

Taylortown Council Meeting

Town Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 28, 2024
Town Hall
5:10 p.m. Closed Session
6:20 p.m. Open Session

I. Call to Order

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

II. Roll Call

Please call the roll.

Mayor Gaddyn- **Present**

Mayor Pro Tem Moody – **listening for Closed Session as confirmed by Attorney William Morgan.**

Councilwoman Cotton- **Present**

Councilwoman Parker- **Present**

Councilman Taylor- **Tardy; arrived at around 5:20 pm.**

Let's get a little housekeeping done so that we can have more time with the public later.

III. Approval of Agenda & Status of Minutes

Was the agenda for this January 28, 2024, Town Council meeting posted at Town Hall and on the town's website?

Town Administrator/Town Clerk? **Yes.**

There are agendas on the backwall in the holder if anyone should need one when we get back into Open Session.

Staff asks to amend the agenda to include ABC commission discussion as item four under staff reports.

Council, I seek a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion: **So moved.**

Councilwoman Parker

Second:

Councilwoman Cotton

I have a motion and a second.

Are there any questions? Discussion?

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

saying yes or no.

Please call the vote.

Mayor Gaddy - **Yes**
Mayor Pro Tem Moody
Councilwoman Cotton - **Yes**
Councilwoman Parker - **Yes**
Councilman Taylor

The motion passed. The agenda is approved as amended.

What is the status of the minutes?

Town Clerk: Minutes from January 2024 – January 2025 are posted on the website, but unavailable for public viewing until I have finished reviewing and correcting April, May, and June 2024. As soon as that's done, I will remove the log-in requirement that's only available to me and the public can see them all.

Thank you, Madam Clerk.

Attorneys William Morgan, Dominique Camm, and Erin Rozelle will be joining us in Closed Session.

IV. Closed Session

I seek a motion to go into closed session for a recap and discussion of our outstanding legal matters and personnel.

Motion: I move that we go into go into closed session.

Councilwoman Cotton

Second:

Councilwoman Parker

I have a motion and second.

Are there any questions or discussion?

No questions or discussion.

Please call the vote.

Mayor Gaddy - **Yes**

Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Councilwoman Cotton- **Yes**

Councilwoman Parker- **Yes**

Councilman Taylor

The motion passed.

V. Return to Open Session:

I seek a motion to return to open session.

Motion: I move that we return to open session.

Councilwoman Cotton

Second:

Councilwoman Parker

I have a motion and second.

Any questions? Any discussion?

No questions, no discussion.

Please call the vote.

Mayor Gaddy - **Yes**
Mayor Pro Tem Moody
Councilwoman Cotton - **Yes**
Councilwoman Parker - **Yes**
Councilman Taylor - **Yes**

The motion passed.

Taylortown Council is now back in Open Session.

Well, hello everyone.

Welcome to your Town Council meeting.

And welcome to those of you joining us online.

I'd also like to welcome the Planning Commission to our meeting.

Chair: Commissioner Gary Brown
Vice Chair: Commissioner Jeffrey Moody
Commissioner Rhonda Brady
Commissioner Lottie Mason
Commissioner Connie Pearson

It makes me feel good to know that our ancestors have entrusted the care of Taylortown to us.

We opened the meeting at 5:10, approved our agenda, and learned that our minutes from January 2024 to January 14, 2025, are posted online.

You can only see January 14, 2025. Madam Clerk will remove the log-in so you can see them all once she has completed her corrections and

review of April, May, & June 2024.

Silence your phones.

Let's have a moment of silence.

VI. Closed Session Report

Attorneys William Morgan, Dominique Camm and Erin Rozelle joined us in Closed Session to discuss some personnel and legal matters.

We did not vote on anything in Closed Session.

VII. Public Comment

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, please.

No public comments.

VIII. Staff Reports – Town Administrator – Carolyn Cole

This is not public time. If you did not silence your phone, or if you insist on speaking out of turn, Our Acting Chief, Brandon Phillips will escort you from the meeting.

If there is any matter that we need to vote on in any of the departments, our Town Administrator will call it to our attention during staff reports.

Alright, let's get started.

Administration Reports:

Town Clerk gave a presentation addressing FOIA requests, public comments, and the official town website.

HRRM department is ensuring that council is aware of their ethics class obligation and are registered.

Election Ordinance:

- The town attorneys laid out the legal steps for changing the election ordinance for the town. Different methods of staggering council seats and terms were discussed.
- Ms. Dixon from the state board of elections will be visiting to aid in strategizing a plan.

