

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Gate City Town Council Minutes
February 14, 2023
156 E. Jackson St., Gate City, VA
6:30 PM

I. COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM BY: Mayor – Bob Richards

II. ROLL CALL – Town Clerk – Lora Matthews

	PRESENT:	ABSENT:
Mayor, Bob Richards	X	
Vice-Mayor, Tyler Kilgore	X	
Council Member, Allan “Cotton” Roberts	X	
Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr.	X	
Council Member, Pat Elliott	X	
Council Member, Dexter Harmon	X	
Town Manager, Greg Jones	X	
Town Attorney, Michele Brooks	X	

Others present: Jason Snapp (Mattern & Craig), Gabe Edmunds (VA Star), Bill Gilliam, Mike Carrico, Bobby Clark, Tammy Tiller, Gary Tiller, Sam Dockery, Cindy Dockery, Danny Grizzle, Codie Nelson, Donna Mitchell, Logan Boyd, Jim Addington

III. INVOCATION – Danny Grizzle, Gate City United Pentecostal Church

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chief Justin Miller

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made to approve the February 14, 2023 agenda as presented.

Motion by: Allan Roberts 2nd by: Pat Elliott

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

Motion carried

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

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of January 10, 2023, Town Council Minutes

Motion made to approve minutes as presented.

Motion by: Allan Roberts 2nd by: Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

Motion carried

VIII. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

- **Motion made for approval for payment of bills for January 2023 as presented.**

Motion by: Tyler Kilgore 2nd by: Allan Roberts

VOTE: Aye: 5

 Nay:

 Absent:

 Abstain: Motion carried

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (Will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker.)

Bill Gilliam, 409 Manville Road: Thank you sir. I have two small questions that I'd like to ask. What is our food tax used for, that's collected here in Gate City? And what are the property taxes used for? (Town Manager Greg Jones: I can probably answer that. Those are earmarked for our general fund and they handle your Police Department, your insurance, Town Hall Administrative. There's various different types of programs under general fund. I can give you the exact specifics if you would like a copy of our budget.) If you don't mind. (Town Manager Greg Jones: Sure. Do you want me to send it by email? Would you like to come by and pick it up?) I don't have email, but my wife does. But you can mail it to me. 409 Manville Road. (Town Manager Greg Jones: 409 Manville Road?) Yes sir. (Town Manager Greg Jones: Alright. We'll have it out to you tomorrow.) That'd be fine. (Council Member Allan Roberts: We did say, Greg, a while back that we would allocate a certain amount of food tax toward the events.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: That was business license.) (Council Member Allan Roberts: That was business license? Oh sorry. I thought it was food tax. My bad. There's a business license too.) Lots of things I don't know anything about. I just thought I'd ask these two questions. I figured Wallace would know. (Council Member Pat Elliott: If you don't think you know, you ought to be sitting in our seats.) That's the reason I don't want it. I've lived here all my life. And property taxes are the same thing? Both of them the same thing? (Town Manager Greg Jones: Yes, they're all under the general fund. Sure. But I'll have that out to you tomorrow.) Thank you that's all I need.

Michael Carrico: I'm here on behalf of my client, Bobby Clark. We have been working on trying... (Council Member Allan Roberts: Bobby Clark?) Yes, Bobby Clark. We have a problem on Anderson Street. I've talked to the Town Manager about it a couple times, maybe 2 or 3 times. I don't know if I've spoken to you about it Michele. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: I don't think so.) I don't think I have. We have a business that's actually being, going on next door to my client's home. It's a car repair business. They bring cars in and they replace engines in them, pull the engines. They essentially do auto repair on Anderson Street. Anderson Street is, I believe, single-family residential. Not zoned for businesses. Mr. Clark is trying to sell his property up there and is being adversely affected by the fact that the town is allowing a business to be conducted there. So I just ask that if you have a committee Mr. Mayor, have that committee look into that. (Town Manager Greg Jones: I have looked into it. I haven't seen evidence of a business being there at all. In fact, when I asked you about it, I asked if you had specific evidence.) All you've got to do look is at the cars that are being brought in and brought out and the engines pulled. (Town Manager Greg Jones: That doesn't mean it's a business.) Maybe we have different interpretations of what a business is. (Town Manager Greg Jones: Perhaps.) Perhaps. And perhaps it needs to be looked into by the town council. It's adversely affecting you know... If it's a business, it's one thing. Secondly, if it's a private business, I'll take care of it. But, you do have zoning here and that's strictly adhered to I believe by the town, or it should be. So, I'm just asking the council to look into that because it is really adversely affecting the sale of my client's property. (Town Manager Greg Jones: We have a Codification committee actually and I'll update them on that and we'll go from there.) (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: What did you say the address is again Mike? On Anderson Street.) I can't tell you the exact address. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: If you could email it to me.) It's the Lane house (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: OK) Mr. Lane is deceased. It's a rental property. So you had tenants in there that are actually doing the car repairs. They're bringing different cars in and out, pulling the engines out, allowing the oil to spill down. Anderson Street is a pretty narrow street, if any of you are familiar with that. They're parking the cars down there on the street. Don't know if there's a policy on that or not. (Town Manager Greg Jones: There's not.) Ok, thank you for informing me of that. (Council Member Pat Elliott: I've talked to Mr. Clark about this and he told me that there was a time when there had to be an

ambulance for his wife, I believe, and they had to back in because they couldn't make the turn because of the cars that was being worked on, on the street itself.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: We looked into that too and the ambulance is coming into the front where they have plenty of access.) I would be happy to provide council with some pictures. (Council Member Pat Elliott: I'll be honest. The town needs to look into it, deeply.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: I've been out there dozens of times.) (Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr: Is there evidence of any money spent, changing hands?) No, we don't Wallace. We just know that cars are being worked on. Certainly, if it's your car and it's your drive-way, I think you have every right to do that. But if you're doing repairs for someone else, in a residential neighborhood, I don't think that would be allowed under... (Town Manager Greg Jones: I think what we need is evidence of that.) (Council Member Pat Elliott: What kind of evidence do you need? What evidence is needed? Other than pictures and a citizen who is an upstanding citizen's say-so. I mean, what evidence do we need? We need to let Mr. Carrico and Mr. Clark know.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: You're saying that it's a business. To me, a business is where transactions or where someone is paying for a specific type of service to be done. You're saying that there are multiple vehicles going in and out. I've only seen one or two.) You've seen one or two worked on? (Town Manager Greg Jones: I've only seen one or two vehicles that are constantly being worked on. I haven't seen a volume of vehicles coming in and out like a repair shop.) It's not like you're going up there and getting a sticker, Mr. Manager. It's the fact that they're bringing these cars in, they're doing repairs on them there and then they're taking them out somewhere else. If you're doing auto repairs for someone else, does that not make it a business? (Town Manager Greg Jones: Well, I would think if you're telling me it's the volume of cars coming in and out, that would be. But, I have not seen that from my position, is what I'm trying to tell you. If there's been a volume of cars, I that what would establish that is to tell me what...) I didn't say a line. I said cars are being worked on there. There's almost always a car. (Town Manager Greg Jones: That's the thing I'm trying to say. Just because someone's working on a car, that doesn't necessarily mean it's a business.) I really don't want to argue about it. I'm just asking the town council to look into this and if it is a business being conducted in a residential area, I would hope the council would address that accordingly and look out for my client, Mr. Clark, who is a taxpaying resident of this town. You have a duty and obligation to do that. Thank you.

