



**GATE CITY TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
DECEMBER 8, 2015
156 E. JACKSON ST.
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING PUBLIC HEARING**

I. COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:45 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		absent
Town Manager, Greg Jones	yeah	
Town Attorney, Michele Brooks	yeah	

Others present: Debbie and Ron Kindle, Cody McElroy, Robert Barker, James Addington

III. INVOCATION

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chief Fink

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made to approve the agenda with changes. Changing Vickki Roberts to a 1 year term to Joann Castle to a 1 year term and to add Special Exception for 180 Eva St. under New Business.

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

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

- **(ITEM MOVED TO FRONT TO ACCOMMODATE SCHEDULES OF PUBLIC) Special Exception for 180 Eva St.**

Motion made to approve the special exception and allow the single wide trailer upgrade to the existing property.

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

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

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

- **Officer of the Month- Dustin Folk**
- **Christmas Basket drawing- WINNERS: Rylan Jennings, Deborah Latch, and Sue Boggs**
- **Appoint Vickki Roberts to a 4 year term - Gate City Planning Commission**
- **Appoint Joann Castle to a 1 year term - Gate City Board of Zoning Appeals**
- **Amanda McKenna completed Property Maintenance & Housing Inspection Program**

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Council Meeting on November 10, 2015 as presented?** Approved
- **Emergency Meeting on November 19, 2015 as presented?** Approved

VIII. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

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

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

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

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Debbie Kindle wanted to ask what was going on with the new meters as there are a lot of work orders about them reading backwards or malfunctioning. Town Manager, Greg Jones stated that there were no moving parts in the meters and this was something that we are working closely with the manufacturer about. She also expressed concern about the need for a full Council Packet to be placed on the back table for public review. It was explained that the clerk had one at her station in the meeting room.

Mayor Perry closed the public comment session at 7:31 P.M. and opened the consent agenda session.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

XI. REPORTS

A. Engineer's Status Report- Cody McElroy, Mattern & Craig, Inc., There have been leaks discovered and we are still working to discover the remainder of the leaks.

B. Manager's Report- Read Report.

C. Treasurer's Report – Vice-Mayor, Allan Roberts asked the Town Manager, Greg Jones if being 9% over on the budget was something that we should be worried about. Town Manager, Greg Jones stated not at this time. It would work itself out.

D. Codification Committee/Property Maintenance

E. Police Department Report – Chief, Scott Fink stated that he would like the Council to start considering to allow the police department have 5 full time officers. He stated that this would allow him to be in the office more and be here for training purposes and do his job more efficiently. Council Member, Robin Richards asked if he had 5 full time positions, how many part time would he still need? Chief Fink stated that he could eliminate the part time officer needs. He stated that he could not be on days and nights. He stated that he knew he could lead the department if he was given the chance to do so. He stated that so very often he gets asked why does Gate City need a Police Department so he stated that he wanted the Council to think about that question very seriously as if there were no Police Department here it would take at least 20 minutes for someone to respond should anything happen in their own home.

F. Council Reports Council Member, Roger Cassell stated that he would like to see Made by Hands receive an award for their windows always being decorated so nicely. Council Member, Robin Richards stated that there were at least 3 residents that complained that they didn't know about the events happening in town. Her suggestion is that the town purchase a digital board. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr., stated that he thinks we should get an award for the Dollar General. Vice-Mayor, Allan Roberts stated that he is still concerned about the Crosswalks because vehicles continue to go even with pedestrians on the street.

G. Economic Development Committee

H. Historical Committee

I. Park Committee – No meeting this month due to attendance.

J. Planning Commission- Street closure request has been denied as it would land lock property.

K. Public Works

L. Sanitation Authority

M. Street Commission

N. Safety Committee – Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr., stated that he was still concerned that some of the cameras are working and some are not. Town Manager, Greg Jones stated that he would check on it.

O. Water Plant

P. Events Committee – Vice-Mayor, Allan Roberts stated that they were going to continue to plan and organize 2016 events.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Town to write letter to the School Board stating that any type of work is done at the Park would need to be approved by the Town**

Town Attorney, Michele Brooks is going to revisit the contract and will request this item to go back on the agenda when she is ready.

