

# Taylortown

Town Council Meeting  
Tuesday, February 27, 2024  
Town Hall  
5:00 p.m. Closed Session  
6:00 p.m. Open Session

## Agenda

### Call to Order

**This meeting of the Taylortown Council is now called to order.**

### Roll Call

**Ms. Cole, please call the roll.**

Mayor Gaddy  
Mayor Pro Tem Moody  
Councilwoman Cotton  
Councilwoman Parker  
Councilman Taylor

III. **All were present.**

### Closed Session

**I seek a motion to go into closed session to discuss legal matters, and personnel.**

Motion: I move that we go into go into closed session to discuss legal matters, and personnel.

**Mayor Pro Tem Moody**

Second:

**Councilwoman Cotton**

**I have a motion and second.**

**Are there any questions or discussion?**

**If there are no questions or discussion, Councilmembers, please vote by saying yes or no.**

**Ms. Cole, please call the vote.**

Mayor Gaddy  
Mayor Pro Tem Moody  
Councilwoman Cotton  
Councilwoman Parker  
Councilman Taylor  
All voted in the affirmative.

The motion passed. We are now in closed session.

IV. Return to Open Session:

Welcome everyone.

I seek a motion to return to open session so we can get down to business.

Motion: I move that we return to open session. Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Second:

Councilwoman Parker

I have a motion and second.

Are there any questions? Any discussion?

If there are no questions, no discussion, Councilmembers, please vote by saying yes or no.

Ms. Cole, please call the vote.

Mayor Gaddy  
Mayor Pro Tem Moody  
Councilwoman Cotton  
Councilwoman Parker  
Councilman Taylor  
All voted in the affirmative.

The motion passed. This February 27, 2024 Taylortown Council meeting is now back in Open Session.

We're glad to see you all here. I thank you for caring enough about Taylortown to come out to Town Council meetings.

We opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and went into closed session to discuss some legal and personnel matters. You will hear more about some of those items as we as we move through tonight's agenda. It is with the blessings of our ancestors that we are gathered here to

continue their work to keep Taylortown strong for ourselves and future.

generations.

IV.

Please join us in a moment of silence.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda for this February 27, 2024 Town Council meeting was posted

at town hall and is available this evening as a handout.

I think that satisfies state law that requires us to give public notice of our Council meetings.

I seek a motion to approve our agenda for tonight's meeting. Motion: I move that we approve the agenda for tonight's meeting of the Taylortown Council.

Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Second:

Councilwoman Parker

I have a motion and second.

Are there any questions or discussion?

If there are no questions or discussion, Councilmembers, please vote by saying yes or no.

Ms. Cole, please call the vote.

Mayor Gaddy  
Mayor Pro Tem Moody  
Councilwoman Cotton  
Councilwoman Parker  
Councilman Taylor

The motion passed. The agenda is approved.

VI. Minutes

It has been stated by our attorney, Mr. William Morgan, that the Town

Council does not need to approve the minutes. Our minutes are presented to Council.

However, the accuracy of our minutes is important. They are our legal documents. They are not word for word or verbatim minutes.

If you find they are not accurate then bring it to our attention so we can make corrections.

Are there any corrections to any previous minutes that you would like to bring to the Council's attention at this time?

No corrections were brought forward.

I seek a motion to receive the minutes for February 13, 2024.

Motion: I move that we accept the minutes for February 13, 2024.

Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Second:

Councilwoman Parker

I have a motion and second.

Are there any questions or discussion?

If there are no questions or discussion, Councilmembers, please vote by

saying yes or no.

Ms. Cole, please call the vote.

Mayor Gaddy  
Mayor Pro Tem Moody  
Councilwoman Cotton  
Councilwoman Parker  
Councilman Taylor

The motion passed. The minutes have been received for February 13,

2024.

VII. Closed Session Report

Mr. William Morgan, our attorney with us this evening in closed session along with attorneys from The Freedmen Law Group.

As you know we are not allowed to vote on matters in Closed Session or use it as a way to keep the people's business away from them.

This Council promised you transparency and we're going to give you transparency. I told you sometimes it will be ugly. We've got to work through some unpleasant business to get to things back on track for our town.

Some of the items discussed this evening in closed session will be addressed as we move through the agenda.

