

Council Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2023

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

Present:

Mayor Michael Hoops

Councilmember Jonathan Hankins

Councilmember Zach Cline

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Absent:

Vice Mayor Glenn Catron

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Cline

Resolution Number: ES230411

Motion Seconded by: Hankins

Meeting Date: 23 April 11

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Prospective Business & Business Retention, Award of Public Contract, Specific Legal Matters Requiring the Advice of Counsel, Consultation with Legal Counsel, Award of a Public Contract, Personnel Matters (Historic Review Board Member)

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

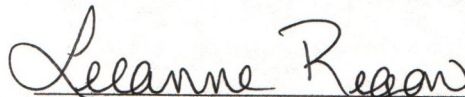
Ayes: Hankins, Cline, Davis, Beasley, Fox

Nays: none

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

Absent during vote: Catron

Absent during meeting: Catron



Leeanne Regon, Clerk

Motion was made by Councilmember Davis to come out of executive session. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, 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: Prospective Business & Business Retention, Award of Public Contract, Specific Legal Matters Requiring the Advice of Counsel, Consultation with Legal Counsel, Award of a Public Contract, Personnel Matters (Historic Review Board Member). He then read the resolution for Certification of Executive Session. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

The Tazewell Town Council met in a budget work session at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Manager Day stated that the budget had been put on drop box for review. He went over any changes that had been made since the last discussion. He stated there was no fee increases that were not already discussed. In tonight's meeting there will be a vote to have a public hearing at the May meeting and a vote at the June meeting.

Councilmember Cline stated that they had a discussion previously about getting a recreation director. Is that in the upcoming budget? Manager Day stated that it is not however it could be. He also stated that this is not being done to get rid of Richard Smith. He will still be here and taking care of the park.

Councilmember Beasley stated that they had talked about the growing interest in youth sports and activity. We could use someone to promote and get teams and tournaments and get more involved. Mayor Hoops asked if we do get the Ramey's lot done, would this person be over both the park and the sports complex. Councilmember Beasley said yes, he would think so. Councilmember Cline stated that it had been talked about before to hold fishing tournaments and spartan races, and mud runs, etc. Councilmember Davis stated that adult leagues would be great to have too. Councilmember Cline stated that the job description and expectations we advertise doesn't need to be so much that it scares people off from applying. Councilmember Beasley said if this takes off the way he thinks it could it may get to the point that you need two employees. We can hold tournaments, sporting events, and raise money that can be put back into that department. Councilmember Cline stated that maybe we should consider offering an incentive such as you have a certain number of tournaments and success with them and you get an increase in pay.

Councilmember Fox asked if we could put a bait shop up at the lake. He also mentioned a restaurant to get sandwiches at and he brought up the idea of having a few cabins for people to rent out. He liked the idea of fishing tournaments and stated that there are many who would like to have a carp tournament.

Manager Day stated that he thinks these are great ideas and the program coordinator is a good idea. He has spoken to Richard about it and he's not really interested in being the director in that

manner. Councilmember Beasley stated that this is more of a connections and logistics position. Manager Day thinks it is a great idea and he will start working on a job description.

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

Present:

Mayor Michael Hoops

Councilmember Jonathan Hankins

Councilmember Zach Cline

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Absent:

Vice Mayor Glenn Catron

Staff present were: Town Manager, Todd Day; Town Attorney, Brad Pyott; Clerk/Treasurer, Leeanne Regon; Police Chief, David Mills; Fire Chief, John Thomas.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hoops called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. Invocation by Pastor Nathan Thomas.

WARHAWK COMMUNITY PARK PRESENTATION BY KONDWANI PATTERSON

Kondwani Patterson with Each One Teach One came before council to give an update. He stated that a few years ago he had come in and met with Manager Day with this idea and they have put in a lot of work to their organization and wanted to give an update. He stated that Warhawk Community Park is a great way to bring everyone together. It's taken a while to put it all together and they are ready to move forward. Britney Davis, President of Each One Teach One spoke and gave a brief history. She stated that they were founded in 2020 and they will focus on social gathering, education, social growth, etc. They would like to bring people together and strive for an overall better quality of life. She gave a listing of their board members. She stated that it is located by the Head Start School. It will include cornhole, horseshoes, fitness equipment, etc.

