

GATE CITY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

September 9, 2008

156 E. JACKSON ST.

6:00 PM

I. COUNCIL MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Mayor Tipton called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Vice-Mayor Tipton
Council Ashley Jenkins
Council Frances Perry
Council Tommy Herron
Council Cindy Coates

ABSENT: Mayor Jenkins

V. INVOCATION AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Invocation: Rev. Bob Copeland
Pledge of Allegiance: Sergeant at Arms, Chuck Newton

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

None.

*Vice-Mayor Tipton closed the Reports session and opened the Communications session.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

*Vice-Mayor Tipton closed the Communications session and opened the Reports session.

VIII. REPORTS

A. Manager

- Ron Bostic has finished the 2006-2007 audit. They have asked to go ahead and begin working on the 2007-2008 audit.
- There has been \$121,862 collected in business licenses fees with \$6,000 outstanding. 15 businesses have not submitted the proper paperwork. Over \$14,000 has been collected in delinquent property taxes so far.
- The October deadline for the various grant assignments is nearing. Lenowisco does not want to be responsible for the entire grant administration but will be glad to administer the parts with which they have experience.
- There were no bidders on the Grogan Park Expansion Project. The project will be re-advertised for bids in the Roanoke and Bristol papers.
- There were two bids for the Manville Water Extension Project. Both bids were higher than expected and it would not be beneficial for the town to take on this project at this price at the time.
- According to communication with the Scott County PSA the new sewer plant will be in operation in two to three weeks.
- Mr. Templeton has included a VDOT Resolution that needs to be voted on at tonight's meeting. The purpose of this resolution is to update an existing resolution concerning water line installation. This has been approved by the Town attorney.
- AEP has requested three different rate increases. This would be a huge increase and blow to the Town's budget. Mr. Templeton discussed the possibility of sending a letter to AEP pertaining to this issue.
- Civitan has requested putting a ceiling in one of the shelters at Grogan Park. They have offered to do this with no charge to the Town and are just requesting the Town's permission.

- Rufus Hood has received a petition from citizens opposed to the Town's proposed boundary adjustment. These citizens believe they won't receive town services if this adjustment is made. The properties within the proposed area are already receiving water and are in a good place for sewer and garbage pick-up as well. Mr. Templeton will write a letter to the Slabtown citizens explaining the benefits of the adjustments and the Town's point of view on the matter

B. Police Department

Chief Jason Cox reported that there were 318 calls to service this month. The arrival of the Crown Victoria on the Rural Development Grant has been delayed due to a build error. Officer Delano will be recognized on September 18th for Aggressive DUI Enforcement at Norton Rescue Squad.

C. Public Works

No new reports.

D. Water Plant

Loretta has been researching the possibility of sending water to Holston Regional Plant in compliance with DEQ. They will be looking at these options to figure out which will be the most cost effective option for the Town.

E. Sewer Plant

E. Planning Commission

The Planning Commission did not meet this month. Applications for members are still needed.

F. Street Committee

Council Perry stated that there were no part-time weed-eaters at the time. She said there is still need for weed eaters along the streets and suggested hiring a couple of individuals for these positions.

G. Sanitation Authority

Council Coates announced that the Sanitation Authority will meet Thursday, September 11th, 2008 at 6:00 P.M.

H. Economic Development Committee

The Economic Development Committee did not have a meeting last month.

I. Water Committee

The new Water Policy needs to be passed. Council Perry asked what the hold up on getting the water policy passed was, and Council Coates said she remembered the Town residents not getting a chance to review the policy before it was passed. There were changes discussed at that month's council meeting and members of the Water Committee were supposed to have met with Rhonda Stacey to get those changes into the Water Policy. Council Perry said they would try to look at the Water Policy in order to address the issue at the next meeting.

J. Park Committee

The issue with the bridges in the park application has been straightened out. The Park Committee has applied for a grant from Lowe's. Mr. Templeton received a phone call from someone inquiring information about the project and he feels confident that the grant will be secured from Lowe's. The Scott County School Board has given \$4,000 for the Outdoor Classroom.

