

Council Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2024

The Tazewell Town Council met in an executive session at 7:00p.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; Executive Assistant, Susan Reeves, Brad Pyott, Town Attorney Water Clerk, Sabrina Schooley.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion was made by Councilmember Beasley to go into executive session. 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.

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Beasley

Resolution Number: ES240604

Motion Seconded by: Fox

Meeting Date: 24 June 04

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Prospective Business and
Business Retention

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

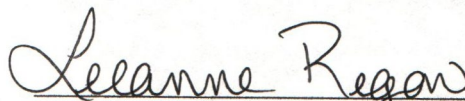
Ayes: Catron, Hankins, Cline, Fox, Davis, Beasley

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 Councilmember Beasley to come out of 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.

Mayor Hoops stated the reason they went into executive session was for Prospective Business and Business Retention. 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.

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; Executive Assistant, Susan Reeves; Town Attorney, Brad Pyott; Water Clerk, Sabrina Schooley; Zoning & Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley; Fire Chief, John Thomas; EMS Director, Syndee Saleem.

CALL TO ORDER

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

FEEDING SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

Britney Gilbert with Feeding Southwest Virginia came before council to discuss their organization. She stated that they are like a grocery store on wheels. They set p at Mr. Olivette Church in Burkes Garden. Mayor Hoops asked if they are looking for a location in Tazewell, she answered yes. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Catron to allow them to work with Interim Manager Regon to coordinate a location and dates. Motion 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.

TAZEWELL COUNTY TRIAD SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

Interim Manager Regon stated that we have a request for sponsorship for the Triad golf tournament. We did sponsor a hole last year for \$100. Motion was made by Vice Mayor Catron to approve sponsoring a hole. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. Councilmember Hankins stated that he needed to recuse himself from voting because of a conflict. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye, Councilmember Beasley, aye.

TAZEWELL TORPEDOES SWIM TEAM

Interim Manager Regon stated that Jim Thomas with the swim team had called and asked for a donation of support for a piece of equipment that has broken. She stated that she is sorry she doesn't have more information, he was going to be here tonight but didn't make it. It will be tabled until the next meeting.

LOCAL BUSINESS RECOGNITION

REPASS BARBERSHOP

Mayor Hoops stated that this year Repass Barbershop has been in business for 99 years. This is a great accomplishment and the Town would like to recognize them for such an achievement. Mr. Repass isn't able to attend but we will mail him his certificate and letter to accompany.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox, seconded by Councilmember Beasley to approve the minutes of May 14, 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 Vice Mayor Catron and seconded by Councilmember Cline to approve the financial statements for May 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 they discussed properties that are in poor condition and possibly looking at demo. Also, discussed receiving a request from someone wanting to do a solar farm. Attorney Pyott is reviewing documents.

INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

IEDA Chair Cara Spivey came before council to give an update. She gave an update on the bowling alley. Demo is set to begin soon. She stated that they are discussing a meals tax incentive. It could be offered as part of the EBAG incentive package that IEDA offers. Councilmember Cline asked about creating a subcommittee for the meals tax incentive to help Interim Manager Regon with the work load and data. It was decided that Councilmember Cline and Councilmember Beasley would be on the committee. IEDA Chair Spivey stated that the board had been discussing advertising the Ramey Lot for sale. Once sold, they would be returning the initial investment from the Town to purchase the property and they would use any excess to create a budget for them to be able to do other projects.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS STATE AND AUXILIARY GIRL STATE SUPPORT REQUEST

Interim Manager Regon stated that there were eight applicants and they were all from Tazewell. They would like to be able to send four applicants. They have funds for two and were hoping to receive help in funding the others. Vice Mayor Catron stated that he is concerned that this would be becoming an individual sponsorship and we need to proceed cautiously in doing sponsoring individuals. Most of our donations go to help a bigger group.