(Bobby Clark: Hey, I'm sorry, can I say a word?) (Mayor Bob Richards: Yes sir. Go ahead.) (Bobby Clark: You was talking about where you come there where you come in and out right there. I think you're supposed to be 15 feet going and coming in there, where that is there, on the front of it, there on Anderson Street. Now, if you go in, you'll have to back in there, cause it's down like that {shows hand signal of a steep slope}. So, on the front of it, the door there is 36, to get out of there is 36. One the front of that. On the back of it there, it's 31. You can't get it out of there. You'll have to go out the front of it on Anderson Street. Pull it into there and you can't make it around there. You have to go all the way up to Anderson at the end and turn around and come back. You've not got time to do that if you've got a heart attack or something like that.) Mr. Clark is talking about the cars parking on the street. (Bobby Clark: Yeah, sitting right down to the. I've got it right here. I can show you where it is. {Shows something on cellphone} It's right to the side, right there. And I think you've got to have 15 feet going and coming in and out of there, on both sides of it. Is that right?) (Town Manager Greg Jones: I don't think so sir.) (Bobby Clark: I think it is. You better check on it. Just check on it.) (Police Chief Justin Miller: It's 15 feet from an intersection.) (Bobby Clark: Now, they've got 6 vehicles down there now. They've got 2 trucks, a gray one and a white one. Just took the motor of it. Every time they turn around, they put another motor in there. They've got another one at the church right here, setting in the corner right there. They take one out and they take another one in there. And they'll sell it and take it somewhere else. They bring another one in here and then they put another motor in it. Transmission. Oil is everywhere. You ought to come and look at it. And he's... I can show you, I think that you've got it there. That's the awfulest mess you've ever seen to man. Trash everywhere. Oil everywhere. I've tried to sell this and I can't. Three people have looked at it and said I'd like to have that, it's a nice house. I'd like to buy that. You've got a garage going on there. They'll tell you, that's doing it. I can't sell it. I've put \$40,000 into it there. They're out there working right now on it. They take one in and they take one out. That's a shared driveway right there, is what that is. 160 and 166. It's a shared driveway.) Hopefully, they'll look into it. We're over our 3 minutes. Hopefully, they'll look into it. All I'm asking is that you look into it. That's all we can ask. (Bobby Clark: That's all we can do. You got to look at it.) (Council Member Pat Elliott: I think we just... Why don't we just ask the Chief of Police to do extra patrols on there and report back to us.) (Bobby Clark: I've asked them to do it. I've never seen nobody come out there.) Come on Bobby. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: I'll be happy to work with Mr. Carrico as well, whatever pictures.) We've always worked well together. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: Yes, we have.) (Council Member Pat Elliott: Listen. I think this a legitimate

concern. I've known Mr. Clark for several years. I know him well enough to not call him Bobby or Mr. Clark. I call him Rabbit. And I think he has a concern. And I think he's come to us and asked for us to look into this. So, can we have the Chief of Police tell his officers, say Hey, once a shift, check on this at Anderson Street and see what you come up with.) (Mayor Bob Richards: Yeah, that and we do have the Codification Committee and I think they need to go up there and take a look for themselves.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: I'll send you all the details. I've got multiple emails on that. I'll send you what I have.) (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: Who's on Codification?) (Town Manager Greg Jones: Tyler and Cotton, I believe.) (Mayor Bob Richards: I promise you, we'll take a look at it sir.) Thank you.

Sam Dockery: I've actually got two problems. One problem, I've got a piece of property on Highland Street. I got a letter from the town that said I need to bushhog a hillside. And it's a hillside is what it is. The property beside of my property, I showed it to Pat. It's 15-20 feet high. They want to keep mine mowed like a yard. And I just don't know what the difference is between one piece of property and another piece of property. I went to bushhog it. Mr. Jones sent me a letter and I went to bushhog it. The bees eat me up. I got stung 40-50 times and I told Robert Mullins when it cooled down, I'd go bushhog it. He said I don't see a problem with that. Next thing I know I get a bill from the Town for \$1200. And it's got \$500 for bushhogging, one hour of bushhogging. And it's got 6.5 hours at \$100 per hour for weed eating. I'd just like to know where them numbers come from. They ain't nobody else gets that. (Town Manager Greg Jones: That came from our contractor sir.) \$500 an hour for bushhogging? (Town Manager Greg Jones: We hired a contractor to take care of that. It took a lot of time for them to do that. That was the whole hillside.) You've got the hours on there. \$100 an hour for weed eating? (Town Manager Greg Jones: I don't have the bill in front of me, but I had sent that directly on to you because that's what the taxpayers incurred. We're just trying to reimburse the taxpayers for the expense.) Pat's got it. ... Why was it mowed? Why did it have to be mowed is what I don't understand. (Town Manager Greg Jones: Because we received a complaint on that.) What about the property beside of it? (Town Manager Greg Jones: We have not gotten a complaint on those. We're complaint driven.) I think I told you every piece of property out through there, besides mine, is grown up. (Town Manager Greg Jones: I need a complaint on that.) (Council Member Pat Elliott: I have to agree. I've been out there.) Pat can tell you. He looked at it. (Council Member Pat Elliott: It's... I've got the picture right here. You all want to see it?) I don't care to pay a fair price, but \$1200 is crazy. (Council Member Pat Elliott: The property beside it, it's trees growing. It's brush.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: Now, trees we can't handle. It's the brush and the grass...) It's brush and grass and weeds and briars, all the way out through there. (Council Member Pat Elliott: I have a question. How does complaint driven, how does that work?) (Town Manager Greg Jones: We will receive a complaint. Typically a resident will call us and tell us they have a problem with a property. In Mr. Dockery's case, they were complaining because the weeds were growing up. And I went out to investigate it. I took pictures. We wrote him up on a Notice of Violation in accordance to our code. And we sent it out to Mr. Dockery and let him know. I think that order was is around the summertime. Our contractors didn't make it out there until November. He had about 3-4 months. We did not hear from him. I also talked to Mr...) You didn't talk to Robert? (Town Manager Greg Jones: I sure did.) Did he tell you what he told me? (Town Manager Greg Jones: He told me what he told you. Correct.) Right. As soon as it got cold, I could go back and do it. (Town Manager Greg Jones: No, he didn't tell me that. He told me he had never made such statements.) He said that would be fine is what he told me. (Town Manager Greg Jones: Well, I don't have that in writing. Normally, whatever he tells, he sends out an email back to me so we have it documented. I don't have that conversation.) I just don't understand why it would be mowed to start out with. Why did it have to be mowed? It's a hillside. (Town Manager Greg Jones: It did violate our property maintenance code.) (Council Member Pat Elliott: Question again, back to it. So, please correct me if I'm wrong, a citizen can complain. It doesn't have to be an adjoining property owner?) (Town Manager Greg Jones: No, it can be any complainant.) (Council Member Pat Elliott: So, my friend Wallace Ross could come by my house and say "Good Lord, what a mess. It's awful.") (Town Manager Greg Jones: Yes sir, if they report it, and I go out and investigate it and if it does appear to be a Notice of Violation, it will be sent out.) If it's a Notice of Violation of one property, it ought to be the one right beside of it too. (Town Manager Greg Jones: Again, it's complaint driven. It all depends on what we...) It's harassment is what it is. (Town Manager Greg Jones: We don't have the resources to be proactive to go after every single property in the town. We've set it up so that way if we receive a complaint...) You've had the resources to go after mine, because you've been out there many a time. Every time I try to make an appointment with you, you're not in or I can't get ahold of you. Or I've tried to call you and you won't answer the phone. (Town Manager Greg Jones: I'm not aware of that sir.) You're not aware of a lot of stuff, I think. You're the greatest

