing fees we are having to pay. Councilmember Davis stated that she thought that was a good idea. Councilmember Beasley did too. Councilmember Davis stated that if we needed a vote in order to do this, she would make that motion. It was stated that we didn't need a motion but just wanted to let council know and get their input.

REQUEST FROM THS PROM COMMITTEE

Manager Day stated that we have received a donation request from the THS Prom Committee. They need an estimated \$1,700.00 to complete their prom. He stated that there are 234 students involved. Councilmember Catron made a motion to donate \$500.00. Motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Mullins. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

TOWN EQUIPMENT/VEHICLE FOR AUCTION

Manager Day stated that he is handing out pictures of older equipment that we are trying to clear out. There is an auction coming up and we would like to put these items in that auction. Motion was made by Councilmember Davis to approve putting these items up for auction. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Councilmember Catron, aye; Councilmember Brown, aye; Vice Mayor Mullins, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Melissa Vadola with the Tazewell Farmers Market came before council and stated that she has managed the farmers market for the past three years. She said during those three years, they had been moved four times. They would like to have a permanent location and hope to discuss a shelter. Mayor Hoops stated that he knows they have been set up at the Ramey's lot and had to move to the other end. Councilmember Davis asked is there a place they have in mind for a permanent location. Mrs. Vadola said yes, we like it at the Ramey's lot where they are now. Mayor Hoops stated that in the future the sports complex will be going there. Mrs. Vadola stated that they had seen a drawing of the proposed placement for the sports complex and where they are now there would be nothing there. It would be a good place for a shelter and they would still be able to have sporting events, etc. Manager Day asked if they would still like to use the location they are at now. She answered yes, it's great, they just don't want to lose the location mid-season. Manager Day said that he doesn't think that would happen right now, that they should be fine for this year. Councilmember Catron stated that he thought the Farm to Table profit was going to building a shelter. Mrs. Vadola stated that there is \$1,500.00 and she had just spoke to Tamera Neo and they are hoping to hold another event on September 10th. She also stated that KayHay Craftsman would be willing to donate his time to build the shelter.

Also, she asked if Farm to Table can hold their event and serve alcohol. Councilmember Davis stated that they would have to apply with the ABC board. Chief Mills stated that they would need to talk to John Gunter and he would get her an application and his contact information.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Davis

Resolution Number: ES220510

Motion Seconded by: Fox

Meeting Date: 22 May 10

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Personnel Matters (I/EDA Vacancy), Privacy of Individuals Unrelated to Public Business (East River Mountain Trail), Personnel Matters (Town Manager), Prospective Business (Potential Development), Prospective Business (Potential Development), Prospective Business (Potential Development)

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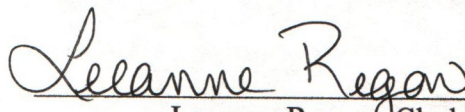
Ayes: Catron, Brown, Davis, Mullins, Beasley, Fox

Nays: none

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

Absent during vote:

Absent during meeting:



Leeanne Regon, Clerk

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Mayor Hoops stated the reason they went into executive session was for Personnel Matters, Privacy of Individuals Unrelated to Public Business, Prospective Business. 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 Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.