



GATE CITY TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

July 14, 2020

190 Beech St., Gate City, VA 24251

6:30 PM

I. PUBLIC HEARING MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:30 P.M. BY: Mayor – Bob Richards

II. ROLL CALL – Town Clerk – Lydia Morales

	PRESENT:	ABSENT:
Mayor, Bob Richards	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, Tyler Kilgore	X	
Town Manager, Greg Jones	X	
Town Attorney, Michele Brooks	X	

Others present: Frances Perry; James Gose; Jim Addington; Justin Miller, Chief of Police; Ron Kindle; Debbie Kindle; Roger Fraysier; Allen Reed; Jason Snapp, Mattern & Craig; Mike Carrico

III. NEW BUSINESS

- **FY 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET**

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that on page 2 the 2020 Forecast is \$71,717 and the 2020 Budget was \$70,817 and the budget proposed for 2021 is \$79,790. Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked why there is such an increase? Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the increase is due to the salary increase and increase in retirement benefits. Vice-Mayor Robin Richards asked if this is for all employees? Town Manager Greg Jones stated yes, the percentage rate went up over the last year. Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked why the increase in the treasurer 2021 proposed budget is a little lower than the town manager’s? Vice-Mayor Robin Richards stated this is based on salary and one could be higher than the other if they already make more. Council Member Allan “Cotton” Roberts stated that the rate of retirement is mandated by the state.

Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that on page 4 under public works, the cellphone 2021 proposed budget has increased to \$3,000. Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked if there is a special reason for this increase? Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the phones we have now are flip phones and all of our maps are now in a GIS mapping system which our public works will now have access to with a smart phone.

Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that on page 6 there is GPS equipment for the snowplow. Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked if public works is going to use their phones for this, why would we pay \$500 for GPS on a snowplow? Council Member Allan “Cotton” Roberts stated that is a

different item, and the state uses the GPS to track the removal of snow. Council Member Roger Cassell stated that it is a VDOT requirement.

Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. stated that on page 6 the funding for highways and streets for 2019 was \$54,310 and in 2020 was down to \$25,300. Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked why there is almost a \$25,000 difference? Town Manager Greg Jones stated that this shows the actual as of January 31, 2020 and only includes 7 months. Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked if it increased by 2020 forecast to \$39,425? Town Manager Greg Jones stated yes that is what was forecasted when the budget was developed for that particular department.

Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked why it says audit and unaudited for the 2019 columns? Town Manager Greg Jones stated that is because it has not been audited and is being audited now and as soon as it is finished the new numbers will roll over as the official audited numbers. Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked if we should have had that back in March? Town Manager Greg Jones stated that we should have it back in a few weeks.

Vice-Mayor Robin Richards asked if the budget being proposed is \$40,000 to pave streets? Town Manager Greg Jones stated yes. Council Member Roger Cassell corrected that the paving actually comes under CIP. Town Manager Greg Jones stated this is correct, it is a separate thing. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the largest expense here is the electricity for the streetlights.

Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked if the list on page 3 with the bond WSL 03-04, is the amount that we still owe on this bond? Town Manager Greg Jones stated that this is a completed project and the \$8,880 is the principal retirement for the year.

Vice-Mayor Robin Richards asked what the budget is for the fire department? Town Manager Greg Jones stated that nothing has been changed.

V. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSSES AT 6:43 P.M

Bob Richards – Mayor

Town Clerk – Lydia Morales