

# TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Gate City Town Council  
February 10, 2026  
156 East Jackson Street, Gate City, VA  
6:30 PM

I. COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:41 PM By: Mayor, Jamie Lawson

II. ROLL CALL: Town Clerk, Kristie Tipton

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

**Others present:** Mike Still, Kingsport Times News; Mary A. Gamble Kane; Gabriel Edmunds, Scott Co. Virginia Star; Lenoir McClung; Debby Brickey; Michael Brickey; Carter Brown; Thomas Brown; Paul Osborne; Lanny Price; Frances Perry

III. INVOCATION: Pat Elliott

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Terry Sivert

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made to approve the February 10, 2026 agenda.

Motion made to approve as presented.

Motion by: Pat Elliott

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Allen Dougherty

VOTE: Aye: 4

Nay:

Absent: 1

Abstain:

***\*Motion Carried***

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

A Resolution was presented to family members, honoring the life, service, and legacy of the Honorable Ford Carter Quillen and designating the bridge entering Gate City (right off U.S. 23) the 'Ford C. Quillen Memorial Bridge'.

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of January 13, 2026 Town Council Meeting Minutes.

Motion made to approve as presented.

Motion by: Dexter Harmon  
VOTE: Aye: 4  
Nay:  
Absent: 1  
Abstain:

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Allen Dougherty

*\*Motion Carried*

2. Approval of January 13, 2026 Public Hearing Minutes (*Vacate platted road at Poplar & Sherman Streets*).

Motion made to approve as presented.

Motion by: Dexter Harmon  
VOTE: Aye: 4  
Nay:  
Absent: 1  
Abstain:

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Pat Elliott

*\*Motion Carried (property owner(s) not present at meeting)*

VIII. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

Motion made for approval for payment of bills for February 2026 as presented.

Motion by: Dexter Harmon  
VOTE: Aye: 4  
Nay:  
Absent: 1  
Abstain:

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

*\*Motion Carried*

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT (Will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker) – None

X. COMMUNICATIONS – None

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** – submitted by Jason Snapp, Mattern & Craig

**VDH Backup Generator Project:** Waiting to submit the pre-bid package to VDH until the required utility easements are acquired. The Town and M&C will begin the process of coordinating with each property owner in January. The project can go to advertisement once the easements are procured and the pre bid package is approved by VDH.

**Kane St. Sidewalk:** 90% review comments have been received from VDOT, and M&C are in the process of addressing those comments for resubmittal and approval to advertise the project. Comments have been received from VDOT regarding the need for the Town to certify the Environmental document as well, M&C is currently preparing the required EQ-121 and EQ-199 forms for submittal to VDOT as well as completing required final coordination efforts with USFWS.

**Manville Road Sidewalk:** Storm drainage design for the project is complete, and the project is currently at the 60% design stage. Required easements are being defined for acquisition. Once required ROW and easements are established the Town can request VDOT to open the ROW phase of the project. This will allow negotiations with the affected property owners to procure the needed ROW / easements. Once ROW is procured 90% and 100% plans can be finalized

**B. Town Manager's Report – Greg Jones**

- **Dog Park Project**

**August 2025** - The Planning Commission is currently working on developing temporary signs for the dog park. The signs will be for the dog park itself, large and small dog areas. The signs will be used until the wayfinding sign project is complete.

**October 2025** – Temporary signs for the Dog Park, large and small dog area has been ordered and received. The permanent signs will be a part of the wayfinding sign project that is being currently planned.

- **VDH Backup Generator Project – WSL 007-21**

**November 2024** – I am currently working with the Virginia Resource Authority (VRA) to close on the backup generator project. VRA has requested data to assist them with their credit analysis. This will be completed in the next couple of weeks.

**December 2024** – All of the documents VRA requested have been submitted. We are expecting to close this project very soon.

**November 2025** – Town Attorney, Michele Brooks submitted the Utility easement. We will schedule a meeting with the effected property owners shortly.

**February 2026** – We are clear to meet with the effected property owners.

- **Water Street Parking Lot Development Project**

**September 2025** – A preconstruction meeting was held on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Quesenberry Construction has mobilized their equipment to the project site on Monday, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. The construction phase is expected to start the week of September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, with the removal of the existing asphalt.

**October 2025** – A progress meeting was held on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This drainage area behind the park has been increased by eight feet. The footprint for the Farmers Market is now 32'x100'.

