

Council Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2023

The Tazewell Town Council met in an executive session at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present:

Absent:

Mayor Michael Hoops

Vice Mayor Glenn Catron

Councilmember Jonathan Hankins

Councilmember Zach Cline

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Joe Beasley

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Beasley

Resolution Number: ES230613

Motion Seconded by: Cline

Meeting Date: 23 June 13

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

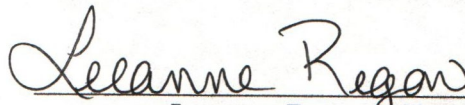
Ayes: Catron, Hankins, Cline, Davis, Beasley, Fox

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

Mayor Hoops stated the reason they went into executive session was for Purpose: Personnel Matters. He then read the resolution for Certification of Executive Session. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

WORK SESSION 6:15PM

SPORTS COMPLEX

Manager Day stated that the last work session was a great meeting. The power of team work is great. In 2007, when he was employed at the Town of Bluefield, they had an issue with the Sanitary Board. It is in Bluefield, West Virginia but Bluefield, Virginia had two members on the board. Tazewell County was in jeopardy of loosing capacity at the plant up there. He and Jim Spencer went to Richmond for two months to try and pass legislation for Bluefield, Virginia to condemn the west end sewer plant. When they come back, the board from West Virginia and Virginia worked together and they had support from everybody because they worked it and lobbied for it. The power of team work was amazing. If you think you can't get people on board, work at it and you could get the IDA, supervisors, delegates, senators, if you work at it and you support it, but you have to be on the same page, you have to fight the same fight. If you fight for it you will have allies across the commonwealth. We either have to move forward or someone has to stop it. Either project can be done. One is an industry; one is a sports field. He needs definitive direction from council as to what to do. There are two grants out there today that he was notified of. They are multi-million-dollar grants. One is a max of \$30million. Whatever project you all do, fight for it. You have to get on the same page. You have to be willing to stick with it.

RECREATION DIRECTOR/EVENTS CORDINATOR

Mayor Hoops asked if we had any application for the recreation director position. Manager Day answered yes. Mayor Hoops stated that Councilmember Cline and Councilmember Beasley worked on the event coordinator idea. He asked if there was someone that could do this job. Manager Day stated that it depended on the direction council wants to go in. Councilmember Cline asked if there was a job description. It was answered yes, it's about a 60 hour a week job description. Councilmember Beasley stated that he feels like it would be better to have two positions, not wrapped into one position. Councilmember Davis said that would be to much on one person. Councilmember Fox would like to see them be able to take a weekend off. Manager Day stated that due to the events and summer season it is virtually impossible and public works is the same way.

Councilmember Beasley stated that ESM is not going to do fishing tournaments or spartan races etc. the recreation director would do that. In the winter time they would have time to start making calls for the next season. He also stated that a program director could work with Tazewell Today. Councilmember Davis stated that they could work hand in hand with Little League and the YMCA also. Manager Day stated that we could hire a coordinator and keep them busy without ever mentioning the word sports complex. If we did both, we had just talked about putting some fund balance money into the LGIP, we could use some of that money. He stated

that he would move forward and operate with the idea of a sports director and they would work with Little League and YMCA.

Councilmember Cline stated that recreation could mean so much. What are we expecting from this position. They discussed this. They also discussed Dunford Park and stated that it looks rough right now because Game and Inland Fishery says that we cannot cut grass along the creek line. Councilmember Beasley mentioned an event staff to help out at the summer events. Manager Day stated that volunteers or an event staff wouldn't know all the logistics, such as the electrical system, they wouldn't be able to operate Town equipment.

Manager Day asked if the board was in a position to make a decision on a project. Councilmember Beasley stated that funding is key. If we could get funding, why wouldn't we do it. Councilmember Davis stated that across from the park, there is a large piece of property. She didn't know anything about it but it would give them room to expand. Councilmember Fox stated that he would like to see the sports complex go somewhere else. He don't want it in a flood zone. Manager Day stated that if council wants a new location, we could try and find a new location. If it is done at the Ramey Lot, we are going to elevate the property and raise it up out of the flood plain. Councilmember Cline asked how much money are they willing to put in to it. What kind of rate of return are we looking for. He also stated that we should use the IEDA to evaluate these things. Councilmember Davis stated that the feasibility study shows that if we build it they will come. Councilmember Cline stated that feasibility studies are great but we have to do our due diligence. Not doing our due diligence is not acceptable. Councilmember Beasley stated that the studied have come up a lot. These are the closed things we have to go on. There are three different studies that say it will work. At some point we have to trust somebody. There are three independent studies and not all were connected to it like ESM was. Vice Mayor Catron said to Councilmember Cline that we have nothing on soccer fields, no information on it but you're all for that. What's the return on investment for that. Councilmember Cline said that soccer fields bring something to our community its not working with a company. Vice Mayor Catron stated that a complex would create an economy. Soccer fields would just be another payment for the town with no return on investment. Manager Day stated that he can get another feasibility study and have it go over every aspect they just discussed-soccer fields, s sports complex, indoor, outdoor. He then asked can he go forward and tell everyone that we are all on the same page. Can I say that we will put up \$5 million dollars in to it. Vice Mayor Catron said yes. Councilmember Hankins stated that if we cap it at \$5 million, yes. Councilmember Cline stated that he was not going to make a decision tonight.

