



GATE CITY TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2014
156 E. JACKSON ST.
6:30 PM

PUBLIC HEARING:

Proposed issuance of bonds by the Town of Gate City

I. Mayor, Frances Perry called Public Hearing to order at 6:31 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL Town Clerk, Kathy Riley

Present : Mayor, Frances Perry
Vice Mayor, Allan "Cotton" Roberts
Council Member, Roger Cassell
Council Member, Robin Richards
Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr.
Council Member, Walter Salyers
Town Manager, Greg Jones
Town Attorney, Michele Brooks

Others present: None

III. NEW BUSINESS

- **Proposed issuance of bonds by the Town of Gate City** – Town Manager, G. Jones, explained Council to entertain issuing Bonds for the new water treatment plant projects which would entail some maintenance at the plant and water meters. This is a high energy efficiency grant which when complete will be able to run the water plant more efficiently. The bond is what we will be funding to pay for it. Council Member, R. Cassell, asked what is required to place into savings. Town Manager, G. Jones, responded we are required for a debt fund of 10% right off which would be about \$4,600 and it needs to be fully funded in five years. It is required to stay in the savings account until it is retired.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Close Public Comment at 6:35 P.M.

V. Public Hearing closes at 6:35 P.M.

Mayor Frances Perry

Town Clerk, Kathy Riley

GATE CITY TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2014

- I. COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:35 P.M. BY:** Mayor - Frances Perry
- II. ROLL CALL –** Town Clerk - Kathy Riley

PRESENT: Mayor, Frances Perry
Vice Mayor, Allan “Cotton” Roberts
Council Member, Roger Cassell
Council Member, Robin Richards
Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr.
Council Member, Walter Salyers
Town Manager, Greg Jones
Town Attorney, Michele Brooks

Others present: None

- III. INVOCATION** Reverend Jeff DeBoard
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** Council Member, Roger Cassell
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made to approve the agenda.

Motion by: Vice Mayor, A. Roberts 2nd by: Council Member, R. Cassell

VOTE:	Yeas,	5
	Nays,	0
	Absent,	0
	Abstain,	0

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

- **Proclamation for Faye Opal Owens for Dedicated Service** – Mayor Perry read the proclamation and presented the Proclamation to Phil Owens, her son, and Faye’s family members. Phil Owens expressed his appreciation to all the Council Members in doing this, stating it was something that didn’t have to be done, but it’s a good testament of where Council’s hearts are. Council Member, W.W. Ross, Jr., commented on how Ms. Owens was a guiding influence for him while he served on Committees with her.

- **Proclamation for the Gate City Outdoor Classroom to Receive national Earth Team Award**
Town Manager, G. Jones, explained this is more of recognition. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded their 2014 Natural Resources Conservation Services Earth Team Partnership Award to the Gate City Middle School Science students. He explained this is a national award with some publicity. He explained an area that was a problem and the creation of an actual resource, with the involvement of a lot of governmental partnerships and about 4,000 hours of local volunteers. He explained what you would see if you visited the area which consists of a rain garden, outdoor deck, walk way, benches and an outdoor area that was built by the students of the Gate City High School and Gate City Middle School. He wanted to extend our congratulations to them for this National award.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Perry - Are there any corrections to the minutes for the:

- **Public Hearing – Donate Police Department of Chapter 9-Gate City Ordinance** of February 11, 2014 as presented?

Motion made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion by: Vice Mayor, A. Roberts 2nd by: Council Member, R. Richards

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0
Absent, 0
Abstain, 0

- **Council Meeting** of February 11, 2014 as presented?

Motion made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion by: Council Member, R. Richards 2nd by: Vice Mayor, A. Roberts

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0
Absent, 0
Abstain, 0

- **Special Called Meeting – Bond Issuance** of February 14, 2014 as presented?

Motion made to accept the minutes as presented.

Motion by: Council Member, R. Cassell 2nd by: Vice Mayor, A. Roberts

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0
Absent, 0
Abstain, 1-Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr.-Did not attend the meeting

VIII. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Motion made for approval for payment of bills for February, 2014.

