

Taylortown Council Meeting

Taylortown Town Hall

July 23, 2024

5:00 p.m. Closed Session

6:00 p.m. Open Session

Agenda

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Roll Call**
- III. Closed Session**
- IV. Return to Open Session**
- V. Approval of Agenda**
- VI. Minutes**
- VII. Closed Session Report**
- VIII. Public Comment**

- IX. Old Business**

- X. New Business**
- XI. Staff Reports**
- XII. Announcements**
Next Town Council Meeting August 13, 2024

- XIII. Adjournment**

Taylortown

Town Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 23, 2024

Town Hall

5:00 p.m. Closed Session

6:00 p.m. Open Session

I. Call to Order

This Tuesday, July 23rd meeting of the Taylortown Council is now called to order at 5:00 p.m.

11. Roll Call

Ms. Cole, please call the roll.

Ms. Cole

Mayor Gaddy

Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Councilwoman Cotton

~~Councilwoman Parker~~

Councilman Taylor

III. Closed Session

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

Motion:

Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Second:

Councilwoman Parker

Are there any questions? Any discussion?

Please vote yes or no. Ms. Cole, call the roll.

Ms. Cole

Mayor Gaddy

Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Councilwoman Cotton

~~Councilwoman Parker~~

Councilman Taylor

The motion passed. We are now in Closed Session.

IV. Return to Open Session

I seek a motion to return to Open Session.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Second: Councilwoman Parker

Any questions? Any discussion?

Ms. Cole, call the roll.

Ms. Cole

Mayor Gaddy

Mayor Pro Tern Moody

Councilwoman Cotton

Councilwoman Parker

Councilman Taylor

All present.

Motion passed.

Good evening. Welcome to the Taylortown Council meeting. We thank

you for being here and we thank those of you watching online.

Let's keep showing our ancestors how much we appreciate their sacrifice.

Please join us in a moment of silence.

V. Approval of Agenda

The agenda for this July 23, 2024 Town Council meeting was posted

at Town Hall and on our website.

We also have some agendas in the holder on the back wall.

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

I seek a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion: Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Second: Councilwoman Parker

Any questions? Any discussion?

Ms. Cole, call the roll.

Ms. Cole

Mayor Gaddy

Mayor Pro Tern Moody

Councilwoman Cotton

Councilwoman Parker

Councilman Taylor – left at the

end of closed session

Motion passed.

VI. Minutes

The minutes are being posted on our website when the final corrections are made.

Council, if you have any corrections or changes to any of the minutes, please notify Ms. Cole.

If it is a disputed change or correction, it will be added to the agenda for the next council meeting.

VII. Closed Session Report

We went into Closed Session to discuss some legal and personnel

matters. There's nothing for the Council to vote on, yet.

VIII. Public Comment

The floor is now open for public comment. Please go to the podium and give us your name. Limit your comments to 3 minutes, please.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

XI. Staff Reports

We value your opinions and ideas. We give you time to voice them at Council meetings. We have an open door at town hall from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. You can also schedule an appointment to meet with individual town council members or staff. If a citizen raises an issue that we feel needs more time, we will have it placed on the agenda for one of our meetings. We have made sure that we have are ways for your voices to be heard.

We are going to move into the part of our meeting where we discuss matters with our staff.

This is not public time.

Please do not comment from the floor.

Ms. Cole, Mr. Blanton, Mr. Price, Chief Hobgood, please do not respond to comments from the floor.

Staff Reports -Town Administrator - Carolyn Cole

1. Administration Department

I'm going to start by introducing Brandon Livengood, our IT Specialist.

Brandon has updated and coordinated our communications system. The town now has access to its email addresses and domain name, again. He worked with Jalyn Black, our website designer, to get our website online. Brandon was instrumental in helping us to get access to our benefits and retirement system. He also assists with water and sewer billing to make sure the meters and the billing system are communicating the correct information.

You see Brandon here every week and we wanted to formally introduce him as a member of our team.

Mayor Gaddy, Mayor Pro Tern Moody, and Brandon had a meeting with Heather Whiting of Code Red. We are under contract with them which expires in September. The town has been paying for Code Red but has not used it since 2018.

The town was also paying for NC Rural Water's alert system. NC Rural Water is not compatible with our website, so we will continue using Code Red.

After hours communication is a concern that we are addressing by using a live answer service that will direct the calls to the person on call for the town. So, if it's a water or sewer issue the call will be directed to a person in the Public Works & Utilities Department. If it is a police matter, the voice prompt directs you to call 911 if its an emergency. For non-emergency calls, they will be directed to the officer on duty, Mayor Gaddy, or me.