PUBLIC HEARING 7:15 PM

PUBLIC HEARING – JOINT PUBLIC HEARING (TOWN COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION) -SPECIAL EXEMPTION PERMIT (AIRBNB) LOCATED AT 999 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, NORTH TAZEWELL, VA

Mayor Hoops read the notice of public hearing. Mayor Hoops opened the floor for questions or comments. Mrs. Mulkey of 126 Third Street stated that she use to own that property and she is concerned about the safety around her residence, as it is close to the Airbnb. Chief Mills asked

her what she was concerned with. She answered, who would be there. Chief Mills stated that his department had never received a complaint about any of the Airbnb's in town and explained that if there was an issue, she could call them and they would come check things out for her. Mrs. Mulkey stated that she was ok with that and she was happy with that. Mayor Hoops asked if there were any other questions or comments, having 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 Glenn Catron

Councilmember Jonathan Hankins

Councilmember Zach Cline

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Staff present were: Town Manager, Todd Day; Town Attorney, Brad Pyott; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster; Police Chief, David Mills; Zoning & Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley; Clerk/Treasurer, Leeanne Regon.

CALL TO ORDER

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/REQUEST

TAZEWELL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

Mayor Hoops and Town Council recognized the Tazewell High School Lady Bulldogs softball team with a Resolution of Honor for their recent win of the Class 2 Virginia State Softball Championship. He presented each member with a copy of the resolution and congratulated them on a job well done.

NEW BUSINESS RECOGNITION

BEE NOODLE'D

Mayor Hoops introduced Nick & Erin Keene, owners of Bee Noodle'd. This business is located on Main Street and their grand opening will be on Friday. They offer a variety of noodles such as asian, italian, ramen, and they will be offering culinary classes for kids, catering, etc. They are looking forward to it. They said that Town support has been amazing. They brought homey cakes for the council. Mayor Hoops presented them with a small gift from the Town and welcomed them and congratulated them.

SAWYERS AIRBNB

Mayor Hoops introduced Susan & Rick Sawyers. They thanked the council for approving and stated that they have already had their first guest and they booked to come back again next year. They also have three others already booked. Mayor Hoops presented them with a small gift from the Town and welcomed them and congratulated them.

WILD ROSE HAIR LOUNGE

Mayor Hoops introduced Greta Burton. She stated that she is from Bristol and she moved here with her husband Jared. They lived in Morgantown and when she would come in to Town people would ask her to do their hair, so she was already building a clientele before she ever got here. She stated that Wild Rose is a 65 Mustang and she will be coming back to the building to keep part of the history of the building. She stated that they had a grand opening last Friday. Mayor Hoops thanked her and congratulated her and presented her with a small gift from the Town.

RELIEF MASSAGE THERAPY & BODYWORK

Mayor Hoops introduced Crystal White. She stated that they are located at Campbell Lane. She has worked as a chiropractor and massage therapist. They are primarily medical massages but she also likes to do other massages too. They bring pain relief. She said that Tazewell was a hip, fun town and thanked us for having her. Mayor Hoops thanked her and congratulated her and presented her with a small gift from the Town.

ASPIRE WELLNESS & CHIROPRACTIC, LLC

Mayor Hoops introduced Dr. Emily Butcher. She stated that they are located at Campbell Lane in the same building with Relief Massage Therapy & Bodywork. She stated that she is practicing with Dr. Brown and she will also have this business which focuses on animal chiropractic. She stated that she can work on dogs, cats, sheep, horses, etc. Mayor Hoops thanked her and congratulated her and presented her with a small gift from the Town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Beasley to approve the minutes of May 9, 2023 and May 16, 2023. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Catron and seconded by Councilmember Beasley to approve the financial statements for May 2023. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Councilmember Davis stated that the Planning Commission did not meet last week but they were in attendance for tonight's joint public hearing.

2ND READING AND APPROVAL OF THE 2023/2024 BUDGET

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Catron to waive the second reading of the budget. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hankins. Mayor Hoops asked if there was any discussion. All in favor of approving the budget for 2023/2024 state so by saying aye. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye. The budget is now set for the year.

EMS GRANT UPDATE

We applied for funding for a rescue squad. We have not gotten a response yet.

