



GATE CITY TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2014
156 E. JACKSON ST.
6:30 PM

- I. COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:32 P.M. BY: Mayor - Frances Perry**
- II. ROLL CALL – Town Clerk - Kathy Riley**

PRESENT: Mayor, Frances Perry
Vice Mayor, Allan “Cotton” Roberts
Council Member, Roger Cassell
Council Member, Robin Richards
Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr.
Council Member, Walter Salyers
Town Manager, Greg Jones
Town Attorney, Michele Brooks

Others present: Arletha Newton, Theresa Newton, Zeke Newton, Bob Perry, Judy Guinn, Jimmy Guinn,

- III. INVOCATION – Mayor Frances Perry**
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Acting Police Chief, Scott Fink**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made to approve the agenda.

Motion by: Vice Mayor, A. Roberts 2nd by: Council Member, R. Cassell

VOTE:	Yeas,	5
	Nays,	0
	Absent,	0
	Abstain,	0

- VI. PROCLAMATIONS, CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTIONS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS, ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS.**

- **Chuck Newton Proclamation** - Town Manager, G. Jones, read and presented a Proclamation to the family of Chuck Newton honoring him for his talent, various positions he held with organizations that served the community, his proudly serving as the Sergeant-at-Arms for the Town of Gate City Council Meetings and he his forever being remembered as the “Voice of the Blue Devils”. This proclamation is serving as an expression of the respect in which his memory is held by the Gate City Town Council.

- **The Local Choice Health Insurance Representative** – Walt Norman discussed the following items regarding present health insurance program with the Town of Gate City:
 - Explained the General Assembly in 1989/1990 realized the difficulty of municipal entities and schools boards to get quality health insurance at an affordable cost and put into place the Local Choice Program.
 - Goal was to provide health benefits comparable to State employees. It is a separate self insured pool with benefits similar to what the state has. Gate City has the Key Advantage Expanded benefits.
 - Explained the direction of health insurance in 2018 – Affordable Care Act (ACA) not being affordable and provided his son as an example - \$250 month premium with \$6,000 deductible was the best he could get.
 - Cost of health insurance is going up with it being worst it has ever been in two years.
 - He explained the reinsurance portion of the ACA requires every employer provide \$63.00 for every employee covered under health insurance program. This money was to be divided between insurance companies to off-set their losses for insuring those with pre-existing conditions. They paid that fee on behalf of all the Local Choice Groups. At the end of the two year period when that money is no longer available, the insurance companies will raise the rates for those who have health problems. If that goes up, everything else will go up. They anticipate and hope to hold the line.
 - Inflation and medical cost increasing by 2018-2022 will hit the “Cadillac Tax” area established by the ACA standards. Anyone with benefits that exceed that cost level, premium level, will have to pay a 40% surcharge for any costs over that level. He stated in good conscience could subject their groups to that and will not provide any opportunity to make a mistake and be forced to suffer that. They will probably change their infra structure to maintain compliance with ACA. The Key Advantage Expanded plan will probably go away in 2018 if not before.

Town Manager, G. Jones, asked about other plans that are available.

- Mr. Norman discussed Key Advantage 250, Key Advantage 500, Key Advantage 1000 in addition to the Key Advantage Expanded. Each one carry a \$250 deductible, \$500 deductible or \$1000 deductible and that is before hospitalizations and medical testing discovered. You have to satisfy per participant. It doesn’t mean you can’t go to your doctor, have lab tests, but the doctor visits will still be covered as a co-pay arrangement similar to what you have now. The large charges would be subject to the deductible before your benefits are paid. That tends to lower benefits, but also lowers cost. That is what they are forced to do to comply with ACA requirements.
- He explains four plans through ACA stating you would have a tough time finding anything that is close to the benefits we offer.
- Best analogy the Key Advantage 250 is similar to what he has a state employee. Suggests moving to the Key Advantage 250 plan next year. Due to ACA they will have to change all

programs a little. Next year, and this is not firm, will have to offer two plans one with expanded dental and one without with a rate decrease of \$12-\$20. It will only have basic dental, preventive and routine.

