

Council Meeting Minutes

September 12, 2023

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; EMS Administrator, Syndee Saleem; Zoning & Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley; Water Clerk, Sabrina Schooley.

CALL TO ORDER

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/REQUEST

NEW BUSINESS RECOGNITION

GRECIAN SERENITY SPA

Mayor Hoops introduced the new business and business owner, Saprena Noel. He stated that they are located at 112 Railroad Avenue. Ms. Noel thanked the council and stated that she offers massage services. She listed several different types of massage that she is able to offer. She is licensed in Virginia, West Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina. She is able to assist in pain management such as sciatica, TMJ, golfers elbow, etc. You can book online, on by phone. Mayor Hoops presented her with a small gift and welcomed her to the Town.

LOVE YA BABE FLORIST, LLC

Mayor Hoops introduced the new business and business owner, Taffy Clifton & Kayla Turner. He stated that they are located at 2835 Fincastle Turnpike. Ms. Turner stated that they also are available online for orders. They have fresh and silk arrangements, plants, they may have pieces from Kay Hay Craftsman and she also operates a wedding planning business there as well. They are excited and happy to be here. Mayor Hoops presented her with a small gift from the Town, welcomed her and wished her great success.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Cline, seconded by Councilmember Fox to approve the minutes of August 8, 2023 and Special Called Council & IEDA Work Session August 15, 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 Vice Mayor Catron to approve the financial statements for August 2023. Councilmember Cline had a couple questions. He asked about the line item of vehicle maintenance in the fire department budget. It is showing a credit for this line item. Manager Day stated he would look into it and report back to him. Councilmember Cline asked about a line item in the capital expense section. He asked why there was such a big transfer out of general fund and what it was for. Manager Day stated again that he would look at it and report back to him. Councilmember Cline asked where the grant writing expense for the sports complex is being coded. Manager Day stated again that he would look at it and report back to him. 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 and discussed 138 Carline Avenue. They have made a request to have an AirBNB there. They would like to hold a public hearing in October. They also discussed closing a portion of Orchard Street. Zoning & Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley is continuing communication with the ones who have requested this. They also talked about the site plan for 320 Main Street.

SECOND READING & APPROVAL -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

Attorney Pyott reads the proposed amended ordinance. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Catron. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. On a roll call vote, Vice Mayor

Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

KIDZOWN FENCE

Manager Day discussed a drawing of the fence at Kidzown. They reviewed the drawing and showed where gates would be.

PROPOSED GUIDELINE FOR DONATION REQUESTS

Manager Day discussed the donation guidelines. He stated that we need to recognize the economy and also that there are tax dollars involved in these donations. He has a guideline for them to review. Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Davis. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

EMS COMMENTS

Manager Day stated that he had been trying to get this on the agenda for a while. He needs to notice the people who surround him and make him successful. In 2012 EMS lost around \$400,000 in revenue. They picked up 9 full time employees. In 2015 they lost \$117,000 in revenue. Our EMS was running the most reliable service in the town and county. In 2016 EMS implemented and learned new software. He gave a year by year financial history of our EMS department. In 2020 they had a profit of \$128,000. In 2021 they had a loss of \$23,000. In 2022 they had a profit of \$228,000.

Manager Day thanked EMS Administrator Syndee Saleem. He also stated that our EMS had to bring a man back to life and he thanked each one of them that assisted on this call. Councilmember Fox thanked the police and EMS departments.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT RESOLUTION

Manager Day stated that Amanda Killen is working on a Community Block Grant for the Town and would like to request a resolution for support. There are several different entities that are working on this project. Mayor Hoops read the resolution. Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Fox. 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.

SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR SPECIAL EXCEPTION PERMIT REQUEST FOR AIRBNB AT 138 CARLINE AVENUE FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023 AT 7:15PM

Motion to set public hearing was made by Councilmember Beasley. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cline. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye;

Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

SITE PLAN APPROVAL FOR PARKING AT 320 MAIN STREET

Zoning & Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley stated that he has received a site plan for parking at 320 Main Street. He then reviewed it with council. He stated that the owners are talking with the Vandyke's and they are trying to buy the land below for additional parking as well. They discussed the number of apartments/bedrooms that there would be. It was stated that right now it is a gravel lot. Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Cline. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Howard McClure of Tanglewood Way stated that he has lived in Tazewell for two years. He came back to be near his grandson. He stated that there is a problem with coyotes. They have been as close as eight feet from him. He saw them chasing a dog down the street. He has lost two cats to them. He has talked to the state and talked to the game warden and there is no special permit for coyote hunting. The Town of Tazewell says you can't fire a gun in town limits. There is an option for bow hunting but then the Town says there are restrictions and you have to have a certain acreage of land to hunt on, etc. He thought of trapping but he doesn't know the Town's policy for trapping coyotes. Manager Day stated that we follow the Department of Game and Inland Fishery guidelines. Mr. McClure is asking for help from the Town. Could the Town consider hiring a trapper to get rid of or reduce the population. Manager Day stated that he would check with other localities and see if they have had any issues and how they have addressed it.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Hankins stated that he would like to brag on the Town of Tazewell Fire Department. A couple weeks ago there was a fire at Oxford Square Apartments in Richlands and they requested our ladder truck. Our fire department responded with the ladder truck that we had just bought and they did a good job.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.