TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES

Gate City Town Council
June 9, 2026
156 East Jackson Street, Gate City, VA
6:30 PM

I. COUNCIL MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:16 PM By: Mayor, Jamie Lawson

II. ROLL CALL: Deputy Town Clerk – Lisa Loggans

	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, Lisa McCarty, Emily Robinson, Billy Robinson, Thomas Lawson, Dale McConnell, Cindy Williams, Beth Robinette, Anna Barnett, Quentin Miles, Melvin Otte, Jo Ann Bright

III. INVOCATION: Kevin Barnett

IV. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Pat Elliott

V. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made to approve June 9, 2026, agenda.
Motion made to approve as presented.

Motion by: Pat Elliott — 2nd 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.

NONE

VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. **Approval of May 19, 2026, Town Council Meeting Minutes.**
Motion made to approve as presented.

Motion by: Pat Elliott — 2nd by: Wallace W. Ross Jr.
VOTE: Aye: 4
Nay:

MOTION CARRIED

Absent: 1
Abstain:

VIII. APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS

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

Motion by:	Kevin Barnett	2nd by:	Allen Dougherty
VOTE:	Aye: 4		
	Nay:		**MOTION CARRIED**
	Absent: 1		
	Abstain:		

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

Scott County Historical Society-Cindy Williams stated there is a water leak on side of building, ledge at the top has mortar missing, and water is leaking into bathroom. Ms. Williams stated museum will be opening on 7/3/26. Ms. Williams mentioned the issue of handicap parking and students will be visiting. Sidewalks must be ADA compliant. Drainage is an issue…draining to the back of the building and there are 4-5 pipes going into a hole and back room gets muddy. Handrailing on front of building needs to be replaced…is currently a rusty pipe. Ms. Williams asked if air conditioner can be removed & wall be boarded up.

Jo Ann Bright: Lawyers & clients are Jaywalking coming from the courthouse. Pedestrians not using the crosswalk; last 2 parking spaces by the light, people have emerged between cars, and she has almost hit them. Red lights close to Orange Blossom creates concern for children crossing the street, Jo Ann also suggested signage on Jackson Street.

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** – Jason Snapp – ABSENT –

VDH Backup Generator Project: Awaiting to submit the pre bid package to VDH till the required utility easements are acquired. The Town and M&C met with two of the three property owners where easements are needed on 3/4/26 and have answered various follow-up questions from the affected residents since those meetings. Town Manager Greg Jones has spoken directly to the third property owner. All three property owners appear willing to sign the requested easements to move the project forward. The project can go to advertisement once the easements are procured and the pre bid package is approved by VDH. One of the three property owners have now signed their easements.

Kane St. Sidewalk: All documentation has been submitted to VDOT for approval to advertise. M&C met with VDOT on 6/5 to discuss the advertisement approval. VDOT indicated there was one additional signature that they need from the feds, they expect that signature any day. Once the last signature is in hand the project will be advertised. With an expected advertisement before June 30th, bids would likely be opened by the end of July, the

project would likely be awarded by the end September, and construction would start shortly after award. Construction efforts are currently slated for 6-8 months.

Manville Road Sidewalk: Storm drainage design for the project is being revised to address some critical areas. Required easements have been defined for acquisition. Once required ROW and easements are established the Town can request VDOT 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. M&C met with VDOT on 6/5 to discuss the pending ROW phase with the expectation that 60% plans will be submitted to VDOT by early July. Once ROW plans are accepted and the ROW phase is opened we expect the easement acquisition to take 12-18 months before final construction plans can be fully developed.

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 currently being planned.

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

May 2026 – The Easements with the corrected year have been received and sent to the effected property owners. We are expecting the sign easement to be returned shortly.

June 2026 – We have obtained one of the four easements for this project. Mattern & Craig and I will be meeting with one of the property owners when they return of vacation. The third property owner's concerns was about water pressure. We did find an old PRV on a 3" line that needs to be replaced. That will be resolved shortly.