Town Manager, G. Jones, turned it over to Town Council for questions.

Council Member, R. Richards had the following questions with Mr. Norman's answers provided:

- **Stated you were self-insured-you're totally self-insured? No third party or administrator or anything else like that involved?** They do pay Anthem to process the claims for medical, mental illness and substance abuse. We have a contract with Antheims Route Express Scripts to handle their prescription drugs and use Delta Dental for our dental concepts. They are professional pay orders and the only thing they do for us is rent us their network and process claims under the terms of their contract. No insurance involved with them in any fashion.
- **You are not considering them a third party administrator?** They are third party administrator but only in the capacity of paying claims they are not providing reinsurance.
- **Do you have an appeals process for appealing claim decisions?** Yes, it is required by the federal and state regulations. The Key Advantage handbook is available on the web at www.thelocalchoice.virginia.gov under plan information.
- **Right now we have the Key Advantage 250 Expanded Plan?** No, it's the Key Advantage Expanded, the 250 is a different product. Key Advantage Expanded has a \$100 deductible and it only applies to out-patient testing and durable medical equipment. Everything else is under a co-pay provision.

Council Member, R. Cassell, asked cost for co-payment. Offers multiple plans and thinks it is \$25 **Council Member, R. Richards asked for doctor's office or hospital?** He believes hospital is \$250 or \$300 for admission. **Council Member, R. Richards for doctor visits?** \$20 or \$25, he is not sure which. He's the Program Manager and does not handle the day to day operations as in the past and would have to look it up. **Town Manager, G. Jones, informed Council we have the breakdown of those costs.** **Council Member, R. Cassell, explained we are looking at budget and asked if there is anything external can go with, something other than Local Choice is there anything out there private that is comparable that would save the town in our budget?** He hasn't seen it for a small group. Most private carriers have gone to a parallel of the metal plans that ACA required. You can't get benefits that are comparable to ours. You may be able to get something at a comparable cost. Since there is no profit motive in our program we collect only money needed to pay claims and maintain the reserves. There are no 10-20% profit margin built into the program. Generally, we will win head to head with any other situation, because there is no commission paid no overhead affiliated associated with profit. **Council Member, R. Richards, asked about the reinsurance program, she is familiar with that and pays \$20 out of every paycheck to reinsurance to the government.** We pay that for our members. It is \$63 per year per person for reinsurance that is affiliated with ACA. A typical self insured program there may be reinsurance charges that you have, but that is to provide an insurance policy against excessive loss. We have the Commonwealth of Virginia behind us. **Council Member, R. Richards asked if you have pre-existing condition clauses.** No ma'am, no pre-existing condition limitations what so ever and no waiting periods. The state did away with that about twelve years ago.

Mr. Walter Norman stated the concerns about budget. He informed Council they have no problem if you go out to bid next year and we generally win in those situations. With the groups that we have we retain about 98-99% of our business. He stated it is a good idea to, every once in a while, to go out and check the market to see if you can get anything better. Typically, you won't find it, but it makes us look better.

Council Member, R. Cassell, asked if this is through VML. Town Manager, G. Jones, stated yes through VML Local Choice Insurance. **Council Member, R. Richards, commented they want to ensure this is through VML.** Walter Norman stated it is not, it has nothing to do with VML. He stated the health insurance with VML, he believes, went away a few years ago. This is strictly through the state, we don't deal with brokers. We were asked by VML to look at the program and consider them ten years ago and we were unwilling to take the 2% administrative fee that they wanted to endorse the product. We have nobody marketing our program except the word of mouth we have out there. We do compensate Anthem as a marketing tool since it is their networks and their claim process that we use.

Council Member, R. Richards, asked if you use Anthem's payment methodology at all. Do you use Blue Cross Anthems payment methodology and policies or do you have you own? We have our own. We cover the exact same things that the state covers. All of our claims cover all of the same things. Co-payments and co-insurance may be different, but we cover the same things.

Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, asked the following questions. Do the teachers have their program? They have access to that. We have 32 teacher groups-school districts in the program. They make up about 50% of our term enrollment. **He asked if Scott County was one of them.** No, they are not. **How it affects those when they retire with the same type of policy.** Retiree coverage is available. You guys do not offer it. There is no coverage after retirement. We can provide it and about a 2% additional fee to provide that coverage. That is because we know early retirees incur claims at a lot higher rate than active employees. In order to blend the rates so the retirees pay the same premium as your active employees do we add 2% to everyone's costs. **If he knew who Scott County teachers are on.** No, I don't have access to any of that information other than their own quoting a HEPA violation. They have never asked us, to my knowledge, to look at their program as he recalled. He did have Scott County at one point, ten years ago. They left us at that point and I have not heard back from them since. We do not go out looking for business, groups come to us. **He asked how long the Town of Gate City was with them.** They go back to at least 1991, you were one of our first and probably since inception.

Mr. Walter Norman informed Council should they have any further questions to write them down and give them to Greg. Greg has my office number and would be happy to talk to Council at anytime.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Council Meeting of August 12, 2014 as presented?**

- **Motion made to approve minutes of August 12, 2014.**

- Motion by: Vice Mayor, A. Roberts 2nd by: Council Member, W.W. Ross, Jr.

- VOTE: Yeas, 5
 - Nays, 0
 - 4

Absent, 0
Abstain, 0

VIII. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Motion made for approval for payment of bills for August, 2014.

Motion by: Council Member, R. Richards 2nd by: Vice Mayor, A. Roberts

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0
Absent, 0
Abstain, 0

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – Judy Guinn, Office Manager, Town of Gate City, discussed:

- Thanked Council for taking the PTO item off the agenda.
- Presenting items from the employee point of view for when the PTO item is brought up in the future or during closed session.
- Town/government jobs different than most jobs, we have 2,000+ bosses and if a mistake is made it will be heard by you from one of the 2,000+ bosses.
- Town has 20 some employees who are asked to do a lot of things.
- Council's contact is mostly with the office staff, not the other employees and she spoke for them.
- **Water Department** operates 24 hours a day, provided award-winning water and they work so much they have no life outside of work.
- Their inability to take time off because they care and Council's reward for their caring is to take that time away.
- **Public Works** willingness to do anything that is asked of them to do, without complaints.
- Work in all kinds of weather to pick up trash, brush, unfreeze water lines, read meters, pick up dead animals or that one piece of paper that was in the bottom of a trash can.
- She started work in 2009, the same time Accufund was implemented as the new software and explained how the meters and addresses were not in the system well and it required the crew to go back out and read the meters again. Now re-reads are minimal because of brush or cars sitting on the meter.
- The change out with the new water meters went smoothly and would not have been possible without Stoney and Mark. Most didn't know it happened. In all her years as a computer programmer she never saw any kind of conversion go that smoothly.
- **Police Department** and her limited point of view is this is the best the department has been. From outside looking in, the officers are enjoying their jobs. Scott is at the office all the time and it would be bad to not give him something to look forward to in the way of extra time off in a few years without having to wait 15 years.
- **Office Staff** –Explained how this Council missed the prior staff problems when audits were not done timely and many documents were missing
- The start up of the software system, Accufund, may have been smoother had she and Chris been there when it started
- The multiple turn-over of previous employees, the current stability of the office with the staff getting along well, the office being organized, documents being scanned and backed up.
- How she maintained the website for years, without extra pay, saving the Town money and asked if they know how much a webpage designer charges.

