TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES



Gate City Town Council Minutes June 11, 2019 156 E Jackson Street 6:30 PM

COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:31 P.M. BY: Mayor - Frances Perry I.

II. ROLL CALL - Deputy Town Clerk - Lisa Loggans

	PRESENT:	ABSENT:
Mayor, Frances Perry	X	
Vice Mayor, Robin Richards	X	
Council Member, Allan "Cotton" Roberts	X	
Council Member, Roger Cassell	X	
Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr.	X	
Council Member, Ron Kindle	X	
Town Manager, Greg Jones	X	
Town Attorney, Michele Brooks	X	

Others present: Jason Snapp; Mattern & Craig, Debbie Kindle, Rebecca Crockett; Lenowisco, Chief Terry Sivert, Lydia Lane, Andy Johnson; Commonwealth Attorney, Jessica Keith; Commonwealth Attorney's Office Manager, Marley Brooks

- III. INVOCATION - Council Member Allan "Cotton" Roberts
- IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chief Terry Sivert
- V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made to approve the agenda.

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

VOTE:

Aye, 5

Nay,

Absent,

Abstain

Motion Carried.

2nd by: Ron Kindle

- VI. PROCLAMATIONS, CONGRATULATORY RESOLUTIONS, AWARDS, APPOINTMENTS, RESIGNATIONS AND CONFIRMATIONS, ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS AND INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS.
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES VII.
 - Approval of May 14, 2019, Town Council Minutes Motion made to approve minutes as presented.

Motion by: Ron Kindle

2nd by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

VOTE:

Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

Approval of May 14, 2019, Town Council Public Hearing Minutes on Budget Amendment FY 2019

Motion made to approve Public Hearing Minutes on Budget Amendment FY 2019 as presented.

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Ron Kindle VOTE: Aye: 5

> Nay: Absent: Abstain:

Motion Carried.

Approval of May 14, 2019, Town Council Public Hearing Minutes on Budget Proposal FY 2020 Motion made to approve Public Hearing Minutes on Budget Proposal FY 2020 as presented.

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Ron Kindle VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay: Absent:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

VIII. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Motion made for approval for payment of bills for May 2019 as presented.

Motion by: Roger Cassell 2nd by: Robin Richards

VOTE:

Aye: 5

Nay: Absent:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (Will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker.) - NONE

Mayor Perry closed the public comment session at 6:35 P.M. and opened the consent agenda session.

X. **COMMUNICATIONS- NONE**

REPORTS (All reports given will be included with your packet. Any questions about the reports will need to be discussed with the department head PRIOR to the meeting.)

A. Engineer's Status Report

Jason Snapp presented the Engineer's Status Report. Council Member Allan "Cotton" Roberts asked if DEQ had retracted their requirement of a bat survey? Jason Snapp stated that there would be a restriction on cutting trees; however, a but survey would not be required.

DEQ Sewer I&I Rehab Job: We have received VDOT and DEQ approval to advertise. All signed Easements have been delivered to the Town for recording. USFWS has approved the use of Dinkins Consulting as the Mussel/Fish surveyor for the project. Dinkins is in the process of submitting a detailed scope and fee to M&C to complete the survey/assessment. Once we get this M&C will submit a supplemental agreement to the Town, after all parties fully execute the contracts the survey will be

performed immediately. This information will then be submitted to USACE for approval (which could take up to 6 months). The project schedule will now tentatively be to advertise the project for const. in late winter/early spring 2020 and begin construction in early summer 2020.

Water Treatment Plant Upgrades: The roofing, water meters, SCADA, clear well baffles, and backwash control systems have all been installed. The doors included in the project are still under the review phase by VDH concerning AIS Certification. There is discussion about utilizing the existing door handles to get around the AIS requirements. We have identified an alternate to the existing flow controls at the water plant and have submitted and received approval of a change order to complete this work. The actuators for this portion of the work have been delayed and are scheduled to be delivered the first week of July, the work should then take approximately one week. Substantial Completion was scheduled for Jan. 11th. This date was not met by the contractor and they have submitted a time extension request. Any damages will be discussed upon the conclusion of the project.

Asset Management Plan: M&C to submit a preventative maintenance and operational plan for the Town to extend the life and performance on their assets to VDH. The plan will also include an inventory of all the Town's assets associated with its waterworks system. M&C will finalize the plan as the WTP Project gets underway in the next couple of months.

<u>H/C Ramp HSIP Project:</u> All environmental agencies have responded, and the appropriate paperwork has been submitted, VDOT has now cleared the environmental document. VDOT has clarified additional changes required to the construction plans. We will address these changes to satisfy VDOT and submit final plans. Once we receive approval to advertise the Town will be required to advertise for a minimum of 30 days. Then the bidding and negotiation phase will begin before awarding the contract.

B. Manager's Report

Capital Projects

Water Treatment Plant

• Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Project/WSL 21-17 - Roof Replacement project, steel doors replacement, backwash control system, chlorine room scales, generator, telemetry system and Clearwell baffling system will be developed into one project.

The Roofing project, Backwash Control System, and the Telemetry system with grounding treatment is complete. Commercial Water meters replacement has and Clearwell baffles have been installed.

The doors are under review by the Virginia Department of Health. There have been intermittent communications issues with the SCADA system.

Substantial completion deadline was not met on January 11th, 2019. Mattem & Craig has received a time extension request.

Town

Highway Safety Improvement Project (HSIP)

Ramp/Safety Rail West Jackson Street

HSIP grant application for the sidewalk replacement project on Manville Road was

submitted on November 1st, 2017. Environmental Review has been completed and is currently under review by VDOT. Hazardous material assurances documentation has been completed. We are currently awaiting VDOT to approve the final plans. Once the final plans are approved, we will be ready to bid.