K. Council Reports

None.

L. Treasurers Report

Mr. Templeton asked Cindy King to prepare a document monthly to keep everyone up to date on how the Town is doing with spending in accordance to the budget.

*Vice-mayor Tipton closed the Reports session and opened the Public Comment session.

- A. It was requested that the Town website be updated as frequently as possible in order to keep the public up to date on meeting changes, etc.
- B. Chuck Newton: The lighting between the School Board office and Jones Street is bad. Street lights are on the opposite side of the street where there isn't even a sidewalk. Vice-mayor Tipton said there are plans to improve the sidewalks in the grant provision plans.

X. CONSENT AGENDA

*Mayor Jenkins altered the consent agenda to approve each item independently.

- A. Approval of Town Council meeting minutes of August 4, 2008
- B. Approval of adjourned meeting minutes of August 21, 2008
- C. Approval of bill payments for August 2008 in the amount of **\$129,059.17**
- D. To give Steve Templeton authority to give permission to Civitan to install ceiling at Grogan Park shelter
- E. To give Steve Templeton authority to write letters to Slabtown residents concerning the Town's proposed boundary adjustments and to AEP concerning rate increases

MOTION: Motion by Perry, Seconded by Coates
To approve the Consent Agenda

VOTE:	Yeas,	4
	Nays,	None
	Abstain,	Council Herron

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. **Old theater building:** Mr. Templeton has talked to Mr. Mullins twice this month about whether or not there was an agreement between the owner of the building and the Town about this issue. Mr. Templeton will meet with the Town Attorney and Mr. Mullins concerning this matter. Council Perry said she would like a written report from Mullins each month. Mr. Templeton said he will try to get some information from Mr. Mullins.
- B. **Water Policy:** Tabled until next month's meeting.
- C. **Permanent yard sale:** The permanent yard sale on Reed Hollow Road has started back up. There is no ordinance pertaining to yard sales but something needs to be done. The issue has been given to the Planning Commission but the Planning Commission did not meet last month because they could not make a quorum.

XII. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Appointment of New Member to Codification Committee:** Tabled until the next meeting.
- B. **Discussion of Town Employee Picnic:** The Town Employee Picnic will be held September 26th, at 12:00 PM at Grogan Park. Council Tipton and Council Perry will take care of the arrangements.

C. VDOT Resolution:

MOTION: Motion by Herron, Seconded by Coates
To approve VDOT Resolution

VOTE:	Yeas,	4
	Nays,	None
	Absent,	None

- D. **CDBG Architect:** There were two bidders for architectural services. Mark Freeman and Associates and Foxhollow Goodson were interviewed. Each bidder was scored alone. All three individuals gave Foxhollow Goodson the higher score.

MOTION: Motion by Perry, Seconded by Jenkins
To hire Foxhollow Goodson as the CDBG Architect

VOTE:	Yeas,	4
	Nays,	None
	Absent,	None

E. Cindy Fields:

MOTION: Motion by Herron, Seconded by Perry
To obtain Cindy Fields for auditing services

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, None
Absent, None

XIII. CLOSED SESSION

MOTION: Motion by Coates, Seconded by Herron
To enter into closed session to discuss legal and personnel issues

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, None
Absent, None

MOTION: Motion by Coates, Seconded by Jenkins
To return from closed session

ROLL CALL VOTE: Yeas, Council Herron
Council Perry
Council Coates
Council Jenkins
Vice-Mayor Tipton
Nays, None
Absent, None

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

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.

XIII. ADJOURN

MOTION: Motion by Coates, Seconded by Herron
To adjourn until October 14th, 2008.

VOTE: Yeas, 4
Nays, None
Absent, None

*Vice-Mayor Tipton adjourned the meeting at 7:44 PM.

Mayor Mark Jenkins

Town Clerk Audra Fritz