

Taylortown Council Meeting

Taylortown Town Hall

August 13, 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 27, 2024

- XIII. Adjournment**

Taylortown
Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 13, 2024
Town Hall
5:00 p.m. Closed Session
6:00 p.m. Open Session

1. **Call to Order**

This Tuesday, August 13th 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

111. **Closed Session**

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

Motion:

Mayor Pro-Tem Moody

Second:

Councilwoman Cotton

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: [Moody](#)

Second: [Cotton](#)

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.

Good evening. Welcome to the Taylortown Council meeting. We thank you for being here. Welcome to the folks watching online.

Let's keep showing our ancestors how much we appreciate the sacrifices they made to help us have Taylortown today.

Please join us in a moment of silence.

V. **Approval of Agenda**

The agenda for this August 13, 2024 Town Council meeting was posted at Town Hall. You can also find it on our website. If you don't have one

already, they are in the holder on the back wall.

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

If not, I seek a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion:

Mayor Pro-Tem Moody

Second:

Councilwoman Cotton

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.

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.

Clerical errors can be made by the staff. Any changes in content or any challenges to the text must be added to the agenda and brought back to council for review and a decision.

VII. Closed Session Report

We went into Closed Session to discuss some legal and personnel matters. We are also considering contracts for mowing grass along the state-owned roads, security cameras for town properties, and engineering services for our water and sewer system problems.

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

VIII. Public Comment

Mayor Gaddy: We've gotten a lot of feedback about public comment time. Councilwoman Cotton, you have the floor to speak to us about the state law governing public comment time at public meetings.

Councilwoman Cotton: The major theme for my campaign when I ran for Council was transparency because I sat on a council for years and we knew very little about the operation of our government. Too many things that should have been brought to Council were not brought before us or even shared with us. Today, if you are on the Council and you don't know what's going on in this government, it's because you are choosing not to know, not because information is being withheld from you.

The other side of this kind of transparency is that we are actively participating with staff to solve our problems. To me, that's the way it should be. I will admit when we are going through the process of searching for solutions to problems in real time, the details can feel overwhelming, like TMI, Too Much Information. But we are here to solve problems for our community and plan for its future. I wouldn't trade the transparency that we have now for the old system where Council knew very little about the town's business and decision-making on major issues was limited to the mayor and town clerk.

This council knows more about the operation of our government than

we ever have and we are learning more every day from classes we attend in person and online, help from the North Carolina League of Municipalities, people like Harold Owens, Richard Marvin, and (personnel), and our staff.

At every meeting Mayor Gaddy tells us in his own way that long meetings discourage attendance in person and online. I'm going to go a step further and tell you that disorderly meetings discourage attendance and are a disruption to what should be an orderly process for all of us to learn about the town's business and address the issues facing the town. Most public meetings conduct business using some version of Robert's Rules of Order. So do we.

Disrupting the meetings by talking from the floor is unacceptable. If you insist, then you will be asked to leave, if you do not leave, an officer will escort you from the meeting, and finally the law will be enforced for disrupting a public meeting.

At every meeting Mayor Gaddy reminds you that we have several ways to hear from the public not just public comment time at Council meetings for 3 minutes per person. You can make an appointment to see any of the Council members at a time convenient to both of you by calling the office and leaving a message with your name, phone number, and/or email address. You can drop in and take a chance that one of us will be in the office usually Mayor Gaddy and/or Mayor Pro Tem Moody in their roles as both elected officials and as appointed finance officer and deputy finance officer.

You can also send an email or call to talk to a council member or staff person.

If the issue you raise needs to be added to an agenda, Council will do that.

All of that being said, I've given you the state law that governs public comment time at public meetings. The issue here is not that we don't want to hear from the public. We do and that is clear. We will abide by the laws that also allows us to have orderly meetings where the Council can transact town business. It is how we respect you and how you respect the Council and staff. Thank you.

Mayor Gaddy:

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.

[Public comments from the new Pinesage Homeowners Association president;](#)
[William Green](#)

IX. Old Business

x. New Business

XI. Staff Reports

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, please do not respond to comments from the floor.

Staff Reports — Town Administrator — Carolyn Cole

1. Administration Department

Communications: Answering Service, signage for pump stations

2. 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.

The engineering company met with us and we now must consider the cost.

I'm going to repeat myself from the last meetings. 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. On the way to finding a solution, we are going to discuss several things, every option presented to us. What we are talking about, thinking about, considering may not be the final solution. We will decide at the right time and at the right price. Settle down and let's work together. We are respond to all problems with water and sewer as quickly as possible. You know that. You see us out here working.

Water Billing

We have been minimum billing for April, May, and June we have been reading the meters. Your July bill was mailed on Monday, August 12. It contains a letter informing customers that we will be resuming regular billing, late fees, and disconnects. Some high use bills or other bills for which we have concerns whether with meter or account we are reviewing those bills and will send them out

If you receive the letter and feel that our information is incorrect, schedule an appointment to review your account.

3. **Police Department** — Chief Michael Hobgood, Swearing in Chris

Thomas

4. **Planning Department**

The Planning Board will meet the 3rd Thursday of each month.

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:

Parker:

Taylor town Day weekend,

8/30-9/1

Cotton:

Taylor:

Our next town council meeting is August 23, 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

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