#### VIII. Public Comment

Before I open the floor for public comment we need to review a few things. Last meeting I allowed the public to disrupt the meeting. That will not happen again. Council must conduct the town's business in an orderly fashion. If you hear something that you want to address and public time has passed, make a note of it and come back to the next meeting and let us hear from you at public time. I also told you to reach out to meet with your council members and me. We can put you on the agenda if necessary to give you more time to speak. Do not disrupt the Council meetings anymore.

Some of you commented that I am reading. Yes, I am reading from my notes. We don't have a teleprompter like the governor and the

president. So, you can see me reading from my notes. There's a lot to cover and it makes it easier for Ms. Cole to get the minutes done on time. This is a new job for me. I'll get more comfortable with it. Your patience is always appreciated.

The floor is now open for public comment. Please come to the podium and speak directly into the microphone. Limit your comments to 3 minutes.

Public comment about water bill increase from Mr. Parker. Mayor Gaddy responds by saying that water issues will be addressed later in the meeting.

Mr. Cheatam asks about the possibility of Taylortown citizens to have the same sewer system that was newly implemented in Seven Lakes. Councilwoman Cotton responds saying that surveys were sent out to gauge public interest in the system with minimal responses from citizens.

## IX. Old Business

### A. Town Boards & Commissions

At our last meeting I presented a list of boards and commissions that I would like for the Council to consider.

I proposed that each board or commission have five members. I asked each council member to present names for consideration.

I asked that when submitting a person for consideration to please make sure you are presenting people that will take the duty seriously and attend meetings.

If you submit a person that has a conflict of interest or pending legal action against the town, they will not be considered for appointment to a Board or Commission

You may submit the names of people that are not residents of Taylortown; however, we want most of our boards and commissions to have majority Taylortown residents.

If you have a list of names, please pass it to the clerk.

I was hoping we could make those appointments this evening but we need time to match interest, skills, and talent to each board. So, let's plan to make the appointments at our next meeting.

Thank you council members for submitting names to get the ball rolling on these board appointments.

#### B. Pinesage Subdivision

We discussed the legal issues surrounding Pinesage Subdivision's issue in closed session. Mr. Morgan, is there anything you can share with the public about the matter at this time?

Mr. Morgan advises the town against spending money on a privately owned

dam/lake.

Ms. Cole, you are not bound by the same attorney-client privilege that prevents Mr. Morgan from commenting about legal matters in open

session, so is there anything you would like to add to this conversation from the staff's point of view?

Pinesage is apart of Taylortown, but the lake is a private lake in a subdivision of Taylortown. Therefore, because it is private, Taylortown cannot allocate money towards it. Grants could potentially be a form of aid for Pinesage.

Councilmembers, is there anything you would like to add to the Pinesage conversation?

No comments.

#### C. Local Government Commission

The Town Council and staff drafted an Assessment Report, a kind of state of the town report to tell the Local Government Commission about how we found the town's affairs, what we're doing to straighten out some of the mess that's fallen in our hands. You heard us say we are on the Unit List. Ms. Tiffany Anderson, the LGC

staff member that was here did not like it they plain folks call their list the "Watch List."

Our goal is to get off that list. It has become clear to us that all of those Certified Public Accountants on our payroll appeared to be making a living by keeping us on the Unit List or Watch List.

If the Local Government Commission does not want to fulfill its mission to help us for whatever reason, we are going to help ourselves.

We start by working with people that want to help us.

We've hired Ms. Cole as Town Administrator. We're going to put the audit out for bids this year to get an auditor who can get our audits out on time. October 31<sup>st</sup> was the deadline. Here we are still without an audit for last fiscal year: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023.

#2 We're building a Finance Department with checks and balances. That means those internal controls the auditor said we didn't have because one person was opening the mail, taking money in, paying money out, preparing the agendas, and minutes is over. We will divide the jobs in the Finance Department to create our checks and balances.

#3 The auditor keeps telling us we have problems with the way we manage this water fund. Again, we are going to straighten that out with the Finance Department. Dallas Gaddy reports directly to Ms. Cole. I'm in here every day and I see how well they work together. Those two plus the addition of two accountants and the support we pay for with our accounting software at Southern Software should be enough to address any issues in the water fund. We have to understand the rules, and what it takes to fix it.