person I'd say that's ever been for the town, but you're not for the people. (Town Manager Greg Jones: I work under code sir.) (Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: Who was the contractor that did the work?) (Town Manager Greg Jones: It was the same one that does our street.) Frazier. I called him and he said he didn't try to charge nigh that much. And when I tried to call him back to get a bill, he wouldn't tell me. (Town Manager Greg Jones: I have the original bill.) What about the one across the street? What was it? (Town Manager Greg Jones: I don't have any of that detail in front of me sir.) Well, I need a... I'd like to see that. Because he done mine and the one across the street the same day. And it's four times as big as my property is. So it ought to be four times as much. (Town Manager Greg Jones: Like I said, I don't have the details in front of me.) (Michael Carrico: Sam, tell them. That's the Poston property you're talking about. The Poston property across the street, right?) (Town Manager Greg Jones: The Poston property was sold. We're not the ones doing that property.) It was... Ah, what was it? (Michael Carrico: It was Poston.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: Yeah, that was sold.) (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: That was sold for the tax sale, wasn't it? TACS.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: Carter Smallwood's property. We've got a new owner that's doing some work on it now.) Yeah, that's the property I'm talking about, Carter Smallwood. That's the one you all mowed. (Town Manager Greg Jones: Like I said, that was sold. They have a new property owner. They're the ones doing the work.) It was still mowed. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: If it was mowed, then a lien was placed against the property.) I've got a lien against my property. That don't... (Town Manager Greg Jones: That's correct. Until it's paid. Yes sir.) I just don't think I ought to have to pay it. I mean, I could understand if it was reasonable. \$100 for a bushhog, that. I called Charlie Stone. He gets \$125 an hour. I called Rick Begley. He gets \$100 an hour. Why would you pay a man \$500 an hour? (Town Manager Greg Jones: I don't know that was \$500 an hour sir.) You've got it, don't you Pat? (Council Member Pat Elliott: You give me this. It's here somewhere. If you'll give me a second, I'll...) And weed eating \$100 an hour. Where do you all find? How do you pay anybody \$100 an hour to weed eat? ... If you're going to pay that kind of money, you let me know. I can get you all kinds of weed eaters and I can make good money off of you. (Town Manager Greg Jones: If you'd like, I'll get some more details on that for you sir.) Pat's got it. He can give you the detail. (Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: He's saying that it took five hours to...) No, one hour to bushhog. Then somehow or other, it took six hours and a half hours to weed eat. I don't know how you could weed eat for six and a half hours once you've bushhogged a place. (Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: So they charged you \$500 for one hour?) One hour. (Council Member Pat Elliott: That's expensive. By anybody's standards.) Rick Begley gets \$100 an hour and Charlie Stone gets \$125. (Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: Did the contractor say why he charged that much for.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: It's a pretty big lot.) He told me he didn't charge that much. (Town Manager Greg Jones: There's what, about an acre? How much property is that? A half-acre?) I had about a third of it bushhogged before I got stung by bees. And there's a third of an acre of it. (Town Manager Greg Jones: If you'd like me to, I'll look at it and get a hold of the contractor and get more specific details on that.) (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: You should have the original bill, shouldn't you?) (Town Manager Greg Jones: I do. I've got the original bill, but if it needs to be qualified, I can do that as well.) I don't care to have it... The guy that mows it now, I've got a guy that mows it every two weeks in the summer. He charges \$90. (Council Member Pat Elliott: Yeah, here it is. Here's the bill. Bushhog expenditures the property, quantity 1.00, unit price \$500.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: That's the quantity. That doesn't necessarily mean it's an hourly rate.) (Council Member Pat Elliott: The amount is \$500. So that's what it is.) I bushhogged a third of it in 15 minutes. (Council Member Pat Elliott: Quantity 6.50 at 107.69 hours. I'm guessing that's six and a half hours. \$700. For a grand total of \$1200. Now I've seen this property people, if a contractor, I don't care who it is. If they charged that, they're gouging prices now. And they're gouging them bad. Now... Here it is again, Frazier's Mowing and Landscaping.) That's the original bill, supposedly. (Council Member Pat Elliott: Billed to Mr. Greg Jones, Town of Gate City. If we paid that, if the Town of Gate City paid that, we're going to have to look at how our money is being spent now people. Now we were all elected to look out for the Town of Gate City and the citizens. True or false? True. So, \$500 an hour? For a bushhog?) It wouldn't have took an hour. That's a bushhog with a skid-steer. Bushhog with a tractor is like \$30 an hour. We can't get a tractor on it. A tractor would turn over. It's too steep. It's a hillside. The guy that mows it now for \$90 every two weeks has got to weed eat it, because you can't get on with nothing else. (Council Member Pat Elliott: Now this goes back to 2020.) That's when Covid was going on. (Council Member Pat Elliott: So that was done during... yeah, November. November 16th is the invoice date. So it's been not three years, but. So it's been 24, 25, 26 months ago. I mean I don't, I can't... I'd be raising Cain. If I'd get a bill for this. \$500 an hour for bushhogging.) I tried to raise Cain. I couldn't get ahold of nobody. (Council Member Pat Elliott: \$700 for weed eating.) And it says on there, the first offence, if you... If you get caught, then the first