**November 2025** – A progress meeting was held on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The team reviewed site conditions and confirmed that the existing 4% pavement slope must be maintained, with a final grade between 4% and 4.5% to prevent drainage and elevation issues. Quesenberry Construction will provide options for fixed, non-adjustable basketball goals. While transparent backboards were mentioned for appearance, a solid backboard may be more practical for play. Food trucks will have power only, with no water connections included.

The group also discussed utility coordination. I will confirm with Cody McRoy whether a pole-mounted transformer is compatible with the planned EV chargers. Quesenberry will supply GPS coordinates for the wastewater connection and notify the Town when a Water Street closure is needed. The AEP light pole at the site has already been removed. Council has approved the 2"

asphalt overlay. Currently Quesenberry Construction is installing water and wastewater connections. A portion of Park Street will be closed to make the wastewater connection.

The Farmers Market grant proposal has been submitted to USDA for funding consideration. This is a 1:1 match and we should receive notice by the end of the year. Special thanks to: Scott County Board of Supervisors, Delegate Terry Kilgore, Scott County Economic Development Authority, and Mann Farms for the letters of support for this project.

**December 2025** – In November 2025, an engineering evaluation completed by FSE on November 24 identified significant subgrade deflection at the basketball courts and recommended remediation consisting of an undercut, geogrid installation, and stone. At the December 2, 2025, called Council meeting, the contractor reported that the subgrade had become compromised. Council approved a change order in the amount of \$40,752.47 to install the recommended stone and geogrid to restore soil stability to the area.

**January 2026** – On January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Council met for a called meeting to review and discuss Change Order #3. This change order resulted from VDOT's LUP-OC standards that were required to connect the wastewater line located in the middle of Water Street to the park's underground infrastructure. VDOT required a 50' wide asphalt overlay with milled transitions. Council approved the change order. This project except for the Pickleball and Basketball Court topcoat will be completed in about 3-4 weeks. The topcoat on the courts will be completed in the spring when the temperature and weather permit.

**February 2026** – Phase I is nearly complete. The contractors need to finish the cleanout covers. Topsoil and seedling are completed and sporting equipment has been set up. Contractors will be bringing in a sweeper to remove dirt and debris from the paving area. We are awaiting the electric inspection from the Scott County Building inspector for the EV charging stations. Installation of the acrylic coating for the pickleball and basketball courts has been delayed due to weather conditions. We will need several 50+ degree weather for the acrylic coating to properly bond with the asphalt.

The Town has been awarded \$44,000.00 in grant funding from Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Industries Development Fund - Infrastructure Grant Program. This funding will be used for the creation of a Farmer's Market in Gate City. I would like to thank Manns Farms, Scott County Board of Supervisors, Delegate Terry Kilgore, and Scott County EDA for their support this this project. Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Test, owners of Horse-n-Bear Ranch, have expressed interest in partnering with our Farmers Market.

- **Grogan Park Rehabilitation Project**

**December 2025** - In November 2025, thirty-four trees were removed around the walking trail and park. The Scott County Ministerial Association is currently collecting the usable wood for its firewood program, after which the Town will clear the remaining debris. We are now awaiting Stone Excavation to mobilize and begin the trail rehabilitation work.

- **Hurricane Helene – September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**January 2026** – We have received four responses from our Request for Proposals (RFP) for Storm Debris Removal and Landfill Monitoring. The services will only be engaged during a state of emergency in which FEMA will fund the recovery.

- **February 2026** - Southern Disaster Recovery, LLC (SDR) has submitted their storm debris removal contract for Council consideration: Council **Action: Approve SDR's contract**. We are waiting for Insight, Inc to submit their contract for Landfill Monitoring.

- **Events**

**January 2026** - The Events Committee met with the Scott County VA 250 Committee on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, to discuss this year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July event. The Scott County VA 250 committee was formed to support and coordinate events, tourism initiatives, and historical programming tied to Virginia's 250th anniversary of American independence. We discussed having a two-day event with concerts, fireworks, parade, and car show.

**February 2026** - The Events Committee met with the Scott County VA 250 Committee on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2026. We discussed the headlining band's contract. **Council Action: Approve performing band's contract.** We also discussed stage and sound logistics. Discussed having both pickleball and basketball tournaments. Ms. Anna Walters, USA Pickleball District Ambassador and certified coach, will be conducting pickleball courses starting in the spring.

