



**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 6:44 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**

**Solicit Public Input Concerning the Sec. 24-65: Gate City Tourism Zone Ordinance Amendments**

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked if we are amending or changing the ordinance? Mayor Bob Richards stated that we are amending the ordinance. Council Member Allan “Cotton” Roberts stated that the only portion being amended is highlighted in yellow.

Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the amendment to the tourism zone ordinance is a way to enhance the incentives for the tourism zone area primarily in the downtown historic district area and Gateway Plaza. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that these incentives will help us to build a stronger position and attract businesses. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the rebate for business, professional and occupational license tax is currently at 50% and the amendment proposes that the rebate be at 100%. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the second part of the rebate will be on the real estate taxes that will cover up to 100% and the business has to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the taxes that the business owes to the town must be current. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that they will also get a waiver of up to 25% or \$1,000, whichever is greater, for water and sewer tap fees, and the town will reimburse the property owner up to \$1,000 for architectural design improvements in the historic district. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that there will be no incentives available for delinquent accounts. Vice-Mayor Robin Richards asked if this applies to home ownership? Town Manager Greg Jones stated no, it only applies to businesses in the defined areas that are tourism based including retail and food establishments. Council Member Wallace W. Ross, Jr. asked how the businesses in the defined area were chosen? Town Manager Greg Jones stated that where the business is located and

whether or not they are a tourism related business are the main factors. Town Manager Greg Jones stated that the prospective business owner will have to complete the application process to qualify.

**V. PUBLIC HEARING CLOSES AT 6:51 P.M**

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Bob Richards – Mayor

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Town Clerk – Lydia Morales