As for your water bills, we've promise we will not deny you the opportunity to pay your water bills. We don't have to tell you. You told us about the problems you had with water bills.

Well we encountered those problems on a larger scale. We are working to address them. We are upgrading our software and correcting the meter issues. Be patient. You are not going to be charged a late fee and we will work with you to get everyone caught up. Our tech support team will be here the first week of March. If you call, the phone lines will be tied up for a while. So have patience as we try to get our online payments going at the same time.

X. New Business

A. Finance Officer

The Local Government Commission requires the town to have a Finance Officer.

**Mayor Pro Tem Moody:**

I seek a motion to appoint a Finance Officer for Taylortown.

Motion: I move that we appoint Mayor Gaddy as the town's Finance Officer.

Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Second:

Councilwoman Cotton

I have a motion and second.

Are there any questions or discussion?

If there are no more questions and no further discussion,

Councilmembers, please vote by saying yes or no.

Ms. Cole, please call the vote.

Mayor Gaddy  
Mayor Pro Tem Moody  
Councilwoman Cotton  
Councilwoman Parker

Councilman Taylor

Everyone voted in  
the affirmative.

**The motion passed. The Taylortown Finance officer is adopted as Mayor Gaddy.**

**Ms. Cole, I'm going to turn this part of the agenda over to you so that you can present the Finance Department to us, along with the Fee Ordinance, Budget Amendment #1.**

Mayor Pro Tem Moody reviews Fee Ordinance FIN 1- 2024.

**I seek a motion to adopt the Fee Ordinance with changes proposed by Council.**

Motion: I move that we adopt the Fee Ordinance with Council's changes.

Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Second:

Councilwoman Parker

**I have a motion and second.**

**Are there any questions or discussion?**

**If there are no more questions and no further discussion,**

**Councilmembers, please vote by saying yes or no.**

**Ms. Cole, please call the vote.**

Mayor Gaddy  
Mayor Pro Tem Moody  
Councilwoman Cotton  
Councilwoman Parker  
Councilman Taylor

All voted in the  
affirmative.

**The motion passed. The Taylortown Fee Ordinance is adopted.**

**Cole: My next item is the Budget Amendment.**

**Ms. Cole, you're asking Council to amend the budget for Fiscal Year 2023-2024.**

Technically, we have four (4) months left in this fiscal year which ends June 30, 2024.

What do we need in the budget to meet our goals for the remainder of the year?

Ms. Cole goes over each respective category/topic and the budget to be allocated to them.

I seek a motion to adopt the Budget Ordinance Amendment with changes proposed by Council.

Motion: I move that we adopt the Budget Ordinance with Council's changes.

Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Second:

Councilwoman Parker

I have a motion and second.

Are there any questions or discussion?

If there are no more questions and no further discussion,

Councilmembers, please vote by saying yes or no.

Ms. Cole, please call the vote.

Mayor Gaddy

Mayor Pro Tern Moody

Councilwoman Cotton

Councilwoman Parker

Councilman Taylor

All voted in the affirmative.

The motion passed. The Budget Ordinance is adopted.

XI. Announcements

Councilmembers, are there any announcements you wish to make at this time?

Mayor Gaddy

Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Thank you for the Black History program.

Demus Taylor birthday celebration 3/9/2024, 11-2 at the Taylor House.

Councilwoman Cotton

Councilwoman Parker

Councilman Taylor

Ms. Cole, do you have any announcements?

Council and Citizens, we accomplished our goals this evening.

Remember, it's going to take all of us to right the ship. If you can't do anything, but be patient, we appreciate that.

Our next town council meeting is on March 12<sup>th</sup>.

## XII. Adjournment

I seek a motion to adjourn.

Motion: I move that we adjourn.

Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Second:

Councilwoman Parker

I have a motion and second.

Are there any questions or discussion?

If there are no questions or discussion, Ms. Cole please call the vote.

Mayor Gaddy

Mayor Pro Tern Moody

Councilwoman Cotton

Councilwoman Parker

Councilman Taylor

All voted in the affirmative.

Motion passed. This meeting of the Taylortown Council is adjourned.