

**REGULAR MONTHLY** Meeting of the Gate City Town Council was held on Tuesday, July 12, 2005 at 6:00 pm at the Gate City Town Hall.

**PRESENT:** Mayor Mark Jenkins, Steve Williams, Tommy Herron, Frances Perry, Jack Anderson, Town Attorney Mike Carrico, Town Manager Jason Stewart, Recorder Heather Lane

**ABSENT:** Rita Tipton

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Richard Hubbard, Police Chief Jason Cox, Jan Jenkins, Gerald Cox, Jeff Parkey, Althea and Chuck Newton, Wallace Ross, Herman Spriggs, Adam Janes, Ruby Lawson, Norma Goff, Carl Muncey, Norma Williams, Lee Roy Turner, Beatrice Rogers, Lyn Spriggs, Bo Williams

Mayor Mark Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Invocation was provided by Adam Janes.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chuck Newton.

Upon a motion by Frances Perry and duly seconded Steve Williams, members voted to approve the minutes from the June 2005 Regular Meeting and Adjourned Meeting with the exception of one misspelling. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Steve Williams, Jack Anderson, and Tommy Herron. Absent from the vote and meeting was Rita Tipton.

No public hearings were scheduled.

At this time, Mayor Mark Jenkins opened the floor for public comment.

Richard Hubbard spoke about the progress of the Economic Redevelopment Committee. The committee has decided to go forward with the survey. A luncheon will be held on August 31, 2005 for businesses, bankers, etc. The project will begin by the end of the year. Questions about the project need to be directed to the chairman or other members of the board.

Mark Guyer spoke to the council about land he owns located across from Thrift Way Market. Mr. Guyer wants to auction off the land in three plats to help fund their cemetery fund.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico suggests that he present his idea to the planning commission and they will make a recommendation to the town council about this matter.

Chuck Newton complemented on the Fourth of July fireworks.

Ms. Goff spoke to the council about land located on Moccasin Avenue. The land is being cleared off by citizens of Gate City and she is asking the town to pay the citizens for clearing off the lot. The property is located near James Woods and Janie Gray.

Mayor Mark Jenkins informed Ms. Woods that the town would contact the owner of the property.

Wallace Ross spoke about the grown up property located on Chestnut Street.

The town is going to start taking better care of the property that they own and try their best to find the owners of certain properties and contact them about cleaning them up.

Wallace Ross also spoke about the town clearing off streets and roadsides owned by the town.

Wallace Ross asks questions about Jeff Parkey's job with the town.

Mayor Mark Jenkins told Mr. Ross that the council could not discuss personnel matters except with Mr. Parkey alone. He also discussed the way the personnel manual was written. Jeff Parkey will be written a letter to inform him of what took place during closed session concerning his job with the town.

Wallace Ross spoke about rules set within a time limit and about part-time and full-time employees.

Mayor Mark Jenkins informed Mr. Ross that the town will have everything in writing for Mr. Parkey and he will be done fair but the matter will only be discussed with Mr. Parkey.

Wallace Ross asks about the rules for employees operating and riding the trash truck.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico spoke about the confusion of the status of Jeff Parkey's job. The council needs to discuss this matter in closed session.

Jeff Parkey asked the council if he was terminated. Mr. Parkey also discussed the reason for his leave and the situation it has left him in.

Lyn Spriggs discussed the situation with the men on the trash truck.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico suggested that the council go into closed session.

Lee Roy Turner spoke to the council about the injustice done to Mr. Parkey and he wants the council to discuss the personnel issues with the community.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico told Mr. Turner that Virginia State Law requires that personnel issues be discussed in closed session.

Upon a motion by Jack Anderson and duly seconded by Tommy Herron, members voted to go into closed session. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Steve Williams, Jack Anderson, and Tommy Herron. Absent from the vote and meeting was Rita Tipton.

### **CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING**

**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.

**VOTES:**      **AYES:**              Steve Williams, Frances Perry, Jack Anderson, Tommy Herron, Mark Jenkins

**NAYS:**              NONE

**ABSENT:**          Rita Tipton

The council returns to regular session, at this time.

Carl Muncey wants to know when the house of Bunny Hart is going to be torn down.

Mayor Mark Jenkins explains the process of inspecting the current properties.