- **Engineering Procurement**

**September 2025**- Mattern & Craig, Inc. contract has expired. Council has previously appointed Council Members Pat Elliott and Michele Rusek to the interview committee. We are expecting the final approval from VDOT for the engineering procurement RFQ soon. Council will need to replace Mrs. Michele Rusek as she has resigned from Town Council.

**October 2025** - VDOT and VDH have approved the RFQ for engineering procurement. The RFQ is currently being advertised with a due date of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

**November 2025** – We have received responses from three engineering firms. VDOT will need to review the RFQ submission, procurement methodology, and interview questions. Once we receive feedback from VDOT we will be ready for interviews.

**December 2025** - The RFQ submission and proposed interview questions have been submitted to VDOT for their review. Once they approved of our procurement and questions, we will be ready to interview the prospective engineering firms.

**February 2026** – VDOT has approved our proposed interview questions and has cleared the way to interview the prospective engineering firms. **Action Item: Determine date to interview firms.**

- **2026 Legislative Visit**

The 2026 Legislative Visit has been confirmed. We will be meeting with DHCD, VDOT, VRA, VDH, DEQ, Tourism Corporation, and Tobacco Commission. We will be attending the Southwest Legislative Reception as well. The meetings will take place between January 27<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2026 in Richmond, VA.

**February 2026** – This year's legislative visit was cancelled due to the weather. I had Zoom meetings with VDH, VRA, DEQ, and the Tobacco Commission in lieu of the trip.

- **2025 Annual Town Audit**

The FY 2025 Annual Town Audit is underway. We are expecting completion in February 2026.

**C. Attorney Report** – No Report

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

**Wallace W. Ross, Jr.** – I've talked about this several, several, several times. We've spent a lot of time on this; I've brought it up several times. Raise Council member's pay – it takes a lot of time for all the meetings and travel to meetings (VML). This takes a lot more time than it used to. I really think we should look at this. It may be an incentive for younger people to volunteer their time to service. Just like going to VML for 2-3 days at a time, it will make up a little bit for having to be absent from their full-time jobs, and all the additional meetings that are called, in addition to the regularly scheduled Town Council meetings.

**Allen Dougherty** – If we're going to consider this, we need to take a look at other localities pay scale and see what they're doing.

**Pat Elliott** – We need to think about it for the next generation. I think that's a good idea to add that to our Workshop.

**Town Attorney** – Just for clarification, you can't vote to give yourselves a raise – it would be after the next election, when new Council Members are seated before it will take effect.

**Pat Elliott** – I think it's a good idea to add that to our Workshop.

**E. Police Department – Terry Sivert**

**January 2026**

	December 2025	January 2026	Year to Date
Calls for Service	288	385	385
Arrest	3	4	4
Summons	18	45	45
Incident Reports	5	8	8
Accident Reports	4	5	5
DUI Arrests	0	0	0
Vehicle Unlock	4	6	6

**Significant Activity & Reporting for January 2026:**

- Our officers are continuing to work plenty of DMV selective enforcement for speed and alcohol. All grants are currently on schedule and have completed all audits.
- GCPD continues to conduct routine patrol and community policing.

I am happy to report that no shifts were missed during the inclement weather we've had the last few weeks. The speed sign is up and a lot of numbers and good tracking information. This was purchased with a \$3,000.00 grant we received. The new patrol cars are almost ready, just waiting on the push bumper to come in. We should get them soon – we need them bad. We had a full Concealed Carry Weapons class in January; the next one is March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