Manville Sidewalk Project VDOT has awarded \$402,000.00 for this project. This project will begin July 2021.

Gate City High School Sidewalk Project (Shoemaker, Beech, Bishop, and Jones Streets) HSIP Grant Application has been submitted. The project total including Engineering Fees is \$578,475.00. If awarded, the project will be included in VDOT's six year plan with the expectation that funding will occur in 2024.

Where Mountains Music Make Memories

Gate City Theater & Public Facilities

Planning Grant for the Gate City Theater, Town Hall, and proposed Community Center have been submitted to Rural Development (USDA) - (Community Facilities Technical Assistance and Training/TAT Grant). The TAT Grant is a planning grant that will focus on engineering and environmental plans to make the best use of our public facilities. The total funding request is \$50,500 from Rural Development. Our proposed budget will include:

\$20,000 Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR)-TAT Grant \$5,500 Site assessment and environmental review- TAT Grant \$25.000 Marketing Analysis-Gate City Theater (match)- ARC Grant \$50,500 Total

The TAT grant has been awarded. The ARC grant was awarded on August 15, 2018. Lenowisco Planning Authority has hired The Lane Group to complete the architectural report and marketing analysis. Scope of work has been completed. Spectrum Design met with Mayor Perry, Members of Gate City Frontier, Inc Board of Directors Planning Commission, and the Economic Development Committee on May 9th

Directors, Planning Commission, and the Economic Development Committee on May 9th, 2019. Input was received on the final design.

The completed marketing plan was reviewed by members of the Planning Commission, Economic Development Committee, and Gate City Frontier, Inc. on June 3rd, 2019.

• Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD): Park Street Housing Rehabilitation Project DHCD has awarded \$522,200 for the Park Street Housing Rehabilitation Project. The funds will be used to rehabilitate seven residential homes, reconstruct two residential homes, and demolition of two vacant residential structures on Park Street. Our budget is as follows:

\$522,200- DHCD \$12.000- Town (In-Kind) \$534,200 Total The Management Team, LENOWISCO Planning Authority, and Anna Meade, Housing

Specialist met with DHCD on March 28th, 2019 to discuss pre-contract activities. The following pre-contract activities have been completed:

* Minority-Owned and Female-Owned Business Notice

- * Department of Housing and Urban Development Handicapped Regulations
- * Local Business and Employment Notice
- * Non-Discrimination Policy
- * Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan Certification
- * Section 3 Local Business and Employment Plan
- * Section 504 Grievance Procedure
- * Resolution for Compliance Park Street Housing Rehabilitation Project
- * Certification of Signatures and Addresses
- * Fair Housing Certification
- * Project Rehabilitation Board

Council Action: Approve Housing Rehabilitation Board By-Laws and Income Plan.

Once the Housing Rehabilitation Board By-Laws and Income Plan have been adopted, our pre-contract activities will be completed. DHCD will meet with the Town on Thursday, June 13th, 2019 to review and sign the contract.

• Dog Park & Gateway Park

- o Trees and brush have been removed from the project area. Town Crew has installed a drainage tile to improve drainage at the Dog Park. The outer chain link fence has been installed.
- o The chain link fence has been installed at the Gateway Park. The Stack Fence for the Gateway Park will be completed in FY 2020 upon Council approval of the FY 2020 Budget.
- o The letter "E" on the "LOVE" sign at Gateway Park was replaced due to the damage caused by recent storms.

Banner Placement - Kane & Jackson Streets

\$25,000 has been allocated through the FY 2019 budget to place new street light banners along Kane and Jackson Streets. It's not likely this project will be completed in FY 2019.

Council Action: Transfer \$25,000 from General Fund to General Fund Savings Capital Outlay Account

• Dropbox Installation at Town Hall Drive Through

Currently the Drive Through is receiving customers who are dropping off Water Bills. Installing a Drop Box beside the Drive Through will free up our staff to perform other activities. The Drop Box will also speed up the wait times for customers who just want to drop off their water bills.

Council has approved the purchase and installation of the Drop Box on March 12th, 2019. The Drop Box has been received. We are currently waiting on Egan Construction to install.

• Streetlights - Paul Wade Drive/Eva Street/Arora Street

I met with Harold Walker, AEP, and Council Member Roger Cassell on December 5, 2018 to look into installing Street Lights on Paul Wade Drive, Eva Street, and Arora Street. A total of seven Street Lights has been approved by Council to be installed at a

cost of \$11,651,29.

AEP informed the Town that the property owners on Paul Wade Drive do not want to install the Street Lights on their property. Streetlights were not installed in this area as a result.

Two Street Lights on Eva Street and one Street Light on Arora Street have been installed at a cost of \$4,977.90. Upon inspection it was noticed that a third streetlight should be installed on the curve section of Eva Street. The additional streetlight on Eva Street has been ordered from AEP at a cost of \$1,712.13. Currently the Town Crew is removing the brush in the area prior to the installation.

Sidewalks - West Jackson Street

Currently there are no sidewalks located on West Jackson Street pass the Scott County Life Saving Crew: Council has approved to submit a HSIP application for the installation of sidewalks on West Jackson Street, Council has approved to submit a HSIP/VDOT Grant Application by the deadline in November 2019.

• Grogan Park/Baseball Fields Flooding Issue

I met with Scott County Schools, Gate City Little League, and Michele Brooks, Attorney on March 12th, 2019 to discuss the flooding issue at Grogan Park Baseball Fields. Under our agreement with Gate City Little League, the Little League is responsible for the maintenance of the baseball fields. Gate City Little League states that they are not using the High School Baseball Field and should not have to provide maintenance to the field. Gate City Schools stated that they will not be playing home games at Grogan Park due to the damage caused by the recent flooding. Gate City Schools did state that they will repair the fence wall at the High School Baseball Field.

