

Council Meeting Minutes

November 12, 2024

Present:

Mayor Michael Hoops
Vice Mayor Glenn Catron
Councilmember Jonathan Hankins
Councilmember Zach Cline
Councilmember David Fox
Councilmember Emily Davis
Councilmember Joe Beasley

Absent:

Staff members present were Town Manager, Leeanne Regon; Attorney, Brad Pyott; Police Chief, Stan Lampert; Fire Chief, John D. Thomas; Zoning and Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley; Clerk-Treasurer, Jessica Hayes.

Call to Order

Mayor Hoops called the public meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Manager Regon led the meeting in the invocation prayer.

Special presentations/Requests

(A) U.S. Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Opportunities (James Accurso, Public Affairs Specialist, US SBA)

James Accurso with U.S Small Business Administration is here to tell us about the Disaster Recovery Loan opportunities that may be available for us. They offer 3 types of disaster recovery loans of up to half a million dollars for physical damage to a residential home or building and \$100.00 for contents in the home or property. They also offer a business loan that can have up to 2 million dollars for structure as well as contents and supplies in the business that may have been damaged. The third loan is an Economic Injury Disaster loan. This can offer support and capital that a business may have suffered. The deadline for the first 2 loans is December the 2nd. The loans are 4% and less. There is no fee to apply. The first year is differed interest free. The economic injury loan deadline is July 2nd of 2025. Encourage us to come and speak with them and they will work with the public and or the town to help apply for any loans applicable. Manager Regon will have the flyers posted online for our community to see.

(B) Audit Presentation (Corbin Stone, with Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates)

Corbin Stone says that we did well with our audit this year. The Town received a clean opinion of government auditing standards. Under audit recommendations there are notes regarding water and sewer reconciliations. The auditors suggest that these be done monthly. Manager Regon has already implemented this process. Mr. Stone said that he is pleased with how the audit went overall. Councilmember Cline asked him how much money the Revenue Recovery Funds made through LGIP in the course of the year? Manager Regon stated that she will get that information for the Council to see.

(C) Special Presentation to Councilmember Dr. Glenn Catron

Mayor Hoops presented Vice Mayor Catron with a watch and a plaque for his service as a Vice Mayor and Councilmember for the Town of Tazewell. Vice Mayor served as a councilmember from January 2013 to December 2022 and served as Vice Mayor January 2023 to December 2024. Vice Mayor Catron took a moment to say thank you to the citizens of the Town for trusting him to serve on the council on their behalf. It has been an honor. Going forward he looks forward to what can be accomplished. Encourages them to pursue policies that could help expand our tax base to relieve the pressure it has on our citizens. Wish you all the best of luck and that he will be there if they need any help.

Local Business Recognition-None scheduled

Approval of Minutes

Councilmember Davis made a motion to approve minutes from October 8, 2024 and Special Called Town Council Meeting on October 28, 2024; Councilmember Cline seconded. 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 and Reports

Councilmember Beasley made a motion to approve financial statements and financial reports for October 2024. Councilmember Cline seconded. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Committee/Conference Updates

Councilmember Davis said that the Planning Commission met last Monday. There was an update on the Solar Project. With the council's approval they have employed outside council for this project. They are waiting to hear back from the solar company to see where they are with the site agreement. Attorney Pyott said that he received an email from Jeff Gore today with the site agreement. He has not been able to look at it just yet. He is hopeful that Elliot Energy will want to be at the next Planning Commission meeting in December. Manager Regon will coordinate with

Planning Commission to see if we can have a joint meeting if the Solar Company and representative council are able to attend.

There was also an update on the Community Health Building. We are waiting on a sediment control report from DEQ and a site plan before more progress can be reported. Attorney Pyott said that on Sunday that the DEQ did approve the plan and have submitted it.

Update on the Farmers Market. Manager Regon is still working on getting engineering drawings for the Farmers Market.

