

Council Meeting Minutes

November 14, 2023

The Tazewell Town Council met in a work session at 5:45 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 Emily Davis

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Staff present were: Town Manager, Todd Day; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster & Susan Reeves; Water Clerk, Sabrina Schooley.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE

Mayor Hoops called the meeting to order. Manager Day spoke about the sewer project and went over a power point presentation with them. While compiling data, it was researched to see which month during the year had the least consumption. That month was March 2023. So, the data is based from that month usage. He stated that we have raised rates for three consecutive years. Since the project was not able to begin as originally hoped, there is now a second part of a loan due to inflation. This amount is \$9 million. He stated that the PSA will be paying 40% of this because they own 40% of the waste plant. Rick Chitwood from Thompson and Litton stated that there are places offering 0.5%. We may qualify for EPA monies. He says to look at the worst-case scenario. He also stated that the DEQ would look at several bids.

Manager Day continued to review the presentation. He stated that it is important to concentrate on the base. The base is important because we know that we will always get that base money even if they don't use over 2,000 gallons. He then lead a discussion concerning water adjustments. He stated that customers are only allowed an adjustment once a year. Mayor Hoops asked is there are other localities that do one adjustment per year. It was answered yes, most localities do. The discussion moved to the LGIP account for the waste treatment plant upgrade. It was stated that we have over \$500,000 sitting in this account. That is the minimum of what it will take to cover the debt. Manager Day stated that we are in much better shape now that we have raise the rates and these numbers will be turned into VRA. Rick Chitwood stated that we

would need to advertise to get qualified sewer plant builders. He stated it can be spread over three years.

ROUTE 460 WATER LINE REPLACEMENT

Manager Day stated that this project would be a material only project. The PSA is giving us three employees for this project and they are paying 50% of this project. It will be \$869,000 combined. Discussed rate increases, \$.73 for in town and \$1.25 for out-of-town customers. Rick Chitwood stated that all the grants are in place. This will be a \$3 million project over a four-year period. He also stated that the Town of Richlands is going to raise there rates as well. Manager Day stated that PSA is on board and they are planning to meet maybe this month. Mayor Hoops asked what do we need to do to go ahead. Manager Day stated that the council has to acknowledge that they want to move forward. Councilmember Catron stated that we don't have a choice. Mayor Hoops agreed and stated that we know it has to be done. Council agreed for Thompson and Litton to move forward with the plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Tazewell Town Council met in a work session at 6:45 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Catron to go into executive session. 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.

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Catron

Resolution Number: ES231114

Motion Seconded by: Cline

Meeting Date: 23 November 14

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Personnel Matters,
Prospective Business, Award of
Public Contract

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

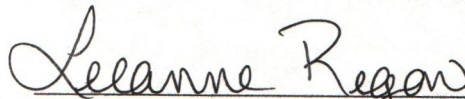
Ayes: Catron, Hankins, Cline, Fox, Davis, Beasley

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

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

PUBLIC HEARING 7:15 PM

PUBLIC HEARING – JOINT PUBLIC HEARING (TOWN COUNCIL & PLANNING COMMISSION)- FOR THE REQUEST TO PARTIALLY CLOSE THE ORCHARD STREET ALLEY

Mayor Hoops read the notice of public hearing and opened the floor for questions or comments. Zoning & Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley stated that the part on Orchard Street that is being requested to close is not any usable part of the street. There is someone that would like to acquire it. At this time there were no other questions or comments.

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 David Fox

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Staff present were: Town Manager, Todd Day; Town Attorney, Brad Pyott; Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster & Susan Reeves; Water Clerk, Sabrina Schooley; Interim Police Chief, Stanely Lampert; EMS Administrator, Syndee Saleem; Zoning & Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley; Fire Chief, John Thomas.

CALL TO ORDER

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

RECOGNITION OF CHASE ROBERTS

EMS Administrator Saleem and Councilmember Hankins recognized Chase Roberts for his exemplary actions. Councilmember Hankins stated that Chase is his fellow co-worker at the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office, where Chase serves as a 911 Dispatcher. Chase regularly goes above and beyond, having provided emergency medical transport recently when all of the Town of Tazewell EMS crews were responding to another emergency and then, again, when a driver was needed once more to respond to a 911 call. His actions helped to save lives and Councilmember Hankins noted that this is a true testament to what public service should be. EMS Director Saleem thanked Chase for his willingness to help and presented an award to recognize his service.

CDBG PLANNING GRANT UPDATE

Amanda Killen came before council to give an update on a grant that she had applied for. Ms. Killen who is with Appalachian Voices stated that we have received a grant award of \$50,000. This grant will be used toward the revitalization of the North Tazewell area (Riverside Drive). It will be used for asbestos abatement from the old bowling alley.

BACK OF THE DRAGON-OTR

Manager Day stated that he has had discussion with Back of the Dragon and they would like to extend their OTR event longer. They are also asking for a donation of \$15,000 to go toward the event. Councilmember Davis stated that it was the second weekend in June. She would like to talk about this before council decides. Mayor Hoops stated that they could discuss it at next months meeting.