I contacted Mr. Hubert Thomas with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers for assistance in handling the flood issue at Grogan Park. He indicated that a creek survey will need to be conducted prior to determining a plan of action. A site visit was conducted on May 13th, 2019. As a result of the site visit, the Army Corp of Engineers stated that they are expecting to receive additional budget funding to do the increase of flooding issue in our area. Mr. Thomas stated that the Army Corp of Engineers can do a stream study for Big and Little Moccasin Creek.

Council Action: Approve the Army Corp of Engineers letter of engagement to complete a stream study for Big and Little Moccasin Creek

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on March 27th and April 5th, 2019 to review and provide input on the proposed FY 2020 Budget.

• Proposed FY 2020 Budget The proposed FY 2020 Budget was given to the Town Council for review on April 9th, 2019 and the public hearing was held on May 14th, 2019. The proposed FY 2020 Budget includes the recommendation that Real Estate and

Water/Sewer rates remain the same as last year. A two percent (2%) cost of living wage increase for the employees and employee health care to stay with the Key Advantage 1000 plan is recommended. The following capital projects are recommended for FY 2020:

		Total		FY	20)20 Ca _l	An Assess	I Impr	200.64	A SECURE AND A SECURE AND A SECURE ASSESSMENT	Projects	
PROJECT NAME		Cost	Ger	eral Fund	w	ater Fund		SAFund Grant/Loan			Notes	
Infrastructure Projects											}	
None			1	7.						1000		
Total	S		5		5		\$		\$			
Street Paving Projects						70						
Sharon Drive	5	15,000	S	15,000			-			1		_
Business District Enhancements												
Repair Wall - SC Historic Society Bldg.	5	20,000	2	20,000								
Repair Crosswalks - Brick painted	S	5,000	S	5,000								
Total	S	25,000		25,000	S		S		5	•		
Community Development												_
Park Street - Housing Rehab Project	S	522,200	5						5	522,200	DHCD Project	
Town Wide Housing Rehabilitation Planning Project	5	45,000	S						5	45,000	DHCD Project	
Dog Park Development - Grogan Park	5	5,000	5	5,000								
Gate City Theater Development	5	5,000	S	5,000								
Gateway Park - King Ford Property Development	S	5,000	S	5,000						-	1	
Total	5	582,200	\$	15,000	5		5		\$	567,200		
Miscellaneous Projects												
5X Body Cameras for PD	S	6,000	S	6,000								
Bed for Dump Truck	S	10,000	S	13	\$	10,000						
Snow Plow	S	5,000	S	5,000	S							
Phone System	5	9,000	S		S	9,000						_
Total	\$	30,000	S	11,000	5	19,000	5	•	\$		S	
TOTAL CIP FY 2020	S	652,200	S	66,000	5	19,000	5		\$	567,200		

Council Action: Approve the FY 2020 Town Budget

FY 2019 Paving Projects

Town Council has approved a Request for Proposal to pave Knob Court and Bowen Drive extension. We have received the following bids:

Knob Court: Bracken Paving \$59,220.00

W-L Construction

Don's Paving \$42,825.00 \$23,262.00

The Knob Court paving project has been completed.

Bowen Drive Extension Bracken Paving

W-L Construction

Don's Paving \$29,150.00

\$22,605.00 \$7,400.00

The Bowen Drive extension paving project has been awarded and paving should start in a couple days.

2019 Town Events

Movie Nights @ Gate City Theater

Saturday, June 15, 2019- October Sky

Saturday, July 13, 2019-Love Story Saturday, August 24, 2019 - Shrek

Saturday, September 21, 2019 Remember The Titans

Saturday, October 26, 2019- The Addams Family

Run the Gate 5K

Saturday, June 15, 2019

Love Rocks!! Saturday, July 27, 2019 Retroville Band Southern Accents (Tom Petty Tribute Band)

Gate City Cruise-In Saturday, August 10, 2019
Cruise-In Car Show
Railway Express Band
Brickyard Road (Lynyrd Skynyrd Tribute Band)

Cruzer Palooza Saturday, September 7, 2019

Cruise-In Car Show Asylum Suite Band Benny Wilson Band Thunder Struck (AC/DC Tribute Band)

King Alleyween (Halloween Event) Saturday, October 26, 2019

Veterans Day Event-Monday, November 11, 2019

Christmas Open House-Saturday, November 23_{Jh}, 2019

Shop Small Business Saturday- Saturday, November 30, 2019

Gate City Christmas Parade- Saturday, December 7, 2019

Events Committee

The Events Committee met with the Scott County Director of Tourism on May 2nd, 2019. The Gate City Frontier, Inc, will handle the Food Truck Vendors and help manage the car shows for this year's events. A new Food Truck listing has been created along with an event map. The Events Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet on June 18th, 2019 to finish the planning for the "Love Rocks's event. The Events Committee was informed that a \$10,000 grant has been awarded to help promote the 50th year anniversary of the Virginia is for Lovers marketing campaign.

The grant fund in part will go to help marketing support for the Love Rocks event scheduled for July 27th, 2019,

The 2019 Sponsorship letters have been mailed. The following businesses have committed to sponsor this year's events:

Gold Sponsors: First Community Bank and Scott County Board of Supervisors,

Silver Sponsors: New Peoples Bank and Scott County Life Saving Crew.

Bronze Sponsors: Pal's Sudden Service, Mattern & Craig, Jenkins School of Dance, Commercial Electronics, Farmers and Miners Bank, Mountain Region Family Medicine,

Pizza Plus, and State Farm Insurance,

Friends of Gate City: Tucker and Becky Coleman, Dr. David Templeton, and Quillin Hardware.

Polco Community Outreach

The Town of Gate City, VA is one of seven communities in Virginia that has been selected to take part in a twelve-month trial version of the Polco Community Outreach program. Polco Community Outreach was recommended by VML as a way to engage the public by taking surveys. Mayor Frances Perry and I attended a webinar presentation of this program on May 9th, 2019.

