



GATE CITY TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
MAY 13, 2014
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 - 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: Don Muncie, Benny Reed, Betty Spears Hall, Tina Nash

- III. INVOCATION Don Muncie**
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Don Muncie**
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Motion made to approve the agenda.

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

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. – Vice Mayor, A. Roberts wanted to recognize the two Council Members that were reelected.**

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Council Meeting of April 8, 2014 as presented?**

Motion made to approve the minutes as presented.

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

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

VIII. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

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

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

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

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

Tina Nash – 360 Old Nickelsville Road – Discussed ways to raise money for an amphitheater, bring a festival for a week to make money, her connections with bands, increase tourism and people involvement, need to have Grillin’ at the Gate to be longer, bring the carnival back to town for kids. She addressed the condition of some businesses in town. She discussed getting the Band Perry as a band, the parking lot condition and kids hanging out there and to have fireworks at events. She stated people are going away and the need to bring them back. She stated she has free time and offered to help.

Mayor Perry closed the public comment session at 6:46 P.M. and opened the consent agenda session.

X. COMMUNICATIONS - None

XI. REPORTS

A. Engineer’s Status Report - No report was provided.

B. Treasurer’s Report – Vice Mayor, A. Roberts discussed sales tax is doing better, at a plus. Questioned status of Delinquent Business Taxes for 2013. Town Attorney, M. Brooks replied they have all been paid. He stated there are no funds in the flea market column. Town Manager, G. Jones, stated last time money was received was January last year, has reached out to Mr. Brickey for comments, with no response and will invite Fire Chief, Jeff Brickey, to next month’s Council Meeting. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, stated to possibly lease it out to someone, if no money is coming in. He stated fines are down and asked if bank taxes are last day, last minute situation. Town Manager, G. Jones, said he is not sure how much money will come in for that. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, questioned the increase to the Group Insurance and utilities expense with Town Manager, G. Jones, providing and explanation.

C. Codification Committee/Property Maintenance – Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, discussed the condition of the property located at 137 Woodland Street stated the need to kick it back up again. Town Attorney, M. Brooks, stated she will take care of it and stated if we cannot do selective enforcement and if we reopen enforcement it will mean anything referred to her will be filed on with the understanding it will cost some money. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, stated to go for it.

D. Police Department Report – Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, questioned why one officer has 43 summons/citations, with the other two officers combined is only 33 between them. Mayor Perry suggested maybe the citizens have learned we are not going to put up with it and not as much is going on. Council Member, R. Richards, suggested different shifts historically will pull more action. Town Manager, G. Jones, informed Council of three (3) new part-time officers and one new part-time relief officer that are all certified. Council Member, R. Richards, questioned the presence of Weber City officers in our town all the time. Council Member, R. Cassell, stated the deputies are helping out at the school zone.

E. Council Reports – Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., questioned about the money for the sidewalks. Town Manager, G. Jones, responded that it will be taken care of in the Fall and there is money out there in grants. Council Member, W. Salyers, stated the sidewalk project looked good, but the grass is growing around the rails and it needs to be cut. He feels the town crew need to concentrate on maintaining the areas that are more visible. Town Manager, G. Jones, stated the town has hired three part-time employees for public works. Council Member, W. Salyers, commented on the closing of the street (King Alley). Stated he did not realize it would be closed permanently. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, stated the stage is not portable, it is 16' x 24', and the town does not have the manpower to put it up and down each week. Council Member, W. Salyers, felt it was not good to shut down a street that is highly used and suggested the use of the parking lot as a location for the event. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, provided a reason for that location. Council Member, W. Salyers, stated he has heard a lot of grief about it. Council Member, R. Cassell, asked if it would have been better to have the stage portable, with Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, stating a portable stage is very expensive. Council Member, W. Salyers, suggested to possibly making the stage portable. Council Member, W. Salyers, stated he was blindsided about the stage, he didn't know. Mayor Perry suggested Council is made aware of what is going on to better provide answers. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, discussed sponsor fee for the bands is \$250.00. Council Member, R. Richards, had no comments. Council Member, R. Cassell, discussed the need to pursue those with delinquent taxes, questioned the authorization of ads in the Virginia Star and the need to cut down and save money. Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., suggested moving the ads to the Kingsport Times News versus the local paper. Mayor Perry informed him the cost difference would be more at Kingsport Times versus the local paper.

Acting Police Chief, Scott Fink, introduced the new part-time officer, Chandler Davidson. Officer Davidson, provided Council with a brief history of himself.