Mr. Patterson stated that they are working with Cunningham Rec. Park who also helped on the Lincolnshire Park Playground. Ms. Davis stated that they have future plans for a community center and a future project in mind of 3D concrete printing. Mr. Patterson stated that this will

eliminate the need for frame work and reduce the material needed, it will allow homes to be built faster, cheaper, etc. He then introduced Hunter Mullins and stated that he is a protégé. He is one that they were helping and has now become part of their organization and on the board. He is currently going to school to become a contractor. Manager Day stated that they had done a great job and stated that local government is slow moving and he appreciates their patience but assured we do have things in motion. Mr. Patterson thanked Manager Day, Mayor Hoops, Amanda Hoops, and Town Council. Mr. Mullins stated that he moved to Tazewell in 2010 from Buchanan County and he has been welcomed to Tazewell with open arms. This program is getting things started and he encouraged everyone to look for more great things to come.

PRESENTATION ON TRAFFIC CONTROL AT SCHOOL ZONES BY GREG HOGSTON WITH BLUE LINE SOLUTIONS

Greg Hogston with Blue Line Solutions came before council to speak about a new way to improve safety and traffic control. He stated that he was with Bristol Police Department and had just recently retired. He specialized in community safety, neighborhood watch, etc. He is here tonight to discuss photo enforcement in work zones and school zones. Their company would come in and determine if there is an issue in our school zones. They have gotten some data from us already. He stated that during the time that they were monitoring our school zones, 42,300 + vehicles traveled through the school zones. He stated that 3,733 of those would have been violations, 46 of them were at 21 miles per hour over the speed limit. He stated that he would be willing to have one on one or one on two meetings with council to give them information and educate them on this product. This would also allow council to answer questions if asked. They would have information sessions with the community and schools. There would be a sign that shows the speed of the vehicle before entering the zone. For those that violate the speed limit, it would be a civil infraction only. There would be no criminal charges or court. It is a less punishable method to the offender. There is no court cost, no insurance points. The fee would be no more than \$100.00 and it comes back to the locality to support public safety. In Virginia, Smyth, Wythe, Bland, Saltville, Chilhowie, Chesterfield, and Prince William have begun using this equipment. The agency can use this system as a source multiplier. When we don't have the number of officers we need to patrol school zones or work zones, this system helps increase safety for children, drivers and workers. It is a \$0 cost to the locality. The funds go to the company, they keep a percent and send the rest to the Town. It is a 75/25 split. They keep 25% and send the Town 75%. It is not intended to rise to a civil court matter. The only time it would go to court is if they file an affidavit. Manager Day asked if any other localities close to our size used their product. He named several such as Bland, Wythe, Smyth, Saltville. Manager Day asked if any of them had been using it more than a year. Mr. Hogston answered no that it was just introduced a little bit ago. Manager Day wondered about the political ramifications. Mr. Hogston encouraged people not to put politics above public safety. He also stated that education is their number one goal. He would like to council to review the company website and learn more about the company and he would love to come back and have an opportunity to educate more so they can have answers and knowledge when asked questions.

Councilmember Fox stated that he worked with him when he was at Bristol on speed issues. He asked about the cost of equipment. Mr. Hogston stated that the company provides the equipment to us at no cost and that we would not receive an invoice from them. They only come into areas

that have issues. Councilmember Cline asked where the data was captured. It was answered from THS, TMS and elementary school on Riverside Drive from 7:30am-3:30pm. The results were:

Elementary School: 9,558 vehicles, 1,433 above 11 mph, 13 reckless at above 21mph over.

Middle School: 1,136 violations and 23 reckless at above 21 mph over.

High School: 514 violations.