- The Town being without a Town Manager for a lot of the time and the office staff, with the exception of signatures, doing that for the acting Town Manager.
- Explained her prior position as computer programmer, getting burned out and how she was glad she got this job with the Town.
- Questioned what the prior employees did to residents to be cussed out at least three times a day.
- Current office staff provides good customer service and it is a rarity to get cussed out.
- Will be here five years in October, looked forward to the extra week off to spend with grandkids, the need to have more of a break and something to look forward to.
- For all who work here, you would not be saying thank you for a wonderful job or you make us look good, but you would be saying you don't care what happens to their life, this is the bottom line. Employees need to have something to look forward to every five years and not have to wait 15 years.
- She asked Council to not take our time off away from us, think of us as people, not numbers in the budget and to look to make cuts elsewhere in the budget. Your employees are your most valuable asset.
- Thanked Council for listening to her.

Kathy Riley-Town Clerk discussed:

- Provided each Council Member a package of information containing, Scott County Vacation/Sick Leave and PTO accrual information, newspaper articles pertaining to receipt of Eastman bonus checks and list of state paid holidays that state and county employees adhere to as a guideline if you do a workshop.
- Thanked Council for the Employee Appreciation Lunch and thanked Mayor, Frances Perry, for her speech regarding her appreciation of the Town employees.
- Judy's comments enforced the employees are team players and their wanting to do what is best for the town.
- Knows the PTO proposal was removed from the agenda, but wanted to provide her opinion should it be addressed during closed session.
- How PTO hours are accrued, questioned the fairness of the proposal presented of not only extending the timeframe between years of service to increase the ability to earn additional PTO, but it decreased what you would earn.
- Currently receives 4.62 hours PTO each pay period. On June 14, 2015 she would have five years of service and would receive an additional 1.53 hours 6.15 hours each pay period for 39.78 for the year. The PTO proposal showed that effective July 1, 2015 she would not earn 6.15 hours each pay period, but drop to 3.08 hours each pay period, losing 3.07 hours a total of 79.82 hours and not be eligible to earn 4.62 hours of PTO until 15 years of service.
- Felt this reduction is based on the accumulated hours of the employees at the Water Plant.
- How the Water Plant runs 24 hours a day-7 days a week and should be manned with a licensed Water Operator. Stated in November, 2011, and February, 2012, two licensed operators left, leaving two licensed Water Operators to cover the 24/7 operation. Water Operator Trainees were hired but Loretta Cruby, as Chief Operator, is in jeopardy of losing her license and can be fined if the operation of the plant is not manned with a licensed Water Operator. This situation makes it impossible for the two licensed Water Operators to take their accumulated vacation and provide proper coverage of the plant.
- The Scott County leave package for VRS Plan 1 and 2 and VRS Hybrid employees explaining the two plans kept separate regarding accrual of leave, the amount of allowable carry-over of

leave for the new calendar year under each plan and payment of personal leave upon separation under the VRS Hybrid plan.

- Enjoys working with the staff at Town Hall, we all get along with no friction.
- Reasons to take vacations relieves stress, improves your mental well being, improves your physical health, strengthens family ties and to just enjoy life.
- Checked with past and current Eastman employees, AEP employees and with the Scott County policy, they were not cutting back on current accrual practices, but the amount of hours you could carry over at the beginning of the year.
- Asked Council to review the proposal presented by the Personnel Committee and make the decision to reject it.
- Thanked Council for the opportunity to speak to them tonight regarding this matter.

Council Member, R. Richards, asked the question regarding the proposal that is being referred to. It is not being brought up on the meeting tonight, right (Council Member, W. Salyers interjected yes) so the proposal is not even really a proposal? We don't have a proposal yet, (Council Member, W. Salyers interjected yes) so we are kind of jumping the gun. She just wanted to make that clear. Mayor Perry stated that both speakers made that clear before they started that it was something had been... Council Member, R. Richards, commented, oh they did? Mayor Perry stated they both made that clear before they started talking and commented to pay attention. Council Member, R. Richards, responded she was paying attention and did not appreciate that comment and am not going to take that. Council Member, R. Richards, requested on the record. Mayor Perry apologized, on the record, but wanted to say both speakers made that clear at the beginning of their speech. Council Member, R. Richards, commented she had the right to make it clear too.