- **Water Street Parking Lot Development Project**

April 2026 – The pickleball and basketball courts coating remains to be completed. Originally Council determined the pickleball court will be green with white lines. However, having a separate color for the 'kitchen' is what pickleball prefer. Council Action: Review proposed pickleball color scheme and vote to change colors if needed.

I have applied for grant funding for the Farmers Market with the Cumberland Forest Community Fund. That application was for $15,000 and will work with the $44,000 already awarded through the Governor's Agriculture and Forestry Development Fund. The RFP for the new Farmers Market outdoor market will be developed and advertised this week.

May 2026 – The coating for the Pickleball and Basketball courts has been completed. We are currently awaiting the inspection report for the electric vehicle charging stations to be completed.

Introduction to Pickleball classes will be held on Saturday, May 30th, 2026. This class is free but limited to 16 people.

Pickleball lessons will be held on Saturday, June 13th, 20th, and 27th. Classes will be in two groups: Kids ages 10 – 15 and Adults 16+. Classes will be limited to 8 people per class, and the charge is $5.00 per person.

June 2026 – The new Community Park is now open with the exception of the basketball court. The basketball court is pooling water at the basketball goal post. We have received two options to remedy the issue from the contractor: **Option 1** involves grinding low spots, building up the surface with fill material, then applying a primer/resurfacer and color coat for a uniform appearance — but carries a risk of simply relocating the drainage problem due to the court's limited slope. **Option 2** constructs a shallow swale behind the posts to channel water off the surface, is faster, causes minimal disruption, and can be coated to match the existing court. The contractor recommends starting with Option 2, noting that if the swale alone proves insufficient, Option 1's cement buildup approach can be used as a follow-up corrective measure.

Council will meet with the contractor on Monday, June 8th, 2026 at 3.00 PM to discuss further.

The pickleball court is open. The Intro to Pickleball class scheduled for Saturday, May 30th, 2026 was cancelled due to rain. The Pickleball lessons are scheduled for Saturday, June 13th, 20th, and 27th, 2026. Ms. Anna Walters, USA Pickleball Ambassador will be the instructor. I have ordered three pickleball rollers to clear water from the courts after a rain.

I have met with Clinch Mountain Contractors and Factory to You fence regarding the 4' fence install for the pickleball court. Factory to You submitted a quote of $3,000.00 as of this writing. I am awaiting the quote from Clinch Mountain Contractors.

- **Events**

March 2026 – The VA250 Committee met on Thursday, February 26, 2026, and discussed the Council event that will happen at the Gate City High School on July 3rd, 2026. The headlining band contract has been signed. We are currently working with AV Express on stage and sound. We are hoping to have that contract signed soon. Additional activities being planned are a 5K race and a Pickleball Tournament.

April 2026 – The VA250 Committee held a press conference on March 23rd, 2026, and announced that Folk Soul Revival will be the headliner followed by Dave Eggar & Bristol Lightning on July 3rd, 2026, at Legion Field at Gate City High School. Leading up to the concert there will be a 5K run and a pickleball tournament. Ms. Anna Walters, US Pickleball Ambassador, and certified coach will be offering a free intro to pickleball soon followed by lessons leading up to the pickleball tournament. Details are being planned.

May 2026 – The VA250 committee met on May 8th and 15th, 2026. The current schedule of events for July 3rd, 2026, are as follows:

8:00 AM: 5k race
9:30 AM: Pickleball, 3v3 Basketball, and Cornhole tournaments.