offence, it'll be a \$100 fine. I never did get a \$100 fine. It said the second offence would be a \$200 fine. I never did get a \$200 fine. (Council Member Pat Elliott: Well, how is that?) It also says you have the right to appeal it. I tried to call Greg and I couldn't get nothing done. (Council Member Pat Elliott: How does the fine process work?) (Town Manager Greg Jones: Michele, it's a Civil, if I'm not mistaken.) (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: It's a Civil Penalty in addition to having to clean up their property. Essentially what was done is that we ask them to comply. Several months later it had not been complied with. We got a contractor to come and clean up the property and bring it into compliance.) (Council Member Pat Elliott: I'm asking about the fine part.) (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: That is a totally separate matter. There's a fine structure and then you have the making sure that the property is in compliance. Those are...) (Council Member Pat Elliott: It says you'll be fined.) (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: Yes, you can be. That's part of it. We didn't pursue any kind of fines.) I was not fined. (Council Member Pat Elliott: He wasn't fined.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: We can charge you the fine, if that's what you're looking for.) I think you've done enough. (Council Member Pat Elliott: I think that's a little ridiculous, Mr. Jones, to even bring that up.) It says you can appeal it. I couldn't appeal it because I couldn't get ahold of you. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: That's if there's a civil fine. If...) No, it says you can appeal if you don't like the way your property has been cleaned up, or what you've been charged, you can appeal it. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: I don't know what letter it says.) It's on there. I've got that there too. (Council Member Pat Elliott: Here Michele. Pass that around to Michele. That's his. That's Sam Dockery's - what he's received.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: Would it make everyone happy to just let Michele take a look at it and see if there was anything violated, or you want to have her turn.) I need somebody to go out there and look at the mountainside that don't need to be mowed, period. (Town Manager Greg Jones: Oh, we've got tons of pictures of it. We've got a lot.) I've got tons of pictures of it. (Town Manager Greg Jones: We've sent that off to the Codification.) You can see in the pictures I've got, the grass is about this high. And the one beside of it is about 15 feet high. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: Did you appeal it in writing, within 14 calendar days?) I couldn't get ahold of Mr. Jones. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: Well, it says in here the appeal must be in writing within 14 calendar days.) If you can't get ahold of nobody, you can't do anything. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: You can mail something, can't you? That's what it says. ... I'll be happy to look at it. If you all would like me to look at it, and report back.) I just can't believe you'd do the citizens of Gate City that way. I've got, I don't know, 10 pieces of property in Gate City. And you know what my wife said? Sell them all. And that's the reason why. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: I'll be happy to look at all of it. I know that at one point, I had looked at it. I get copies of the pictures when Robert approves it. But that's all I know about it at that point. It's been some time since I've seen any of it. (Council Member Pat Elliott: Well, I'll say this. The process, complaint driven process. I don't... One person. And don't even have to be an adjoining property owner. I mean I can go make complaints on everybody in this town. And you know what? I've started the process.) I've made a complaint on the rest of the property out through there, and I don't see a sign on none of it. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: Mr. Elliott, there is a complaint made. That doesn't mean that they've started the process. All it means is that they're going to go look at it. If there's nothing wrong, it's the end of the story. If it's in compliance with the building code, then that's the end of the story. And we have lots of those. That there's nothing ever done.) Now why would I have to mow mine when the one beside of me don't? (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: Because there was a complaint made against your property.) (Council Member Pat Elliott: So, if a complaint is made against that property.) I made a complaint against the rest of the property. I told Greg the rest of the property needs to be mowed because it's grown up. I didn't get nowhere with that. (Council Member Pat Elliott: It's grown up alright. Would you all like to see the pictures? I mean I've got them right here. Three photographs that I took.) The pictures are in that. The pictures of my property, you can see the property right beside of it. My property probably needs to be weed eaten, but the property beside of it is 10 feet high. (Council Member Pat Elliott: If not more.) Yeah, if not more. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: Well, the Property Maintenance and Codification Committee is meeting, correct?) (Council Member Pat Elliott: The entire street... Is that Highland Street?) The back street's not Highland Street. I don't know what that is. Darter I think. (Council Member Pat Elliott: The street above Highland Street, the entire lower side of that street, it's growing over into the street.) It's a jungle. (Council Member Pat Elliott: I'm just saying, I understand exactly why Mr. Dockery is upset.) If I'd got a bill for \$300, I would have probably paid it. Because that's fair. You've got \$100 for bushhogging and \$200 for weed eating. Now \$1200 is a little much, I think. Would you have paid \$1200, to have a third of an acre mowed? (Town Manager Greg Jones: I saw the property when I went out and inspected it. It doesn't surprise me at all that it was \$1200. The weeds were waist high, and it was an awfully big piece of property on a hillside. It doesn't surprise me in the least.) On a hillside. I guess you all heard where it was at. It is a hillside. (Council Member Pat Elliott: It's

Scott County. Everything's a hillside.) (Michael Carrico: Slightly sloping, Pat. Slightly sloping.) (Council Member Pat Elliott: Slightly sloping. OK.) There's places you've got to bushhog up and down it. Because you can't around it because it's so steep. I know because I bushhogged about a third of it before I got eat up. (Council Member Dexter Harmon: I've got a question on this. So, we don't fine the person first?) (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: You can go both ways. You can go into court and seek a civil fine. There's also lawsuits for property maintenance that we've actually filed and processed against that. That is not the avenue that was taken at that time. We were trying to make the process a little simpler, in hopes that most people actually do just clean it up and that's the end of the story. Instead of initiating a lawsuit.) (Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: OK now. He said he went in and done a part of it.) I done a third of it. (Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: OK, he got a third of it. So what advocated to look at it, that it needed to be...) I didn't even know they'd mowed it until I got a bill. Then I went by. I've got all kinds of property and I don't go look at nothing unless I get some kind of complaint. Because if I did, that's all I'd do is run around. (Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: Once you received the letter, you started the process?) I started bushhogging. (Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: But you didn't get the opportunity to finish. So how long from time you started, how long was it before Mr. Jones initiated the contract?) I'm going to say a month. I was just waiting on it to get cold. Because I got enough. I got stung 40-50 times and that was enough. (Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: So, with that month, Mr. Jones...) (Council Member Pat Elliott: But you spoke to Mr. Mullins.) I did. Robert Mullins. (Council Member Pat Elliott: And he's no longer the.) (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: He is not.) And I told him what happened. I said, if you don't care, I'd like to wait until it got cold to bushhog the rest of it. He said I don't see a problem with that. So, I didn't think there was a problem with it. (Council Member Pat Elliott: But he didn't document it.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: No.) I don't know about that. (Council Member Pat Elliott: I mean, evidently he didn't. And that becomes an issue.) That shouldn't be on me, should it? (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: It looks like the first letter was sent out in May of 2020. And the bill was done in November of 2020.) (Cindy Dockery: Well, there were other issues. It wasn't the yard the first time.) (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: OK. I'm just trying to get a timeline.) I had a real renter. He was a rent to own is what it was. It wasn't even my house. It was on a rent to own. And Greg had sent me 5 or 6 letters, I guess. And I had to clean it up because he would just make a mess. And he did it... I think he did it on purpose, just to make you all mad. And then I had to do the... (Cindy Dockery: The first one started with the parked car, right Sam?) Yeah, it first started with the parked car. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: It looks like the September was the one that was mostly about the weeds. And then it was done in November.) Yeah, I probably. It might have been October something when I. It was still warm. The bees were still out whenever I did it, I'll put it that way. If I had seven days or whatever they give. I was there before the seven days were up, to bushhog it. And got eat up. That's when I called Robert and told him. As soon as I got stung, I loaded the Bobcat up and left. I was a little nervous because 40-50 stings is. (Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: So, from the time you cut it in the timeframe, how much did it grow back up?) It was winter. I wasn't going to grow any. It wouldn't have grown until spring. (Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: The part you cut wasn't going to be growing at all, right?) Oh no, it wasn't going to grow period. (Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: So, the part that was left is what Mr. Jones. Did he look at the whole lot before he made the decision?) I haven't got a clue about that. (Town Manager Greg Jones: I have it all documented.) He probably didn't know I bushhogged a third of it. And the guys may have took advantage of that. I don't know. I don't know what to tell you about that. (Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: Did you take pictures of it when you did it?) No. No, but the neighbors, I actually bushhogged. There was a strip right there, whatever the town's right of way is. I bushhogged that strip for the town. Because it goes up and down that hill. And I bushhogged it. And part of this property that they're charging me for is the town's. (Council Member Pat Elliott: Would that have been an alley?) It is an alley. It's a closed alley, but it still belongs, according to my. It belongs to the Town of Gate City. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: Is it an unopened street? Is that what it is? It's platted? Unopened. It's platted but it's never been opened. There's a lot of those.) It's a street down through there. Or it shows it on my map. (Mayor Bob Richards: I know we have a contract with him to do some of our work for the town. Does it stipulate in there what he charges for weed eating and stuff?) (Town Manager Greg Jones: Yes, it's in the contract.) (Mayor Bob Richards: OK. Can we compare it to what he charged for here?) (Town Manager Greg Jones: It would be almost impossible. It's apples and oranges.) (Mayor Bob Richards: I understand. But I'm just saying, can we get the rate?) Weed eating is weed eating, isn't it? (Town Manager Greg Jones: Not really, no. Because the property you're dealing with, like I said, the weeds were waist high. The stuff that he works on for the town, he does that every two weeks.) It wouldn't matter if it was head high, as long as you're getting paid by the hour. You're still getting paid by the hour. (Town Manager Greg Jones: There's a lot more of an effort there.) (Council Member Pat

