

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Gate City Town Council
May 13, 2025
156 East Jackson Street, Gate City, VA
6:30 PM

I. COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:30 PM BY: Mayor, Jamie Lawson

II. ROLL CALL – Town Clerk, Kristie Tipton

Mayor, Jamie Lawson
Vice-Mayor, Kevin Barnett
Council Member, Wallace W. Ross, Jr.
Council Member, Pat Elliott
Council Member, Dexter Harmon
Council Member, Michele Rusek
Town Manager, Greg Jones
Town Attorney, Michele Brooks

PRESENT: ABSENT:

X
X
X
X
X
X
X
X

Others present: Gabriel Edmunds, Scott Co. Virginia Star; Larry D. Sturgill, CPA; Frances Perry; Mike Still, Kingsport Times News; Anna Barnett; Ellen Bailey

III. INVOCATION – Pat Elliott

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made to approve the May 13, 2025, agenda.

Motion by: Dexter Harmon

2nd by: Pat Elliott

VOTE: Aye: 5
Nay:
Absent:
Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

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

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- 1. Approval of April 08, 2025, Town Council Minutes**
Motion made to approve minutes as presented.

Motion by: Pat Elliott
VOTE: Aye: 5
Nay:

2nd by: Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

Absent:
Abstain:

**Motion Carried*

2. **Approval of April 23, 2025, Special Called Meeting - Town Council Minutes**
Motion made to approve minutes as presented.

Motion by: Dexter Harmon
VOTE: Aye: 5
Nay:
Absent:
Abstain:

2nd by: Pat Elliott

**Motion Carried*

VIII. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Motion made for approval for payment of bills for May 2025 as presented.

Motion by: Dexter Harmon
VOTE: Aye: 5
Nay:
Absent:
Abstain:

2nd by: Kevin Barnett

**Motion Carried*

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (Will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

Frances Perry – stated that in years past, in the springtime, there has been a town clean-up / fix-up day. There's a lot of litter on the sides of the road. On Jackson St., near the Lifesaving Crew office, there's a big rotten tree stump that is about to fall in the road. The grass is high at Dr. Templeton's office. There's not a curb there anymore – dirt has been washed over the curb and grass is growing right up to the road. The curbs especially are very littered right now. Ms. Perry went on to say, "Town is looking the best that I've seen it look in years, and I've been here all my life, and I'm real proud of it, but I think it could be cleaned up and look a lot better. I think we owe that to people who have come in here and bought these old run-down buildings and fixed them up, we need to make our roads and streets match their buildings."

***Council Member Michele Rusek shared that Town Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, May 17th starting at 9:00 AM.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

XI. REPORTS (All reports given will be included with your packet. Any questions about the reports will need to be discussed with the department head PRIOR to the meeting.)

A. Engineer Status Report – Jason Snapp, Mattern & Craig

B. Gate City Frontier Report – Included with Council Packet

C. Town Manager's Report – Greg Jones

D. Attorney Report – No Report

E. Council Reports – (Any new business from Committees that needs to come before the Council.)

Pat Elliott – the Finance Committee met last night on the FY-2026 Budget; we made some adjustments before we bring it to Town Council.

Dexter Harmon – People are still bragging about the new LED Streetlights.

Kevin Barnett – We did the Daniel Boone 250 Trek. It was a huge success. The Daniel Boone Statue has been placed outside at Scott County Historical Society, and it is to be permanently attached to the sidewalk for visitor photo-ops.

Wallace W. Ross, Jr. - The curbs need to be painted. With new businesses having opened, foot traffic has increased on Jackson Street. With traffic from four different directions (E. & W. Jackson, Kane Street and King Alley) it is a public safety issue trying to cross the street. We need one of the crosswalk push buttons at the red lights so people can cross safely.

F. Police Department – Included with Council Packet

G. Sanitation Authority – No Report

H. Public Works – Included with Council Packet

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. FY-2024 Audit Results: Larry Sturgill, CPA
Motion made to accept audit as presented.

Motion by: Pat Elliott

2nd by: Dexter Harmon

ROLL CALL VOTE: Kevin Barnett: Aye

Pat Elliott: Aye

Dexter Harmon: Aye

Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: Aye

Michele Rusek: Aye

****Motion Carried***

2. Job Description: Police Sergeant
Motion made to accept as presented.

Motion by: Dexter Harmon

2nd by: Pat Elliott

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

3. FY-2026 Wage Adjustments / Annual Increase

Motion made to accept as presented.

Motion by: Dexter Harmon

2nd by: Michele Rusek

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

4. a) Pickleball court colors

Motion made to have the court green with white lines.

Motion by: Michele Rusek

2nd by: Pat Elliott

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

b) Basketball court colors

Motion made to have the court blue with white lines.