Moved: Mayor Pro Tern Moody

Second: Councilwoman Parker

Motion is passed.

2. Finance Department - Calvin Blanton, Mgr.

Mayor Gaddy, Mayor Pro Tern Moody, and I had a meeting on July 17, 2024 with Kendra Boyles and Tiffany Anderson at LGC.

We responded to calls about the town's financial reporting in general and more specific questions about anticipated deadlines for completion of the FY 23 and FY 24 audit and budgets.

Mr. Blanton and Ms. Sarah McKoy are repairing the town's ability to produce financial records after not being able to access the information from former town accountants.

Ms. Boyle was able to offer some possible reasons for why so many accountants were involved with the town's accounting. Once the accounting system is in place, we will be able to answer a few more questions with definitive answers.

We have some questions for Ms. Anderson so we hope to schedule a meeting with her to coincide with the delivery of the town's financial reports.

Appointment of a Deputy Finance Officer

Ms. Boyle directed the town Council to appoint a Deputy Finance Officer.

Mayor Pro Tern Moody

I don't have a problem with us appointing a Deputy Finance Officer. My issue is that LGC did not require the town council to appoint the previous finance officer and now we are required to appoint both a finance officer and a deputy finance officer.

Also, LGC was riding us hard about the fidelity bond that is required for the finance officer. Before they asked, the town bonded three (3) people on this council with a \$250k bond as required by law.

All three of us are able to sign the town's checks. Our policy is that our checks require two (2) signatures. We require the mayor to sign all checks unless he is out of town and has authorized

Councilwoman Cotton or me to sign. I am the second signer. If I am out of town, then Councilwoman Cotton becomes the second signer.

This is something we passed into town law, not because of any assistance or recommendations from LGC.

Councilwoman Cotton: I'm glad you stated that for the record, because the previous finance officer was not appointed by Council and the bond application contained false information which did not bode well for the town or the people that signed it knowing the facts.

Mayor Gaddy:

I seek a motion to appoint Mayor Pro Tem Nadine Moody as our Deputy Finance Officer to satisfy the requirement from the LGC.

Motion: Mayor Gaddy

Second: Councilwoman Parker

Any questions? Any discussion?

Ms. Cole, call the roll.

Ms. Cole

Mayor Gaddy

Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Councilwoman Cotton

Councilwoman Parker

~~Councilman Taylor~~

Motion passed.

Mayor Pro Tern Moody, you are the town's Deputy Finance Officer.

Let's go back to our search for an auditor.

Kendra Boyle said there's an RFP template on the LGC website that we

may find helpful. So, please look at that.

Will you be ready to present the books for FY 23 and 24 by the end of August or sooner?

Mayor Pro Tern Moody

Ms. Boyle also raised the question of council members as town employees. I would like for Council to take up that matter at our next meeting with LGC. Could you do some research on that, Mr. Blanton?

Public Works & Utilities Department - Darnell Price, Mgr

Water Pressure issues are concerning us at the home of Helen Cole and the front section of Pinesage. We responded to several calls this week. The Code Red Alert system is going to be helpful to us in terms of notifying the residents.

We are also bringing in Cri-tek Engineering to talk to us about our options to repair the problem.

After more than 30 years of the same problem, even after the installation of new meters and in some cases new water lines, this council told you during the budget process that finding a solution to this problem is a priority. Still, it is not going to happen overnight. We will respond to all problems with water and sewer as quickly as possible.

Water Billing

While we have been minimum billing for April, May, and June we have been reading the meters. Your July bill that will be mailed to you in August will be based on usage. You will also receive a statement that identifies all payments that we can find for you in the last two fiscal years. If you receive the letter and feel that our information is incorrect, schedule an appointment to review your bill.

3. Police Department - Chief Michael Hobgood

4. Planning Department

The Planning Board will meet on 8/22/24

Ronda Brady

Garry Brown

Jeffrey Moody

Connie Pearson

Lottie Mason

We are now ready for assistance from NCLM for their training and support.

XII. Announcements

Councilmembers, do you have any announcements?

Moody: Founder's Day

Parker: Taylortown Day

Cotton: Moore County Weatherization Assistance Program

We had 12 air condition units that were distributed.

Our next town council meeting is August 13, 2024.

XIII. Adjournment

I seek a motion to adjourn.

Motion: I move that we adjourn.

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.

Ms. Cole

Mayor Gaddy

Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Councilwoman Cotton

Councilwoman Parker

~~Councilman Taylor~~

All who are present vote yes.

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