



**GATE CITY TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
JULY 14, 2015
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 – Amanda McKenna

PRESENT: ABSENT:

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

Others present: Cody McElroy, Mattern & Craig, Inc., Charlie Broadwater, Broadwater Trading, Robert Parsons and Robert Blevins, Commercial Electronics, Colton Marcum, Marcum’s Pharmacy, Joey and Michele Rusek, Backdraft BBQ.

III. INVOCATION-

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chief of Police, Scott Fink

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made to approve the agenda.

Motion by: Council Member, Walter Salyers 2nd by: Council Member, Robin Richards

VOTE: Yeas, 3

Nays,

Absent, 2- Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, Council Member, R. Cassell

Abstain,

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

- **Commercial Electronics, Inc.**
- **Broadwater Trading**

➤ **Officer of the Month, Dustin Folk**

Mayor, Frances Perry appointed Council Member, Roger Cassell to the Economic Development Committee. She further stated that one of the council members needs to be a Co-Chairman of this committee and that there needs to be a total of 6 members.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Council Meeting on June 9, 2015 as presented?**
Motion made to approve the minutes as presented per Mayor, Frances Perry.
- **Public Hearing on June 24, 2015 as presented?**
Motion made to approve the minutes as presented per Mayor, Frances Perry.
- **Special Called Meeting on July 1, 2015 as presented?**
Motion made to approve the minutes as presented per Mayor, Frances Perry.

VIII. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

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

Motion by: Council Member, Robin Richards 2nd by: Council Member, Walter Salyers

VOTE: Yeas, 3

Nays,

Absent, 2- Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, Council Member, R. Cassell

Abstain,

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT-None.

Mayor Perry closed the public comment session at 6:37 P.M. and opened the consent agenda session.

X. COMMUNICATIONS-None

XI. REPORTS

A. **Engineer's Status Report** – Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked Cody McElroy if there was going to be funding available for the sidewalk project. Cody McElroy stated that there was left over funding from last year that he was working on making available, and that he was trying to obtain Highway Safety Funds. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked about the emergency shower project. Cody McElroy explained to him that it was necessary due to the chemicals that the employees are working with at the water plant. However, he stated that the quote he received looked a little high and he was waiting to speak with Town Manager, Greg Jones, before proceeding with acquiring more quotes.

B. **Treasurer's Report-** Will be available after year end review.

C. **Codification Committee/Property Maintenance-** Town Attorney, Michele Brooks stated that we were moving forward with publication. Mayor, Frances Perry stated that the town was moving forward with demolishing the condemned buildings in town and making Gate City look better.

D. Police Department Report- Sergeant, Justin Miller stated that he had been looking through old records and he has discovered that in previous years there were approximately 437 citations issued by the end of the fiscal year. This year our department is at 627 citations. Also in previous years there has been approximately 66 arrests; this year we are at 76 arrests. He believes that this is because they finally have a Chief that leads from the front. He also attributes the credit towards Officer Dustin Folk for his efforts and ability to get drunk or intoxicated drivers off the road.

E. Council Reports- Council Member, Robin Richards stated that she had received a couple of emails regarding Kicking Back @ King Alley. The first stated that they are really enjoying the event and believe it to be great for the town, but they would like to see a food truck available. The second stated that they are glad the town is having this event as they usually sit at home on Friday nights, but now have somewhere to go. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that he had questions. Mayor, Frances Perry stated that if he had questions he should have asked them prior to the meetings. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that he thought that was what these meetings were for. Mayor, Frances Perry stated that he could go ahead and ask his questions and they could try and answer those questions. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that he saw an article in the VML magazine that Big Stone Gap was mentioned for having a movie filmed there. He feels that we should try to get Gate City mentioned because it has already been used as a film location.

F. Economic Development Committee- None

G. Historical Committee- None

H. Manager- None

I. Park Committee- None

J. Planning Commission-None

K. Public Works- None

L. Sanitation Authority- None

M. Street Commission- Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that there were light bulbs still out in front of Town Hall and that looks bad. Mayor, Frances Perry asked if he realized that Public Works is over loaded in the summertime with the mowing, weed-eating, concert series, and work orders, and they are doing the best that they can to get to everything. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that since she had brought it up, he would like to know why the grass was so tall on Manville Rd. but fine everywhere else in town. He also wanted to know if they had a blower to clean it up and make it look nicer and more professional after they mow or weed-eat. Mayor, Frances Perry suggested that he sit and have a discussion with Stoney.

N. Safety Committee- Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that he is still concerned that we do not have a weather notification system in place for our residents. Mayor, Frances Perry stated that she didn't recall having a discussion about the notification system. She further asked if he had done any research, presented anything to council, or obtained any prices. Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that he had already brought it up and no one moved forward with it. Mayor, Frances Perry told him to put something together and then the council will entertain the presentation.

