

## **Council Meeting Minutes**

**August 8, 2023**

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

Present:

Absent:

Mayor Michael Hoops

Vice Mayor Glenn Catron

Councilmember Jonathan Hankins

Councilmember Zach Cline

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Councilmember Emily Davis

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

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion was made by Councilmember Cline to go into 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.

**RESOLUTION**

Motion made by: Cline

Resolution Number: ES230808

Motion Seconded by: Davis

Meeting Date: 23 August 08

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Real Property

**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:

  
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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.

## **PUBLIC HEARING 7:15 PM**

### **PUBLIC HEARING – AMEND EXISTING ORDINANCE TO ALLOW SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT CLINIC AND PRIVATE SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY (WITH A SPECIAL EXEMPTION PERMIT) IN AN INDUSTRIAL, GENERAL M-1 ZONE**

Mayor Hoops read the notice of public hearing. Mayor Hoops opened the floor for questions or comments. Danny Willis asked if we have an application for this right now or if we are just trying to get it zoned. Manager Day answered no we do not have an application at this time. We are just trying to be proactive. We are trying to find an area to put them in if we did have one. With no others coming forward to speak for or against this matter, 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.

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; Fire Chief, John Thomas; 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**

#### **INTRODUCE NEW RECREATION DIRECTOR GREG QUESENBERRY**

Manager Day stated that he had worked with Greg at Bluefield. He has about 20 years experience in recreation and he looks forward to working with him again. Recreation Director

Quesenberry thanked everyone and stated that he appreciates the opportunity to be here. He stated that everything was going great. The park is amazing. The dog park is amazing. They have a pickleball tournament coming up. Maybe getting a softball league again. Maybe doing flag football. He would like to see us have night swims, movies at the pool, he has a lot of ideas. Hopefully he will be able to get more things going. Council welcomed him to the Town. Councilmember Fox asked if we could get pickleball going. Recreation Director Quesenberry said that they are going to temporarily mark the courts and encouraged him to come out to the pickleball tournament.

### **INTRODUCE NEW EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT SUSAN REEVES**

Manager Day stated that two months ago he received notice from Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster, that she would be retiring December 1<sup>st</sup> after 32 ½ years with the Town. We are pleased to welcome new hire, Susan Reeves. She will be our new executive assistant. She has been working with the Town in other capacities for quiet some time. Mrs. Reeves stated that she was really excited and she wants to learn as much as she can from Robin.

### **NEW BUSINESS RECOGNITION**

#### **UNIBELLES (EUNICE GRAHAM) & RAZOR SALON (SARAH COOKE)**

Mayor Hoops introduced both businesses. He stated that they are located at 2843 Fincastle Turnpike. Eunice Graham thanked council and thanked Executive Assistant Brewster for working with them to schedule this. She stated that her business is a gift boutique and they have local and special handmade items. She now has hairstylists in the back and Kassie Sigmon who does tanning. Sarah Cooke with Razor Salon thanked council. Although Razor isn't a new business but it is in a new location and is new to being with Unibelles. They are located in the back portion of the store. She said it was business in the front and party in the back. She also had with her Annie Hill who is a stylist at Razor. She said that they offer men's cuts, women's cuts, color and waxing-face only.

#### **AFTER HOURS BARBER CO. (JONATHAN WHITE)**

Mayor Hoops introduced Jonathan White from After Hours Barber Company. Mr. White stated that he is a start up business. He does, cuts, fades and shaves. He can take hair off but he doesn't do colors or perms or anything like that. Usually, his hours are until 7:00pm. He has a lot of corrections, pipeline, and railroad customers.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Beasley to approve the minutes of July 11, 2023. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

## **APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

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

## **PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEE**

Councilmember Davis stated that Planning Commission met last night and they discussed the zoning update and public hearing. Also, they discussed Planning Commission Chair, Susan Reeves would be leaving their board to serve the Town in a different capacity. They will be discussing recommendations to fill a vacant spot and also appoint a new chair.

## **REVENUE RECOVERY FUND UPDATE**

Manager Day gave an update on revenue recovery funds. He stated that there was \$2.6 million set aside for a sports related field. There was \$81,000 set aside for demo of the bowling alley that is now off the table. This account has earned \$111,000 in interest.