Mayor Perry closed the public comment session at 7:20 P.M. and opened the consent agenda session.

X. COMMUNICATIONS - None

XI. REPORTS

A. Engineer's Status Report - None

B. Treasurer's Report – Council Member, R. Cassell, had a question and stated Chris could not answer it because he said Greg put the budget together. Questioned income versus expenditures regarding a \$92,000 difference and asked if we spent \$92,000 more than we took in? He stated Chris wasn't sure if some of the grant funding/income wasn't shown. Stated it was at the end where you showed income versus expenditures-referencing page 10. It showed expenditures of \$215,073. Town Manager, G. Jones, explained you will find that in the summer months because the general fund during the summer months are not revenue bearing months for us. We only collect our revenue during certain parts of the year. Council Member, R. Cassell, asked if we have enough in reserve to cover that, we are okay. Town Manager, G. Jones, responded yes and will look at it in further detail.

C. Codification Committee/Property Maintenance – Town Attorney, M. Brooks, informed Council we are progressing through court with our 21 day period is just about up. A couple of

the property owners are working to fix the problem. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, commented on the property on Woodland Street, with Property Maintenance Office, K. Riley, providing additional information regarding the property, along with the status of two properties on Highland Street. Council Member, R. Cassell, asked Town Manager if he had spoke to Mr. Roberts regarding the demolition. Town Manager, G. Jones, informed him he spoke on the phone to try to work out a date, but has not received a return call and will make a note to call him.

- D. Police Department Report** – Council Member, R. Cassell, commented the officers are working the school zones and it is a big help. Mayor Perry commented how she likes the detail report. Town Attorney, M. Brooks, commented on the standing room only at our last court date. Council Member, R. Cassell, informed Council of how well Town Attorney, M. Brooks, was in court with having the opportunity to see her in action.
- E. Council Reports** – Council Member, R. Cassell, wanted to discuss the vacation subject realizing it will be brought back up before Council. He informed Council of Mayor Perry and him being the only one here to attest what the office used to be. He and Frances had been here for at least ten years and other than when Paula, Sherry and Mary Thomas were here, we have not had a more professionally run office since then. I agree with the vacation accumulation, but morally you can't just sit here and take stuff from people who have worked and expect it. He asked that they look at it and explained that all the departments are as good as they have ever had and to take that into consideration. He stated we are not Eastman, not AEP and he can make a choice. He stated with what was proposed he couldn't do that and go home and sleep. So he asked, realizing the accumulation needs to be looked at but don't take these people's benefits that they have worked for and he feels they have deserved. He thinks there is a happy medium, but in looking at before is not it. He asked they take that into consideration. He stated if we start losing people we will be right back like we were before with the back biting and one can't get along with the other. One year eight people were fired with most due to the inability to get along, they hated to come to work, hated to deal with the people on the phone and as Judy said, we don't have that anymore. Past employees wouldn't take a drive through payment stating it wasn't their job, past managers sat in their office and let them line up and would not take a water bill, saying it's not my job. He stated when he come in to the office, if phone rings and one is on the phone the other one answers it, if one is on the phone and someone comes to the drive through, the other one gets it and that includes Chris. He informed Council he is not in the office as much as before, but he is in quite a bit and he asks that they consider that.

Council Member, R. Richards, had no council report.

Council Member, W. Salyers, thanked Kathy and Judy for their comments but stated what was on that proposal is not what came out of our Committee. He just wanted them to know that. (Council Member, R. Richards, interjected with a thank you). He stated that is why it was taken off the agenda and that is why it is not being presented. We don't want to take the benefits away from any employee. We want to do what is right for the employees. That was misunderstood. So we just want you to know that it is something that will be taken into account and will be worked on. Council Member, R. Richards, stated that is why she asked and made the comment about the proposed, whatever you were looking at, is not what was proposed.

Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., suggested using this in a work session to get all the details. Council Member, R. Cassell, agreed stating it was a good idea instead of having it thrown at us like it was before. He asked if we have a work session. Mayor Perry stated that was one of the things that was discussed and to get a convenient time for a work session.

Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, expressed his concern regarding the trailer up front that is supposed to be the snow shack. They have a business license, but they haven't done anything with it. It looks like it is just a place to park the trailer and feels we need a policy in place versus giving out a business license for anything. He mentions another complaint he has received regarding the Vapor business with "Kick Ass" Vapors on his van. He does not feel it is conducive to the town's appearance of what he wants and what the residents of the town wants. Feels we need a system in place to investigate a business license to say yes or no. Town Attorney, M. Brooks, commented unless they are doing something illegal and it is permissible per zones you can't say no. He discussed their committee looking into the Main Street program right now with the program having a lot of this in place right now where you cannot put anything in a building, stating it is a historical site anyways. Council Members further discussed the Vapor business, snow cone business and business license process and procedures.

- F. Economic Development Committee** – Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, discussed the coming events and addressed the progress of the demolition of Daugherty Brother's and his hope that they rebuild. Mayor Perry stated she felt the discussion of events should be done under the events committee. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, stated they have combined the meeting of both committees.
- G. Historical Committee** – Council Member, R. Richards stated not much movement.
- H. Manager** – Town Manager, G. Jones, went over his report as presented in the Town Council packet. He addressed issues regarding the McDonald's storm water and DEQ regulations and requirements.
- I. Park Committee** – Did not meet. Council Member, W.W. Ross, Jr., questioned about the fire at the park. Town Manager, G. Jones, stated it was the paper towel holder in the bathroom.
- J. Planning Commission** – Council Member, R. Cassell, stated Greg covered it in his report and they are working on the Comprehensive Plan that needs to be finished by the end of this year. Other than this, don't have a lot going on right now.
- K. Public Works** – Council member, R. Cassell, informed Council he asked Judy about the number of complaints of trash being left in cans. He said Judy said a lot of it was the part-timers and it happening to him. They are not dumping everything out and they have to go back out. Town Manager, G. Jones, stated he will talk to Stoney about this. Council Member, R. Richards, thought the trash had to be in bags and is not supposed to be picked it up if it is not in a bag. Council Member, R. Richards, commented of a lot of people who are delinquent on their water bills. Mayor Perry commented where trash is placed out the night before and dogs/cats have torn it up. It is not the crew's responsibility to pick it up. Council Member, R. Cassell, addressed the ordinance where it states lids have to be on your can. Council Member, W. Salyers, commented the lids are not being replaced when they are done with it. He said his lid is never on his trash can. Actually, they roll over the hill, which is no big deal to him.

Mayor Perry asked Town Manager have Stoney address it with the guys on the back of the truck.

