



GATE CITY TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

August 10, 2021

156 East Jackson St., Gate City, VA 24251

6:30 PM

I. PUBLIC HEARING MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:46 P.M. BY: Mayor – Bob Richards

II. ROLL CALL – Town Clerk – Lydia Morales

	PRESENT:	ABSENT:
Mayor, Bob Richards	X	
Vice Mayor, Robin Richards	X	
Council Member, Allan “Cotton” Roberts	X	
Council Member, Roger Cassell		X
Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr.	X	
Council Member, Tyler Kilgore	X	
Town Manager, Greg Jones	X	
Town Attorney, Michele Brooks	X	

Others present: Jason Snapp, Mattern & Craig; Michael Vaughn, Pastor at Gate City United Methodist Church; Jim Addington; Gabriel Edmunds, Scott County Virginia Star; Chris Kimbler and wife

III. NEW BUSINESS

- **CIGARETTE TAX**

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Addington stated that the state and federal tax combined on a carton of cigarettes is \$16, with state being \$6 and federal \$10. Mr. Addington stated that we are in the position of being at a higher cost than Tennessee. Mr. Addington stated that consumers will be faced with either paying the higher tax or driving across the river bridge into Tennessee to make their purchases. Mr. Addington stated that 22% of American adults smoke and there is no one to defend them. Mr. Addington stated that he wants to defend his business as well as the smokers. Mr. Addington stated that the power of taxation is the power to destroy. Mr. Addington asked how many new businesses have moved to Gate City in the last three years? Town Manager Jones stated that there have been several new businesses. Council Member Roberts stated that Wildwood on Jackson and Southern Collective are new businesses in town. Mr. Addington stated that taxes prevent new businesses from moving in. Mr. Addington stated that you can't buy a men's suit in Gate City, VA, a lady can't buy a dress, you can't buy a stick of furniture, you can't buy a new or used automobile. Mr. Addington stated that these are big ticket items and we don't have them.

V. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSSES AT 6:50 P.M.

Bob Richards – Mayor

Town Clerk – Lydia Morales