Elliott: What did he bushhog on... Listen, I've been on farm equipment my entire life, except for the last 15 years. You can cover a lot of ground. You can cover steep ground. In an hour's time, you can do a whole lot more than a third of an acre.) I can bushhog an acre of ground in an hour with a bushhog. (Council Member Pat Elliott: Now. I don't know, but I'm just. I'm saying this, on behalf of the town, \$500 an hour? To bushhog? Come on now people. If we're spending money like that. We need to back up and look at it again. That's ridiculous.) I can get a dozer for that. (Mayor Bob Richards: I can only make the suggestion. My suggestion is that if we can find some other contractors that do bushhogging and find out what they charge per hour. If this is out of line, then we.) I've got two contractors. (Mayor Bob Richards: I understand that. We need to check that out. I mean, not that I'm saying you're lying.) I understand that. You've got to have proof. (Mayor Bob Richards: I would recommend that if that's the case, we make an adjustment. That's my recommendation.) What about the weed eating? \$100 an hour? (Mayor Bob Richards: The same thing. But there again, I've not seen the property, so I don't know how it was.) I don't mind paying. Most weed eaters... (Mayor Bob Richards: We want to be fair to you. But, at the same time, we've already paid out that money for the tax dollars.) Most weed eaters charge \$20 an hour. And furnish the weed eater. Or everyone that I get does. (Mayor Bob Richards: That's the best I can do. I can only recommend. It's up to council to what they want to do, but that's my recommendation. Try to resolve it to everybody's satisfaction. At least the best that we can make it.) (Council Member Pat Elliott: So, as of right now, you're good with that?) Yeah. (Cindy Dockery: Can I ask one question? What does the town pay the employees per hour to weed eat the town?) (Town Manager Greg Jones: It depends on who is doing the weed eating. They are all different rates. But, I will tell you that the blended rate for VDOT rate is about \$24) (Cindy Dockery: The town, not VDOT.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: I know, but we're allowed to charge VDOT rates, if we need to.) (Cindy Dockery: But you don't pay VDOT rates.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: Technically, it's very close.) (Council Member Pat Elliott: You shouldn't be allowed to charge more, my gosh.) (Town Manager Greg Jones: Keep in mind too, when we're paying rates for the employees, it's not just the hourly rate. It's our share of the benefits that we're paying, employer taxes, and everything else on top of it. That adds quite a bit to it.) Yeah, but these aren't employees. These are guys you'd hire. (Town Manager Greg Jones: Our blended rate for the town.) I say just take what the Mayor said. Check to see what you'd pay the weed eaters a guy. And then you can check. Rick Begley does bushhogging. Charlie Stone does bushhogging. That's the only two I know that's got a skid-steer with a bushhog on it, besides me. I get \$100 an hour. I've got a piece of property I mow in Midway. It's about... there's probably 2.5-3 acres of it and I get \$300 to do it. Takes me about 3 hours. (Mayor Bob Richards: Like I said, I can't make that decision. That's my thought. We can sit here and talk about this all night, but I think we just need to come to a conclusion. That's my feeling.) I'll agree with it. I think that's fair. Just find out what they charge by the hour for weed eating and call the contractors. Call anybody you want to call, as long as they're a contractor. Somebody that does bushhogging. (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: I've got your documents. I don't want to take your things. I can get copies. I don't want to take your copies.) (Council Member Pat Elliott: All right, now what? That's a pretty good suggestion. It's fair to all parties involved.) (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: We're just in public comment, right? Didn't you say you had something else?) I do. Do I need to go ahead? (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: I don't run things. I thought you said you had two things.) (Mayor Bob Richards: Let's go ahead and resolve this one first. Do we need to make a motion for that? Or can they just start...) (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: We can look into it and have something, hopefully, before next meeting. And we also have a Codification committee that deals with that as well. They can look at everything and. (Town Manager Greg Jones: I believe they already have.) Could you appoint like 3 or 4 council members to check? (Mayor Bob Richards: We already have a committee that does that. It's already been appointed.) To check on the rates? (Mayor Bob Richards: Yes sir. They'll investigate that. OK, your next one?) My wife had a wrecker service and, I guess you all know, she's been took off the list. Because it's not fair, is what the town allows. But we've still got to buy a business license. And that don't seem fair either. But she's got everything to show that's she's a legal wrecker service. She's got her Federal Tax ID Number. She's got everything. I brought that and showed it to Cheri, I think it was. Is that the lady that used to be here? (Town Attorney Michele Brooks: The Treasurer? Yes.) I showed it to Cheri and she said I'm sure they'll do the right thing. Well, it didn't happen that way. She said it clearly shows you've got two wrecker services. Cindy hasn't been on the town's list for, I don't know, 3 years now? And I just don't think it's fair to her. And I think she needs to be put back on the wrecker list. She meets all the standards. Meets all the guidelines. Everything it says in the contract, she meets all that. There's a couple of them that don't meet it, but I'm not here over that. (Council Member Pat Elliott: So, question on this. Does the town pretty much follow that state police guidelines on that?) (Mayor Bob Richards: I don't know, the chief has to answer that.) It does. It says in the contract that they. It says... (Chief Justin Miller: There's nothing

