

Taylortown Council Meeting

Taylortown Town Hall

May 14, 2024

No Closed Session

6:00 p.m. Open Session

Agenda

- I. **Call to Order**
11. **Roll Call**
- III. **Closed Session {None}**
- IV. **Open Session**
- V. **Approval of Agenda**
- VI. **Minutes**
- VII. **Closed Session Report**
- VIII. **Public Comment**

- IX. **Old Business**

- X. **New Business**
Staff Reports - Town Administrator, Carolyn Cole
 1. **Police Department - Chief Michael Hobgood**
Mutual Aid Agreement for Star, NC

 2. **Finance Department- Calvin Blanton, Mgr.**
 - A. Schedule 2024-2025 Budget Workshop
 - B. Budget Public Hearing,
 - C. Budget Adoption
 - D. Audit: Status of 2022-2023
 - E. Planning for 2023-2024 Audit
 - F. Benefits Meeting
 - G. TR 2 Municipal Certification

 3. **Public Works & Utilities Department- Darnell Price, Mgr**

 4. **Administration Department**
Website

- XI. **Announcements**
Next Town Council Meeting May 28, 2024

- XII. **Adjournment**

Taylortown

Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 14, 2024
Town Hall
6:00 p.m. Open Session

I. Call to Order

This Tuesday, May 14th meeting of the Taylortown Council is now called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Good evening. Welcome to our Taylortown Council meeting. We thank you for coming and we thank those of you watching online for spending your time with us.

We thank you all for caring about our community. Let's keep showing our ancestors that we know how much they sacrificed so that we could see this day.

Please join us in a moment of silence.

II. Roll Call

Ms. Cole, please call the roll.

Mayor Gaddy
Mayor Pro Tern Moody
Councilwoman Cotton
Councilwoman Parker
~~Councilman Taylor~~

Closed session is on the agenda, but there was no closed session today so

we will move on to what should be item III on the agenda.

III. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for this May 14, 2024 Town Council meeting was posted at Town Hall. I thank Mayor Pro Tern Moody for making the announcement that our meeting place had changed from town hall to here at the museum because of the run-off election being held at town hall.

I'd also like to thank Councilwoman Cotton for putting the notice for today's meeting online.

IV. Minutes

According to Attorney Morgan, the town does not have to approve the Minutes. So, we accept the minutes as presented to us.

If there are any corrections or changes in the minutes for Council to approve, those changes if approved by Council, will become a correction and we will attach it to the minutes.

The minutes from December 19, 2023 to April 23, 2024 will be posted on our revised website when it launches next week. We will all be able to see the minutes at our convenience.

V. Public Comment

The floor is now open for public comment. Please stand where you are, give us your name. Limit your comments to 3 minutes, please.

Jerry S. -VP of Pinesage: Speaks on lingering issues with water and water pressure/damage caused to the homes

Bill Gunter

Mayor Gaddy responds saying that this issue is an issue for the development and not for the town; He also confirms that citizens do not get reimbursed for busted pipes.

Jennifer Kaplan: Speaks on low water pressure in Pinesage; attributes the pipes busting to low water pressure and then busting through once water comes back in; Mayor responds saying that they will look into the issue

VI. Old Business

The budget is on everyone's mind at this time of year. I'm going to give Ms. Cole the floor to review the budget schedule.

Ms. Cole hands out copies of the fiscal year 23-24 budget, both to council and to those in attendance; it is also to be posted on the website.

Budget is to be in front of the council by June 1st. There is discussion of

potential dates for the budget workshop.

Ms. Cole explains the situation regarding the audit. Town staff and council are concerned about the actions of the auditor—being late on audits and seemingly withholding audits for Taylortown which ultimately could affect our charter through the Local Government Commission.

VII. New Business

Before we begin the staff reports, let me say to the staff and the citizens, this is not public time. This is time for Council and the public to hear reports from the staff. If there is something you wish to discuss, take a written or mental note of it and make an appointment to see us at Town Hall about it.

I don't like long meetings and I don't like meetings that get out of order. It discourages people from attending in person or online. You know I value your opinions and ideas and I've made sure there are ways for you to meet with me, the other council members, and the staff. Let's move forward with the Staff Reports.