2ND READING & APPROVAL OF 2024/2025 BUDGET

Attorney Pyott stated that at the last meeting there was a first reading of the proposed budget and a public hearing held. Motion to waive the second reading was made by Vice Mayor Catron and 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 approve the proposed 2024-2025 budget was made by Councilmember Fox and 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.

This budget will go into effect on July 1st.

2ND READING FOR AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE FOR 106 GRATTON ROAD TO BE REZONED FROM B-2 TO M-1

Attorney Pyott stated that at the last meeting there was a first reading and a public hearing held. Motion to waive the second reading was made by Vice Mayor Catron and 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 approve was made by Vice Mayor Catron and 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.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR DHCD IRF GRANT APPLICATION FOR TAZEWEILL CINEMAS

Interim Manager Regon stated that there had been a vote made through email to approve this support however we need to ratify it in open forum. Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Fox and 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.

FRIENDS OF JUNETEENTH SUPPORT REQUEST

Jeanette Wilson came before council to ask for a donation to go toward the Juneteenth event. She said they are going to do things the old-fashioned way and have horse shoes, cornhole, dinner together, etc. She did ask that the road be blocked off because last year there were some issues with traffic and being able to hear. Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to donate \$3,000 to Juneteenth. 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.

Mrs. Wilson asked if Mayor Hoops would come and read the resolution at their event. He stated that he would be out of town that day however, Vice Mayor Catron is available and will be there to read it in his absence.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES

Interim Manager Regon stated that there was a vote per email to approve however, we needed to ratify it in public forum. Motion to approve was made by Vice Mayor Catron and 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.

MISCELLANEOUS

Interim Manager Regon stated that she had received a request from Clinch Valley Community Action asking for our support for Camp Joy summer camp in the amount of \$1,000. This will cover the cost for 10 kids and one week of camp. There are on average five to six children who reside in the Town of Tazewell. She stated that she looked to see what we have done in the past and could not find where we had donated before.

TOWN MANAGER ANNOUNCEMENT

Mayor Hoops stated that during their search for a new manager, there had been 59 applicants. They chose the top five to interview. They would like to now announce that they have selected Interim Manager, Leeanne Regon as the new Town Manager. It was also stated that she would be the first female Town Manager that we had ever had. Manager Regon thanked council for the opportunity to be interim manager and she looked forward to continuing to work with them in the future and thanked them for putting their trust in her to do this job. She also thanked her family and friends in attendance and thanked them for their support as well. Councilmember Fox stated that she has done a fantastic job so far.

RT. 460 WATERLINE PROJECT UPDATE

Manager Regon stated that there would be a bid opening for this project tomorrow at 2:00pm in the council chambers.

TAZEWELL COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Keisha Cole, Executive Director of the Chamber came before council to inform them that she has given her resignation with the Chamber. She wanted to thank the Town for their continuous support and presented to the Town some historical pictures that were at the Chamber.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Manager Regon presented budget amendments for council approval for the general fund. She stated that she would be glad to go over anything they had questions on and stated that this was just to get budget line items back in line where overages had occurred. She did state that there were some areas that she was looking into in the police department and EMS budgets. She also briefly discussed the funds that were awarded for improvements to the EMS building. There is an issue that has been discovered with the deed to the property. Attorney Pyott is looking into it to get it cleared up. Motion to approve budget amendments was made by Vice Mayor Catron and 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Scrotsky and Danny Willis came before council to discuss bringing back the adult softball league. It was stated if the fields were upgraded and fixed they could hold games there and it would bring business into the town. Mr. Willis discussed playing co-ed softball and the benefits it would bring. They began discussing the field conditions. Mr. Scrotsky gave information of who the Town had used to fix the Little League fields. He feels this would be a wonderful idea to fix these fields so we can bring back the adult softball program. Councilmember Hankins made a motion to allow Manager Regon to work with the recreation director and get quotes to do a complete revitalization of the Lincolnshire fields. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cline. Vice Mayor Catron suggested to look at grants for this as well. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye, Councilmember Beasley, aye.

COUNCIL COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:02pm.