Lee Roy Turner asked about the health department condemning houses and having the houses torn down.

Mayor Mark Jenkins is going to ask the county if the health department can help the town with the abandoned houses.

Mr. Jenkins also thanked the people for coming out and supporting Jeff Parkey.

Chuck Newton told Mayor Mark Jenkins that the hedge on East Jackson Street has been cut.

Mr. Jenkins spoke to the council about the Kane property on Moccasin Ave. Mr. Kane offered to sell the property to the town for \$1,000.00 and he would also pay for all legal costs. The property is assessed at \$8,000. Mark mentioned that the lot would be a great place for a picnic area with Burnt Cabin Branch plans go into effect.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico spoke about other town's that purchase green ways for public use.

Upon a motion by Jack Anderson and duly seconded by Frances Perry, members voted to purchase the Kane property. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Steve Williams, Jack Anderson, and Tommy Herron. Absent from the vote and meeting was Rita Tipton.

Robert Barker has asked the town about clearing off his property to make access to his lot on Quillen Circle. Trees need to be cleared to allow access to the property so Mr. Barker can sell the property.

Frances Perry asks if the property is a part of Estil Heights and why it wasn't included with the subdivision, when it was taken in as a subdivision.

Ruby Lawson spoke about who developed the Estil Heights subdivision.

The town is going to check to see if the property was taken in with the Estil Heights subdivision before a decision is made on the property.

Wallace Ross asks about land benefiting the other citizens in town.

The council tabled this matter until next meeting.

Police Chief Jason Cox presents his monthly report to the council. The K-9 has been paid for and schooling for Bo Person and the K-9 will begin August 9<sup>th</sup> and the K-9 will possibly be on the road by the middle of September. Jason spoke about the police car that was totaled. He asked the council what they wanted to do about purchasing a new patrol car. Jason would like the new car to be a 2004 or 2005 in order to transfer all things off of the old car onto the new car. The council decided to leave the decision up to the town manager and to Jason.

Mark Jenkins commends Jason on his work and the work of the police department.

Jason thanked the council for their support of the police department.

Jack Anderson asks about the situation with a citizen on Moccasin Avenue.

The public works monthly report was handed out to the council at this time.

Steve Williams ask Jason Stewart about creating a graph of the public work's progress instead of a written public works report.

Mark Jenkins asks Jason Stewart to come up with a more detailed public work's report to keep a closer check on the crew.

The Manville/Red Hill water project has everything in order to begin work.

Wallace Ross asks about the new street signs.

The county is responsible for posting the new street signs and the date they will be put up.

Wallace Ross asks that the town repair a pot hole on Chestnut Street near his residents.

Jason Stewart spoke to the council about his first week at the town. He also informed them that he is trying to put things back into order.

Mark Jenkins commends Jason Stewart on his work during the first week and with the community block grant committee.

Street Committee has not met.

The Planning Commission recommended to council that the council make the new boundary area that begins at the farthest northeast corner of old town boundary near State Route 71, going north by the east side of the Golf Course, continuing north to State Route 668, going east to State Route 72 a C-1 Zone, and vote to make the remaining new boundary area around the Golf Course, including the platted land of Alice Shelton, a R-1 Zone. They also recommended that the town council vote to make the new boundary area along Clinch mountains a C-1 Zone from US 23 to a distance of two-hundred (200) feet below the ridgeline, while voting to make the remaining area above two-hundred (200) feet to ridgeline an R-1 Zone.

Upon a motion by Tommy Herron and duly seconded by Jack Anderson, members voted to hold a public hearing to change the zoning of the newly adjusted boundary adjustment. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Steve Williams, Jack Anderson, and Tommy Herron. Absent from the vote and meeting was Rita Tipton.

The Sanitation Authority is asking to meet with the engineers about the design of the new sewer plant.

EDRC received the money to complete the survey.

Upon a motion by Frances Perry and duly seconded by Tommy Herron, members voted to pay the bills from the water and general fund. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Steve Williams, Jack Anderson, and Tommy Herron. Absent from the vote and meeting was Rita Tipton.

Upon a motion by Jack Anderson and duly seconded by Steve Williams, members voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Steve Williams, Jack Anderson, and Tommy Herron. Absent from the vote and meeting was Rita Tipton.

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**MAYOR**

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**RECORDER**

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