



GATE CITY TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
January 12, 2016
156 E. JACKSON ST.
6:30 PM

I. COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:30 P.M. BY: Mayor - Frances Perry

II. ROLL CALL – Town Clerk – Amanda McKenna

PRESENT: ABSENT:

Mayor, Frances Perry	yeah
Vice Mayor, Allan “Cotton” Roberts	yeah
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, Debbie Kindle, Ron Kindle

III. INVOCATION

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE –

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made to approve the agenda.

Motion by: Vice Mayor, Allan Roberts 2nd by: Council Member, Robin Richards

VOTE: Yeas, 5
 Nays,
 Absent,
 Abstain,

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

- **Officer of the Month- Dustin Folk**
- **Officer of the Year- Sgt Justin Miller**

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Council Meeting on December 8, 2015 as presented?** Mayor, Frances Perry approved as written.
- **Public Hearing on December 8, 2015 as presented?** Mayor, Frances Perry approved as written.

VIII. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Motion made for approval for payment of bills for December, 2015.

Motion by: Vice Mayor, Allan Roberts 2nd by: Council Member, Robin Richards

VOTE: Yeas, 5
 Nays,
 Absent,
 Abstain,

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Debbie Kindle spoke about the Police Department and how they need to add a 5th position to have the additional officer on duty. She stated that she knew at times there are not officers available or on duty because there is not enough man power. None of it is Chief Scott Fink's fault. There have been more mass shootings and their lives are endangered. She further stated that they need to have all of Council's support. They could get a 4 or 5 thousand dollar per year raise if they went to County. So she also recommended a raise for the Police Department. Council Member, Roger Cassell asked her as a citizen if she would be ok with a tax increase to accommodate for the additional officer and possible increase in their salary. Debbie Kindle stated that yes she would be ok with that and she thinks that they all should.

Mayor Perry closed the public comment session at 6:39 P.M. and opened the consent agenda session.

X. COMMUNICATIONS - None

XI. REPORTS

A. Engineer's Status Report- Cody McElroy asked if there were any questions about his report. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. questioned if the leak detection was completed over the whole town. Cody McElroy stated that yes in fact there were 17 major leaks mostly in the downtown area, and they have all been repaired.

B. Manager's Report- Read Report

C. Treasurer's Report – Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked if the finance report was accurate. Town Manager, Greg Jones stated that in fact it was accurate. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that he asked because he did not see where the line item was for the Mayor salary. Town Manager, Greg Jones stated that it is a combined salary. He further stated that he could get the breakdown if Mr. Ross wanted it. Mayor, Frances Perry stated that this was discussed and answered in the last meeting. She further informed Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. that she would give him her pay stubs if he wanted them. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. handed a copy of a Virginia Town & City magazine opened to page 19 with a few sections highlighted to Town Attorney, Michele Brooks and he asked her to read from the highlighted area. Town Attorney, Michele Brooks began to read a section that was highlighted about Robert's Rules of Order.

D. Codification Committee/Property Maintenance – Council Member, Robin Richards asked if we had looked anymore into the house beside the bed and breakfast. Town Attorney, Michele Brooks stated that yes it has recently switched hands so we need to give them time to get the paperwork in order.

E. Police Department Report – Skipped until officers arrive.

F. Council Reports- Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that he didn't understand why he was being charged extra for a night's stay when he goes to the conference at the end of the month. Town Manager, Greg Jones explained that he was not being charged extra but that the price was different because the VML only has discounts for certain days of their meetings and the extra day was not included in that. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. wanted to know why it was not included since it says in the magazine that he can stay a whole week and attend several conferences. Town Manager, Greg Jones stated that that was not a part of his package. He was only attending a 4-hour meeting that begins at 3:00 pm. He further explained that most people will arrive that morning go to the conference and then stay only 1 night then travel home the next day. However, Mr. Ross requested the extra day of travel because it was hard on him to make that trip and do a conference in the same day. Mayor, Frances Perry asked if this was something that the town was paying for. Town Manager, Greg Jones stated that yes this was paid for by the town. Mayor, Frances Perry stated that she didn't know what the problem was. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that he just wanted to try and save the town as much money as he could. Mayor, Frances Perry stated that she was sure that Town Manager, Greg Jones has saved all the dollars that he could save on that reservation and that since the town was providing for the trip she didn't know why we were wasting time on this at the meeting. Council Member, Robin Richards stated that she would like to see more police patrol. She further stated that there was a new process to animal control complaints and they only have Mon.-Fri. 8 am – 12 pm hours. Council Member, Roger Cassell stated that he spoke to Civitan who stated that if we got them a list of materials they would buy them in order to put a grill at the gazebo as it is the only structure without one.

D. Police Department- Awarded Justin Miller the Officer of the Year Award and Dustin Folk Officer of the Month for the month of December 2015. Council Member, Robin Richards asked if for an explanation of the report that the Town Manager, Greg Jones had put together regarding coverage. Chief Scott Fink stated that it was just to be able to show everyone that if they have an officer at a school or some type of training that it will look like they overlap, when really one will be nowhere near Gate City as they are attending training. He stated that there are part time people but their time is limited. Council Member, Roger Cassell asked about the process to pick the part time people. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that he knew it was a difficult time, but he has spoken to some people who seem to know what time the officers go certain places and when officers are on duty. He also suggested that the full time officers work less daytime and more at night. Chief Scott Fink stated that the officers never have a set route or same thing that they do each and every day for their own safety and that he thinks it would be better if there was the same coverage all day long.

G. Economic Development Committee

H. Historical Committee

I. Park Committee

J. Planning Commission

K. Public Works- Vice Mayor, Allan Roberts wanted to give a thank you to the Public Works team for all of their efforts on the leaks. They were repaired quickly and efficiently.

L. Sanitation Authority

M. Street Commission

N. Safety Committee – Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that the cameras were still having issues. Town Manager, Greg Jones stated that sometimes they freeze up, but that comes with technology.

O. Water Plant

P. Events Committee – Gate City Frontier will be attending a workshop in February that will help them to finalize the 2016 event plans.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- **Highway Safety Program Application**

Motion made to be in support of the highway Safety Program Application.

Motion by: Council Member, Roger Cassell 2nd by: Vice-Mayor, Allan Roberts

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays,
Absent,
Abstain,

- **VDOT Jackson Street Sidewalk project (Task Order #3)**

Motion made to approve the task order # 3 sidewalk project.

Motion by: Vice-Mayor, Allan Roberts 2nd by: Council Member, Roger Cassell

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays,
Absent,
Abstain,

- **Vehicle Use Policy**

Tabled until next meeting.

- **Rural Development Grant- Police Vehicles**

Motion made to allow Town Manager, Greg Jones to start the process for the grant.

Motion by: Vice-Mayor, Allan Roberts 2nd by: Council Member, Roger Cassell

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays,
Absent,
Abstain

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT – NEW BUSINESS – Mayor Frances Perry stated that she received a letter from John M. Taylor regarding a property on Burnt Cabin Branch that he would like to donate to the town for a walking trail. She was wondering if there was any interest by the Council to obtain that property. Town Attorney, Michele Brooks suggested that there be a title search completed and advised that we would probably need a land survey.

XV. ADJOURN

Motion made to adjourn.

Motion by: Vice-Mayor, Allan Roberts 2nd by: Council Member, Roger Cassell

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays,
Absent,
Abstain,

*Mayor Perry adjourned the meeting at 8:21 P.M., until the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting on February 9, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

Frances Perry – Mayor

Amanda McKenna – Town Clerk