**Pat Elliott** – I've heard a lot of good comments on GCPD during the snow and ice weather.

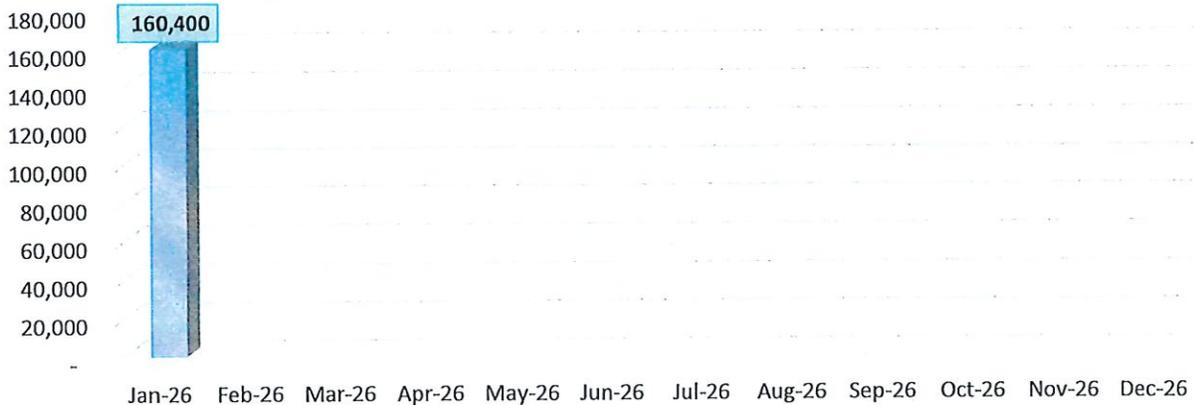
**Dexter Harmon** – Thank to you all for you for being there and letting bus drivers out (school bus traffic). As cold as it's been they've been there, you've been there. Trust me, the bus drivers really appreciate you guys.

**F. Sanitation Authority** – No Report

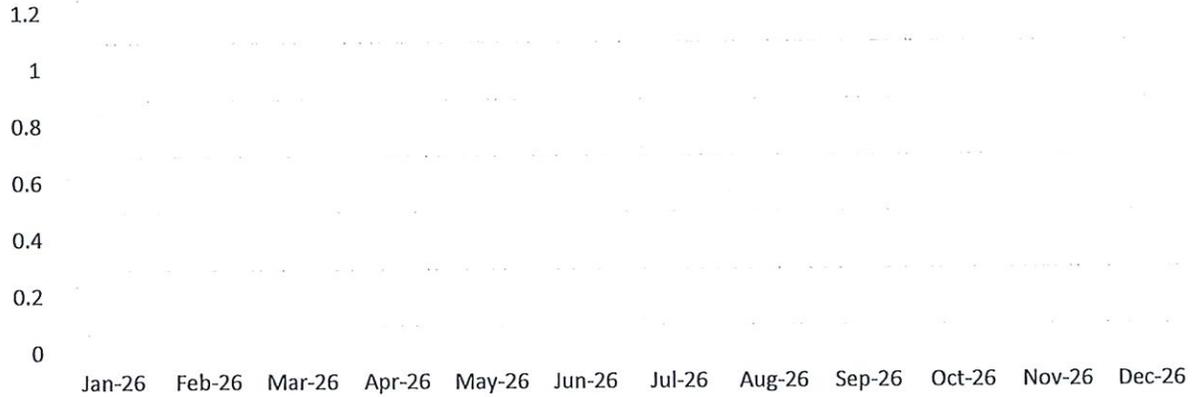
**G. Public Works** – Dale McConnell

Measured in Pounds	Brush Pick-Up	Trash Pick-Up	Work Orders (# per month)
Jan-26		160,400	68
Feb-26			
Mar-26			
Apr-26			
May-26			
Jun-26			
Jul-26			
Aug-26			
Sep-26			
Oct-26			
Nov-26			
Dec-26			