- **Estil Cemetery property acquisition.**

Motion made to accept Estil Cemetery by Special Warranty Deed. By Vice-Mayor, Allan Roberts No second.

Vice-Mayor, Allan Roberts stated that it was a Historical piece of property and the people taking care of it now will start to pass away and there will be no one to take care of it. Think of it being a beautiful piece of property. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr., stated that there was no parking and does not seem as though this would be good for the town as once the money has depleted then the taxpayers must start paying for it. Mayor, Frances Perry stated that there was plenty of parking. Council Member, Robin Richards stated that we could get Historical designation no matter who owns it. She further stated that there needed to be a lot of thought put into this decision. Town Attorney, Michele Brooks stated that legally the town can do it if that was the desire of the Council. Robert Barker, Estil Cemetery, stated that he appreciated the consideration of this by the Council. He knows it has a lot of historical meanings to the town. He thought the only stipulations would be the money and the deed which they were able to conquer both. He was surprised that there was even a discussion as to whether or not the town was going to take it over at this point. Vice-Mayor, Allan Roberts stated that this was supposed to be apart of the walking tour. Council Member, Roger Cassell asked if the Historical Society could take this over? He then asked Cody McElroy if there were any grants to help. Cody McElroy stated that he typically didn't deal with those types of grants, but that it was something that they could look into. Robert Barker stated that unless a governing body will take over it, he would walk away from it. Council Member, Robin Richards stated that she would like to have more time to hash this out to make sure that we could take care of the property properly. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr., stated that he could see good things such as walking trails, but how do we keep raising money to take care of the cemetery? Council Member, Robin Richards stated that she has studied the wrought iron and it is expensive. We would be liable for all of that. Vice-Mayor, Allan Roberts stated that we have VML insurance. He further stated that the founding fathers of this town are buried in that cemetery. Council Member, Robin Richards stated that she didn't want to burden the town. Not against the cemetery, but just thinks we need to really think hard about this. Mayor, Frances Perry stated that they have done everything that we have asked them to do and we need to make a decision.

Motion made to accept the Estil Cemetery by Special Warranty Deed.

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

Roll Call VOTE: Yeas, 2 Robin Richards, Allan Roberts
Nays, 2 Wallace W. Ross, Jr., Roger Cassell
Absent, 1
Abstain,

TIE VOTE: Mayor, Frances Perry votes Yeas. Motion Carries.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- **RFP for Life, short term, long term insurance vendor change**

Motion made to pursue the RFP's for a vendor change.

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

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

- **Town Hall Server Computer Replacement.**

Motion made to accept the bid for \$5297.31 from Saratoga.

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

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

- **Legislative Trip – Richmond, VA**

Town Manager, Greg Jones stated that he needed to know who would be able to attend so that he could make the arrangements. Vice-Mayor, Allan Roberts stated that he would be able to attend and Council Member, Robin Richards and Council Member, Roger Cassell stated that they would have to let Greg know. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr., stated that he would not be attending.

- **Approval of quote to pave a turn-around area at the end of Michael Road**

Motion made to approve \$2100.00 quote from Don's Paving.

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

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

- **Release the Deed of Trust for the CDBG (Façade Project)**

Motion made to authorize Michele Brooks to release the deeds.

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

VOTE: Yeas, 3
 Nays,
 Absent, 1
 Abstain, 1- Vice-Mayor, Allan Roberts (as this issue pertains to his personal business.)

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT – NEW BUSINESS

Sam, Sam's Towing, wanted to state that if the Wrecker Policy was to ever be on the agenda that someone would please send a letter out to the companies to let them know that there would be a change.

XV. ADJOURN

Motion made to adjourn.

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

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

*Mayor Perry adjourned the meeting at 9:41 P.M., until the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting on January 12, 2016, at 6:30 p.m.

Frances Perry – Mayor

Amanda McKenna – Town Clerk