



# TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Questions regarding entries in the Town Manager Report are to be addressed to , Greg Jones, Town Manager, prior to the Council Meeting.

**Town of Gate City**  
156 E. JACKSON ST.  
GATE CITY, VA 24251  
276-386-3831 OFFICE  
276-386-7789 FAX

**Town Manager – Greg Jones**  
townmanager@mygatecity.com



**Mayor**  
Jamie Lawson  
**Vice Mayor**  
Kevin Barnett

**Council Members**  
H. Pat Elliott  
Dexter Harmon  
Wallace W. Ross Jr.  
Michele Rusek

## **Town Manager Report – June 9th, 2026**

- **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**

**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 a 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 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026. This class is free but limited to 16 people.

Pickleball lessons will be held on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>. 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 to 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 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 3.00 PM to discuss further.

The pickleball court is open. The Intro to Pickleball class scheduled for Saturday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 was cancelled due to rain. The Pickleball lessons are scheduled for Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>, 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 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, and announced that Folk Soul Revival will be the headliner followed by Dave Eggar & Bristol Lightning on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The current schedule of events for July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 amenable 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:                            | <u>\$1,966,361</u> |
| Shortfall:                                           | \$476,680          |

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Additional TAP Funds Requested: | \$381,344       |
| Additional Funds Local Match    | <b>\$95,366</b> |

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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

**Note:** Budget approval is anticipated in July 2026. Council will need to pass a Continuing Resolution (CR) at the June 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026. A Management Team meeting must be scheduled prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026. **Council Action: Approve the Management Team Roster.**