## **FENCE AT KIDZOWN**

Councilmember Fox stated that this was brought up at a previous meeting. He feels very strongly about needing a fence around the playground. There was one there before, there needs to be another one put back up. He is concerned for the children's safety. Especially children with special needs. He would like to see a green coated chain link fence put up around the playground. It is hard to watch all the children at one time if you have several there.

Councilmember Davis stated that she has spoke to TASK, they have a summer program for special kids. They do outings with the kids. They have to be monitored more closely. TASK can no longer take them to our park because there is not a fence at the playground. Without a fence, there are not enough chaperones to help watch all the children. Head Start also has similar concerns. Manager Day stated that in the packet there are two quotes for four-foot fences. They discussed the wooden fence option. Councilmember Fox is concerned with splinters. Councilmember Davis suggests the same kind of fence that is around the pool.

Councilmember Beasley stated that he voted no the last time this was brought up and he agrees that the children should have a safe area to play in. He would like to have a compromise. He knows there are varied opinions. He would like to see the playground on Tazewell Avenue fenced in. Lincolnshire is off the road he feels that it is ok being open, however the Tazewell Avenue Park is not far off the road.

Councilmember Davis stated that by us not having a fence at the playground, it is causing groups with a large number of children to not be able to come because it is a safety issue. Danny Willis from the audience spoke up and stated he thought this was voted on two meetings ago. Councilmember Davis stated that it was and they are brining it back up. Councilmember Davis made a motion to have a fence at the playground of Kidzown. Councilmember Fox seconded. Councilmember Cline has a question about the drawing submitted. He asked if that is where the

fence would go. Councilmember Davis stated that she would like the fence close to the trees and shelter so there is a larger area that would be fenced in. There would be access gates for people and mowers.

Councilmember Cline asked what Head Start said. Councilmember Davis stated that she did not talk to them but she had heard it. However, she did speak to TASK. There are at least 30-35 with TASK.

Zoning & Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley stated that his grandson goes to Head Start and they can't go because of the fence. There are about 85 kids in Head Start.

Councilmember Cline asked if we still have the pickets where people sponsored years ago. Manager Day stated we did. Councilmember Cline stated that he also voted no last time but he understands that an increased volume of kids would be more difficult to watch out there. He also said that a wooden fence would be cheaper and he would like to somehow incorporate the original pickets with the names on there.

Councilmember Hankins stated he was also a no the first time however he had an experience with a church group out there and it was hard to watch all of them and he now sees why a fence would be needed.

Mayor Hoops asked for a roll call vote. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

## **VDOT RECREATIONAL ACCESS PROJECT**

Andy Cecil of Cecil Engineering came and gave an update on this project. He stated that in 1915 the land for the Little League Fields was donated to the Town for recreational use and the Town has operated and maintained the property. The Recreational Access Grant is through VDOT and it is to redo the entrance to the Little League Fields. The road bank was eroding and they are trying to stabilize. They would address flooding on the fields. We began this project a few years ago then Covid happened and inflation happened. The new projected cost will be \$714,000. There is only one bid for this project now. It is DCI Shires from Bluefield. He has spoken to them regarding some items in there bid and had them remove some and it is now just under the original project cost. Manager Day stated that if we do not do this project we may end up paying back about \$78,000 to VDOT. If we do this project we will have to pay about \$443,000 outside of grant funds. They discussed the sidewalk and the length of time it would take to do this project.

Councilmember Fox stated that the Town has already put in a lot of money down there her would like to see it stay there and improve it more. Vice Mayor Catron made a motion that we do not complete the project. Councilmember Cline seconded. Councilmember Catron stated that we need to think about the sewer plant project that we have had to put on hold as well. He suggests that they meet to discuss all capital improvement projects. Mayor Hoops stated that they are having a special called meeting next week, they could discuss it then. Vice Mayor Catron rescinds his motion.

## **NIGHT FISHING**

Manager Day stated that he had not heard one bad word about night fishing. They did have to remove the October dates because they will be stocking trout.

## **REVISE COUNCIL DONATION GUIDELINE**

Manager Day stated he was approached to reevaluate the donation guidelines. He is asking for direction. Councilmember Davis stated that she would like to have a recommendation from Manager Day and staff. He stated that we will do so and we will table this and bring back at another meeting.