O. Water Plant- None

P. Events Committee- None

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- **Façade Grant/ Promissory Note Litigation** -
Motion made to table until after closed session.
After closed session: Remove from agenda until further notice.
- **Purchase the Community Center on Kane Street.**
Motion made to table until further notice due to needing to find out more information.
- **Scott Farmers Co-op – Tax Lien.**
Motion made to table until after closed session.
After closed session: Remove from agenda until further notice.
- **PTO/Vacation Time.**
Motion made to table until next meeting August 11, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.
- **VDOT Railroad Crossing Contract**
Motion made to table until further notice.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

- **Rebecca Wagers, Marcum’s Pharmacy - Update Development Plans-** Rebecca Wagers gave a brief presentation and update on the plans that Economic Redevelopment has been working on for Gate City. The plans include such things as a Pharmacy, walking paths, restaurants, splash pad, art museums, and small apartments or townhouse dwellings. She also stated that they had just turned in a Sales Contract for the Daugherty Brothers Property earlier today.
- **Jim Addington- Beer Garden for Kickin’ Back @ King Alley Series-** Jim Addington appeared before the council to express his concern with the amount of money the town was spending on the insurance for the beer garden. Mayor, Frances Perry assured him that she had spoken with Town Manager, Greg Jones who had found out that the insurance was only going to be approximately \$2,000.00 for the year, and that the town would probably only pay for that maybe 1 time before the agency who conducts the beer garden would take it over.
- **Permission to seek grant funding from the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Funding used to expand parking at Grogan Park.**
Motion made to seek grant funding to expand parking at Grogan Park.
Motion by: Council Member, Robin Richards 2nd by: Council Member, Walter Salyers
VOTE: Yeas, 2
Nays,
Absent, 2- Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, Council Member, R. Cassell
Abstain, 1- Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that he didn't feel he could appropriately choose one side or another since he had not had adequate time to look over the information that he was provided.

- **Permission to seek planning grant funding from the Virginia Department of Health. Funding used to find water leaks and GPS values, hydrants, etc.**

Motion made to seek grant funding from the Virginia Department of Health.

Motion by: Council Member, Walter Salyers 2nd by: Council Member, Robin Richards

VOTE: Yeas, 2

Nays,

Absent, 2- Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, Council Member, R. Cassell

Abstain, 1- Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that he didn't feel he could appropriately choose one side or another since he had not had adequate time to look over the information that he was provided.

- **VRA Bond Refinance Resolution.**

Motion made to table until the next meeting on August 11, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.

- **Roof Replacement.**

Motion made to accept the bid placed by Laferney Commercial Roofing for \$33,600.00.

Motion by: Council Member, Walter Salyers 2nd by: Council Member, Robin Richards

VOTE: Yeas, 3

Nays,

Absent, 2- Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, Council Member, R. Cassell

Abstain,

- **VDH Community Fluoridation Grant in the amount of \$26,535.**

Motion made to accept the Fluoridation Grant in the amount of \$26,535.

Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked Cody McElroy what happens if the town does not receive 100% funding. Would the town have any associated cost? Cody McElroy stated that if the town had cost it shouldn't be more than approximately \$10,000, but he has not seen that in the past. He stated that he has used this grant before. Council Member, Robin Richards stated that the town could pull out of the contract at any time if they feel that the Town portion of the bill is too high.

Motion by: Council Member, Robin Richards 2nd by: Council Member, Walter Salyers

VOTE: Yeas, 3

Nays,

Absent, 2- Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, Council Member, R. Cassell

Abstain,

- **Seek RFP: Pave Michael Road 708x12, 8212 SQ Feet.**

Motion made to seek RFP to pave Michael Road.

Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked if this was already in the budget. Mayor, Frances Perry stated that yes it was.

Motion by: Council Member, Walter Salyers 2nd by: Council Member, Robin Richards

VOTE: Yeas, 3

Nays,

Absent, 2- Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, Council Member, R. Cassell

Abstain,

- **Seek RFP: Pave Moccasin Hill Subdivision (Section) 97x18, 1746 SQ Feet**

Motion made to seek RFP to pave Moccasin Hill Subdivision.

Motion by: Council Member, Robin Richards 2nd by: Council Member, Walter Salyers

VOTE: Yeas, 3

Nays,

Absent, 2- Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, Council Member, R. Cassell

Abstain,

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT – NEW BUSINESS

Charlie Broadwater, Broadwater Trading, stated that Laferney was a really good company. He stated that they had replaced their roof about 5 years ago and it was still perfect.

XV. CLOSED SESSION

Motion made for Council to enter into closed session.

Motion by: Council Member, Walter Salyers 2nd by: Council Member, Robin Richards

VOTE: Yeas, 3

Nays,

Absent, 2- Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, Council Member, R. Cassell

Abstain,

Mayor Perry opened the closed session at 7:42 P.M.

XVI. RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION

Council returned from closed session at 8:22 P.M.

Motion made for Council to return from closed session.

Motion by: Council Member, Robin Richards 2nd by: Council Member, Walter Salyers

VOTE: Yeas, 3

Nays,

Absent, 2- Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, Council Member, R. Cassell

Abstain,

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING – Read by: Michele 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, Walter Salyers, Wallace W. Ross, Jr., Robin Richards, Frances Perry
Nays,
Absent,
Abstain,

XVII. MOTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION:

Council returned from closed session at 8:22 P.M.

Council returned and made motions to remove the façade grant and CO-OP tax lien until further notice.

XVIII. ADJOURN

Motion made to adjourn.

Motion by: Council Member, Walter Salyers 2nd by: Council Member, Robin Richards

VOTE: Yeas, 3

Nays,

Absent, 2- Vice Mayor, A. Roberts, Council Member, R. Cassell

Abstain,

*Mayor Perry adjourned the meeting at 8:25 P.M., until the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting on August 11, 2015, at 6:30 p.m.

Frances Perry – Mayor

Amanda McKenna – Town Clerk