

## **Council Meeting Minutes**

**January 9, 2024**

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

Present:

Mayor Michael Hoops

Councilmember Jonathan Hankins

Councilmember Zach Cline

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Absent:

Vice Mayor Glenn Catron

Staff present were: Interim Town Manager, LeeAnne Regon; Executive Assistant, Susan Reeves; Water Clerk, Sabrina Schooley.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

## RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Davis

Resolution Number: ES240109

Motion Seconded by: Hankins

Meeting Date: 24 January 09

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Personnel Matters

## 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

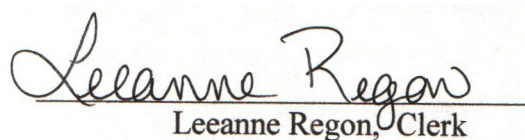
Ayes: Hankins, Cline, Fox, Davis, Beasley

Nays: none

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

Absent during vote: Catron

Absent during meeting: Catron



Leeanne Regon, Clerk

Motion was made by Councilmember Beasley to come out of executive session. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cline. On vote, 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. He then read the resolution for Certification of Executive Session. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

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: Interim Town Manager, LEEANNE REGON; Town Attorney, BRAD PYOTT; Executive Assistant, SUSAN REEVES; Water Clerk, SABRINA SCHOOLEY; Police Chief, STANLEY LAMPERT; EMS Director, 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 Police Chief Lampert.

## **SPECIAL PRESENTATION/REQUEST**

### **TAZEWELL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION DONATION REQUEST**

The presenter for this topic was unable to attend. We will table this matter for now.

## **PROJECT UPDATE**

Rick Chitwood with Thompson and Litton came before council to give a project update. He stated that they are moving forward with the WWTP project. They have gotten five qualified bidders for the project. They will have a site tour and then start taking bids.

He also stated that he had attended the PSA board meeting and they are preparing a MOU for the Rt 460 Water project. This will define what is expected of the Town and what is expected of the PSA. There are three phases of this project. The funding for all three phases are available. He does think that we will run out of funding before we finish the project. He thinks that we may be able to try for more funding at that time. There will be tremendous improvement with just phase one. They will be installing a 12inch line and replacing an 8inch line. The funding on this project will be for material only. The Town and PSA will be doing the labor.

## **CONCERNS REGARDING OLD BOWLING ALLEY**

Tammy Smith of Riverside Drive came before council to voice her concerns over the old bowling alley property. She had heard that there would be low-income housing put at that property. Councilmember Davis stated that there are no current plans for low-income housing at that property. Mrs. Smith stated that everything that is bad is happening on Riverside Drive and the residents are tired. She would like to know what she is getting for her tax dollars and being double taxed at that. Councilmember Cline stated that he attended the IEDA meeting in November and there was an interested party that spoke at their meeting and they are interested in having a community event center or museum or retail space. It was a very positive meeting. We are trying to get more involved in the North Tazewell area. Councilmember Hankins agreed and that he would to see more people in the community get involved. Councilmember Davis asked what was the best way to reach people there for a community meeting. Mrs. Smith stated that if we will just let her know she will take care of the rest. Councilmember Fox stated that he is very supportive of improving the North Tazewell community. He will help however he can. Mrs. Smith stated that the roof of the building across from her blows off all the time and the sight of these buildings are an eye sore. She stated that the Town should tell the businesses that they need to upkeep their buildings, paint, etc. Mayor Hoops stated that we can't tell the businesses' they have to paint their building. The only time the Town can get involved is if they are in violation of a code. Councilmember Davis stated that there should be another listening session in the upcoming months.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion was made by Councilmember Davis, seconded by Councilmember Beasley to approve the minutes of December 12, 2023, special called minutes of December 7, December 19, and December 28. On vote, 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 December 2023. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye;

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

### **PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEE**

Councilmember Davis stated that they discussed solar panels and private use of them. An individual or business may have up to three megawatts and they would not need a permit. Anything over that would need a special exemption permit that they must apply for each year. It was voted on to send to Town Council for their approval. At the meeting they also voted on a chair and vice chair of their committee.

### **INTRODUCTION OF INTERIM TOWN MANAGER LEEANNE REGON**

Mayor Hoops stated that council had recently voted to name Clerk/Treasurer, Leeanne Regon as the Interim Town Manager. He introduced her and she greeted everyone. He said that he looks forward to working with her and she stated that she looked forward to continuing to work with council as well.

### **BOARD OF BUILDING CODE OF APPEALS**

Councilmember Hankins made a motion to appoint Mr. Jim Ribble to the BBCOA. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

### **BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS**

Councilmember Fox made a motion to appoint Richard Smith to the BZA. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

### **CONFIRMATION OF CHIEF OF POLICE**

Mayor Hoops stated that before departing, Town Manager Day promoted Interim Chief of Police Stanley Lampert to Chief of Police. Council is now to confirm Chief Lampert's hiring. Motion to confirm was made by Councilmember Fox. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Interim Manager Regon added that today was National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day and she would like to recognize the officers for all their hard work and stated that they were doing a great job.

## **APPROVE RESOLUTION AND CODE OF CONDUCT FOR USDA GRANT APPLICATION FOR POLICE CRUISER**

Interim Manager Regon stated that each year we apply for a grant with USDA Rural Development to purchase a police cruiser. Each year we must bring these documents and get them approved so we can apply for this grant. This would be for fiscal year 2024. Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Davis. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cline. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT GRANT OPPORTUNITY**

Chief Lampert, Administrative Assistant Shawn Hurd and Amanda Killen came before council to discuss a grant opportunity that could allow the police department to move to another location that would give them more room, better evidence storage, etc. Chief Lampert stated that at one time the fire department use to be where their department sits now. There are safety issues such as bullet proof glass for the front office, there is no privacy if you need to discuss a case. There was an issue with their evidence room as well. A couple months ago they confiscated marijuana plants and the odor of the plants came through the office building. There is no ventilation for their evidence room. There is also an issue with leaking in their evidence room. They are asking for council approval to allow Ms. Killen to seek grant funds for this matter. They have looked at a few properties in town. Ms. Killen stated that she believes that she can get enough grant funds to make the purchase and do the renovations. They will be in Richmond at the end of the month meeting with legislators and funding agencies.

## **REVIEW PLANNING COMMISISON RECOMMENDATION TO SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE FOR INDUSTRIAL, GENERAL M-1 ZONE FOR SOLAR USE**

Zoning & Property Maintenance Official Hurley stated that if an individual or business wanted to use solar panels on their property they could. They may have up to three megawatts and they would not need a permit. Anything over that would need a special exemption permit that they must apply for each year. Motion was made by Councilmember Beasley to set a public hearing for February. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Hankins. On vote, Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

EMS Administrator Saleem stated that they had just completed their state inspection and they passed with flying colors. Everyone congratulated them on a job well done.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Councilmember Davis thanked Interim Town Manager Regon for sending out an email with information letting council know what tasks and meetings occurred during the last week. Interim Manager Regon stated that she was welcomed and she planned on doing this each week.

Councilmember Fox stated that he supports the North Tazewell community and the is all for changing that area and improving it.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.