F. Economic Development Committee – Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, stated they meet every two weeks with the Events Committee. Discussed the event Kickin' Back at King Alley, sponsors they have for the event and the need of more sponsors, the Art Bazaar at Grogan Park, website that has been created for the King Alley project and that it is also on Facebook. Council Member, R. Richards, discussed the possibility of a Walmart coming either here or Weber City and asked if anyone had heard about this.

G. Historical Committee – Council Member, R. Richards, discussed going through the cemetery and found it to be interesting with lots of character. She and Wallace will be working on this for the summer.

H. Manager – Town Manager, G. Jones, went over his report as presented to Council in their packet. Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, informed Council of the mix of music that will be presented for the Kickin’ Back event. The times, for the event, has been scheduled from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

I. Park Committee – Did not meet.

J. Planning Commission – Did not meet due to the elections. Council Member, R. Cassell, questioned the status of the lease and Mayor Perry questioned the move of the LOVE sign.

K. Public Works – Council Member, W. Salyers, questioned the status of the trash trucks. Town Manager, G. Jones, informed Council they are back. He explained the repairs that were done due to a switch that was broken and provided the cost of the repair. Council Member, W. Salyers, suggested additional training for the drivers. Council Member, R. Cassell, questioned the status of the contract with Kingsport.

L. Sanitation Authority – Council Member, R. Cassell, discussed the Sanitary Sewer policy is ready to have a public hearing. Stated they wanted to do it right and take their time.

M. Street Commission – Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., questioned the balance under the streets on the budget. Town Manager, G. Jones, stated he is getting quotes from paving companies. Council Member, R. Cassell, stated the streets are in better shape than he expected and that Stoney has made a lot of improvements to the streets from the list he was provided. Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., commented on lights in front of Town Hall not working. Town Manager, G. Jones, stated it would be taken care of.

N. Safety Committee – Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr., questioned the status on the cameras at the water plant. Town Manager, G. Jones, provided an estimated cost of \$4,000-\$5,000 for high definition cameras. Council Member, R. Richards, questioned the purpose, is it for Surveillance? Questions from Council were possible grant money, would the system have to be manned and reason for high definition.

O. Water Plant – Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, stated the water loss is down and questioned the PSA contract, if the town can handle it. Town Manager, G. Jones, stated the town can handle it and will reevaluate the rates with PSA.

P. Events Committee – Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, stated they are tying up the loose ends for the Grillin’ at the Gate, their need for a big band for the finale and to talk to Tina Nash to discuss bands.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

Betty Spears Hall, 199 Gazebo Avenue – Provided a history of Jim Spears, her deceased husband, his accomplishments, statutes he had welded, contributions to the county and his request that something be named after him, possibly a bridge. She discussed the quality of people that are coming to the park after hours.

Mayor Perry suggested the bridge at Kane Street to be a possible location. Town Manager, G. Jones, stated he would speak to VDOT.

- **Discussion and decision regarding Betty Spears Hall request to name the street/bridge leading to her home after her late husband, Jim Spears**

Motion made to table this item until we get the proper information we need from the state concerning naming a bridge after Mr. Spears.

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

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

- **Discussion and decision regarding resolution adopting the Lenowisco Hazard Mitigation Plan**

Motion made to adopt the resolution.

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

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

- **Review and approval for Park Committee Application for Tiffany Fannon Baker**

Motion made to accept her application.

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

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

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT – NEW BUSINESS - No public comments.

Mayor Perry closed the public comment session for new business at 8:08 P.M. and opened the consent agenda session.

XV. CLOSED SESSION

Motion made for Council to enter into closed session to discuss legal and personnel issues.

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

VOTE: Yeas, 5
Nays, 0
Absent, 0

Abstain, 0

Mayor Perry opened the closed session at 8:10 P.M.

XVI. RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION

Council returned from closed session at 8:46 P.M.

Motion made for Council to return from closed session.

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

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

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING – Read by: Town Attorney, M. 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.

VOTE: Yeas, 6
Nays, 0
Absent, 0
Abstain, 0

XVII. MOTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION: No motions coming out of closed session.

XVIII. ADJOURN

Motion made to adjourn.

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

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

*Mayor Perry adjourned the meeting at 8:48 P.M., until the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting on June 10, 2014, at 6:30 p.m.

Frances Perry – Mayor

Kathy Riley – Town Clerk