Council Action: Approve contract for trail version

Southwest Virginia Economic Forum - Wise, VA

Council members Allan "Cotton" Roberts, Roger Cassell, and I attended the Southwest Virginia Economic Forum on May 15th, 2019 in Wise VA. The theme for this year's forum was Transforming Through Technology. Three presentations were given: 1) A presentation by Golden Shovel demonstrating how Artificial Intelligence, 3D Renditions, Virtual Reality and real time data analytics can help to nurture prospects and generate leads. 2) A presentation by a site consultant providing recommendations on creating strong packages with the incentives available in our region. 3) A presentation on broadband infrastructure and what should be considered for upgrading sites and establishing new sites. In addition, there were three tracks in which the following topics were discussed: 1) Community Wellness, 2) Business, and 3) Economic Development.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Mayor Frances Perry, Council Member Cotton Roberts, and I attended the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for James River Advisors on May 23rd, 2019 and Roberts Mill Suites on May 24th, 2019.

Property Maintenance Issues

Since our Property Maintenance Manager has been on medical leave, I have assumed these duties. Instead of taking a "shot gun" approach to property maintenance, I would suggest targeting areas of need instead. Highland Street has had a number of habitual offenders:

	Property M	laintenan	ce Repo	rt		
Tax Map Number	Violation(s)	Date NOV Sent	Year* RE Tax Delinquent	RE Tax	Status	Notes
14.04. C 49, 30	301.2 RESPONSIBILITY 304.1 GENERAL 308.1 ACCUMULATION OF RUBBISH OR GARBAGE 302.5 RODENT HARBORAGE 304.7 ROOFS AND DRAINAGE 18-13. REMOVAL OF WEEDS, GRASS AND UTTHER FORMY SERVICTH ON VAYAMI	5/30/2019	Current		Cleared DC/vi/IS	2 HOV-s In last 12 months
146A6 8 RBi 146A6 8 R 4-6; 146A 6-8 5 6-8	301.2 RESPONSIBILITY 304.1 GENERAL 308.1 ACCUMULATION OF RUBBISH OR GARBAGE 302.5 RODENT HARBORAGE 304.7 ROOFS AND DRAINAGE 18-13. REMOVAL OF WEEDS, GRASS AND OTHER FOREIGN GROWTH ON VACANT PROPERTY	5/30/2019	2018 2017 2016 2015 2014 2013	\$ 99.53 \$ 109.95 \$ 127.53 \$ 138.58	Vacanl/Open	Multiple NOV'S
146A69 G 31-35	304.1 GENERAL 308.1 ACCUMULATION OF RUBBISH OR GARBAGE 302.5 RODENT HARBORAGE 302.8 MOTOR VEHICLES 18-13. REMOVAL OF WEEDS, GRASS AND OTHER FOREIGN GROWTH ON VACANT PROPERTY.		2018 2017 2016 2015 2014	\$ 171.10 \$ 189.02 \$ 304.10	Vacant/Open	Multiple NOV's
146A6 8 R 7-9; 146A6-8-S-D	301.2 RESPONSIBILITY 304.1 GENERAL 308.1 ACCUMULATION OF RUBBISH OR GARBAGE 308.2 DISPOSAL OF RUBBISH 18-13. REMOVAL OF WEEDS, GRASS AND OTHER FORTION VRUMTH ON VACANT PROPERTY		Current		Occupied	3rd Offense Last 12 Months

There are also five properties on Highland Street that are delinquent on Real Estate Taxes. The Code of Virginia Sections 58.1–3965 provides that real estate is delinquent on December 31st following the second anniversary of the date on which such taxes become due. At that time, the properties become eligible for judicial sale:

Parcel ID	Delinquent or Current Taxes	Tax Year 2018	Tax Year 2017	Tax Year 2016	Tax Year 2015	Tax Year 2014	Tax Year 2013	Total Delinquent Amount
HIMIP n	Delinquent	\$2105#	\$24472					\$451.76
I-MAI#G JI-W	Delinquent	\$14751	\$171.10	\$18980?	\$304.10	\$330.42		\$1,142.15
14£466 tl M·V.\$	Delinquent	\$85.80	9>53	\$109.95	\$12753	\$138.58	\$36.56	\$59755
146A66 IMS	Delinquent	\$1695?	\$1 * .75	((ir.))	\$27.15			\$610.87
1-MMI H-31	Delinquent	\$255.4?	\$2*2/)(>>7 2))				\$87897

Council Action: Approve the Town Attorney to start judicial sale proceedings for the eligible properties on Highland Street

C. Council Reports (Any new business from Committees that needs to come before the Council.)

Vice-Mayor, Robin Richards - Nothing to Report.

Council Member, Allan "Cotton" Roberts- Council Member Allan "Cotton" Roberts stated that Gate City Frontier will be hosting the Run the Gate 5K Saturday morning and Free Movie Night showing of October Sky on Saturday night. Council Member Roberts stated that Jim O'Carroll and Frank Taylor will be speaking before the movie. Council Member Roberts thanked Town Manager Greg Jones for making and placing the movie banners.

Council Member, Roger Cassell - Nothing to Report.

Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr.- Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated there are lots of street lights out on Jackson Street. Council Member Ron Kindle stated that it would be a good idea to buy all new bulbs and replace them all at once in order to save money. Council Member Allan "Cotton" Roberts stated that there is a wholesaler in Bristol that would sell the lightbulbs at a better price.

Council Member Ross stated that the sidewalk on the end of Jackson Street where James River Advisors just opened needs to be refurbished. Council Member Ross stated that this project has been started but has never been completed. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that there are other street projects ahead of this one and that is why it has not been completed.

Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that the grass is high near the courthouse.

Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked when the fire hydrant project would be completed? Town Manager Greg Jones stated that a purchase order was completed, so it is on order, and the site is prepared. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the project should not take much longer.

Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that an e-mail he received from Town Manager Greg Jones stated that on 10-9-2018 the Town Council approved Vice-Mayor Robin Richards to attend a conference in Richmond and that Town Manager Greg Jones approved her to attend the VML session in January of 2019. Council Member Ross asked how is this interpreted? Town Manager Greg Jones stated that when Council set that policy, it determines who attends the conferences. Council Member Ross asked how is this determined because he thought that there was another process? Town Manager Greg Jones stated that there is no other process according to the policy. Town Attorney Michele Brooks stated that the Council determines who goes for the Council and the Town Manager determines who will go for the employees. Council Member Ross asked why there was a vote for the last conference? Vice-Mayor Robin Richards stated that Town Attorney Michele Brooks stated that it would be a good idea to start voting if there were going to be issues and so we did. Council Member Ross asked where the policy to vote is? Town Attorney Michele Brooks stated that the only policy is that Council will decide, the decision to vote is an agreement between all Council Members so that there would not be any confusion. Council Member Ross stated that there were cases before where Council has voted that Council Member Ross could not attend. Mayor Frances Perry stated that the award for water quality I s something that the Water Department normally attends. Council Member Ross stated that anytime a town official will require an overnight stay, all travel must be authorized and prior to travel, the entire Town Council will approve the travel by a Town Council Member. Council Member Ross asked when did the policy change? Town Attorney Michele Brooks stated she is unaware that the policy has changed; it was adopted by the Council, and to the best of her knowledge it has never been changed. Council Member Ross asked where is the audio that this was approved. Mayor Frances Perry stated that the minutes are on-line. Council Member Ross stated that he is

requesting as a council member to have the minutes read out loud. Vice-Mayor Robin Richards asked if Council Member Ross is still stating that Vice-Mayor Robin Richards traveled without approval from Council this past year? Council Member Ross stated that his understanding is that when Council Member Ross asked to go to Roanoke in February, Town Manager Greg Jones did not respond to his request and that Mayor Perry stated that Council Member Ross could go on. Mayor Frances Perry stated that she said the road is wide open take off, however, she meant that Council Member Ross could go at his own expense. Council Member Ross stated that he could not do this due to the security of the event, he would have had to provided proof that he is a councilman for the Town of Gate City. Council Member Ross stated that this is why he is bringing this letter up from 2016 because he has never received clarification as to why he cannot go. Mayor Frances Perry stated that if there is a reason for any council member to attend any meeting that is one thing; however, just because someone wants to go doesn't mean that they will get to go on the Town's expense because the water department was represented by the proper people. Council Member Ross stated that as he has stated before, you meet more individuals in different departments, and we are the only locality without a broad representation of departments.

Council Member, Ron Kindle-Nothing to Report

D. <u>Sanitation Authority</u> – Council Member Roger Cassell stated that Town Attorney Michele Brooks received a broad response back from PSA's attorney. Council Member Roger Cassell stated that Larry Sturgill hopes to have his second audit completed by July in order to decide how to proceed with PSA.

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

• No Unfinished Business

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

• Commonwealth Attorney Andy Johnson: Proposed changes to the Town ordinances and the manner of charging non-violent crimes

Commonwealth Attorney Andy Johnson stated that he is attending the meeting to ask the Town to commit an amount of money to alleviate the expense of individuals incarcerated at the Duffield Regional Jail and to ask the Town to commit an amount of money to the Commonwealth Attorney's office to prosecute misdemeanors from the Town of Gate City. Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that the Commonwealth Attorney's office is not funded by the state to prosecute misdemeanors and do this as a service without compensation. Mayor Frances Perry asked if Commonwealth Attorney Andy Johnson thought that the Council was not contributing as citizens of the Town? Commonwealth Attorney Andy Johnson stated that as a result of Highway 23 and the Towns of Weber City and Gate City, there are approximately 220 inmates from arrests in Scott County and approximately 170-180 of those inmates are not actually residents of Scott County. Commonwealth Attorney Andy Johnson stated that for 60 inmates at \$39.68 a day for 365 days a year a total cost would be incurred of \$868,992 per year. Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that his request from the Town would be a cost of \$100,000 - \$120,000. Council Member Roger Cassell asked Commonwealth Attorney Johnson if the state police were making these arrests instead of Gate City Police officers, would be be asking them for the money instead? Council Member Roger Cassell stated that it seems like Commonwealth Attorney Johnson doesn't want the Gate City Police to be arresting these individuals and that he agrees that Council pays county taxes and shouldn't have to pay again to house them. Commonwealth Attorney Andy Johnson stated that the state pays a reconciliation fee to the jail.

Commonwealth Attorney Andy Johnson stated that he reviewed the Town's budget for 2018 and the amount of fines and costs generated by the Town of Gate City was approximately \$43,000 and what Mr. Johnson is proposing is that the Town code be amended so that these misdemeanors can be prosecuted on Town code. Commonwealth

Attorney Andy Johnson stated that the way to enact this change would be to charge these individuals with a misdemeanor on Town code and have the Commonwealth Attorney waive jail time which means that they would not receive a court appointed attorney. Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that if all of these individuals pleaded guilty and paid their fines it would generate approximately \$21,500 per month or \$258,000 generated revenue to the Town. Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that in addition to amending those Town ordinances, specific Town ordinance 15.2 relates to the reimbursement of particular offenses to the Town which states that there is a flat, standard rate of \$350 obtainable without evidence, and if this was enacted with the other charges being charged under Town code, both the fine and the standard rate would come to the Town of Gate City.

Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that 60 inmates are expected to be removed from Duffield Regional Jail through the work programs and their service would be offered to the Town of Gate City. Vice-Mayor Robin Richards asked if the work program is in lieu of jail time? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that the work program is the punishment and therefore, the Town would not have to pay for jailtime for these individuals. Council Member Allan "Cotton" Roberts asked if Commonwealth Attorney Johnson knew that the Town has already been using inmates for over a year to complete certain tasks within the Town? Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked where the \$120,000 would be directed to? Commonwealth Attorney Andy Johnson stated that it would be divided into a portion for a supplement back to the county to aid in the cost of the inmates and another portion would be given to the Commonwealth Attorney's office to prosecute misdemeanors. Council Member Ross asked if the inmates in the work program are the return that the Town would receive from this? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that it would be almost a 50% cost reduction in labor. The Commonwealth Attorney's Office Manager Jessica Keith stated that this would be on top of the revenue from the fines for the misdemeanors. Town Manager Greg Jones asked for a written proposal with reference to the state codes that are being addressed. Mayor Frances Perry stated that in the long run decreasing the number of individuals in the iail would decrease the charges the county is having to pay which would also benefit the Town as county taxpayers. Vice-Mayor Robin Richards asked if it would lower taxes? Council Member Allan "Cotton" Roberts stated that it would not lower them but it would leave revenue for other things rather than having to spend it on the jail.

Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked if the labor force would be limited in the capacity of what they can do? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that there are skilled individuals who become incarcerated. Mayor Frances Perry asked who oversees these individuals? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that the work program coordinators will oversee the individuals. Council Member Ross asked since VDOT has so many rules, would they allow inmates to perform the work? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated it would be up to the coordinators to locate individuals who can complete the work specific to each job. Mayor Frances Perry stated that the inmates would not be asked to do anything that the Town crew does not do. Council Member Ross asked when the return on the money would be evident? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated it will depend on how fast the ordinances are adopted and whether or not it can get done by the Gate City Police Department's court date next month. Town Attorney Michele Brooks stated that it could not get done before next month because a written proposal will be needed. Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that he would submit the proposal along with the work program proposal and the policy manual in regard to the program. Town Manager Greg Jones requested that the proposal also include localities who are using similar programs. Council Member Ross asked if this is a set fee or if there is a cost of living increase will the fee increase as well? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that it is a generalized fee and could decrease but is not likely to increase. Town Attorney Michele Brooks stated that these are higher fines than we typically see. Town Attorney Michele Brooks asked if Commonwealth Attorney Johnson is counting on these fines to be agreements or that the court will impose additional fines and costs to a defendant who is not represented? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that the \$500 fine came from the General Assembly who amended the grand larceny code section to go from \$200 to \$500. Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that the fine is the punishment and amending the Town Code will force these individuals to deal with the Commonwealth Attorney's office rather than the VA State Statute and will force them to either hire an attorney or represent themselves because they will not be entitled to one; therefore, it will likely be an agreement. Town Manager Greg Jones asked who will insure the workers? Commonwealth Attorney Andy Johnson stated that the workers will have to sign a waiver, waiving all liability as part of their plea agreement when they plead guilty. Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked who will provide the transportation for the inmates? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that they are responsible for their own transportation. Council Member Allan "Cotton" Roberts asked if the misdemeanors that our Town officers arrest individuals for will turn

into a Town Code and if felonies still go to the State? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that is correct. Town Attorney Michele Brooks asked if this includes domestic assault and battery or sexual battery that is a misdemeanor? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that violent crimes will not be pursued as a Town Code; however, misdemeanors such as assault and battery, disorderly conduct, obstruction of justice (things of this nature that are typically fines) will be pursued. Town Attorney Michele Brooks asked if second offense DUI will be prosecuted this way as well? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that DUI's would be prosecuted under state code due to the mandatory jail sentence. Town Attorney Michele Brooks asked what effect does Commonwealth Attorney Johnson think that the new statute that takes away the power to suspend drivers license will have on this? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that it would not have any effect because it will be docketed as civil judgement and fines will be collected whether it be through garnished wages, liens on real estate, etc. Chief Terry Sivert asked if there will be an initial sign up fee for the inmates in the work program? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that inmates will have to pay a monthly fee that will go towards their drug screens, work attire, etc. Chief Terry Sivert asked if the individual decides to get a lawyer will the Town have to pay for that lawyer? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that not if they retain counsel, but if we present to the court an arraignment that we do not intend to pursue jail time, that individual is not entitled to a court appointed council.

Council Member Roger Cassell asked if Commonwealth Attorney Johnson is asking for \$100,000 or just to change the code? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that he is only asking for the code to be amended and whatever is comfortable for the Council to contribute. Mayor Frances Perry asked for this to be included in the proposal and that Council continue this discussion once it has been reviewed. Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked what the expected time frame to implement this program is? Commonwealth Attorney Johnson stated that they are already in the process of moving forward with the work program and will hopefully be out working within the first week of July, in regard to the Town ordinances just as soon as those can be amended or adopted. Town Attorney Michele Brooks stated that upon hypothetical approval it would take approximately sixty days from approval.

• Appoint Ms. Lydia Lane as acting Town Clerk

Town Manager Greg Jones explained that Lydia Lane was originally hired as the temporary/part-time administrative worker; however, upon discussion with Town Attorney Michele Brooks, we feel it would be more appropriate if she was hired as an acting Town Clerk. Town Attorney Michele Brooks stated that the Town Clerk is charged with doing minutes and Lisa has been doing those on her own and this is only acting and is not binding forever, and she understands that. Vice-Mayor Robin Richards asked if this would in any way impact a decision of how things stand personnel wise today with that position? Town Attorney Michele Brooks stated that it would not, and that Ms. Lane understands this.

Motion to appoint Ms. Lydia Lane as acting Town Clerk on a part-time basis.