Legion Field: Free events
11:00 AM: Veterans & First Responders Ceremony
11:45 AM: Local student's performances
12:15 PM: Band: Austin Falin & ReCover
1:00 PM: Band: Divine Glory
1:45 PM: Band: The Virginia Boys
2:30 PM: Band: Flatt Out Blue
3:00 PM: Gate Close

Legion Field: Tickets Required
4:00 PM: Gates Open
4:00 PM: Band: Brand New Box of Matches
5:00 PM: Carson Peters & Iron Mountain
6:15 PM: Dave Eggar & Bristol Lightning
8:00 PM: Folk Soul Revival
10:00 PM: Patriotic set with Fireworks

June 2026 – Final Preparations for the concert events are being made now. There will be a Pickleball Tournament as a part of the event starting at 9:30 AM. Details on the tournament will be finalized in a couple of days. The VA250 Committee has reserved 20 VIP tickets for Council.

- ## Engineering Procurement

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.

March 2026 – The interview team met with three prospective engineering firms on February 25, 2026. The interview team scored and sent their recommendations to VDOT. Once VDOT approves the process and scoring methodology, we will be ready to start the contract negotiations.

April 2026 – We received feedback from VDOT on April 7th, 2026, approving our process and recommending proceeding with the contract approval. I will be meeting with the interview team to review the contract shortly.

June 2026 – I have met with Mattern & Craig, Inc and discussed the GES contract. They are amendable to having a one-year contract that can be renewed for three years. I have asked them to look at the insurance coverage. Once the amended contract is submitted, I will forward to the interview committee for additional discussion.

- ## FY 2027 TOWN BUDGET

May 2026 - The Finance Committee has completed the proposed budget for FY 2027 and has been submitted to Council for their review.

- No new rate real estate tax or water rate increase.
- 4% cost of living increase for the employees
- Current version includes:

<u>Kane Street Sidewalk Project Funding Increase</u>
Original Project Estimate (Fall 2021): $1,489,681

Current Project Estimate:	$1,966,361
Shortfall:	$476,680
Additional TAP Funds Requested:	$381,344
Additional Funds Local Match	**$95,366**

VDOT has approved the additional funding of $381,344. The remaining match of $95,366 has been approved by Council and is now included in the FY 2027 Budget

The Finance Committee is recommending a $6,000 increase for the Gate City Fire Department. That will bring their allocation for FY 2027 to **$42,000** per year.

Council Action: Conduct a Public Hearing on June 9th, 2026.

Note: Budget approval is anticipated in July 2026. Council will need to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) at the June 9th, 2026, council meeting. CR is a temporary funding measure used when a government has not adopted a new budget before the current budget expires.

June 2026 – Passage of the FY 2027 budget is anticipated in July 2026. **Council action**: Approve a Continuing Budget Appropriation Resolution

- **DHCD CDBG Margie Street Housing Rehabilitation Planning Grant**

Phase I and Phase II of the Park Street Housing Rehabilitation Project are now complete. Margie Street has been identified as our next priority. The Town's 2019 Housing Needs Assessment documented that 15 of the 18 homes on Margie Street need rehabilitation or substantial reconstruction, ranking it as Priority #2 for implementation directly behind Park Street. The Town is eligible to apply for a DHCD CDBG Project-Driven Planning Grant — a 100% grant up to $75,000 — to conduct walk-through inspections, income surveys, and cost estimates needed to build a competitive application for a future CDBG Housing Rehabilitation Project Grant (up to $1,500,000).

Council Action: Approve application for the DHCD CDBG Planning Grant for Margie Street and schedule a Public Hearing for June 9, 2026 to inform citizens about the proposed project. We will need to conduct a Project Management Team prior to June 30, 2026 to complete our application.

June 2026 – The first Public Hearing for the Margie Street DHCD CDBG Planning Grant will be held on June 9th, 2026. A Management Team meeting must be scheduled prior to June 30th, 2026. **Council Action: Approve the Management Team Roster.**

C. **Attorney Report** – NONE

D. **Council Reports** – (Any new business from Committees that needs to come before the Council.)
Pat Elliott: NONE
Kevin Barnett: NONE
Allen Dougherty: NONE
Wallace W. Ross Jr: Welcome signs to Gate City, tables to the Park Area. Mr. Ross concerned about emergency preparedness to which Sargent Matt Quillen affirmed

that the town works with Jeff Brickey- Scott County Emergency Operations Center and that YES, we have Reverse 911. Need a bicycle rack.