MAPLEWOOD SIDEWALK PROJECT UPDATE

Manager Day stated that we have been working on this for quite sometime now. He is hoping by August to be wide open on it. The splash pad target date is July 1st.

APPROVE AMENDMENT TO I/EDA BY-LAWS

Manager Day stated that it has been brought up that the IEDA would like to change their by laws to allow business owners in town can serve on their board even if they don't live in town. Also, there is a timing conflict with the Planning Commission meeting. The IEDA would like to move their meeting to an earlier time, they would like to hold their meeting at 4:30pm instead of 6:00pm. Motion to approve amendments was made by Vice Mayor Catron and seconded by Councilmember Fox. Councilmember Cline stated if the business owner sells their business, they would need to come off of the IEDA board if they did not live in town. He would like that added.

Attorney Pyott stated that we can add that in there. Councilmember Cline thinks it needs to be. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

APPROVE LOW BIDDER FOR DEMOLITION OF OLD BOWLING ALLEY

Manager Day stated that the bids left a lot on money on the table. He can go back to the bidder and ask if they will hold their bid. He would like to bring this back to another meeting.

APPROVE LOW BIDDER FOR FY 24 PAVING

Manager Day stated that W L Construction was the low bid and they have done paving for us before. Their bid is around \$224,000. Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Beasley. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Cline asked since this doesn't use all the funds that we had budgeted for paving is there another project that we can start looking at with this left over money. Manager Day stated that we would look at other streets and also the fire department parking lot. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

DONATION REQUEST FROM THS BAND BOOSTERS

Manager Day stated he has received a donation request from THS Band Boosters and there are 75-80 band kids involved. Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to donate \$400 to the THS Band Boosters. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

NEW LEAD AND COPPER REGULATIONS DISCUSSIONS

Manager Day stated that localities that operate a water distribution system are required to check the levels of lead and copper in the homes of their locality periodically. There are federally mandated acceptable levels of lead and copper. We are now being federally mandated to take actions to find out what kind of lines are on the home side our water meter and the Town side of the water meter. The EPA has mandated this. It has to be done in 2024. There are grants out there regarding this but we feel it is in the best interest of the Town to do this in house. We will be sending out emails, Facebook posts, Nixel alerts, posting on our website, and putting notices with their water bills. We will do everything we can to get this done and to do this as efficiently as we can. Councilmember Fox asked how this will affect low-income homes. Manager Day stated that he is not sure that it will right now but maybe in the future.

PAST PROJECT UPDATE REPORT DISCUSSION

Manager Day stated that we use to do these packets for council and it got to be where the packet got so thick. It is in depth with what we do on a day-to-day basis. Councilmember Davis stated

that some of it was good information to see. Manager Day stated unless he hears otherwise, he is going to keep going the way we do it now. Councilmember Cline stated a quick update on major projects like the splash pad, like the side walk, would be good. Councilmember Fox stated that he like that the police department submitted their new hire information in the packet and told them they were doing a good job.

APPROVAL SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT REQUEST FOR 999 RIVERSIDE DRIVE

Zoning & Property Maintenance Official Hurley stated that he had to send letters out to adjoining property owners. He sent out six letters and got five responses back. He stated that Mrs. Mulkey came and had questions for the public hearing but she was good now once she discussed her concerns. Motion to approve special exception request was made by Councilmember Fox. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hankins. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF EVENTS DISCUSSION

Manager Day stated that there was just an event held in town and it has been speculated on how much money was made in town such as meals tax, transient occupancy tax. Treasurer Regon stated that we could compare the meals tax and transient tax to previous months and see if we could see an increase. Meals tax for June will not be due until July 20th so it may be a little bit before she could have that data but if council is interested, she could do that. Councilmember Beasley stated that maybe we could send a survey to businesses to see if they had an increase and see if they have any comments.

DRUG PANEL SCREENING REQUIREMENT DISCUSSION

Manager Day stated that right now we only have two weed eaters. We have interviews and they test and they fail because of marijuana. It is legal now in Virginia and it stays in your system for a long time (30 days). So, then they fail the test. He has spoken with our insurance company, VRSA about the issue. There is an idea to waive the drug test for part time employees that would be cutting grass. They would not be driving Town vehicles or operating machinery. Councilmember Beasley stated that he can give an HR perspective. He has seen a study done by a company that said they have seen minimal changes in accidents and their accident rate. Manager Day stated that we currently have random tests every month.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Fox said to Fire Chief Thomas that there is a film in the bay of the fire department where the trucks are parked. Is there anything they can do to get that off. Chief Thomas stated that the film is mostly from the heaters.

Councilmember Hankins asked who notifies businesses about street closings. Manager Day stated that whoever is shutting down the road is to communicate with people but we will improve our communication.

Councilmember Fox asked when doing the resolutions can we add that it is from the mayor as well as town council.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:05pm.