Unfinished Business

(A) Tazewell Cinemas & Entertainment, LLC. IRF Agreement

Manager Regon has reached out to DHCD on November the 4th and has not heard back from them yet.

(B) 2nd Reading of ordinance Amendment for I/EDA

Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to waive the second reading of the ordinance amendment for the I/EDA. Davis seconded the motion. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, nay; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Councilmember Beasley made a motion for this amendment to be accepted and it will take effect in 30 days. Councilmember Hankins seconded the motion. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, nay; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

(C) 2nd Reading of Ordinance Amendment for Board of Building Code of Appeals

Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to waive the second reading of the ordinance amendment for the Board of Building Code of Appeals. Councilmember Beasley seconded the motion. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Councilmember Beasley made a motion for this amendment to be accepted and it will take effect in 30 days. Councilmember Davis seconded the motion. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

(D) 2ND Reading of Amendment to Procurement Ordinance

Councilmember Davis made a motion to waive the second reading of the ordinance amendment for the Board of Building Code of Appeals. Vice Mayor Catron seconded the motion. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Councilmember Cline made a motion for this amendment to be accepted and it will take effect in 30 days. Councilmember Davis seconded the motion. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

New Business

(A) Update on Town Property Exchange of Ramey Lot and Riverside Drive with I/EDA

Manager Regon said that she completed surveys for the lots at the old Ramey's lot and the property on Riverside Dr. The plan is to exchange the properties between the Town and the I/EDA. The Town would like to use the back section of the Ramey lot parcel for our public works department. There is a planning grant for the North Tazewell area and it could be utilized for improvements on the Riverside property. This could bring business into those buildings and provide a great opportunity to bring something new into the North Tazewell area. Manager Regon needs to know if the Council would like to move forward with this property switch. If so, she can then have the parcels subdivided to prepare for the property exchange between the Town and the I/EDA. Councilmember Davis made a motion that we proceed with swapping the property in North Tazewell, parcel id 094A302 000A2, 000A3 with a portion of the parcel that I/EDA owns, referred to as the Ramey Lot, parcel id 094A504 000A. We then need to have that parcel subdivided for the appropriation of the parcel numbers. Vice Mayor Catron seconded the motion. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, nay; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

(B) January 29, 2025 Legislative Reception in Richmond

Manager Regon asked the council members if they would like to attend this reception. The event will be January 28th, 29th and 30th. She asked anyone who would like to go to please let her know.

(C) Virginia Main Street MOU

Manager Regon received the Virginia Main Street MOU. There was an email vote. Councilmember Davis recused herself from this discussion and from the vote. Councilmember Davis read her recusal to the council. Vice Mayor Catron made a motion to ratify the vote. Councilmember Beasley seconded the motion. No discussion. On vote, Vice Mayor Catron, aye; Councilmember Hankins, aye; Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, nay; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

(D) Miscellaneous

Public Comments

Council Comments

Councilmember Beasley took that time to thank Vice Mayor Catron for his public service and for taking him under his wing. He learned a lot from him.

Councilmember Davis thanked Vice Mayor Catron for his public service and also congratulated the members that were re-elected.

Councilmember Cline thanked Vice Mayor Catron for being a model member of the town and for his public service. He thanked him for all of the work, care, and time he has devoted to serve our community.

Councilmember Hankins thanked Vice Mayor Catron for his public service.

Mayor Hoops took this time to thank Vice Mayor Catron once again for his public service and hopes he enjoys his retirement.

Councilmember Cline asked Manager Regon about how we are currently storing our public works equipment. His concern was that many pieces of equipment and materials have to sit out unprotected from the weather. Now that there may be a new location with the property switch at the Ramey lot would there be enough storage space to accommodate this equipment so that we can protect these investments. Manager Regon said that she had met last week with Donny Pruitt and discussed this exact concern. They plan to utilize the property garages and bays at the Ramey lot for this purpose and it should meet these needs.

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm