

Council Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2024

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

Present:

Vice Mayor Glenn Catron

Councilmember Jonathan Hankins

Councilmember Zach Cline

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Absent:

Mayor Michael Hoops

Staff present were: Interim Town Manager, Leeanne Regon; Executive Assistant, Susan Reeves, Attorney Brad Pyott.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Councilmember Cline to go into 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.

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Cline

Resolution Number: ES240213

Motion Seconded by: Hankins

Meeting Date: 24 February 13

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Real Property & 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

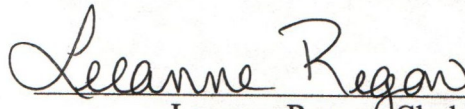
Ayes: Catron, Hankins, Cline, Fox, Davis, Beasley

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 Regan, Clerk

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox 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 Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Vice Mayor Catron stated the reason they went into executive session was for Purpose: Real Property & 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.

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Tazewell held a joint public hearing for an amendment to the zoning ordinance for Industrial, General M-1 Zone for Solar Use. Vice Mayor Catron called the public hearing to order at 7:15 p.m. At this time he asked if anyone wished to speak for or against this issue. Hearing 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:

Vice Mayor Glenn Catron

Councilmember Jonathan Hankins

Councilmember Zach Cline

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Absent:

Mayor Michael Hoops

Staff present were: Interim Town Manager, LeeAnne Regon; Town Attorney, Brad Pyott; Executive Assistant, Susan Reeves; Water Clerk, Sabrina Schooley; Police Chief, Stanely Lampert; Zoning & Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley; Fire Chief, John Thomas.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Catron called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. Invocation by Police Chief Lampert.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION/REQUEST

Brittany Davis came before council to present for Black History Month. She discussed Tazewell's oldest resident, Jane Fudge. She told of her life story and that she lived to be 102 years old.

TAZEWELL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION DONATION REQUEST

Chris Wearmouth came before council to discuss a new project that is coming to our town. He stated that he is working with the Tazewell Community Foundation to bring in more physicians to our area. He provided council with a feasibility study from Churma and several other documents concerning the project. He stated that he attended several meetings in Richmond during the southwest Legislative Days. They discussed grant funding opportunities that he may be eligible for.

The foundation has been giving medical scholarships to students in return that they come here for work when completed with school and residency. They began this project having three practitioners and now have doubled to six. This has also increased the size requirements for their building as well as the cost associated with expansion. It was also stated that if the foundation has been in operation for 11 years, how much funds do they have themselves. It was answered \$8 million. Councilmember Cline asked what type of insurances they will accept. He answered that it is still part of Carillion Clinic and they would accept all insurances.

Councilmember Fox stated that due to the amount of donation requested, he would like to table the vote for tonight in order to give council time to discuss this further. Mr. Wearmouth stated that during the meetings he attended in Richmond, he learned that there are deadlines in March that he needs to meet in order to apply for these grants. Vice Mayor Catron stated that this was an important project and they are all behind it. Motion was made by Councilmember Davis to have Interim Manager Regon prepare a letter of support for the Tazewell Community Foundation project. 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.

Interim Manager Regon will prepare a letter of support so that Mr. Wearmouth can include it in his grant application packet so funding agencies will see that the project has community support behind it. Council will have further discussion as to what amount they will be donating to this project.

TAZEWELL COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TASTE OF APPALACHIA AND OKTOBREWFEEST EVENTS

Keisha Cole and Kevin Crisp came before council to ask for approval to hold their events, Taste of Appalachia to be held on May 18th and Oktobrewfeest to be held on October 5th and shut down

the street for those events. Ms. Cole also stated that the Tazewell Merchants Group has asked to partner with them on the day of Taste of Appalachia and hold a local artesian vendor show that day as well. They would ask for the street closure to be from 9:00am –10:00pm. For Oktobrewfest they would ask for the street closure to be from 9:00am -10:00pm as well. Ms. Cole stated that the original plan for Taste of Appalachia was for it to be held at the Fairgrounds on May 11th and then they found out Prom was the same day and they decided to move their event and now the Fairgrounds is already booked for May 18th.

Councilmember Beasley commented that with Prom being on May 11th and Taste of Appalachia being held the following weekend, that would put our public works employees working two weekends back to back. They held discussion and would like to hold off on approving the event on May 18th until a follow up event meeting is held next week. They will then revisit this event. Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to approve Oktobrewfest on October 5th. 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.

CART CREATIVE COMMUNITIES' PARTNERSHIP GRANT

Ginger Branton with CART came before council to discuss a \$1,500 matching grant. The grant application is due April 1st. Interim Manager Regon stated that we have historically done this in the past. Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to approve. 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.

THS PROJECT GRADUATION DONATION REQUEST

Class President Jaime Rizo came before council to ask for a donation to support THS Project Graduation. It was stated there are 128 students in the class of 2024. Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to donate \$700. 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.