- L. Sanitation Authority** – Council Member, R. Cassell, stated nothing is new and they now have a policy to go by. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, asked if they met the new director. Council Member, R. Cassell, stated they did meet with him and Greg has requested some information from him regarding our finances but has not received it yet. Greg has been attending their meetings. We would like to sit down with their board and our attorney and look at the contract and charges. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, asked if the director’s position is an appointment position. Town Attorney, M. Brooks, stated he is appointed by the PSA board.
- M. Street Commission** – Council Member, R. Cassell, stated he discussed with Stoney the decorative lights on Jackson Street and considering going with photo-cell instead of timers. Stated there are pros and cons in going with photo cells with staying on longer and use a little more electricity, but the bulbs have been switched to fluorescent and they don’t use much energy. He discussed the problems with using timers, lights at the dance studio doesn’t come on at the same time, people walking in early mornings, the need to leave lights on longer for safety reasons and it is darker out there than you may think. Town Manager, G. Jones, agreed there are problems in using timers, especially if the lights go out. Council Member, R. Cassell, asked Council to consider going with the photo-cells. Council Members had further discussion regarding use and expense of the lights. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, is still concerned about the crosswalks in town and the signs for vehicles to stop for pedestrians has not improved for pedestrian safety. Council Member, W.W. Ross, Jr., discussed an increased problem if trees are placed back on Jackson will increase the obscurity of turning onto Jackson Street, handrail status and the rain situation on Chestnut Street. Town Manager, G. Jones, responded the current project has to be finished before they can get to the handrails and has not received a response from VDOT regarding Chestnut Street. Mayor Perry suggested residents to contact VDOT, directly, for better response.
- N. Safety Committee** – No comment.
- N. Water Plant** – Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., questioned if the new meters are plastic or metal and possibility of freezing. Town Manager, G. Jones, explained the changes of materials for health reasons why they are going with plastic, they have no moving parts and it is all done through frequency. There is a 20 year life expectancy with a guarantee with 99% accuracy for about 20 years and they are prorated after about 12 or 13 years.
- O. Events Committee** – Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, informed Council Grillin’ at the Gate is coming up and the need for volunteers. Discussed other events they are considering, trunk or treat for Halloween, the open house again, taking advantage of the Crooked Road and looking at hooking up with Main Street program. Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., asked if the date that the Grillin’ at the Gate event was changed to will stay the same for next year or can they go back to the original date. Town Manager, G. Jones, stated nothing is in stone, explaining reason for the change was due to the competition with another event. They are still learning and it may change again next year. Council Member, W. Salyers, asked if there are many who are participating. Town Manager, G. Jones, stated it will be like last year, all coming in at the last minute. It’s a little slow right now with about 4-5 arts and craft vendors with one BBQ team for competition. It’s kind of scary that, but that is the way it works. Mayor Perry stated Council needs to set a time, they need to stick with that time, it needs to be the same time

every year so people will know how to plan and we need to realize we are Gate City and we reach certain cliental. She asked if they realized the date that it had been changed to she will be out of town with the Mayor's Conference. Mayor Perry commented there is one point that needs to be done in front of the Council. Before anything is set, it needs to come before the whole Council and it needs to be put down. If the calendar had been looked at, it would have been seen that the Mayor's Conference and VML Conference is the same weekend. That should have been considered. Everyone looks at their calendar and everyone is in on the changes. The Council needs to be in on changes that are made. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, stated if they wait on the Council about everything that we do it is another month before you can do anything. Mayor Perry stated we can set a date for next year and it won't be a month. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, stated we had a date, but was thrown a curve. Mayor Perry stated we let someone convince us that it was going to hurt us. We don't need to plan against what someone else has planned, we need to plan our plans and those who want to come to us will come to us. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, stated he will consider that. Council Member, R. Cassell, agreed with the Mayor that it is a committee (Events), it is not an authority and thinks the Council should have a say about the money that is being spent in this town and have some input in it. Not one or two people deciding everything for this town and going on record to say and someone who doesn't even live in this town or this county. He stated if anybody has a say it should be this board that have stock in this town. He admires what you are doing, but he feels it is getting out of hand and the Council is being left out. That is why a lot of this is

happening. We get complaints and we don't know what is going on. Mayor Perry, stated she gets questions and she doesn't know what is going on and that doesn't look good at all.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Request from 911 to place a speed bump on Hemlock Drive** – This item was tabled to the October Council Meeting.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- **VDOT request for railroad crossing upgrade on Horton Street** – Town Manager, G. Jones, informed Council of an email received from VDOT regarding placement of a railroad gate at Horton Street and their request for the town to pay a portion of the maintenance cost of \$2,000 per year. Council discussed how many residents this involved, reason for request, one accident in five years, town owns the road versus VDOT, when do they need to know, if it saves a life and the need for more clarification. This item was tabled to the October Council Meeting.
- **Street repairs** – Town Manager, G. Jones, discussed the list that was put together through the capital improvements plan as part of the budget. Discussed doing Eva Street which is in need of repairs for 2015. Mr. Ross was going to compile his list to get a vote on it so it can move forward. Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., discussed his desire to get Back Street partly paved, part of Chestnut, Library Street and the street out west, Eva Street. Mayor Perry asked Town Manager if he wants Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., to submit a list. Town Manager, G. Jones, stated he just needs to know where to go with it. Mayor Perry suggested to Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., it being better if he submits a list to the Town Manager

