



GATE CITY TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
March 08, 2016
156 E. JACKSON ST.
6:30 PM

I. COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:40 P.M. BY: Mayor - Frances Perry

II. ROLL CALL – Town Clerk – Amanda McKenna

PRESENT: ABSENT:

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

Others present: Cody McElroy

III. INVOCATION

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Dustin Folk

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made to approve the agenda with changes to add Special Use and Exception Permit under New Business.

Motion by: Council Member, Roger Cassell 2nd by: Council Member, Walter Salyers

VOTE:	Yeas,	4
	Nays,	
	Absent,	1
	Abstain,	

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

- **Proclamation- Local Government Education Week**
- **Officer of the Month- Dustin Folk**

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• **Council Meeting on February 09, 2016 as presented?**

Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that he would like it added that Michele Brooks had stated that she had reviewed other cities and towns vehicle use policies in the creation of the policy that she presented as a starting point for council review. He further stated that he would like to add that he stated that he spoke with Michele Brooks in 2015 about this issue per the recording. Mayor, Frances Perry explained that Mr. Ross needed to obtain a copy of the recording and then sit down with Town Clerk, Amanda McKenna listen to the recording again and then add the appropriate phrases to the written minutes, then resubmit the minutes to the Council for approval at the next meeting.

VIII. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Motion made for approval for payment of bills for February, 2016.

Motion by: Council Member, Robin Richards 2nd by: Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays,
Absent, 1
Abstain,

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT – No Public to comment.

Mayor Perry closed the public comment session at 6:58 P.M. and opened the consent agenda session.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

XI. REPORTS

A. **Engineer’s Status Report-** Read Report

B. **Manager’s Report-** Read Report

C. **Treasurer’s Report** – No questions.

D. **Codification Committee/Property Maintenance** – Town Attorney, Michele Brooks stated that she had some things in the pipeline and waiting for service on one property.

E. **Police Department Report** – Read Report

F. **Council Reports** – Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr., stated that he still had people unable to locate his picture from the Roanoke trip on the website. He stated that he mentioned this in Nov./Dec to have these pictures put on the website and he doesn’t know what is taking so long to get the pictures posted on there. He believes that when people complain about their water bills being so high that at least they could be directed to the Town Website to see the awards that the Town receives on the best drinking water. Town Manager, Greg Jones stated that it was in the works as he was trying to obtain all of the certificates from years past. Town Attorney, Michele Brooks stated that the picture is there she just pulled it up on her tablet under the Water

Department Link. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated ok. He further stated that he was pretty sure that the Council had voted to have the packets ready by Wednesday, but now we have a lot of information to review and have been getting packets on Fridays. He would like to go back to having packets by Wednesdays.

G. Economic Development Committee – Gate City Frontier will be taking care of events.

H. Historical Committee- Town Attorney, Michele Brooks stated that the documents for the cemetery are ready for signatures, but the Estil Cemetery Association would like the press to be notified of the signing.

I. Park Committee – Could not meet due to not enough for quorum.

J. Planning Commission- Council Member, Roger Cassell and Council Member, Walter Salyers stated that they have had many people ask about the black fence that was installed thinking that it was a dog park. They stated that it was not a bad idea and that maybe the Town should start looking at that being something the Town could have in the future.

K. Public Works

L. Sanitation Authority- Council Member, Roger Cassell stated that at their last meeting they had voted to map the sewer lines since the old maps were approximately 30 years old.

M. Street Commission- Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that there are little lights on the Town light poles down Jackson St. that need to be replaced. He would also like to obtain a “BUMP” sign near Chestnut St because people drag the bottoms of their cars through that area. Town Manager, Greg Jones stated that he would check into that for him.

N. Safety Committee- Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that he thinks the Council should actually take a look at getting one of the systems and alert notifications that he and Town Manager, Greg Jones had looked at. He believes they will truly be beneficial.

O. Water Plant - Town Manager, Greg Jones stated that it is still showing a 40% loss, but assured the Council that we would find it. Council Member, Roger Cassell suggested that the Town get an estimate from the Fire Department.

P. Events Committee – Council Member, Roger Cassell stated that he thought it was his duty to fill the Council in. He stated that he didn't want to step on any toes, but that he believes Town Manager, Greg Jones had lost control of the Gate City Frontier. They are planning to change the whole scope of Grillin' at the Gate. It is possible that it will have a name change and have no more BBQ competitions. He further stated that Rebecca Wagers has taken over everything and makes all of the decisions without consideration for other ideas. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. questioned the ideas that had been discussed. Council Member, Roger Cassell stated that they had discussed car shows. No BBQ competitions. He stated that they still want food vendors to be there, but no competition. Then with the car shows, they know car shows bring people, but they want to do 5 car shows. There were ideas presented such as antiques tractors, truck shows, and motorcycles, but we can't seem to get off the Car show issue. However, he was able to get the ball rolling on some professional fireworks. So that is something that may happen this year.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Vehicle Use Policy**

Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. questioned if we were going to have to approve one another to go on trips? Council Member, Robin Richards stated that she thinks that is a good idea, that way not the same people go all of the time. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that the old policy has been working all of these years and he doesn't understand why it needs to change. He has further stated that he has started developing relationships with the people who attend these events. He stated that he has learned that the VML attorneys said that all of the Council members should not ride in the same vehicle because there is a possibility that they could all die. He questioned whether or not the "new" policy covered the disability act? What if the person is required to use their special vehicle? They don't get paid because they cannot ride in the Town vehicle. Council Member, Roger Cassell stated that he would like the wording to include committee members, even though it is not very often that they would need to use it. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked if the Town was going to provide the disabled with a vehicle. Town Attorney, Michele Brooks stated that this was just a starting point and that the Council could email her with any changes that they would like to see and she would get it put into the next copy she presents to them. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. questioned under the current policy who has the authority to approve or deny mileage? Mayor, Frances Perry stated that the Town Manager, Greg Jones did. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that the Town Manager does not have that authority.

Motion made to table until April meeting.

Motion by: Council Member, Robin Richards 2nd by: Council Member, Roger Cassell

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays,
Absent, 1
Abstain,

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- **Special Use Exception Request. Approval to locate a single wide trailer in a R-2 Zoning area.**

Motion made to approve the Special Exception.

Motion by: Council Member, Roger Cassell 2nd by: Council Member, Walter Salyers

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays,
Absent, 1
Abstain,

- **WTP Emergency Pump Replacement Approval.**

Motion made to accept the pump replacement.

Motion by: Council Member, Roger Cassell 2nd by: Council Member, Walter Salyers

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays,
Absent, 1
Abstain,

Motion made to approve and accept Task Order #5.

Motion by: Council Member, Roger Cassell 2nd by: Council Member, Walter Salyers

VOTE: Yeas, 3

Nays,
Absent, 1
Abstain, 1- Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

- **WTP Clearwell cleaning and inspection approval.**

Motion made to approve the cleaning and inspection.

Motion by: Council Member, Roger Cassell 2nd by: Council Member, Walter Salyers

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays,
Absent, 1
Abstain,

- **VDH Funding Application Authorization & Resolution Approvals.**

Motion made to approve the resolution for \$1,000,000.

Motion by: Council Member, Roger Cassell 2nd by: Council Member, Robin Richards

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays,
Absent, 1
Abstain,

Motion made to approve the resolution for \$500,000.

Motion by: Council Member, Roger Cassell 2nd by: Council Member, Robin Richards

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays,
Absent, 1
Abstain,

- **Revision of FY-2016 Budget.**

Town Manager, Greg Jones stated that this was only to review where we are and to ensure that we are still are target. Some notable changes were made to go ahead and fill the 5th Police Officer position to attempt to get the Full Time officers a little bit of relief. It is possible that there could be pay increases and money set aside for new vehicles in the 2016/2017 budget year. However, it was decided by the Budget Committee that this would be more beneficial to the department at this time. Police Chief, Scott Fink thought that it would be a good idea to go ahead and budget money aside for the Town to have a separate vehicle to drive around instead of using the Police SUV. He stated that he didn't care who drove it, but that he was concerned about safety because around the nation officers are being shot just for being in their police cars. He stated that he was concerned about the safety of anyone driving that vehicle and that they should arm themselves if they have to drive it.

Motion made to accept the revised FY-2016 budget.

Motion by: Council Member, Robin Richards 2nd by: Council Member, Roger Cassell

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays,
Absent, 1
Abstain,

- **Procure an electrical contractor for the East Jackson Sidewalk Project.**

Motion made to hire a contractor for the East Jackson Sidewalk Project.

Motion by: Council Member, Roger Cassell 2nd by: Council Member, Walter Salyers

VOTE: Yeas, 4

Nays,
Absent, 1
Abstain,

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT – NEW BUSINESS

XV. CLOSED SESSION

**Motion made for Council to enter into closed session to discuss 1.) Legal Issues
2.) Personnel Issues**

Motion by: Council Member, Walter Salyers 2nd by: Council Member, Roger Cassell

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays,
Absent, 1
Abstain,

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

XVI. RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION

Council returned from closed session at 9:32 P.M.

Motion made for Council to return from closed session.

Motion by: Council Member, Robin Richards 2nd by: Council Member, Roger Cassell

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays,
Absent, 1
Abstain,

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING – Read by: Michele 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.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays,
Absent, 1
Abstain,

XVII. MOTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION: None

Council returned from closed session at 9:32 P.M.

Council Member, Walter Salyers made a motion to pay Council Member, Wallace W. Ross Jr. for mileage for his last trip to Richmond, then move forward. 2nd by: Council Member, Roger Cassell

VOTE: Yeas, 3
 Nays,
 Absent, 1
 Abstain, 1- Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

XVIII. ADJOURN

Motion made to adjourn.

Motion by: Council Member, Roger Cassell 2nd by: Council Member, Robin Richards

VOTE: Yeas, 4
 Nays,
 Absent, 1
 Abstain,

*Mayor Perry adjourned the meeting at 9:35 P.M., until the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting on April 12, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

Frances Perry – Mayor

Amanda McKenna – Town Clerk