in our policy that states that the police department lease that we follow the state police guidelines on really anything. We've got our own policy that we follow. What Mr. Dockery is talking about here is Mrs. Dockery has a tow lot here in town and she's paying her own business license. Then I don't see we couldn't put her on the list as well. That's what I was looking at to try to make everything fair is to make sure that if we did have a tow service on our list for the police department, that they were paying a business license and that they also had their storage lot here in town. So, if she's doing those two things, I don't see a problem with her getting back on the list. I just have to get with her and make sure it all looks good. I can call dispatch and have them put on the list. (Council Member Pat Elliott: Problem solved?) (Council Member Allan Roberts: That's all you have to do.) She's got all the paperwork. We bought a business license for 7 years, I guess. Matter of fact, they're due again. And I wasn't going to pay them this year. (Council Member Pat Elliott: Sounds like you might want to.) (Mayor Bob Richards: Correct me if I'm wrong. The last time we had this issue, that we left that up to the chief's discretion.) You did. We leave that up to the Chief of Police. (Mayor Bob Richards: Yes sir. If he's fine with it, I think we're fine with it.) That's what we agreed on. Good deal. That's all I've got. Thank you all. (Mayor Bob Richards: Thank you Mr. Dockery. Is there anybody else? If not, then at 7:16, I'll close public session. We do appreciate you all coming out, honestly.)

Mayor Richards closed the public comment session at 7:16 PM and opened the consent agenda session.

X. COMMUNICATIONS – None

XI. REPORTS (All reports given will be included with your packet. Any questions about the reports will need to be discussed with the department head PRIOR to the meeting.)

A. **Engineer's Status Report** – Presented by Jason Snapp – TJC Painting is VDOT qualified



Engineer Report
Town of Gate City, VA
Status as of 2/9/23

H/C Ramp HSIP Project: Project Construction is complete. The contractor has submitted the final (only) Construction Pay Application for approval. Once approved the Town can submit all remaining invoices to VDOT for reimbursement and M&C will file all the closeout documents with VDOT.

VDH Backup Generator Project: Project is considered 30% complete currently. Survey portion of the project has been completed and preliminary design on both the site work and electrical has commenced. M&C, Blaser and the Town staff will need to meet onsite in late January to gather additional site data required for both the electrical and site design. Preliminary plans will be submitted to the Town for review once completed. Upon town approval final construction plans will be completed and submitted to VDH for review.

Kane St. Sidewalk Transportation Alternatives Funding Application: Project has been awarded funding by VDOT. VDOT, the Town, and M&C held a kick-off meeting on 2/7/23. Upfront efforts and schedules were discussed at this meeting and the Town is now approved and ready to proceed with design

of the project. M&C is in the process of preparing the agreement and will start the survey portion of the project in the next few weeks. It is expected the design process will wrap up and construction will start in early 2025.

Manville Road Highway Safety Improvement Plan Funding Application: Project has been awarded funding by VDOT. VDOT, the Town, and M&C held a kick-off meeting on 2/7/23. Upfront efforts and schedules were discussed as well as the expected funding shortfall. An updated project cost estimate has been prepared and submitted to VDOT for consideration of additional funding. Options include the possibility that VDOT will approve additional HSIP funds which would be 100% grant funds and the possibility of having to apply for additional TA funds if unsuccessful in gaining the additional HSIP funds. The TA funds would require the submission of TA application to VDOT for consideration this summer/fall. Once funding options are determined and approved design of the project can commence. VDOT has indicated they should have an answer on the availability of HSIP funds within 30 days or so.

VDH ARPA/BIL/DWSRF Applications: M&C has submitted 2 separate projects to VDH for consideration for funding. The first project consists of the recoating/rehab of 3 of the Town's water storage tanks, the second consist of installing a Town wide Advanced Meter Infrastructure network. ARPA, BIL, and DWSRF applications were submitted for each project with the hopes of securing the most economical funding package for the Town. All 6 applications were submitted prior to the May 6th deadline.

VDH is currently ranking projects to determine funding availability. BIL and ARPA funding has been denied for both projects. SRF funding decisions are still in the process of being ranked by VDH for funding consideration.

Theatre Beam Rehabilitation: Project was re-bid and one bid was received. An agreement has been prepared and submitted to the Town for consideration.

Daniel Boone Master Meter Replacement: Pricing has been submitted to the Town and approved. The contractor has ordered the replacement meter equipment and will install once it arrives. The Town will need to coordinate a broadband connection at the site.

DEQ Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study: Study is complete and has identified 5 separate projects to address infiltration and inflow within the Gate City Sanitary Sewer System. M&C has submitted a DEQ ARPA application for funding consideration for Project #1 which involves the replacement of the collector line that serves the High School/Middle School and National Guard Armory areas. If awarded funding, it is our understanding that the ARPA funding packages are 100% grant funded. The total cost of Project #1 is expected at approximately \$704,000. Addition SSES funds can be solicited this summer for additional projects at the Town's request.

B. Gate City Frontier Report – Presented by Leslie Crawford

Gate City Frontier Report January

Please accept this brief report on behalf of GCF director, Leslie Crawford. This report will outline the capacity at which GCF has been actively working towards foundational growth and organization, business outreach, community outreach, events, and downtown revitalization through Virginia Main Street.

Foundational Growth and Organization

- Attended the Virginia Main Street and Department of Housing and Community Development workshop entitled: How to Apply for FY2024 Grant Programs: DIG, CVG, and FFG
 - This helped me to learn about specific VMS resources that are available to help spark community impact.
 - VMS funding opportunities were mentioned that can help breathe new life into underutilized buildings, establish and expand best practices, and make the downtown a fun consumer destination and local gathering spot.
 - Specifically, this workshop helped me to gain info needed to begin the application process for the community vitality grant.
 - The CVG will be applied for once our CAMS account is ready to be utilized.
- Met with Pam Cox, Scott County Tourism Director, to discuss applying for the VTC Marketing Leverage Grant. This grant would help us to better market our downtown events to a larger audience. This application is currently in progress.
- Applied and accepted to be listed on the Virginia.org website as a town/organization to post events and opportunities happening in Gate City. Currently working through the Extranet portal to The completion of this will hopefully help us to become a listed town on the Heart of Appalachia section of the VTC website.
- Worked to maintain proper standing as an Exploring Mainstreet Community through VMS.
- Created a budget based on suggestions from the GCF board meeting on January 9th along with costs incurred from this past year's events.
- Worked on marketing materials for the remaining FY2023 events and FY2024.

Events

- No events occurred during the month of January. This time is being spent preparing for the event months to come.
- The GCF Jeep Jam committee has been working diligently to attain partnerships and vendors for this year's event.

Business & Community Outreach

This month GCF focused on business and community engagement through preparations for our community Meet and Greet that occurred on February 13th and our upcoming Jeep Jamboree.