THS PROM DONATION REQUEST

Dana Terry and Jennifer Lowe came before council to ask for a donation of a large tent for Prom. They stated they provided some examples of tents they had in mind. They stated that if the Town would purchase them, they could rent them out for other events and make their money back on their purchase. They held discussion regarding the use of tents and the purchase of tents. Councilmember Cline asked how much the school allocates for Prom. It was answered that the Prom is not an in-house event. It is put on by the junior class. Councilmember Davis asked how many kids attend prom. It was answered about 350. Motion was made by Councilmember Davis to donate \$900 to Prom. 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.

DIAMOND DAWGS BASEBALL, INC.

Diamond Dawgs, a travel baseball team, has asked for a donation to help offset their expenses. Councilmember Cline stated that there were about 15 kids with this organization. They reviewed the donation guideline. Motion was made by Councilmember Cline to donate \$125. 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.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Davis, seconded by Councilmember Fox to approve the minutes of January 9, 2024 & February 7, 2024. 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 January 2024. 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 structures for possible demolition. They also discussed agricultural zoning on Hillsboro Drive and around the high school. It was also voted upon to move their meeting to 6:15pm instead of 7:00pm.

LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION TRIP UPDATE

Interim Town Manager Regon stated that the Town of Tazewell Team of Mayor Hoops, Councilmember Davis, Chief Lampert, Shawn Hurd and myself. Chris Wearmouth also attended some of the meetings with us as did Amanda Killen. We met with Virginia Tourism Corporation they have a couple of grants that may fit with things we have going on. We also met with DHCD, Delegate Morefield, Senator Hackworth, Senator Kilgore and discussed our project for the Police Department with them. We also attended the Governors Legislative Banquet, at which he and the Lt. Governor spoke. Tazewell County was well represented in Richmond and I feel that we came home with great possibilities of grant dollars coming to our locality.

RT 460 WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT MOU

We received a draft of the MOU from the legal counsel with Tazewell County PSA. Attorney Pyott reviewed and made changes and sent back for their review. Council has received a copy

and reviewed as well. Interim Manager Regon stated that she would like to ask for a motion to approve and proceed. Motion was made by Councilmember Beasley to approve and proceed. 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.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AND JUNETEENTH HOLIDAYS FOR TOWN

Councilmember Hankins stated that he would like to see the Town observe the holidays of Martin Luther King Jr. and Juneteenth. Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to add these to the approved holiday schedule for the Town. 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.

1ST READING FOR AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE FOR INDUSTRIAL, GENERAL M-1 ZONE FOR SOLAR USE

Attorney Pyott read the amendment to the zoning ordinance. He stated that the second reading will be read at the March meeting.

SPRING CLEAN UP MONTH

Interim Manager Regon stated that we historically hold our clean up month during the month of May. We also get a litter grant and this event helps us to get that grant. It was asked about an event that was held at the Fairground for tires and other material that Elizabeth Bennett is involved with. It was stated maybe we could partner with them on this event. Councilmember Cline stated that he would also like to add with our clean up month, three litter pick up events like we held last fall. Councilmember Davis asked about brush pick up. Interim Manager Regon stated that we will pick up one free truck load of brush. Anything over one truck load will have an extra fee. Motion to approve clean up month and litter pick up 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.

NORTH TAZEWELL INDUSTRIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Councilmember Beasley stated that he is also on the Historic Review Board and they have been discussing trying to extend the historic district around the train depot. They would like to include the industrial buildings to increase the possibility of getting grant funds for the area. They discussed the process of how to accomplish this. Motion was made by Councilmember Cline to proceed with trying to expand the historic district around the train depot. 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.

RAMEY LOT RECOMMENDATION FROM IEDA

IEDA Chairman, Cara Spivey came before council to discuss recent discussions held by IEDA. She discussed ideas that the committee has for future plans. She also stated that it was unanimously voted upon at their last meeting to sell the Ramey Lot, however she would like to have collaboration with council on the matter. They currently do not have details as to how much they would sell for, when they would list it or who they would sell it to. She is bringing this to council to begin conversation and looks forward to hearing back from them.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Danny Willis stated that there has been a lot of discussion lately in our community regarding real estate reassessment. He has asked council what are their plans if any to address the major increase in citizens assessments. Councilmember Cline stated that we are in budget planning season and they will be discussing this at their budget meetings.

COUNCIL COMMENT

Councilmember Cline stated that last week his neighbors house caught on fire. He was there to help until first responders got there. He got to witness our emergency services in action. The police department arrived on scene he would like to recognize Cody Thomas, Joe Stevenson and Craig Menefee for their efforts before fire personnel arrived. He would also like to thank our EMS, and fire department and commended them for the great job they did.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Beasley 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 9:00pm.