

Council Meeting Minutes

May 14, 2024

The Tazewell Town Council met in an executive session at 6:00p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers.

Present:

Mayor Michael Hoops

Councilmember Zach Cline

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Absent:

Vice Mayor Glenn Catron

Councilmember Jonathan Hankins

Staff present were: Executive Assistant, Susan Reeves, Brad Pyott, Town Attorney Water Clerk, Sabrina Schooley.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

RESOLUTION

Motion made by: Cline

Resolution Number: ES240514

Motion Seconded by: Beasley

Meeting Date: 24 May 14

Vote: All voted Aye

Purpose: Specific Legal Matters
Requiring Advice of Counsel,
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

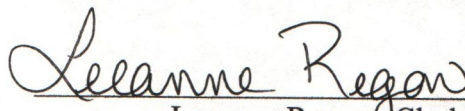
Ayes: Cline, Fox, Davis, Beasley

Nays: none

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

Absent during vote: Catron, Hankins

Absent during meeting: Catron, Hankins



Leeanne Regon, Clerk

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

Mayor Hoops stated the reason they went into executive session was for Specific Legal Matters Requiring Advice of Counsel, Prospective Business and Business Retention. He then read the resolution for Certification of Executive Session. On vote, Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye, Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to give \$250,000 to the Tazewell Community Foundation for the medical facility. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley. Councilmember Cline discussed the importance of scholarships. Councilmember Beasley stated that the funds are coming from the funds that had been set aside for the sports complex. Councilmember Fox stated that it will bring new business to our town. Councilmember Davis stated that this is a much-needed facility. On vote, Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye, Councilmember Davis, aye, Councilmember Beasley, aye.

PUBLIC HEARING 2024/2025 BUDGET

Mayor Hoops called the public hearing to order. He then read the notice of public hearing and opened the floor to anyone that would like to speak. Hearing none, he closed the public hearing.

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING JOINT PUBLIC HEARING -TOWN COUNCIL AND PLANNING COMMISSION FOR REZONING REQUEST FOR 106 GRATTON RD (PARCEL BEHIND YMCA) TO BE REZONED FROM B-2 TO M-1

Mayor Hoops read the notice of joint public hearing. He opened the floor to anyone that would like to speak. 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:

Mayor Michael Hoops

Councilmember Zach Cline

Councilmember David Fox

Councilmember Emily Davis

Councilmember Joe Beasley

Absent:

Vice Mayor Glenn Catron

Councilmember Jonathan Hankins

Staff present were: Executive Assistant, Susan Reeves; Town Attorney, Brad Pyott; Water Clerk, Sabrina Schooley; Police Chief, Stan Lampert; Zoning & Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Hoops called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. Invocation by Manny Elswick.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

MAIN STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FUNDRAISING CONCERT SUPPORT REQUEST

Manny Elswick of Main Street United Methodist Church came before council to discuss an upcoming event. There will be a former contestant from American Idol doing a concert for them to raise funds for an upcoming trip to Kenya. Councilmember Cline asked how many people from Tazewell will be going. It was answered 9. Councilmember Beasley asked how many tickets have been sold so far. It was answered that they weren't sure. Councilmember Davis asked if Bristol Lightening is a blue grass band and it was answered that they are a string band.

The date of the event is June 1st. It is the same date as graduation. There will be no street closures. Councilmember Davis made a motion to become a bronze sponsor. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley and he stated hopefully this brings more people in. Chief Lampert stated since there will be no street closure there shouldn't be a problem working this. If he has to he will work it himself. On vote, 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 as well as help for that day. There will be police presence for their event. Councilmember Davis stated that Tazewell Today assists with this event the funds are not Tazewell Today's though, it goes towards Juneteenth. She then read the following, "Pursuant to Virginia Code §§2.2-3112

and 2.2-3115(F) of the State and Local Government Conflicts of Interest Act, as the Executive Director of Tazewell Today I have a personal interest in the current transaction being considered by the Town Council involving Tazewell Today, and I am hereby disqualifying myself from both discussing and/or voting on the subject transaction” and she recused herself from this discussion and vote.

Mayor Hoops stated that they will table this matter until the next meeting June 4th. It was asked if the street would be closed. It was stated that they will vote on it at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Councilmember Beasley, seconded by Councilmember Fox to approve the minutes of April 9, 2024 and May 7, 2024. On vote, Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Motion was made by Councilmember Beasley and seconded by Councilmember Cline to approve the financial statements for April 2024. On vote, Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

PLANNING COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Councilmember Davis stated that they did not meet.

INDUSTRIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

IEDA Chair Cara Spivey came before council to give an update. She stated that they are moving forward with the bowling alley demo and they would like to list the Ramey Lot for sell and asked for council’s support. The purpose of selling the property is so they, IEDA, would have a budget. Councilmember Cline stated that we just need to make sure that we are communicating with each other. Councilmember Beasley asked if they were going to advertise it or reach out to developers. Chair Spivey stated they would just like to start generating interest. Mayor Hoops stated to move forward with advertising.