can present it to Council for vote. Council Member, R. Cassell, informed Council of him and Greg driving around and explained different streets and their condition. He stated the need for Eva Street to be done. Mayor Perry asked do we do one or all. Council Member, R. Cassell, stated it was a guess regarding the cost and it may be cheaper. States we do a little work on Back Street. Mayor Perry asked if the list needs to be prioritized, start at the top and go until the money runs out. Town Manager, G. Jones, states there is more work to do and item was tabled to the October Council Meeting.

- **Paid Holiday Policy** – This item was tabled to be discussed at a Workshop Session.
- **Employee Holiday Bonus** – This item was tabled to be discussed at a Workshop Session.

Council Member had further discussion regarding an agreeable date for the Workshop Session with the following motion being made:

Motion made to schedule a workshop on September 30, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss personnel and budget issues.

Motion by: Vice Mayor, A. Roberts 2nd by: Council Member, R. Cassell

VOTE: Yeas,	5
Nays,	0
Abstain,	0
Absent,	0

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – NEW BUSINESS - None

Mayor Perry closed the public comment session for new business at 8:45 P.M. and opened the consent agenda session.

XV. CLOSED SESSION

Motion made for Council to enter into closed session to discuss

Motion by: Vice Mayor, A. Roberts 2nd by: Council Member, W. Salyers

VOTE: Yeas,	5
Nays,	0
Absent,	0
Abstain,	0

Mayor Perry opened the closed session at 8:47 P.M.

XVI. RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION

Council returned from closed session at 10:36 P.M.

Motion made for Council to return from closed session.

Motion by: Vice Mayor, A. Roberts 2nd by: Council Member, R. Cassell

VOTE: Yeas,	5
Nays,	0
Absent,	0
Abstain,	0

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING – Read by: Town Attorney, M. Brooks

WHEREAS, the Gate City Town Council has convened a Closed Meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-7312 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the Town Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gate City Town Council hereby certifies that to the best of each member’s knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirement by Virginia law were discussed in closed meeting to which this certification applies and (2) only such business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Gate City Town Council.

VOTE:	Yeas,	6
	Nays,	0
	Absent,	0
	Abstain,	0

XVII. MOTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION: No motions coming out of closed session.

XVIII. ADJOURN

*Mayor Perry adjourned the meeting at 10:37 P.M., until the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting on October 14, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

Frances Perry – Mayor

Kathy Riley – Town Clerk

Proclamation

Honoring *Mr. Chuck Newton*

WHEREAS, Mr. Chuck Newton, a beloved community member and the original “Voice of the Blue Devils”; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newton passed away on June 16, 2014 in his 78th year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newton proudly served his country by joining the United States Army shortly after High School; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newton utilized his talent, his voice, by working with several radio stations until his retirement in 1986; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newton served as President of the Gate City Little League during the 1980’s; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newton was a member of the Virginia National Guard where he served as Public Affairs Officer, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newton was the Gate City High Football Game play-by-play announcer for many years and will forever be known as the “Voice of the Blue Devils”, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newton was the Gate City Sergeant-at-Arms, a position he proudly served until his death; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the Gate City Town Council wish to honor this long-time resident who gave so selflessly to the Town of Gate City, his family, and its residents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Newton’s personal commitment to the Town of Gate City and its citizens has left a lasting legacy; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gate City Town Council mourn the passing of Mr. Newton and hereby extend their sympathy, on behalf of the people of the Town of Gate City, to his beloved family and many, many friends; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Gate City Town Council hereby present this proclamation as an expression of the respect in which his memory is held by the Gate City Town Council and that a copy of this proclamation will forever be made a part of the Permanent Records of the Town of Gate City.

Adopted this the 9th day of September 2014



Frances Perry

Frances Perry, Mayor, Town of Gate City

Kathy Riley

Attest: Kathy Riley, Town Clerk