ABC Commission:

- The ABC commission resolution to designate an official to give a Local Government Opinion for a business to have the ability to sell alcohol.
- Council was made aware of the necessity for a Local Government Opinion and obstacles the business faced to obtaining the local government opinion.
- Administrator Cole asks that the designated signers be Mayor Pro Tem Moody and herself.

Mayor Gaddy motioned for the resolution to be completed, designating Administrator Carolyn Cole and Mayor Pro Tem Nadine Moody as officials designated to give a local government opinion to the ABC Commission.

Second: Councilwoman Cotton

All councilmembers present voted in the affirmative.

Public Safety:

- 93 different “events” in January—events being defined as there being a police response in Taylortown.
- 7 calls with Pinehurst Fire Department; they will provide monthly reports.
- 3 medical calls; 2 vehicle accidents; 1 gas leak; and 1 vehicle fire.

Finance

- Budget vs. Actual Report July to December 2024.

Mr. Blanton makes a note that the numbers in the report are correct but the format is not complete.

Highlights of the report:

In property taxes, the town collected \$40,000 more than budgeted for.

Other areas of the budget to actual report show various increases and decreases compared to budget.

There is not much reliable historical info available so it is very detailed.

The town reported \$166,000 in sales compared to the budget set at \$147,000.

The total revenue is \$720,000 versus the budgeted \$600,000.

Overall, there has been improvement in the budget.

The town had a semi-unexpected expenditure due to difficulty in accessing information and accounts during the transition of power.

As it pertains to wages and salaries, we had \$242,000 budgeted with \$230,000 spent.

As it pertains to obtaining an auditor, Mr. Blanton is in contact with firms and individuals to seek referrals.

The schedule for the budgeting workshop was announced (attached and on the website).

Public Works and Utilities:

Discussion on Landlord/Tenant Billing:

The discussion centered on what the policy should be for tenants that move out with unpaid water bills.

No decisions were made. Attorney William Morgan is going to further review our options to ensure compliance with the law.

Council appears to agree that the town should not foot the bill for unpaid water bills left by tenants.

Seasonal Residents:

There was a discussion about billing policy for seasonal residents. Topics included personal use valves, that do not pertain to the issue at hand with the meters, and the duration for which the town would allow for cut-offs and reconnections.

Compliance Letters:

Mr. Price suggested that the Town compile a list of projects citizens need a compliance letter to complete. Administrator Cole emphasizes that compliance letters are not new to the town—they were required, although selectively enforced, long before the current administration.

General:

Mr. Price describes the process of checking meters to analyze the possibility of a leak, as well as gives a position report on water pressure and the absence of air in water pipes. Administrator Cole reminds the public that there has been no general increase in water billing. There was also questions brought up about sewer capacity and mention of the stop work orders on the road cut through the park.

Curbside Pick-up:

The cost for curbside pick-up would range between \$13.60 to \$20.

There was a consensus to bring the Republic contract to council.

Online Bill Pay:

- Should be available about April 2nd.

Work Done by PWU: Roads and Repairs

- Pressure Tests

-Cleaning ditches

-Cleaning and test fire hydrants

-Water meter cut offs

-Cleaning roads, keeping grass cut

-Gravel work, work on mailboxes and driveways

Coming Up:

- Hole patching, identifying cemetery graves

Mowing Contract: Vote to accept Mowing Contract

- Motion: Councilwoman Cotton
- Second: Councilwoman Parker

Mayor Gaddy - **Yes**

Mayor Pro Tem Moody

Councilwoman Cotton - **Yes**

Councilwoman Parker - **Yes**

Councilman Taylor- **No**

Motion passed 3 to 1.

Planning and Zoning:

- Town has a comprehensive plan – LKC 2023

- Wishes to update comprehensive plan and initiate a moratorium. Attorneys will review.

- There was a conversation between Town Council and Planning Commission about what their visions were for Taylortown.

Culture and Leisure Services

- Black History Month celebration in the town hall
- Centennial Citizen celebration

IX. Announcements

Councilmembers, do you have any announcements?

Councilwoman Cotton: Happy Belated Birthday, Mayor Gaddy!

Next Town Council meetings, Tuesday, February 11th.

X. Adjournment

I seek a motion to adjourn.

Motion: I move that we adjourn.

Councilwoman Parker

Second:

Councilman Taylor

I have a motion and second.

Are there any questions or discussion?

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

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

All present voted in the affirmative.

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