

GATE CITY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

October 14, 2008

156 E. JACKSON ST.

6:00 PM

I. COUNCIL MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Jenkins
Vice-Mayor Tipton
Council Frances Perry
Council Cindy Coates

ABSENT: Council Ashley Jenkins
Council Tommy Herron

V. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation: Steve Brown
Pledge of Allegiance: Mayor Mark Jenkins

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

None.

*Mayor Jenkins closed the Reports session and opened the Communications session.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

Robert Mullins did not attend the meeting.

*Mayor Jenkins closed the Communications session and opened the Reports session.

VIII. REPORTS

A. Manager

Town Manager Steve Templeton was unable to attend the meeting. Vice-Mayor Tipton summarized his report.

- Water Dept—VDH Office of Drinking Water has notified the Town of eight deficiencies in the drinking water. The loss of water for September was 49.6%. Loretta has suggested that the Town purchase a leak detector costing approximately \$3800 to detect leaks. VDH considers the amount of loss the Town is experiencing to be unacceptable.
- Recovery of over-due taxes and business licenses: The Town is still continuing to collect these items.
- Grants: Ads have been placed for an administrator of the Downtown Revitalization Grant Project.
- The Town is still accepting applications for the Sanitation Board and Planning Commission.
- Dan Danko said he expects the new plant to be in operation on November 1, 2008.
- Mr. Templeton has written and sent letters to Slabtown residents explaining the benefits of the boundary adjustment. Many of the residents want to maintain their rights to hunt on their property. Mr. Templeton would like the Council to look into the possibility of grandfathering this in so the residents will be more open to the idea of the boundary adjustment.
- There have currently been seven bids for the small truck for Public Works. Mr. Templeton would like a committee to sort through these bids and recommend their suggestion for approval.

B. Police Department

Chief Jason Cox reported that there were 221 calls to services, 52 summonses, 15 arrests, and 24 criminal reports completed. The K-9 report included 12 training hours, 3 school drug checks, 3 vehicle drug checks with 2 drug finds in vehicles and one in school.

C. Public Works

Stoney Falin said the Town should consider getting a leak detector. He said they would gladly do a demo to test the service. Mayor Jenkins thanked Stoney and Public Works for their hard work.

D. Water Plant

Loretta has talked to April at DEQ. The Dungannon water plant has a detector like the one that has been suggested that the Town purchase. Dungannon has found all their leaks using this detector. Loretta will ask if the Town can borrow Dungannon's meter for a few days. She also said the meter at the football field is not working properly. This issue needs to be fixed promptly.

E. Sewer Plant

F. Street Commission

Council Perry is continuing to make notes of the streets that need to be repaired when the money becomes available.

G. Sanitation Authority

The Sanitation Authority has been discussing the dismantling of the plant. They have talked about keeping the drying beds, etc. for future use. Dan Danko gave the Sanitation Authority a proposed break-down of charges at the last meeting.

H. Economic Development Committee

Members of the Economic Development Committee are working on the Town's Comprehensive Plan. One of the signs for the Town entrances is completely finished. Mr. Templeton will check on getting the permits for the installation of the footers. The Planning Commission is going to work on an ordinance concerning damage done to these signs. Jason McCully has requested to sell merchandise with the Town logos. A few businesses have requested the purchase of a sign for the highway. Steve gave information on Black Diamond RC & D Conference.

I. Water Committee

The Water Committee has not met. Council Perry said Council Herron has been out of town.

J. Park Committee

Jeff Stapleton will have the rain garden design ready at the next meeting. The re-bid for the Grogan Park expansion project has been re-advertised in the Kingsport, Bristol, and Roanoke papers. There will be a Clean-up Day at Grogan Park on October 25, 2008.

K. Council Reports

None.

L. Treasurer

According to the budget comparison 22% of the money budgeted has been spent so far.