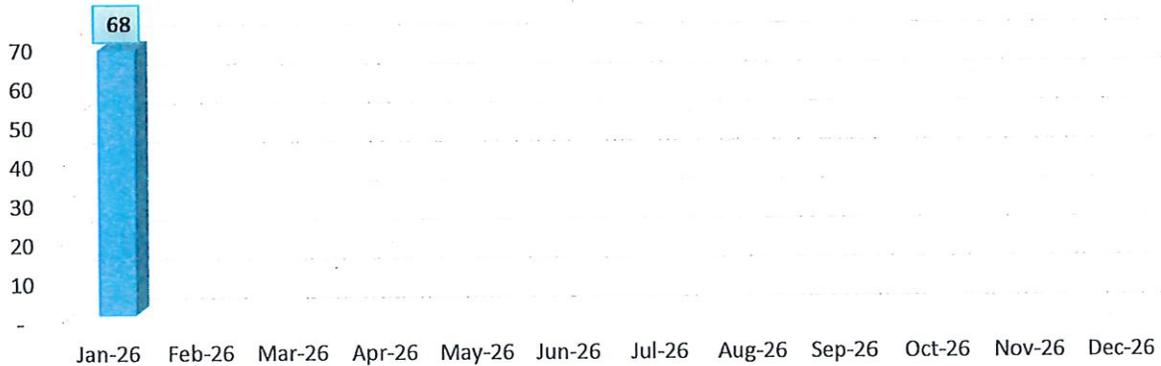
**Trash Pick-Up (Pounds) 2026 Totals**



### Brush Pick-Up (Pounds) 2026 Totals



### Work Orders 2026 Totals



## SNOWPLOW HOURS 2026

	Work Date	Start Time	End Time	Operational Hours	Number of Employees	Total Employee Hours
2023 Kenworth T480	24-Jan-26	7:00 PM	12:00 AM	5	2	10
	25-Jan-26	12:00 AM	8:00 AM	8	2	16
	26-Jan-26	7:00 AM	3:30 PM	8.5	2	17
	<b>Total</b>			<b>21.5</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>
2025 Chevrolet 3500	24-Jan-26	7:00 AM	12:00 AM	17	2	34
	25-Jan-26	12:00 AM	8:00 AM	8	2	16

25-Jan-26	7:00 PM	12:00 AM	5	2	10
26-Jan-26	12:00 AM	3:30 PM	15.5	2	31
<b>Total</b>			<b>45.5</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>

2025 Chevrolet  
2500

24-Jan-26	7:00 AM	7:00 PM	12	2	24
26-Jan-26	7:00 AM	3:30 PM	8.5	2	
<b>Total</b>			<b>20.5</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>

<b>Grand</b>		<b>Grand</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>Total</b>
		<b>158</b>

\*Nate Rhoton completed a 10-hour OSHA course. One more and he can get his CDL.

**H. Water Plant** – submitted by Steve Rutherford

**Virginia Dept. of Health – Division of Drinking Water Monthly Report**  
**Month / Year: January 2026**  
**PWS# 1169405**  
**Distribution System Performance**

<b>A1</b>	Gallons of water placed into distribution system from Gate City treatment Plant	<b>9,762,000</b>
<b>A2</b>	Gallons of water placed into distribution system from Scott County PSA master meter	<b>1,994,300</b>
<b>A3</b>	Total Gallons of water placed into distribution system	<b>11,756,300</b>
<b>B</b>	Gallons of water transferred to Scott County PSA	<b>2,861,443</b>
<b>C</b>	Gallons of water placed into distribution system that are not transferred to Scott Co. PSA	<b>8,894,857</b>
<b>D</b>	Average gallons per day placed into distribution system for customers other than Scott Co. PSA	<b>284,027</b>
<b>E</b>	Gals of water metered to other customers	<b>4,677,200</b>
<b>F</b>	Total Gallons of water accounted for	<b>7,538,643</b>
<b>G</b>	Total Gallons of water unaccounted for	<b>4,217,657</b>
<b>H</b>	Apparent percent of water lost from distribution system	<b>35.88%</b>
<b>I</b>	Number of connections	<b>1,216</b>
<b>J</b>	Avg gals/day placed into distribution system per non-SCPSA	<b>234</b>

**Distribution System Performance Goals**

Less than 10% Loss of water placed into distribution system

Less than 150 gpd of water placed into distribution system per non-other waterworks customer

**Significant Deficiency**

Greater than 30% leakage of water placed into distribution system.



Absent: 1  
Abstain:

*\*Motion Carried*

**6. FY 27 Town Budget Calendar Approval**

**Motion made to approve the budget calendar as presented.**

Motion by: Dexter Harmon  
VOTE: Aye: 4  
Nay:  
Absent: 1  
Abstain:

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Pat Elliott

*\*Motion Carried*

**7. Approval to advertise RFP for Farmer's Market canopy**

**Motion made to advertise RFP for Farmer's Market canopy, to include bird deterrent.**

Motion by: Pat Elliott  
VOTE: Aye: 4  
Nay:  
Absent: 1  
Abstain:

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

*\*Motion Carried*

**8. Gate City Clean Up Day (schedule date & time)**

**Motion made to schedule 2 dumpsters at a minimum of 2 locations: each for a week. (May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>).**

Motion by: Dexter Harmon  
VOTE: Aye: 4  
Nay:  
Absent: 1  
Abstain:

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Pat Elliott

*\*Motion Carried*

**9. Reschedule Joint Workshop with Planning Commission (R-1 & R-2 Zoning)**

**Motion made to schedule for March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026; and Council will separately discuss Council salary increase, Community Park hours, and Food Trucks.**