E. **Police Department** – Sargent Matt Quillen

Mr. Ross would like to see more late-night patrolling from 3-4 am as there is more foot traffic at that time.

	April 2026	May 2026	Year to Date
Calls for Service	314	286	1593
Arrest	5	4	22
Summons	30	23	169
Incident Reports	5	8	32
Accident Reports	4	6	19
DUI A1Tests	0	0	2
Vehicle Unlock	6	5	28

Significant Activity & Reporting for May 2026:

- Our officers are continuing to work several hours 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.

F. **Sanitation Authority** – No Report-approved 2027 Budget

G. **Public Works** – Dale McConnell-

Nate passed CDL; paving slow due to weather.

Measured In Pounds	Brush Pick-Up	Trash Pick-Up	Work Orders (# Per Month)
Jan-26		160,400	68
Feb-26		118,300	89
Mar-26	1,400	183,306	90
Apr-26	4,000	175,200	61

May-26	4,280	131,700	68
Jun-26			
Jul-26			
Aug-26			
Sep-26			
Oct-26			
Nov-26			
Dec-26			

H. Water Plant – submitted by Steve Rutherford - ABSENT

VIRGINIA DEPT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER MONTHLY REPORT

MONTHNEAR: May-26

PWS#: 1169405

DISTRIBUJION SYSTEM eERfORMANCE

A1	Gals of water placed into distrib system from Gate City treatment plant	10,045,000
A2	Gals of water placed into distrib system from Scott County PSA master meter	1,786,600
A3	. Total Gals of water placed into distrib system (A1+A2)	11,831,600
B	Gals of water transferred to Scott Coun□PSA	1,921,036
C	Gals of water placed into distrib system that are not transferred to Scott County (A3-B)	9,910,564
D	Average gals per day placed into distrib system for customers other than Scott County PSA (C/days in month)	319,695
E	Gals of water metered to other customers	4,356,B0D_
F	Total gals of water accounted for (B+E)	6,277,836
G	Total gals of water unaccounted for (A3-F)	5,553,764
H	Apparent percent of water lost from distrib system (100*G/A3)	46.94%
I	Number of connections	1,216
J	Avg gals/day placed into distrib system per non-SCPSA waterworks customer .{Qill	263

Distrib. System Performance Goals:

*** Less than 10% loss of water placed into distrib system**

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

Significant Deficiency:

***Greater than 30% leakage of water placed into distrib system**

XII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Public Hearing: Storage Building Special Exception & Use Permit**

Motion made to Advertise for Public Hearing on 7/14/26

Owners Billy & Emily Robinson- Mr. Robinson spoke about the location; Property is next to the old Thriftway. Will be Two 9000 SF buildings, (1 in the front and 1 in the rear of property w/ approx. 120 units. 25' driveway in front, rear and between buildings. Property is approx. 1.6 Acres. Units will be NON climate controlled; will have fencing all around, and 24-hour coded gate access. Driveways will be gravel. Will provide sight lighting on the two poles as well as downward facing wall packs on the building. Grey and Blue color scheme to match surrounding buildings. Will use existing sign with some kind of backlight.

Motion by:	Kevin Barnett	2nd by:	Pat Elliott
VOTE:	Aye: 4		
	Nay:		**MOTION CARRIED**
	Absent: 1		
	Abstain:		

XIV. PUBLIC COMMENT: NEW BUSINESS

NONE

XV. CLOSED SESSION

Motion made for Council to enter into closed session to discuss 1.) Personnel Matters
Following Agenda Item #1 Under XII 2.) Legal Matters

Motion by	Pat Elliott	2nd by:	Kevin Barnett
VOTE:	Aye: 4		
	Nay:		**MOTION CARRIED**
	Absent: 1		
	Abstain:		