Staff Reports - Town Administrator - Carolyn Cole

1. Police Department - Chief Michael Hobgood

- Vehicles need inspections done
- Christopher Thomas will take the state exam, graduate, and then report to the police department May 27th for

full-time work

2. Mutual Aid Agreement with Star, NC

Hobgood: We have mutual aid with multiple agencies in North Carolina, Pinehurst PD, Whispering Pines PD, Vass PD, etc. The chief of Star PD requested to be in mutual aid with Taylortown. Mutual aid is a necessity.

Mayor Gaddy: So, if I'm understanding correctly, you would like for the Town Council of Taylortown to sign a mutual aid agreement with the town of Star?

I seek a motion to approve the mutual aid agreement with the town of Star, North Carolina.

Motion: I move that we sign the mutual aid agreement with the town of Star, North Carolina.

So moved: Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Second:

Councilwoman Parker

I have a motion and second.

Are there any questions or discussion?

Mr. Blanton asks if there is any cost attached to mutual aid. Hobgood responds saying that is free.

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

Mayor Gaddy

Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Councilwoman Cotton

Councilwoman Parker

~~Councilman Taylor~~

Everyone present voted in the affirmative.

Motion passed. On behalf of the town council of Taylortown, I will sign the Mutual Aid Agreement with Star.

Chief Hobgood, you may deliver the signed agreement to the Chief of Police in Star.

~~3. Finance Department – Calvin Blanton, Mgr. (Finances already addressed previously. See “Old Business”)~~

4. Public Works & Utilities Department - Darnell Pric . Mgr

Mr. Price introduces himself and his credentials to the town officially. Details his work projects such as dealing with water issues and cleaning up the town. Details interaction with NCDOT about road maintenance.

Mayor Gaddy: I'd like an update on water billing.

Ms. Cole: Mayor Gaddy and Council, we are continuing to test every aspect of the water billing system to see why what appears to be normal meter readings still produce high water bills. Each month it appears to be a different problem.

Last month after the meter reading issues were believed to be resolved with Core Main, Neptune, LKC, and Southern Software, when the pre-bills were produced by Southern Software, we had only three (3) high bills that needed corrections. Corrections were made and we printed the bills with Donna's help. When the bills were printed there were several high bills that did not appear high on the pre-bill. We pulled those bills and did not mail them to the customers.

Mr. Price read the meters using the hand-held device this month and we got 100% of the meters read. We think it's time to look at the software options. We put the raw numbers into the formula the town authorized, and that the software company uses into an Excel spreadsheet and the numbers from Neptune produce very high bills.

We are asking the town council to allow us to bill minimum use for the customers that got abnormal readings in March-the customers whose bills we did not send out and to allow us to bill minimum use to the town's water customers for April, May, and June.

Minimum use means 2000 gallons of water or less which also calculates minimum sewer. This request is to give us time to resolve the water billing problem. We believe we are in the ballpark of what the problem may be between the Neptune numbers and the way they are being collected and how the software is programmed to calculate the bills.

With the assistance of Brandon Livengood's company, Mister IT, we created a template in Excel to produce our own flat rate bills. This will allow us to bill our customers without sending the raw numbers from Neptune 360 to Southern Software.

The water billing problems have been ongoing for a few years. By flat billing for the next few months, not charging late fees, and not disconnecting services to anyone, we believe the town has made good on any overpayments citizens may have made to the town.

With Council's authorization, we would like to include a letter to help clarify where we are with the water bills. We need Council's approval before we include the letter presented to you today.

I seek a motion to approve flat rate billing until June 30, 2024 and to include the letter about water billing as read into the record to inform citizens.

So moved: 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, Ms. Cole please call the vote.

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

All who were present voted in the affirmative.
Motion passed. I will sign the letter explaining water billing and Ms. Cole, you may include the signed copy in the water bills.

5. Administration Department

The Planning Board meeting will be posted once we have a convenient time for all members.

Ronda Brady

Garry Brown

Jeffrey Moody

Connie Pearson

Lottie Mason

We will select a chair and vice chair for the Board, choose a meeting date and time, and schedule our Orientation and training.

That concludes our staff report.

VIII. Announcements

Councilmembers, do you have any announcements?

Next Town Council Meeting May 28, 2024

IX. 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 present voted in the
affirmative.

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