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Ron Kindle VOTE: Aye: 5

Nav:

Nay: Absent: Abstain:

Motion Carried.

Approve the FY 2020 Budget

Motion to approve the FY 2020 Budget. Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Vice-Mayor Robin Richards

Council Member Roger Cassell stated that the treasurer's pay has \$11,000 allocated in overtime which is ridiculous for one individual because the public works department has \$9,000 and the police department has \$4,000 for the entire departments. Council Member Roger Cassell stated that the Town is paying one individual a fourth of her salary in overtime and we can't do that. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that doesn't mean that it is going to happen; it is simply in the budget. Council Member Roger Cassell stated that Council should not even be looking to approve this. Town Attorney Michele Brooks stated that we need to be careful not to get into a personnel issue. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the budget is based on historical values which is what was considered when the 2020 budget was produced. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the overtime was allocated due to issues present in our accounting; now that these are resolved it is very unlikely that this would occur. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that he could zero that back and allocate the money somewhere else if the Council wants him to. Council Member Roger Cassell stated that if someone has been told that they have \$11,000 that they are allowed to work overtime, they are going to do it. Council Member Roger Cassell stated that we are already at \$8,200 in 2-28. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that a lot of that was on the onset and the finance committee was kept aware of the issues that were happening. Council Member Roger Cassell stated that he cannot believe that the books were in that bad of shape. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that they were in that bad of shape. Council Member Roger Cassell stated that it would be up to the Council but that he believes it is an awful lot of money to tell someone they have leeway in overtime. Council Member Allan "Cotton" Roberts stated that he would like to put the number somewhere else and lower the amount of overtime allocated to make it more realistic and that he understands where the number came from since it was based on previous history. Town Manager Greg Jones asked what number Council Member Roberts had in mind since this was an anomaly type situation? Town Manager Greg Jones stated that \$2,000 could be left as a cushion and when he puts the budget together, he considers what is a good starting point because in the spring, things will get cleaned up and issues that were not planned will get budgeted.

Council Member Allan "Cotton" Roberts stated that he agrees that setting it at \$2,000 and allocating the rest to "future capital projects" would be the best solution. Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that he wanted a work session to be conducted on this in order to better understand it.

Council Member Allan "Cotton" Roberts withdrew his motion to approve the FY 2020 budget as presented and to make an amendment to the overtime allocation for the treasurer from \$11,000 to \$2,000 and allocate the remaining \$9,000 into "capital improvement projects." Vice Mayor Robin Richards retracted her 2nd on the original motion.

Motion to approve the FY 2020 budget with changes to overtime allocation for the treasurer from \$11,000 to \$2,000 and allocate the remaining \$9,000 into "capital improvement projects."

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Roger Cassell

ROLL CALL VOTE: Vice Mayor, Robin Richards: AYE

Council Member, Allan "Cotton" Roberts: AYE

Council Member, Roger Cassell: AYE

Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: NAY

Council Member, Ron Kindle: AYE

Motion Carried.

Public Hearing: R-2 Zoning Ordinance Proposed Change Section 30-132

Motion to advertise for a public hearing: R-2 Zoning Ordinance Proposed Change Section 30-132.

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Roger Cassell VOTE: Ave: 5

Nay: Absent: Abstain:

Motion Carried.

Approve Letter of Engagement to Army Corps of Engineers to complete a stream study

Motion to approve a letter of engagement to the Army Corps of Engineers to complete a stream study.

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Ron Kindle VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay: Absent: Abstain:

Motion Carried.

• Approve contract for Polco – Online Community Engagement

Motion to approve contract for Polco – Online Community Engagement on a trial basis for 12 months.

Motion by: Roger Cassell 2nd by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay: Absent:

Abstain: Motion Carried.

• Marketing Plan - Gate City Theater

Town Manager Greg Jones presented the rendering of the Gate City Theater and the Gate City Town Hall to Council. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that through a grant from ARC, the marketing plan for the Gate City Theater has been created. Town Manager Greg Jones explained that the market has been divided into two segments and explained the various attributes of each group. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the Gate City Frontier, Inc. establishes a 501 3c and they would need to own the project for five years including the Gate City Theatre and the community center. Town Manager Greg Jones explained that this would help when construction bids were made historic tax credits could be offered to the contractor. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that once the historic tax credits were given a total of \$2,674,805 would need to be raised and if Council would like to finance this over 20 years at 5% which is an estimate, it would be \$17,000 per month. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the next step would be to find out how this cost can be reduced. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that discussion with the Tobacco Commission and DHCD would be helpful to get their input on the project.

Approve Police Department Standard of Operating (SOP) Policy Revision: Sexual Harassment Number 1-8

Town Manager Greg Jones explained the guidelines under the SOP Policy Revision. Motion to approve police department Standard of Operating (SOP) Policy Revision: Sexual Harassment Number 1-8

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Robin Richards VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:
Absent:

Abstain: Motion Carried.

Adopt Police Department Standard of Operating (SOP) New Policy: DUI/DUID Investigations Number 2-40

Town Manager Greg Jones stated that this is a new policy that outlines the police officers method for handing DUI and DUID engagements in the field. Chief Terry Sivert stated that this is important because it puts it into our policy so that our officers are held accountable and the individuals that they arrest cannot hold in court that our officers missed a step in these procedures.

Motion to Adopt Police Department Standard of Operating (SOP) New Policy: DUI/DUID Investigations
Number 2-40

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Robin Richards

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay: Absent: Abstain:

Motion Carried.