Manager Day stated that he will talk to Chief Mills and get back to him and thanked him for coming.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW TOWN EMPLOYEES SABRINA SCHOOLEY & VICKIE SMITH

Clerk/Treasurer Regon introduced Sabrina Schooley. She stated that Sabrina had been with the Town for several months now and during that time, she has moved up to a different position already. She is now the water clerk for the town. She stated that Sabrina had done a great job and she has worked really hard to learn the water job and she appreciates all the hard work Sabrina has done. She also introduced Vickie Smith. She stated that Vickie was the first person you would see if you come into the doors of our office. If you call more than likely it is Vickie that answers your calls and she takes the majority of the payments. She stated that when Vickie first started she noticed how she answered the phone, she was so nice and polite and she said, oh Vickie don't worry that will pass. But she said Vickie has been here three months and she is still so nice. She thanked her for coming to the Town and joining our team.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW POLICE OFFICERS TYLER RUBLE & NATHAN HENSLEY

Chief Mills introduced Nathan Hensley. He has been with the department for about three weeks. He is from Princeton Police Department. He is very knowledgeable. He is also a fire fighter. He starts the academy tomorrow. Chief Mills then introduced Tyler Ruble. He is also from Princeton and has just moved to Tazewell. He has a wife and three children. Chief hopes that they will be with the department for a long time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Hankins, seconded by Councilmember Beasley to approve the minutes of March 14, 2023. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Beasley and seconded by Councilmember Cline to approve the financial statements for March 2023. On vote, 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 had an application to open a business in an overlay district. They went over what was required from the Planning Commission and they will be back at the next meeting.

SECOND READING & APPROVAL -REPEAL OF EXISTING SEC. 23-116 OF ARTICLE VIII OF CHAPTER 23 OF THE CODE OF THE TOWN OF TAZEVELL

Attorney Pyott discussed the repeal for the Code. He stated this is to move the Code to the correct place in our Code Book. Councilmember Beasley made a motion to waive the second reading. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cline. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Councilmember Fox made a motion to repeal. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cline. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Attorney Pyott stated that it will go into effect in 30 days from today.

SECOND READING- PROPOSED ADOPTION OF SEC. 23-100.1 REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF ZONING PERMITS FOR A FAMILY DAY HOME AS DEFINED IN VIRGINIA CODE SECTION 22.1-289.02

Motion was made by Councilmember Davis to waive the second reading. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Motion was made by Councilmember Davis to approve the new code and have it take effect in 30 days. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

TAZEVELL RECREATIONAL ACCESS PROJECT UPDATE

Manager Day stated that this project was located at the Little League Fields and Main Street. This project had to be tabled because of the economy. We were going to look at it again when things started to look better and it looks like we are going to have to table it again. We will have to rebid it. It is a VDOT grant and we have not spent any funds on this.

DOG PARK UPDATE

Manager Day stated that we are working on a dog park. He has gotten council's input on the project and this has been a project on the table for a number of years now. He has put information in the council packet for them to review. There is signage out there that will release us from any liability. We have already ordered some of the equipment. We would like to make this a destination dog park. It is in a flood prone area and it does flood sometimes. We are keeping that in mind as we prepare and get equipment.

UPDATE ON SHADE SAILS FOR KIDZOWN

Manager Day stated that we are looking at some shade sails for Kidzown. However, he doesn't think that this is what the council had in mind, the sails cost \$36,000, but we are looking into it. Councilmember Davis stated that they looked huge.

WARHAWK COMMUNITY PARK LEASE

Manager Day stated that a couple years ago this was brought up and we want it to be a community park. We have discussed insurance, name, etc. This property needs to be directed to the IEDA. Council cannot deed the property over to the park, however IEDA can. It would be just like we did the bowling alley property. There would be a contract between the IEDA and Warhawk Park. Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to deed the property to the IEDA. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cline. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Manager Day stated that we will go through the process and Attorney Pyott already had the paperwork ready.