Mayor Lawson opened the closed session at 8:27 **PM.**

XVI. RETURN FROM CLOSED SESSION

Motion made for Council to return from closed session

Motion by:	Pat Elliott	2nd by:	Kevin Barnett
VOTE:	Aye: 4		
	Nay:		**MOTION CARRIED**
	Absent: 1		
	Abstain:		

Council returned from closed session at 10:15 **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: AYE
Allen Dougherty: AYE
Wallace W. Ross, Jr.: AYE
Pat Elliott: AYE
ABSENT Dexter Harmon:

2. Approve: Special Exception & Use Permit: Tow Truck Service-M1 Zoning District
Motion made to approve Special Exception & Use Permit: Tow Truck Service-M1 Zoning District

Motion by: Pat Elliott — 2nd by: Kevin Barnett
VOTE: Aye: 4
Nay:
Absent: 1
Abstain:

3. FY 2026 Budget Continuation Resolution
Motion made to approve the budget Continuation Resolution

Motion by: Kevin Barnett — 2nd by: Pat Elliott
ROLL CALL VOTE: Aye: Kevin Barnett-AYE
Wallace W. Ross Jr. AYE
Pat Elliott – AYE
Allen Dougherty -AYE
Absent: Dexter Harmon

4. Approve: C1 & C2 Setback Amendments
Motion made to approve: C1 & C2 Setback Amendments

Motion by: Kevin Barnett — 2nd by: Pat Elliott
VOTE: Aye: 4
Nay:
Absent: 1
Abstain:

5. Margie Street Housing Rehabilitation Management Team
Motion made to accept Margie Street Housing Rehabilitation Management Team Roster as presented

Motion by: Kevin Barnett — 2nd by: Allen Dougherty
VOTE: Aye: 4
Nay:
Absent: 1
Abstain:

6. Front Door Replacement — **TAKE NO ACTION**
Motion made to

7. **Request for Exemption – Foam Food Containers for Kane Street Smokehouse**
Motion made to accept Request for Exemption – Foam Food Containers for Kane Street Smokehouse

Motion by: Kevin Barnett — 2nd by: Pat Elliott
VOTE: Aye: 4
Nay:
Absent: 1
Abstain:

8. **Sealed Bids: Decorative Street Lights**
Motion made to accept 1 to Charles & Rhonda Lindsey at $100 + 23 to Brad Talcott at $100 each

Motion by: Kevin Barnett — 2nd by: Pat Elliott
VOTE: Aye: 4
Nay:
Absent: 1
Abstain:
MOTION CARRIED

9. **Transfer Funds: General Fund Operating Account to VIP Investment Pool; Capital Outlay account**
Motion made to Transfer Funds: General Fund Operating Account to VIP Investment Pool; Capital Outlay account $600,000

Motion by: Pat Elliott — 2nd by: Kevin Barnett
VOTE: Aye: 4
Nay:
Absent: 1
Abstain:
MOTION CARRIED

10. **Standing Water Repair Options for the Basketball Court**
Motion made to **TAKE NO ACTION**

11. **Auction 2017 Police SUV Ford Explorer**
Motion made to auction 2017 Police SUV Ford Explorer on GovDeals.com

Motion by: Pat Elliott — 2nd by: Allen Dougherty
VOTE: Aye: 4
Nay:
Absent: 1
Abstain:

12. **Food Truck Policy Amendments**
Motion made to accept Food Truck Policy Amendments effective 8/1/26

Motion by: Allen Dougherty — 2nd by: Kevin Barnett
VOTE: Aye: 3
Nay:
Absent: 1
Abstain: 1

XVIII. ADJOURN

Motion made to adjourn

Motion by:	Pat Elliott	2nd by:	Wallace W. Ross Jr
VOTE:	Aye: 4		
	Nay:		
	Absent: 1		
	Abstain:		

*Mayor Lawson adjourned the meeting at 10:34 PM, until the next scheduled Council Meeting on July 14, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

Mayor, Jamie Lawson

Deputy Town Clerk, Lisa Loggans