## **SPONSORSHIP REQUEST FOR OKTOBREWFEEST**

Manager Day stated the received a sponsorship request for Oktoberfest. He also reminded council that they only have \$12,000 left in their line item for donations. Mayor Hoops stated that we already pay our employees overtime for working this event. Councilmember Hankins stated that he spoke with Asst. Chief Lampert and he stated that every officer would be working that day. Mayor Hoops stated the current donation guideline says \$500. Councilmember Beasley stated that this event brings people in from all over. Councilmember Cline stated that they only have \$12,000 left in their line item and it's just August, and they have a long way to go. Councilmember Hankins feels that the Town provides a lot already because of the employee's time. Councilmember Beasley makes a motion to do the \$500 silver sponsorship. It would allow our logo to be on their ads. Vice Mayor Catron seconded the motion. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, no; Councilmember Cline, no; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

## **DONATION REQUEST FROM NO OFF SEASON**

Manager Day stated he received a donation request from No Off Season. He has reached out to them for more specific information. Vice Mayor Catron stated that this is a business and he does not feel that we should donate to a business. Councilmember Beasley stated that he would rather look at batting cages at the Little League fields. Councilmember Cline makes a motion to deny the request. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. Manager Day stated that there is no need to make a motion to deny. To deny the request, there just needs to be no action taken from council. Councilmember Cline rescinds his motion.

## **FIRST READING- AMEND EXISTING ORDINANCE TO ALLOW SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT CLINIC AND PRIVATE SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY (WITH SPECIAL EXEMPTION PERMIT) IN AN INDUSTRIAL, GENERAL M-1 ZONE**

Attorney Pyott read the ordinance. He stated they will have the second reading next month.

## **UPCOMING HOLIDAY APPROVAL**

Manager Day stated that in the packet there is a proposed holiday schedule. Councilmember Davis stated that for Christmas, why don't they do Monday and Tuesday off instead of Friday and Monday that way if someone was having to travel back they wouldn't have to on Christmas. Councilmember Hankins suggested that employees get ½ a day Friday then all day Monday and Tuesday. Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to approve the time off as presented. Thanksgiving Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Christmas Friday and Monday. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

## **VML CONFERENCE**

Anyone wishing to go to the VML Conference please let Executive Assistant Brewster know.

## **YMCA DONATION DISCUSSION**

Councilmember Cline stated that we currently give the YMCA a donation from the cigarette stamps that we sell. Last year we gave them \$17,000. This year we gave them \$25,000. He would like to propose that school students that play sports get access to the YMCA. They would have to have a letter from their coach and they must have played sports during the last year. It would be for off season sports that doesn't have access to training during off season. Vice Mayor Catron asked if the field house that was built could be used for this. It was answered that they have to have supervision and there is limited supervision available. Councilmember Davis stated that a youth membership is \$21 a month. Vice Mayor Catron stated that there are scholarships available from the YMCA. Councilmember Cline stated that this would not be open to all students, just the ones that played sports in the last year. Councilmember Fox stated that he thinks the school board should do this. He would like to see town employees be able to go for free. Executive Assistant Brewster says they get a discount. Manager Day told Councilmember Fox that it is very admirable for trying to look out for employees but there may be a better way to do it. He suggests that he and Councilmember Fox talk and see if they can come up with something. Mayor Hoops stated that we will revisit this on the next agenda.

## **DONATION REQUEST FROM TAZEVELL YOUTH FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

Manager Day stated that he has received a donation request from Tazewell Youth Football. Councilmember Cline asked how many kids are in it. It was answered 96. The donation guideline says up to \$400. Vice Mayor Catron made a motion for \$400. Councilmember Davis seconded. Councilmember Fox would like to give \$500. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.



## **HISTORICAL RELATED COMMENTS**

Councilmember Beasley reported from the Historical Review Board. He stated that Susan Reeves had been getting prices for state markers for in town. It is through DHR and they are backed up and they are expensive. The locality can do their own markers if they want. We would have to take our plaque and get it approved. They are thinking of holder a design contest. They would like to post it on the Town's website.

## **MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Fox asked if we could get a billboard to let people know what's going on in town. Manager Day stated that he is working with the Fire Department to put a sign there.

Councilmember Cline asked for a quick paving update. Manager Day stated that they are looking at the first week of October. Councilmember Fox asked if we could pave the end of Cherry Street. Manager Day stated that we needed to complete the drain pipe first.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:13pm.