2ND READING FOR AMENDMENT TO ZONING ORDINANCE FOR HILLSBORO DRIVE AND THE TAZEWELL HIGH SCHOOL AREA TO BE REZONED FROM A-1 TO R-1 TO R-2

Motion was made by made by Councilmember Beasley to waive the reading. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

Motion to approve amendment was made by Councilmember Beasley. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Fox. On vote, Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

MEALS TAX INCENTIVE

Councilmember Beasley stated that they have obtained Wytheville's meals tax incentive package. He discussed wanting to help all restaurants in town. This would be a rebate type program. The business would pay the meals tax and then get a rebate afterward. It was asked if this would be a forever thing or for a time period. Also, they held discussion about what guidelines the businesses would have to meet. Councilmember Davis stated that they want to help new businesses out but not at the expense of other businesses.

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

Attorney Pyott read the ordinance for 106 Gratton Road to be rezoned. Motion was made by Councilmember Fox to move to a second reading at the June 4th meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR DHCD IRF GRANT APPLICATION FOR TAZEWell CINEMAS

Amanda Killen came before council to discuss support for the IRF Grant that Tazewell Cinemas is applying for. She stated that Sharon Thomas had applied last year but was not awarded. She would like to reapply. It was stated that this would be a loan. The grant is given to the Town of Tazewell from DHCD. Then the Town make a loan with a 2.5% interest rate to the property owner which is Sharon Thomas. Once those payments are paid back to the Town, the Town can do what they want to with those funds. A lot of towns use funds like that as a revolving loan program or grant programs. The Town is a pass through for the funds. It would be \$399,000. Mrs. Thomas has her own funds that would be put toward this as well for the matching fund part of it. If it doesn't work out, the Town does not lose anything, but if it works well, the Town makes money. Councilmember Cline would like more information. Ms. Killen stated that she could send an email out with further information. They will wait for the email and revisit once they have more information.

DONATION AND SUPPORT REQUEST FORM

Executive Assistant Reeves presented a form to the council and stated that this is geared more for financial support. Using this form could help make it easier for council to have the information needed when discussing donation requests.

ANNUAL CAFETERIA PLAN RESOLUTION

Mayor Hoops read the resolution of support. Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Fox. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. On vote, Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR VDOT SMART SCALE GRANT APPLICATION FOR BULLDOG LANE INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS

Mayor Hoops read the resolution of support. Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Fox. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Davis. On vote, Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR VDOT SMART SCALE GRANT APPLICATION FOR BEN BOLT AVENUE PEDISTRIAN IMPROVEMENTS

It was stated that this is for a sidewalk from Fincastle Motor Inn to The Cave. Mayor Hoops read the resolution of support. Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Davis. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cline. On vote, Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR VDOT COMMITMENT AND SIGNATURE AUTHORITY

It was stated that this resolution gives the town permission to apply for VDOT money. Mayor Hoops read the resolution of support. Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Davis. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Cline. On vote, Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Executive Assistant stated that Interim Manager Regon had prepared the budget amendments for council approval. There was discussion that the budget amendments did not pertain to Tazewell Today in anyway. Motion to approve was made by Councilmember Davis. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

OLD BOWLING ALLEY DEMOLITION UPDATE

Zoning & Property Maintenance Official, Chris Hurley gave an update on the bowling alley.

On April 23rd we held a pre bid meeting. On May 8th we had a bid opening. We received three bids. Empire Salvage was awarded the bid. Councilmember Cline told the IEDA they were doing a good job.

NIGHT FISHING SCHEDULE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE LAKE

Executive Assistant Reeves stated that we have a few dates scheduled for night fishing. We have June 28th, July 13th, July 19th, August 17th, and August 30th. Last year we ran into issues with dates because of state regulations. You can't night fish after September 1st. So this year we wanted to get earlier dates. Councilmember Beasley asked if it was well attended last year. Mayor Hoops stated that one of his friends went every time we had it last year. Councilmember Beasley also asked if there were any issues last year with night fishing. Chief Lampert said there were no issues. Motion to approve night fishing dates was made by Councilmember Fox. Motion was seconded by Councilmember Beasley. On vote, Councilmember Cline, aye; Councilmember Fox, aye; Councilmember Davis, aye; Councilmember Beasley, aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Billy Joe Eure of 961 Maplewood Lane came before council to ask for some kind of sign saying children at play. She is concerned with traffic. Mayor Hoops stated that they are taking out the curb there and making it straight. He stated that he would speak with Interim Manager Regon to work on this. Chief Lampert stated they have been working on this, they are just shorthanded.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilmember Cline stated that he knows June is going to be very busy. When DHCD was here at the last meeting they talked about Tracer AI. He is really interested in this and if we could use this it would be good metrics to see how these events are attended. He would like to see us be able to use Tracer AI and thinks that it should be a subscription to use it. He would like us to get in touch with DHCD to learn more about it. Councilmember Davis stated that there are some tourism grants out there that is specific for festivals maybe we could look into that.

Councilmember Fox stated that Darrel White was a carp fisherman and he kept asking about night fishing and tried to get it started. He passed away last year. He said Darrel was a good man and he is glad we are doing the night fishing.

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.