Motion by: Vice Mayor, A. Roberts 2nd by: Council Member, R. Cassell

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0
Absent, 0

Abstain, 0

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

Mayor Perry closed the public comment session at 6:47 P.M. and opened the consent agenda session.

X. COMMUNICATIONS - None

XI. REPORTS

A. Engineer's Status Report – No comments.

B. Treasurer's Report – Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, questioned an item relating to Group Insurance with a 366% change and asked if there was an increase. Town Manager, G. Jones responded there was no increase, he remembered looking at that, but would provide him an answer. Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., asked if this report could have the pages numbered. Town Manager, G. Jones, stated he would number future reports.

C. Codification Committee/Property Maintenance – No comments.

D. Police Department Report – Council Member, W. Salyers, stated the officers were stepping up.

E. Council Reports – Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, discussed a complaint regarding dog feces on the sidewalk in town. Council further discussed ideas/options/solutions to remedy this situation. Council Member, W. Salyers, commented on the lack of police presence in the business area. Council further discussed options for the police department to increase their visibility to the public and residents of the town. Council Member, R. Richards, discussed a complaint regarding deer population in the town. Council further discussed options to help control deer population. Mayor Perry discussed a complaint regarding cat problem at West Highland and Darter Street. Council further discussed options to reduce cat population with Town Attorney, M. Brooks, providing VA Codes 3.2 6543 and 3.2 6569 that relate. Council Member, R. Cassell, discussed compliment he received regarding the performance of Acting Chief, Scott Fink. Mayor Perry addressed a request for monetary relief regarding the leak that was inside the courthouse. Council further discussed this request with Town Manager, G. Jones, explaining the need for the Town to be non-discriminating and adhere to the policy. Mayor Perry requested a letter be sent to Bill Dings regarding Council's decision. Town Manager, G. Jones, addressed the school zone situation and the responsibility lies with the School. Council further discussed this topic with the decision to inform all complainants to contact the school board or principal.

F. Economic Development Committee – Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, discussed the workshop that was held on Saturday, March 1, 2014, with a great presentation from Mark Freeman. He stated many good ideas came out of it and the need to spend money inside the community that you are in. Town Manager, G. Jones, discussed the placement of a "Buy Local Campaign" on the Town website.

G. Historical Committee – No comments.

H. Manager- Town Manager, G. Jones, went over his report as presented in the Council packet. Council further discussed the topic of the Gateway sign being placed on the island of US 23/Kane Street location will provide greater visibility, change to the town logo and Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., request for placement of another sign in the space under the three organization signs. Town Manager, G. Jones discussed the water lines and their conditions in different areas of town.

Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, referenced back to the Economic Development Committee regarding the new business that is opening up in town, the Smokin' Pig by Brandon Hensley which will be going in where the Blue Rooster was located. He stated he was the one who won all the competition at Grillin' at the Gate and asked Council to frequent his restaurant and provide assistance. He also stated he heard from a Realtor that Joe, Chris' Department Store wants to sell the store and inventory. He discussed summer concerts inside the alley on Friday nights with Brandon and him keeping their businesses open later for the concerts. Council Member, W. Salyers, questioned on the Manager's report regarding safety meetings and the employees of the town, if it included the Police Officers not talking on their phone while they are driving. Town Manager, G. Jones, responded that it included everybody, with all employees received a copy of it and signed off on it. Council Member, W. Salyers, asked if Farm Bureau was aware of the Police Department moving out and if they were fine with it. Town Manager, G. Jones, responded a letter had been sent out, he had not received a response from them, assumed they are okay with it and we are doing it month to month right now. Council Member, W. Salyers, asked about the sale of the building and what we were doing with those funds, if we are going to use those funds to do something on the demolition on the building. Town Manager, G. Jones, stated he believe we already did with the property sold at \$18,000/\$19,000 and the razing cost us about \$23,000 and it will keep us in the good graces of the budget. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, asked about the town selling the theater building and for whoever buys it to do something with it and not let it sit there. Town Manager, G. Jones, provided suggestions regarding possible uses for the Theater Building.