TAZEWELL COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Keisha Cole & Beth Clemmons of the Chamber came before council and wanted to thank them for all their support. They stated that Oktoberfest was a very successful event. They recognized the Town workers and thanked the entire Town for their support. They presented the Town with a certificate of appreciation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Beasley to approve the minutes of October 17, 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 Cline and seconded by Councilmember Hankins to approve the financial statements for October 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 they discussed rezoning a property that is on the edge of town. The property owner is a business and they are wanting to put solar panels at their business. We do not have an application for such yet but there has been discussion. They also discussed recent changes to the ordinance regarding discharging a fire arm in town.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES -EMS

EMS Administrator Saleem gave an update on her department. She stated that they are trying to be more active in the community. They went to the school to teach kids how to call 911. They were invited to the Shake Rag Forever block party. They are doing more FTO training. She attending a conference in Minnesota pertaining to our billing system. It save us 5%-10% because we do our billing in house. She is hoping to start new committees and do things to boost employee morale and do more in the community. She stated that they had received a \$15,000

grant. She discussed the drug and alcohol abuse that is in our community. She is thinking about doing extra things while they do calls. She also thanked council for their support for their new support dog Yona. The morale of the station has really picked up. Councilmember Hankins stated that people don't realize how much comfort a service dog can bring.

FIRST READING- ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO ADDRESS COYOTES

Attorney Pyott stated that he has drafted a new ordinance regarding discharging firearms in town due to coyotes. Attorney Pyott then read the ordinance. Councilmember Fox would like to add in nuisance animals such as groundhogs and raccoons.

APPROVE REQUEST TO PARTIALLY CLOSE THE ORCHARD STREET ALLEY

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

APPROVE ORDINANCE OF VACATION FOR BAKER STREET/RIVER ROAD

Attorney Pyott stated that 22 years ago Ms. Hurst wanted a portion of that road closed. The filing of such was over looked and now he has prepared an ordinance of vacation. Vice Mayor Catron asked if there needed to be a public hearing. Attorney Pyott answered no, it was all handled years ago, the paper work just didn't get filed. Councilmember Davis stated that GIS has updated it, taking out that road. 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.

LITTER GRANT AWARD

Manager Day stated that the Town has been awarded a litter grant of \$4,800. This grant was worked on by Clerk/Treasurer and he just wanted to say good job.

DUNFORD PARK INCLUSIVE ADA PLAYGROUND GRANT APPLICATION

Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster stated that she has been working on an inclusive playground for Dunford Park. This would be a park especially for disabled children. The quote that she has received from Game Time is \$167,000. This would be for all the equipment, sidewalk, platforms, etc. It would be wheel chair accessible, and a great thing for all the children. It will be very beneficial to the town.

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

Manager Day stated there will be a legislative trip January 30-31. DHCD and VDOT is basically what he is interested in. If anyone is interested in going, please let him know.

MISCELLANEOUS

VACANT POSITION ON IEDA

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to appoint Danny Willis to the IEDA. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hankins. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

RECOGNITION OF EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ROBIN BREWSTER

Manager Day stated that 33 years ago Executive Assistant, Robin Brewster started her career with the Town of Tazewell. It takes a strong shouldered individual to stay in one place in local government for that amount of time. During her time here she has worked for three or four different town managers, a multitude of councils, she has worked through adversity and issues. On behalf of the town and especially himself, he thanked her for her contribution, dedication and loyalty. He said we are sure going to miss her. He looks forward to working with newly hired, Susan Reeves and all that she is bringing to the table. He can't say enough about how much she will be missed around here. Councilmember Fox told Executive Assistant Brewster that she has done great. She stated that she is blessed and this is not just a job, this is family and she appreciates everyone.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Fox commented about the Veteran's Day parade. He said it was outstanding. He didn't like that there were motorcycles in front of the band. He doesn't have anything against motorcycles, he just wished that they would be spaced out different and away from the band. He mentioned how the fire trucks were spaced out away from the band. He looks forward to next year's parade. Nathan Thomas spoke and said that they would be happy to help line people up next year. He also commented on how the band was growing and the football team was strong and he liked to see that.

Councilmember Cline stated that there are community events that the Town has been a part of and help facilitate and he just wants to thank everyone that has helped with that and thank everyone that has participated.

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 8:15pm.

Mayor Hoops reconvened the meeting. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Catron to go back into executive session regarding the remaining topics on the executive session agenda which were not discussed due to running out of time before the meeting began. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

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

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Catron

Resolution Number: ES231114

Motion Seconded by: Cline

Meeting Date: 23 November 14

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Personnel Matters,
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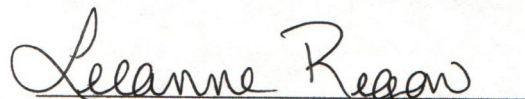
Ayes: Catron, Hankins, Cline, Fox, Davis, Beasley

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 Regan, Clerk

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