Motion by: Pat Elliott  
VOTE: Aye: 4  
Nay:  
Absent: 1  
Abstain:

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

*\*Motion Carried*

**Motion made to rescind the previous motion for a Joint Workshop with Planning Commission (R-1 & R-2 Zoning) and reschedule for March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 (Council will separately discuss Council / Mayor salary increase, Community Park hours, and Food Trucks).**

Motion by: Pat Elliott  
VOTE: Aye: 4  
Nay:  
Absent: 1  
Abstain:

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

*\*Motion Carried*

**10. Maple Tree Bookshop & Coffee House Styrofoam Exemption Request**

**Motion made to approve request.**

Motion by: Pat Elliott  
VOTE: Aye: 4  
Nay:  
Absent: 1  
Abstain:

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Dexter Harmon

*\*Motion Carried*

#### 11. VA250 Band Contract Approval

Motion made to approve/authorize the VA250 band contract / celebration up to \$35,000.00.

Motion by: Pat Elliott  
VOTE: Aye: 4  
Nay:  
Absent: 1  
Abstain:

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Dexter Harmon

*\*Motion Carried*

#### 12. Campus Drive-in Styrofoam Exemption Request

Motion made to approve request.

Motion by: Dexter Harmon  
VOTE: Aye: \*3  
Nay:  
Absent: 1  
Abstain: 2 (*Pat Elliott and Allen Dougherty*)

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

*\*Motion Carried*

*\*Pat Elliott & Allen Dougherty abstained on the above vote due to "conflict of interest". Mayor Lawson broke the tie vote with an "Aye".*

#### XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT: NEW BUSINESS

1. **Josh Wilson, Scott County Administrator** – Scott Co. Board of Supervisors will meet March 4, 2026; will approve the Ford C. Quillen bridge naming. Mr. Wilson asked the Town Manager/Council to go ahead and send their approval to VDOT.
2. **GCPD Chief Terry Sivert** – suggested a sign be installed at the Community Park to deter any long-term parking; something similar to "No Overnight Parking / Subject to towing". He wants to prevent any issues like VDOT's park & ride on U.S. 23, between Gate City & Weber City.
3. **Frances Perry** – Spoke about the VA 250 celebration coming up in July. Wants to get the town cleaned up for the visitors and the celebration. Reported that we have some really nasty curbs in town right now. We need to work on the area(s) around the old Thriftway supermarket going out of town. Mrs. Perry said, "This is a big-to-do, people. There for a long time we were on the verge of being overtaken almost by other countries. I don't know how people, some people don't realize that. We're blessed. I mean we need to celebrate. I'll do anything you want me to do. This is big on my heart, people".

**Mayor Lawson** – suggested a day in May and a day in June, closer to July 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Town Attorney** – Shared that the first Saturday in May is 5/2/26 and suggested we leave the dumpsters out for 2 weeks.

*\*After sharing of ideas, it was decided May 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> would be the weeks and there will be 2 dumpsters tentatively placed at Grogan Park and possibly the High School or another location (total of 4 dumpsters).*

**XV. CLOSED SESSION**

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

Motion by: Dexter Harmon  
VOTE: Aye: 4  
Nay:  
Absent: 1  
Abstain:

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Pat Elliott

***\*Motion Carried***

Mayor Lawson opened the closed session at **8:08 PM**

**XVI. RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION**

**Motion made for Council to return from closed session.**

Motion by: Dexter Harmon  
VOTE: Aye: 4  
Nay:  
Absent: 1  
Abstain:

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

***\*Motion Carried***

Council returned from closed session at **8:59 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: Jamie Lawson: Aye  
Kevin Barnett: *Absent*  
Allen Dougherty: Aye  
Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: Aye  
Pat Elliott: Aye  
Dexter Harmon: Aye

XVII. MOTIONS FROM CLOSED SESSION – None

XVIII. ADJOURN

**Motion made to adjourn**

Motion by: Pat Elliott  
VOTE: Aye: 4  
Nay:  
Absent: 1  
Abstain:

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wallace W. Ross, Jr.

***\*Motion Carried***

\*Mayor Lawson adjourned the meeting at 9:02 PM, until the next scheduled Council Meeting on March 10, 2026 at 6:30 PM.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor, Jamie Lawson



\_\_\_\_\_  
Town Clerk, Kristie L. Tipton