I. Park Committee – Did not meet.

J. Planning Commission – No comments.

K. Public Works – No comments.

L. Sanitation Authority – Did not meet.

M. Street Commission – Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., questioned timeframe for completion of the sidewalk project and when the next project would begin. Town Manager, G. Jones, stated the sidewalk project would be completed by the end of the month and the next project would begin in six or eight months.

N. Safety Committee – Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., reiterated comments Town Manager, G. Jones, made during the Manager Report.

O. Water Plant – Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., reiterated comments Town Manager, G. Jones, made during the Manager Report.

P. Events Committee – Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, discussed the workshop meeting, summer concerts, movies and location to hold these type of events. Mayor Perry asked if anything would

be done to the side of the Police building. Council further discussed options with suggestion of contacting the school vocational school masonry students using it as a project.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- **Rescind motion to accept the application to appoint Vickie Roberts to the Planning Commission for a four year term.**

Motion made to rescind motion to accept the application to appoint Vickie Roberts to the Planning Commission for a four year term.

Motion by: Council Member, R. Richards 2nd by: Council Member, W. Salyers

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0
Absent, 0
Abstain, 1-Vice Mayor, A. Roberts

- **Decision to accept the application to appoint Vickie Roberts to the Planning Commission for the vacant unexpired term ending January 4, 2016.**

Motion made to accept the application to appoint Vickie Roberts to the Planning Commission to fill the vacant unexpired term that will end January 4, 2016

Motion by: Council Member, R. Richards 2nd by: Council Member, R. Cassell

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0
Absent, 0
Abstain, 1-Vice Mayor, A. Roberts

- **Decision regarding adoption of Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds not to exceed \$848,322.**

Motion made for the adoption of Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Bonds not to exceed \$848,322.

Motion by: Vice Mayor, A. Roberts 2nd by: Council Member, R. Cassell

Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., questioned the percent and length for the loan, is all this money going towards the refurbishment of the water system and if we are still paying on past loans? Town Manager, G. Jones, responded 3% for 30 years for the loan, the money will be used for the water treatment plant and replacement of water meters and yes, we are still paying on about seven prior loans, with the possibility of refinancing four Rural Development loans for a lower interest rate. Council Member, R. Richards, questioned receipt of the grant was for that and was it the grant that caused us to raise our water rates. Town Manager, G. Jones, responded yes regarding the receipt of the grant and explained the other monies from another grant. He stated the rate increase was to pay for the \$848,000, for it to be self-funding and to provide covenants to our bond holders

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, 0
Absent, 0
Abstain, 1-Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr.

- **Vote on opening up a savings account for the debt reserves for the new bond that is funding our WTP HEEE project** – Town Manager, G. Jones, explained that part of the covenants with the bond is the requirement for a debt reserved. The first payment is due Friday which is 10% or about \$4,600 which has to be moved into the savings account. It needs to be fully funded by the fifth year of this bond, which means it is one years’ worth of payments that is sitting in this bond. He further explained once the debt is retired that money will go back to the Town, back to the water. He stated it should be stipulated in the motion for the money to go back into the water fund.

Motion made to open a savings account for the debt reserves for the new bond for our energy efficiency grant and when this debt is retired the money in that savings account will return back to the water fund.

Motion by: Council Member, R. Cassell 2nd by: Vice Mayor, A. Roberts

VOTE: Yeas,	5
Nays,	0
Absent,	0
Abstain	0

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT – NEW BUSINESS – None

Mayor Perry closed the public comment session for new business at 8:11 P.M. and opened the consent agenda session.

XV. CLOSED SESSION – Council did not go into closed session

XVI. ADJOURN

Motion made to adjourn.

Motion by: Vice Mayor, A. Roberts 2nd by: Council Member, W. Salyers

VOTE: Yeas,	5
Nays,	0
Absent,	0
Abstain,	0

*Mayor Perry adjourned the meeting at 8:11 P.M., until the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting on April 8, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

Frances Perry – Mayor

Kathy Riley – Town Clerk