Motion by: Pat Elliott

2nd by: Kevin Barnett

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

5. Gate City Frontier, Inc. – July 5th event funding request

No Motion made

Motion by:

2nd by:

VOTE: Aye:

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Take No Action***

6. Snowplow Purchase

Motion made to accept the quote from B&H Sales for \$9895.00

Motion by: Kevin Barnett

2nd by: Michele Rusek

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

7. Snowplow and Salt Spreader Purchase

Motion made to accept the quote from B&H Sales for \$20,579.00

Motion by: Kevin Barnett

2nd by: Michele Rusek

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

8. Free Gun Safety Classes

Motion made to approve request from GCPD to hold free Gun Safety classes at Town Hall the third Monday of each month (6:00pm – 9:00pm), limited to 25 students, must be 21 years of age.

Motion by: Kevin Barnett

2nd by: Dexter Harmon

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

9. RFP: Curb Painting

Motion made to advertise Curb Painting RFP

Motion by: Pat Elliot

2nd by: Michele Rusek

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

10. Sealed Bids: Streetlights (2 Bids total)

Motion made to accept bids as presented

Motion by: Kevin Barnett

2nd by: Michele Rusek

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

- Bradley & Linda Talcott, 4 lights at \$400.00 each = \$1,600.00
- Roger Brickey, 2 lights at \$111.00 each = \$222.00

11. Auction: 2013 Ford F350, proceeds to go to the VIP Capital Outlay Account

Motion made to auction on GovDeals.com

Motion by: Pat Elliott

2nd by: Dexter Harmon

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

12. Auction: 2016 Dodge Ram 1500, proceeds to go to the Capital Outlay Account
Motion made to auction on GovDeals.com

Motion by: Pat Elliott

2nd by: Dexter Harmon

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

13. Auction: 2000's Scag Walk Behind Mower, proceeds to go to the Capital Outlay Account
Motion made to auction on GovDeals.com

Motion by: Pat Elliott

2nd by: Dexter Harmon

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

14. RFP: Hurricane Helene Debris Removal
Motion made to accept requests for proposal

Motion by: Dexter Harmon

2nd by: Kevin Barnett

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

15. RFP: Landfill Debris Monitor
Motion made to accept requests for proposal

Motion by: Dexter Harmon

2nd by: Kevin Barnett

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

16. RFP: Predisposition Contract – Future Storm Debris Removal
Motion made to accept requests for proposal

Motion by: Dexter Harmon

2nd by: Pat Elliott

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

17. Amend the agenda to include 2 Council Members (Kevin Barnett and Wallace W. Ross, Jr.) to attend the VML-Small Towns Conference in Farmville, VA on June 5th & 6th, 2025

Motion made to amend the agenda to accept this request.

Motion by: Dexter Harmon

2nd by: Pat Elliott

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT – NEW BUSINESS

Ellen Bailey – asked the Council to revisit their previous decision about the 242 Chestnut property. She is requesting that Council waives the back taxes and demolition fees her family owes. She presented a 14-page letter and some pictures. It was noted by a Council member that the dates on the pictures did not line up with the dates Ms. Bailey said. Ms. Bailey believes that the Town made a great mistake in demolishing the 242 Chestnut house. She also shared that she has talked to some attorneys, and they told her they have a good case, but all of them are too busy to take the case for one or two years.

Mayor Lawson requested that he and Council have time to review the letter and discuss it. He asked Ms. Bailey to come back for the June 10, 2025, Town Council Meeting. Town Attorney, Michele Brooks, stated that the Town has complied with the law. She asked Ms. Bailey if she's requesting just for the fees to be waived, and if she understands that the taxpayers will have to pay those fees if Bailey's do not, and that may be a legal thing the town cannot do.

XV. CLOSED SESSION

**Motion made for Council to enter into closed session to discuss 1.) Personnel Matters
2.) Legal Matters**

Motion by: Michele Rusek

2nd by: Dexter Harmon

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

Mayor Lawson opened the closed session at **7:14 PM**

XVI. RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION

Motion made for Council to return from closed session.

Motion by: Dexter Harmon

2nd by: Pat Elliott

VOTE: Aye: 5

Nay:

Absent:

Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

Council returned from closed session at **8:14 PM**

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING – Read by: Town Attorney 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.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Jamie Lawson: Aye
Kevin Barnett: Aye
Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: Aye
Pat Elliott: Aye
Dexter Harmon: Aye
Michele Rusek: Aye

****Motion Carried***

XVII. MOTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION – No motions

XVIII. ADJOURN

Motion made to adjourn

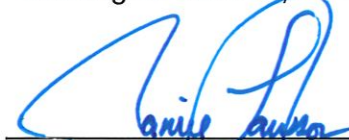
Motion by: Pat Elliott

2nd by: Kevin Barnett

VOTE: Aye: 5
Nay:
Absent:
Abstain:

****Motion Carried***

*Mayor Lawson adjourned the meeting at **8:56 PM**, until the next scheduled Council Meeting on June 10, 2025, at 6:30 PM.



Mayor, Jamie Lawson



Town Clerk, Kristie Tipton