Upcoming Events:

- Community Meet & Greet (February 13, 2023)
- Gravel at the Gate (May; date TBA)
- Jeep Jam (May 27, 2023)

January Part-Time Hours:

January 1-7 (16 hours)

January 8-14 (22 hours)

January 15-21 (vacation)

January 22-28 (26 hours)
January 29-31 (12 hours)

C. Town Manager's Report – Presented by Greg Jones

Town Manager Report – February 2023

- **Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD): Park Street Housing Rehabilitation Project: Phase II**

Phase two of the Park Street project includes the rehabilitation of five housing units, the substantial reconstruction of one unit and the clearance and demolition of two blighted units, serving 19 low- to moderate-income persons.

December 2022 – DHCD awarded funding for the Phase II Park Street Housing Rehabilitation Project on November 16th, 2022.

Funding Awarded:

DHCD: CDBG:	\$687,968
AEP	\$35,000
Town (In-Kind)	\$12,000
Total	\$734,968

January 2023 – Mayor Richards, Councilman Elliot, and Town Manager Jones met with DHCD Director Bryan Horn and staff during our legislative visit to Richmond, VA on January 31st, 2023. We briefly reviewed the phase II project. We are currently waiting on DHCD for a kick-off meeting.

- **Estil Cemetery Restoration Project**

November 2022 – Work is ongoing. Highland Monument has been onsite for the past several weekends. 90% of monuments have been cleaned and we still have a relative handful to re-level and reset. Highland Monument has been posting updates on the Estil Cemetery Facebook page.

- **Banner Project**

January 2023: We had a windstorm on Sunday, November 27th, 2022. The storm effected five banners. We have received the new banner poles that should withstand the wind. They will be installed shortly. Currently our Bucket Truck is needing service. Once the repairs are made to the Bucket Truck the new banner poles will be installed.

- **Dog Park Project**

January 2023 – The repairs have been made to the outer perimeter fence line. We are currently waiting for the contractor to install the interior fence line. At the January 2023 Council meeting, Council voted to name the Dog Park: “The Bark Park”

- **ARPA – VDH Grant - Water Tank Rehabilitation Project**

July 2022 - ARPA Grant Application for rehabilitation of three (3) of the Town’s water storage tanks including the Smith-Elliott Tank, Williams Mill Tank, and Quillen (Estil Hts.) Tank was submitted on May 6th, 2022. The total grant funding requested is \$491,000.

Grant application has been made to VDH. We are currently awaiting an award notice.

January 2023 – Mayor Richards, Councilmember Elliott, and Town Manager Jones met with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) during our legislative visit to Richmond, VA on January 31, 2023. VDH informed the Town that it was not likely this project would be funded through the ARPA funding due to the volume of request that they received. It is still possible that our SRF application will be funded.

- **ARPA – VDH Grant – Advance Meter Infrastructure Project (AMI)**

July 2022 - ARPA Grant Application for the installation of AMI to allow the more efficient collection of water system flow data. The total grant funding requested is \$812,240.

Grant application has been made to VDH. We are currently awaiting an award notice.

January 2023 – Mayor Richards, Councilmember Elliott, and Town Manager Jones met with the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) during our legislative visit to Richmond, VA on January 31, 2023. VDH informed the Town that it was not likely this project would be funded through the ARPA funding due to the volume of request that they received. It is still possible that our SRF application will be funded.

- **VDOT TAP Project: Kane Street Sidewalk Project**

August 2022 – VDOT has awarded the Kane Street Sidewalk project to the Town. The total project cost is \$1,450,190.00 with VDOT and ARPA providing 100% in grant funding.

Request to Administer (RTA) has been submitted.

February 7th, 2023 – The Kick-off meeting with Mattern & Craig and VDOT was held. We are ready to proceed with the design phase of the project.

- **VDOT HSIP Project: Manville Street Sidewalk Project**

February 7th, 2023 – The Town was awarded a 100% Grant through VDOT’s Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) at \$448,103. The cost estimates were developed back in 2017. The current cost estimates are at \$1,447,570. There are several options for funding the additional amounts. We will have a proposal in approximately 30 days.

- **Water Leak Survey**

February 2023 – Our water loss rate is down to 31% for January 2023. Our Town Crew has repaired a number of leaks throughout Town. Our water loss rate will improve once the Daniel Boone master meter is installed.

- **Gate City to Weber City Trail**

February 2023 – During our legislative trip to Richmond, we met with VDOT and Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and discussed the proposed walking trail. We were informed of a potential funding source for the planning phase: Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment. I have relayed this information to LENWISCO for further discussion.

- **Daniel Boone Master Water Meter Replacement Project**

January 2022 - Cantrell Automation has submitted a quote through Mattern & Craig, Inc. to replace the master water meter located at the Daniel Boone Pump station for \$19,529.00. Council has approved the purchase and we are now working with the contractor to install.

- **2022 Real Estate Taxes Billing Status**

The Real Estate taxes have been mailed on January 13th, 2023. The deadline for payment is on February 17th, 2023.

- **2023 Kenworth Trash Truck and Dump Truck**

The new Trash Truck and Dump Truck that is being purchased through our ARPA funding allocation should be delivered in two weeks. We are currently working on developing protocols to deliver the new trash cans and implement our new trash collection policy.

February 2023 – We have been informed that the new Trash Truck is in its final phase of production. We are expecting to receive the vehicle shortly.

- **Finance Committee Meeting**

The Finance Committee Meeting met on February 9th, 2023. We discussed the process for the FY 2023 Budget. The proposed Budget Calendar was reviewed. The Finance Committee is also recommending that we auction the 2022 Dodge Durango as its now a non-performing asset.
Council Action: Approve the auction of the 2022 Dodge Durango and FY 2023 Budget Calendar

- **Economic Development Meeting**

The Economic Development Committee met on Monday, February 6th, 2013, with Spectrum Designs. Spectrum Designs developed preliminary concept drawings of the Gate City Theater that will utilize the building located at 263 West Jackson Street. The drawing will be submitted to the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) for their input and approval.

- **Water Leaks Repaired**

<u>Location</u>	<u>Repair Date</u>	<u>Materials used for</u>
Repair Campbell and Franklin Streets 1” band; 1 ton	12/31/22	Backhoe; small dump truck; rock

D. **Attorney’s Report** – None

E. **Council Reports** (Any new business from Committees that needs to come before the Council.)

Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. - * During tax time, the office staff was overwhelmed and needs some more help. Maybe we could check into getting them some help. * Some of the planter boxes on the street are getting old. He wondered who authorized the boxes and how much they cost. Comments were that the boxes had been there for decades and had been made in house. The boxes were to cover street light electrical in the sidewalk. * Has VDOT said how much money there is to refurbish streets? VDOT usually allocates money for certain streets. Town Manager Greg Jones: VDOT has not shared that information at this time.

Council Member Allan Roberts – None

Council Member Tyler Kilgore – None

Mayor Bob Richards – The Chamber Dinner will be March 10, 2023. Tickets are \$35 until February 28, after that they are \$40. Contact Penny at the Economic Development Office. Kane St. Smokehouse is catering. Businesses can donate door prizes. Town Manager Greg Jones: Let him know if you want to attend. The Town will take care of the ticket cost.