APPROVE QUOTE FOR FIREWORKS

Manager Day stated that last year we had a hard time getting a firework company and technicians. We had a hard time finding shooters last year because the company we had been using were retiring. The fire department use to do this and we were going to get them certified again and we found out to hold a license that they would have to do six shows a year. We have spoke with American Fireworks and have a quote of \$11,500. The date would be July 1st with a rain date of July 2nd. It has been said that Bluefield and Marion are not doing fireworks this year. Motion was made by Councilmember Davis to approve and move forward. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. Councilmember Fox asked if any other local fire departments were certified. It was answered that we didn't think so. Councilmember Cline asked how long was the quote good for. Councilmember Davis stated that is says 30 days. She stated that last year we had problems, so we better get on the schedule while we can. Councilmember Cline stated that he didn't like the dates. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Clerk/Treasurer Regon stated that in the council packet she has submitted budget amendments for council's review. There are several pages of amendments. She stated that these were done to either allocate funds in the budget we received and did not intend to receive or to reallocate funds in the budget to cover overages in line items. She also stated that this was an audit recommendation and we do these budget amendments to help us get a better audit. She asked if there were any questions. Motion to approve budget amendments was made by Councilmember Beasley. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cline. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

RESCUE SQUAD UPGRADE

Manager Day stated that we have another opportunity for a grant for an ambulance. Amanda Killen did the grant for us. It is a 75/25 grant and we also have another grant for EMS pending as well.

VEHICLES & EQUIPMENT TO BE AUCTIONED

Manager Day stated that every few years we try to send equipment to auction when it becomes inadequate. Chief Mills does a great job at finding free equipment and it is still useable. There is information in the council packet that shows each item that we would like to send to auction. Councilmember Fox made a motion to approve the items to be auctioned off. Councilmember Davis seconded the motion. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

SPORTS COMPLEX RFP

Manager Day stated that we had an earlier discussion about a program director. He stated if we find that it is in the best interest of the Town, we should release an RFP for fields at the Ramey lot. He stated that they have found that an indoor sports complex may not be as successful as originally thought. We could consider sports fields. If we do, we would need to send out an RFP and solicit bids and drawings. Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to continue with an RFP. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cline.

Councilmember Cline asked if we owed anything on the original project. Manager Day answered no. He also stated that he wasn't sure we had to do an RFP. He has spoken with John Wack recently and he has stated that he would not be interested in running it because it would be too small. Councilmember Davis asked is it possible to do part of it like the fields and later build on it for indoor use. It was answered that was possible.

On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

APPROVE TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR UPCOMING 2023/2024 BUDGET FOR MAY 9, 2023 AT 7:15PM

Motion was made by Councilmember Beasley to set a public hearing for the 2023/2024 budget May 9th at 7:15pm. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cline. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

MISCELLANEOUS

Legacy Bank Discussion

Manager Day stated that in our current budget, there are funds budgeted for the purpose of purchasing a backhoe. We have contacted several banks to obtain rates for financing. Legacy Bank was the most attractive with a rate of 5.95%. Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to move forward with financing from Legacy Bank. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Motion was made by Councilmember Beasley to allow Manager Day and Clerk/Treasurer Regon to be signers on the loan documents. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hankins. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Historic Review Board

Councilmember Beasley stated that the Historic Review Board met and they would like to recommend Nathan Thomas as a board member. Motion was made by Councilmember Davis to approve the recommendation. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cline. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Beasley stated that he thought this had been a great meeting this evening. There is a lot going on and there is good energy going on. He stated that he wanted to tell all the departments that they are doing a good job.

Councilmember Fox stated that he wanted to discuss an issue that had been previously brought up. He stated that he thinks for police cruisers when they are patrolling, they need to stay on. He said if they go into a store and they turn it off the equipment pulls charge from the battery. It also

is wear and tear on the starter. However, he feels that if they come into the office to work on reports, they should cut their engine off. Also, during the winter time it is very important for them to keep their windshields cleared off. Councilmember Davis asked what was starting this conversation, was it the memo that cruisers were left running, is that correct? Manager Day stated that the police department was not a target of that letter. It was for all departments. Some vehicles were left running for over an hour. We will use common sense, but we need to try and save fuel and funds where we can.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:44pm.