*Mayor Jenkins altered the agenda to include the following items under New Business:
Town Logos on items for sale by Town merchants, Buildings on Town right-of-way property, Application for VA Sidewalk Enhancement Program

*Mayor Jenkins closed the Reports session and opened the Public Comment session.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. **Tommy Quillen:** Mr. Quillen asked if the amount of \$130,659.46 is average for the monthly bill payments. Both Cindy Coates and Cindy King agreed that this average.
- B. **Wallace Ross Jr.:** Mr. Ross requested an upgrade of the status of the last street request he made. He said it has been a year with no decision or comment from the Town. Mr. Ross asked for the street behind the church to be opened. Mike Carrico said it is ultimately up to the Town Council to approve the opening of the street. There was discussion about previous issues concerning the opening of the street in question. Mr. Carrico said the survey conducted showed that the street ran to the corner of the church, creating a problem with the opening of the street. Council Perry requested to see a copy of the survey before the next Street Committee meeting.

- C. **Debbie Kindle:** Mrs. Kindle said she has heard a rumor that the sewer rate is going to increase 103%. Council said this was not true. There are no budget increases for now. Mrs. Kindle also said that the Planning Commission recently voted not to close Campbell and Highland Street, but there is a building there now. She has talked to members of the Council and Mr. Templeton about the issue. Mayor Jenkins went out to the property and the Planning Commission turned down their request to build on Danny Lane's property. Mr. Templeton and Jason Cox went to the property to address the issue but no one was home. Mike Carrico stated that there should have been a suit filed for an injunction. If the building is on Town property it has to be removed.

*Mayor Jenkins closed Public Comment at 7:08 PM.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of Town Council meeting minutes of September 9, 2008.
B. Approval of bill payments for September 2008 in the amount of **\$130,659.46**

MOTION: Motion by Vice-Mayor Tipton, Seconded by Council Coates
To approve the Consent Agenda

VOTE: Yeas, 3
Nays, None
Absent, Council Herron
Council Jenkins

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **Appointment of new member to the Codification Committee:** Mayor Jenkins appointed Council Perry to the Codification Committee.
- B. **Purchase of new utility billing software:** Council received information on various potential software companies in their packets. Cindy King said Citipak has also been contacted but she did not have prices or any other further information on the system. Mayor Jenkins appointed Cindy Coates, Rita Tipton, Steve Templeton, Rhonda Stacey, and Cindy King to a committee. This committee will meet and demo software and provide their recommendation at the next meeting.
- C. **Monthly report from Robert Mullins:** Council Perry would like a monthly verbal or written report from Mr. Mullins to show that he is completing the work he is being paid for.
- D. **Water Policy:** Tabled until next month
- E. **Ron Baker Property on E. Jackson Street:** This is the property where the house collapsed that has been neglected. This item needs to fall under Robert Mullins' clean-up policy.
- F. **Permanent Yard Sale on W. Jackson Street:** The furniture sale across from James TV has been going on since this summer. The Planning Commission was supposed to have created an ordinance. Mr. Templeton will need to go and talk to the property owners in order to solve the issue.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Façade Improvement and Revitalization Board:** Mayor Jenkins appointed the following people to the Façade Improvement and Revitalization Board: Cindy Coates, Sandy Jenkins, Bob Blackstock, Cathy McConnell, Jan Jenkins, Jason McCully. Council Perry questioned whether or not Mr. McCully was eligible to be on the board since he applied for grant money as a renter and business owner. Mayor Jenkins will look into this issue and if Mr. McCully is eligible to receive money he can not serve as a member of the board.
- B. **Lola Dean Taxes:** Tabled until next meeting.
- C. **Christmas Parade:** The Town needs to go ahead and be thinking about where they can purchase a Christmas tree for the Town lot. Mayor Jenkins asked if anyone was interested in volunteering to work with the Fire Department to work out the details of the parade. Chief Jason Cox has a meeting with the Fire Department tomorrow at 5:00 PM.
- D. **Bird Nuisance:** Council Perry requested this issue be put on the agenda. She said she has been contacted by a number of Town citizens complaining about the large number of birds roosting in their trees. They can't shoot the birds because they live within Town limits. Council Perry will contact the State Game Commission in order to decide how to best deal with the situation.
- E. **Soil Erosion:** Citizens have complained that the creek banks keep falling in on the West End of Town across from the Quarry Pond. People who have bought property where the soil is eroding are afraid it will ruin their property. They need to contact Sheila Clamon at Soil and Water Conservation to get further information on this issue.