• Adopt Virginia Community Development Block Grant Program Income Plan (Park Street Housing Rehabilitation Project)

Town Manager Greg Jones stated that this is one of the two items that needs to be adopted in order to finish up the pre-contract activities for the Park Street Rehabilitation Project. LENOWISCO representative, Rebecca Crockett, stated that DHCD requires a program design for a housing project. Ms. Crockett stated that this has been developed and sent to DHCD and the Housing Rehab Board Bilaws and the program income plan are both part of the program design. Council Member Ross asked if something happens to the individual paying into the program income plan, will their family become responsible for the payments? Ms. Crockett stated that the responsibility of the payments will transfer with the ownership of the home based on their ability to pay. Ms. Crockett stated that the individual's income is evaluated each year to determine their ability to pay and that it is a forgivable loan; therefore, the individual may not have to pay anything. Ms. Crockett stated that there will be a deed of trust stating that the individual will pay a variable amount of money for 10 years; however, the rehab board can reconvene once the project is completed and approve to release all deeds of trust.

Motion to adopt the Virginia Community Development Block Grant Program Income Plan (Park Street Housing Rehabilitation Project)

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Roger Cassell

VOTE: A

Aye: 5

Nay: Absent:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

• Adopt Housing Rehabilitation Board By-Laws (Park Street Housing Rehabilitation Project)

Motion to adopt Housing Rehabilitation Board By-Laws (Park Street Housing Rehabilitation Project).

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Ron Kindle VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay: Absent: Abstain:

Motion Carried.

• Police Department - Approve purchase of two 2020 Ford Police Interceptor vehicles.

Town Manager Greg Jones stated that on March 12, 2019 Town Council approved the purchase of two 2019 Police Interceptors. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the first quote was awarded by Town Council to Freedom Ford at \$33,600.00 and the second was awarded to Sheehy Ford at \$30,096.60 for a total purchase price of \$63,696.60. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that once the audit was completed and the financing was in place, it was discovered that the 2019 models are sold out. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that a standard engine is offered on the 2020 Police Interceptors. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that Freedom Ford has offered two black 2020 Police Interceptors at the same price as the 2019 models. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that this price has been compared to the state bid as well as the Sheriff's Association of Virginia. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the overall increase for the two vehicles is approximately \$3,500.00. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the procurement, therefore, is valid.

Motion for the Police Department to approve the purchase of two 2020 Ford Police Interceptor vehicles from Freedom Ford for the price of \$67,200 by financing for seven years at 3.4% interest through BB&T Bank as presented.

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Roger Cassell VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay: Absent:

Abstain:

Motion Carried.

Police Department – Rescind purchase of 2x 2019 Ford Police Interceptor vehicles.

Motion for the Police Department to rescind the purchase of 2x 2019 Ford Police Interceptor vehicles that were previously approved.

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Ron Kindle VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay: Absent:

Motion Carried.

Abstain:

Police Department – Approval to auction 2010 White Ford 4 door police vehicle: vin: 1958

Town Manager Greg Jones stated that this is one of the vehicles that will be replaced. Town Manager Greg Jones asked Chief Terry Sivert if he wanted to go ahead and sell the vehicle since it will take the new ones nine to ten weeks on order? Chief Terry Sivert stated that the vehicle is currently just sitting being unused and is ready to sell.

Motion for the Police Department to approve the auction of 2010 White Ford 4 door police vehicle: vin: 1958 on GovDeals.net.

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Roger Cassell VOTE: Aye: 5 Nay:

Absent:

Motion Carried.

• Transfer \$15,000 and earmark: Utility Billing Software from General Fund to General Fund Savings Capital Outlay Account.

Town Manager Greg Jones stated that this is part of the capital improvement plan for 2019 to replace the utility billing software; however, this has not been done yet. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that he would like to take the money that has been earmarked for this year's budget and put it into Capital Improvement Savings so that when we get back to this we will have the money there to pay for it. Council Member Ross asked how much will be in the general fund account once this is done? Town Manager Greg Jones stated that it would be approximately \$11,000-\$12,000 in the savings account.

Motion to transfer \$15,000 and earmark: Utility Billing Software from General Fund to General Fund Savings Capital Outlay Account.

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Roger Cassell VOTE: Aye: 5 Nay:

Absent:

Abstain: Motion Carried.

• Transfer \$25,000 and earmark: Banner Project from General Fund to General Fund Savings Capital Outlay Account.

Motion to transfer \$25,000 that has been earmarked: Banner Project from General Fund to General Fund Savings Capital Outlay Account

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Robin Richards VOTE: Aye: 5 Nay:

Absent:		
Abstain:		

• Approval of judicial sale of property for delinquent real estate taxes on Highland Street.

Motion Carried.

Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the listing of five properties on Highland Street that are delinquent can be found in the Town Manager's Report. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the property is two years delinquent and the Town has the authority to take the delinquent property and auction it. Town Attorney Michele Brooks stated that the property owners would have sixty days from the time the treasurer's notice goes out to redeem it. Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked if once this goes into auction does the owner have a year to pay the delinquent taxes? Town Attorney Michele Brooks stated that they do not, but they do have a right of redemption up until the point that it is sold and they would have to pay everything.

Motion to approve for judicial sale of property for delinquent real estate taxes on Highland Street as presented in the Town Manager's Report including tax map numbers: 146A69G31-35, 146A68RA, 1-5; 14, 146A6643-45, 146A6646-48 and 146A6628-31.

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Ron Kindle VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay: Absent: Abstain:

Motion Carried.

- XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT NEW BUSINESS NONE
- XV. CLOSED SESSION NONE
- XVI. ADJOURN

Motion made to adjourn.

Motion by: Allan "Cotton" Roberts

2nd by: Robin Richards VOTE: Aye: 5

Frances Perry – Mayor

Nay: Absent:

Abstain: Motion Carried.

Meeting on July 9, 2019.			
iviayor refry adjourned the meeting at 8.38 r.N	1., unui me next i	egularly scheduled	Council

Acres Danner adjacement the marchine of 9.50 D.M. south the march regularly scheduled Course

Lisa Loggans – Deputy Town Clerk