



***GATE CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL CALLED MEETING MINUTES
ADOPTION OF PROPOSED BUDGET 2013-2014
JUNE 19, 2013
156 E. JACKSON ST.
6:00 P.M.***

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED TOWN BUDGET FOR 2013-2014

I. Mayor, Frances Perry, called Special Called Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

II. ROLL CALL Town Clerk, Kathy Riley

Present: Mayor, Frances Perry
Vice Mayor, Allan "Cotton" Roberts
Council Member, Robin Richards
Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr.
Absent: Council Member, Roger Cassell
Council Member, Walter Salyers

Others present: Town Manager, G. Jones, Town Attorney, M. Brooks

III. NEW BUSINESS

• **Adoption of proposed Town Budget for 2013-2014**

Town Manager, G. Jones – Discussed Draft # 8 that the line items that are highlighted in green are the changes that had been changed from Draft #7 and explained the changes that had been made. The Police Department remained intact with the layoff of the Office Assistant and Part-Time Police Office, along with a full-time Officer who is leaving July 1. None of these positions will be refilled, which makes up the funding for the Fire Department and Streets. All officers will have cell phones and the fuel for the Police Department is back to allow officers to have access to come to and from work with the vehicles.

Council Member, R. Richards – Questioned about not putting the moratorium in place with the mileage requirement.

Town Manager, G. Jones – Responded he thinks it will be placed as a Personnel Policy and not affix the budget. He informed Council if you want to fund it all and keep everything at the same level, you would have to entertain a real estate tax increase.

Mayor Perry – Discussed the possibility of raising tax fee a dollar for the trash truck.

Town Manager, G. Jones – Responded he did ask that and was informed the rate was increased last year for debt consideration on the trash truck and they didn't want to go that direction.

Vice Mayor, A. Roberts – Discussed last year’s rate increase and up-coming sewer rate increase. Need to leave it alone.

Town Manager, G. Jones – Informed Council of the rates to be redone again next spring and there were no changes to the water and sewer budgets since the last hearing.

Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr. – Questioned the possibility of redistributing funds from Fire Department and Streets to Police Department.

Town Manager, G. Jones – Explained his thinking with the Police Department staffing and further explained the staffing of Police Departments across the state of Virginia employs 2.3 officers per 1,000 residents. Gate City as a little over 2,000 residents, with staffing prior to this budget of three officers per 1,000, which told him it was overstaffed and it didn’t include the auxiliary officers that were on board. The budget presented brings staffing down to 2.5 police officers per 1,000. It is still a little more and it did not include the auxiliary officers. He explained he did pay attention to this when he looked at the staffing for the Police Department. He answered Council Member, Ross’s question that you can reduce Fire Department or any type of funding you want and put it back wherever you would like to. If you want to take funding from one line and add it somewhere else, at the end of the day this is your budget and it’s my job to make sure you come in under it.

Council Member, R. Richards – Questioned his calculation with the Police Department ratio if the Office Assistant was included in those numbers or just officers.

Town Manager, G. Jones - Responded it was just officers.

Mayor Perry – Provided explanation to Council Member, W. W. Ross regarding street funding projection.

Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr. – Questioned why town is in financial crunch and reiterated reducing the Fire Department and fund the Police Department and street.

Council Member, R. Richards - Responded revenue is down.

Town Manager, G. Jones – Responded revenue is down and expenditures are going up.

Vice Mayor, A. Roberts – Discussed monies spent on streets with last budget against the projection and understands Council Member, Ross’s concerns, the crunch and the need to cut somewhere. If the town had to put up all the money for the Fire Department it would be a lot more than \$25,000. He stated he is in favor to give to the Fire Department and take away from the streets. We need to take care of the streets and appreciates the increase to the Economic Development. He explained the need to get more businesses in town to increase revenue.

Motion made to adopt the budget as presented.

Motion by: Vice Mayor, A. Roberts

Mayor Perry – Explained to Council the need to have a budget in place by July 1st.

Town Manager, G. Jones - Explained it is amendable, you can go back and change it anytime you wish.

Mayor Perry – Informed Council without a second we will need to have a discussion as to why, if there needs to be an amendment, then with what.

Council Member, R. Richards – Explained her disappointment of the Police Department was in the budget discussion and now it has been moved to a Personnel issue and will pass the budget without deciding. Expressed her confusion of how that happened.

Mayor Perry – Stated she just explained that to her. She further explained, it is a policy amendment and a policy amendment needs to come before the Council. It’s not on the agenda for tonight and the agenda for is for the adoption of the budget. Council would be out of order to entertain anything to that effect. It would have to be carried over to a regular meeting or a Special Called Meeting with that on the agenda.

Council Member, R. Richards – Questioned, if it was discussed in the other called meetings and they were not a regular town meeting.

Mayor Perry – Responded it has never been put on the agenda, but it has been discussed three or four times.

Vice Mayor, A. Roberts – Commented that he understands where Robin is coming from, but feels it needs to be drawn up as a policy. Does not feel it would affect the budget, but it can in the future.
Town Manager, G. Jones – Stated it was discussed at the Finance Committee meeting. It was discussed as a budgetary item but it could change versus if it is brought in as policy. As a Personnel issue, it is there.

Mayor Perry – Asked again for a second to the motion.

2nd by: Council Member, W. W. Ross, Jr.
VOTE: Yeas, 2
Nays, 1-R. Richards
Absent, 1-R. Cassell, W. Salyers
Abstain, 0

Mayor Perry – Suggested to Town Manager, G. Jones for a note to be written to employees explaining the reason for reduction to the Christmas bonus.

Vice Mayor, A. Roberts – Reiterated his earlier comments that if the downstairs is rented, the Town sells property, and revenue starts coming in he has no problem going back to 100% on the bonus.

Council Member, R. Richards – Asked Town Manager if it would be better off if employees received the 1.5 raise or the bonus, if calculations were made on that.

Town Manager, G. Jones – Provided an explanation of the differences, basically it depended where the employee was at on their pay level.

IV. Special Called Meeting closes at 6:21 P.M.

Mayor Frances Perry

Town Clerk, Kathy Riley