Council Member Dexter Harmon – None

Council Member Pat Elliott – The three committees he is on have met. Gate City Frontier is moving forward. Budget/Finance has met once and is very interesting. With Economic Development, they met with some folks and looked at a building. It was very interesting too.

F. **Police Department** – Presented by Justin Miller - Also wanted to thank Allan Roberts for his support and the support of The Family Bakery to the Gate City Police Department.

G. **Sanitation Authority** – Presented by Bob Richards – Running along pretty good right now.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. **Gate City Theatre: I-Beams Repair** – Discussion: There is no warranty on the beam coating. TJC Painting is VDOT qualified. The beams are a safety issue. ARPA funded project.

Motion made to go with suggested contractor on cleaning and painting the beams in the Gate City Theater for \$48,760

Motion by: Allan Roberts 2nd by: Tyler Kilgore

VOTE: Aye: 5

 Nay:

 Absent:

 Abstain: Motion carried

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Greg Hogston, TrueBlue Program** – Discussion: Town Manager Greg Jones met with Mr. Hogston. The TrueBlue Program is to slow down traffic in school zones. Speeders would get a civil ticket, so the ticket wouldn't go against their drivers license. Speeders must be going more than 10 miles over the speed limit to get a ticket. There is a two year contract. If cancelled early, must still pay for the remaining contract time. TrueBlue would get \$25 per ticket. Town would collect the rest of the fine, with tickets being up to \$100. He would like to forward this to the Street Committee to let them meet with TrueBlue. They would also look at ordinance regarding the program. The Street Committee would then report back to Council. Suggests that Town Attorney Michele Brooks also attend.
Refer to the Street Committee
2. **Codie Nelson, Youth Activities – Handout, Presentation**

Effectiveness of Positive Youth Development Programs in Communities

MISSION: To provide a visible and recognized "place to go" for the youth throughout the community of Scott County, Virginia, regardless of a child's race, income level, family and home dynamics.

This includes children with different ability levels, such as, but not limited to, those on 504/IEP and other special education accommodations.

GOALS/KEY CONCEPTS:

- o Establishing meaningful opportunities for the youth to be involved in community service, policy advocacy, or personal enrichment activities.
 - Sports/Scout/ and club opportunities for those who do not fit "criteria" or "benchmarks" set forth by the schools, school board and surrounding churches.
- o Providing a safe haven in which meaningful youth-adult partnerships can flourish; supporting better communication and cooperation throughout the community.
- o Giving the opportunity to allow our youth to exercise responsibility and leadership, with appropriate support from trusted adult allies, coaches and mentors.
- o Spreading knowledge of quality youth development practices and modeling those practices throughout our community. (Setting a new standard; being the change.)



3. **Resolution of Support: Gate City Frontier** – Discussion: Membership in the Virginia Mainstreets Program requires support from the Town
Motion made to pass the resolution of support for Gate City Frontier
Motion by: Tyler Kilgore 2nd by: Dexter Harmon
VOTE: Aye: 4
 Nay:
 Absent:
 Abstain: 1 Motion carried

4. FY 2024 Budget Calendar

Motion made to approve 2024 Budget Calendar

Motion by: Allan Roberts 2nd by: Tyler Kilgore

VOTE: Aye: 5
 Nay:
 Absent:
 Abstain: Motion carried

5. Approve Request for Proposals (RFP): Repair wall Historic Society Building –

Discussion: This is part of the Capital Improvement Plan. It is in the budget.

Motion made to approve the request for proposals to repair the wall of the Historical Society Building

Motion by: Allan Roberts 2nd by: Pat Elliott

VOTE: Aye: 5
 Nay:
 Absent:
 Abstain: Motion carried

6. Virginia Tourism Corporation (VTC): Grant for website – Discussion: This is grant funding to pay for updating YourGateCity.com, which is geared toward tourists to the area.

Motion made to apply for the VTC grant for updating website

Motion by: Allan Roberts 2nd by: Dexter Harmon

VOTE: Aye: 5
 Nay:
 Absent:
 Abstain: Motion carried

7. Auction PD Vehicle: 2022 Dodge Durango – Discussion: This is a non-performing asset. It is not needed by the Police Department. They already have one other spare vehicle.

Motion made to auction PD Vehicle: 2022 Dodge Durango

Motion by: Allan Roberts 2nd by: Pat Elliott

VOTE: Aye: 5
 Nay:
 Absent:
 Abstain: Motion carried

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT – NEW BUSINESS

XV. CLOSED SESSION

Motion made for Council to enter into closed session to discuss 1.) Legal matters

2.)

3.)

Motion by: Allan Roberts

2nd by: Pat Elliott

VOTE: Aye: 5
 Nay:
 Absent:
 Abstain: Motion carried

Mayor Richards opened the closed session at 8:55 PM

XVI. RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION

Motion made for Council to return from closed session.

Motion by: Allan Roberts

2nd by: Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain: Motion carried

Council returned from closed session at 9:38 PM

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING – Read by: Town Attorney 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: Aye: Tyler Kilgore, Allan Roberts, Wallace W. Ross, Jr., Pat Elliott, Dexter Harmon, Bob Richards

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

XVII. MOTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION: None

XVIII. ADJOURN

Motion made to adjourn.

Motion by: Allan Roberts 2nd by: Dexter Harmon

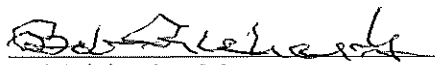
VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain: Motion carried

*Mayor Richards adjourned the meeting at 9:42 PM, until the next scheduled Council Meeting on March 14, 2023, at 6:30 PM


Bob Richards – Mayor


Lora Matthews – Town Clerk

Town of Gate City
156 E. JACKSON ST.
GATE CITY, VA 24251
276-386-3831 OFFICE
276-386-7789 FAX

Town Manager – Greg Jones
townmanager@mygatecity.com



Mayor
Bob Richards
Vice Mayor
Tyler Kilgore

Council Members
Pat Elliot
Dexter Harmon
Allan "Cotton" Roberts
Wallace W. Ross Jr.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of Gate City, Virginia, as follows:

WHEREAS, Mac McClung has accomplished an outstanding achievement by winning the 2023 NBA Slam Dunk Contest,

WHEREAS, the Town of Gate City, VA acknowledges the outstanding performance of Mac McClung and is proud of the way he continually and consistently represents Gate City,

WHEREAS, the Town of Gate City, VA commends Mac McClung for using various platforms to acknowledge his hometown in every aspect of his ongoing success,

WHEREAS, the Town of Gate City, VA commends Mac McClung for his exceptional character,

WHEREAS, the Town of Gate City, VA wishes continued success for Mac McClung and his pursuit of becoming an NBA player,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Gate City wishes a copy of this resolution to be presented to Mac McClung along with a key to the Town of Gate City.

Adopted this 14th Day of March 2023 by the Mayor and Gate City Town Council

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Richards".

Bob Richards – Mayor

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lora Matthews".

Lora Matthews – Town Clerk