

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES -Emergency Called Meeting

Gate City Town Council Minutes

September 30, 2024

156 East Jackson Street, Gate City, VA

6:30 PM

I. COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:32 PM BY: Mayor Jamie Lawson

II. ROLL CALL – Deputy Town Clerk – Lisa Loggans

	PRESENT:	ABSENT:
Mayor, Jamie Lawson	X	
Vice-Mayor, Tyler Kilgore	X	
Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr.	X	
Council Member, Pat Elliott	X	
Council Member, Dexter Harmon	X	
Council Member, Michele Rusek	X	
Town Manager, Greg Jones	X	
Town Attorney, Michele Brooks	X	

Others present: Dale McConnell, Interim Public Works Director; Kristie Tipton, Town Clerk; Lisa Loggans, Deputy Town Clerk

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion was made to declare a 'State of Emergency' due to the aftermath of Hurricane Helene that has impacted Gate City on Friday, September 27th, 2024.

Motion by: Pat Elliott

2nd by: Tyler Kilgore

VOTE: Aye: 5
Nay: 0
Absent: 0
Abstain: 0

IV. ADJOURN

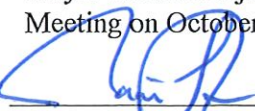
Motion made to adjourn.

Motion by: Dexter Harmon

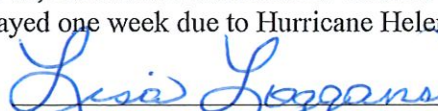
2nd by: Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

VOTE: Aye: 5
Nay: 0
Absent: 0
Abstain: 0

*Mayor Lawson adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM, until the next scheduled Council Meeting on October 15, 2024, at 6:30 PM (delayed one week due to Hurricane Helene)



Mayor – Jamie Lawson



Deputy Town Clerk – Lisa Loggans

DECLARATION OF A LOCAL STATE OF EMERGENCY

Town of Gate City, Virginia

Date: September 30, 2024

WHEREAS, the Town of Gate City, Virginia, has experienced extreme weather conditions caused by Hurricane Helene starting on September 27, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Town has suffered widespread power outages, potable water shortages, downed trees, and flooding, creating conditions that endanger the health, safety, and welfare of the residents of Gate City; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of Virginia declared a state of emergency on September 25, 2024 through Executive Order 37 in response to the impacts of Hurricane Helene, and the Scott County Board of Supervisors issued a local declaration of emergency on September 27, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the continuing effects of the storm, including loss of power to critical infrastructure such as the water treatment plant and the presence of downed trees on power lines and roadways, pose a threat to public safety and hinder emergency response and recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, Appalachian Power (AEP) crews are actively assessing damage and restoring power, but many residents remain without electricity and access to potable water as of September 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the conditions caused by the storm require immediate action to alleviate the impacts on life and property, and coordination with state and federal agencies is necessary to support recovery efforts; and

WHEREAS, § 44-146.21 of the Code of Virginia authorizes the declaration of a local emergency to provide for the exercise of necessary powers to protect life and property and to continue emergency response operations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of Gate City, Virginia, that:

1. A local state of emergency is hereby declared in the Town of Gate City effective September 30, 2024, at 6:30 PM.
2. The Town of Gate City will take all necessary steps to respond to and recover from the effects of Hurricane Helene.
3. The Town Council authorizes the Town Manager, in coordination with the Scott County Emergency Management Coordinator, to deploy available town resources and to request assistance from state and federal agencies as needed, including the Virginia National Guard, Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), and FEMA.
4. The Town of Gate City will continue to coordinate with Appalachian Power (AEP) and other utility providers to restore power to critical infrastructure, including the water treatment plant.

5. The Town will request additional resources, including a 320 kWh generator for the water treatment plant, bottled water for residents, and tree removal assistance from the Virginia Department of Forestry and other state partners.
6. The Town encourages all residents to limit E-911 calls to emergencies to reduce strain on emergency dispatch services, which are currently operating at maximum capacity.

This Declaration shall remain in effect until conditions improve and recovery operations are complete, or until it is terminated by a subsequent resolution of the Gate City Town Council.

Attest:



Lisa Loggans, Deputy Town Clerk



Jamie Lawson, Mayor

