

REGULAR MONTHLY Meeting of the Gate City Town Council was held on Tuesday, December 12, 2006 at 6:30 pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Mark Jenkins, Vice-Mayor Rita Tipton, Frances Perry, Carl Hurt, Roger Cassell, Tommy Herron, Town Manager Jason Stewart, Recorder Heather Kiser

ABSENT: Town Attorney Mike Carrico

OTHERS PRESENT: Jason Cox, Chuck and Althea Newton, Nancy Willis, Sam and Loretta Cruby, Michelle and Ross Jenkins, Michael Blackstone, Chris Kilgore, Jan Jenkins, Richard Hubbard, Ron and Debbie Kindle, Harold Willis

Mayor Mark Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

Invocation was provided by Michelle Jenkins.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chuck Newton.

Upon a motion by Tommy Herron and duly seconded by Rita Tipton, members voted to approve the minutes with the amendment of adding the names of the reappointed members of the Planning Commission. Voting in favor of this motion was Tommy Herron, Rita Tipton, Roger Cassell, Frances Perry, and Carl Hurt. There were no opposing votes.

There was no public hearing scheduled.

Mayor Mark Jenkins opened the public comment section of the meeting at this time.

Chuck Newton commended the fire department on the Christmas Parade.

Mayor Mark Jenkins and Roger Cassell thanked Chuck for the compliment.

The council discussed the Christmas parade at this time.

Mayor Mark Jenkins thanked Chuck for reminding the town to put the American flags for Pearl Harbor Day and he also apologized for not getting them up in time.

Mayor Mark Jenkins closed the public comment section at this time.

Roger Cassell discussed the water policy and procedure manual.

The manual was tabled until the next council meeting.

The council discussed Tucker Coleman's water bill at time.

Mayor Mark Jenkins suggested that we should follow the current water policy regarding Tucker Coleman's water bill and just allow him one courtesy adjustment per water meter.

The council discussed the Rotary Shoe Fund.

A \$250 donation request was made.

Upon a motion by Rita Tipton and duly seconded by Frances Perry, members voted to donated \$250 to the Rotary Shoe Fund. Voting in favor of this motion was Tommy Herron, Rita Tipton, Roger Cassell, Frances Perry, and Carl Hurt. There were no opposing votes.

Frances Perry spoke about the letters going to the merchants regarding employees parking on the main street.

Mayor Mark Jenkins suggested that the council wait and discuss the pro-ration of taxes and the contract with Utility Services for water tank maintenance until the town attorney arrives.

The Personal Committee recommended to the council that the vote to change the holiday pay rate to pay the employees time and a half for working on holidays.

Upon a motion by Tommy Herron and duly seconded by Rita Tipton, members voted to change the current holiday pay rate to pay time and a half. Voting in favor of this motion was Tommy Herron, Rita Tipton, Roger Cassell, Frances Perry, and Carl Hurt. There were no opposing votes.

The council discussed the additional need for another water plant operator.

Upon a motion by Rita Tipton and duly seconded by Tommy Herron, members voted to accept the additional need for another water plant operator. Voting in favor of this motion was Tommy Herron, Rita Tipton, Roger Cassell, Frances Perry, and Carl Hurt. There were no opposing votes.

The council discussed the contract with utility services for water tank maintenance.

Carl Hurt discussed the meeting with Utility Services and he recommended that the council vote to sign a contract with Utility Services to allow them to maintain the water tanks. He also discussed the possibility of leasing a water tank from Utility Services.

Utility Services offered to extend the payments for three years to allow the town to pay for the tank maintenance. They are also willing to wait until the next budget year to receive their first payment to allow the town to budget the expense.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico joins the meeting at this time.

The council discussed the quotes for tank maintenance at this time.

Upon a motion by Frances Perry and duly seconded by Roger Cassell, members voted to advertise for water tank maintenance and inspection contracts. Voting in favor of this motion was Tommy Herron, Rita Tipton, Roger Cassell, Frances Perry, and Carl Hurt. There were no opposing votes.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico discussed pro-ration of real estate taxes at this time.

Residents that were taken into town by the boundary adjustment in March of 2005 are asking that their taxes be pro-rated from March 2005 to the end of the year.

Upon a motion by Rita Tipton and duly seconded by Tommy Herron, members voted to pro-rate the taxes for the residents affected by the boundary adjustment. Voting in favor of this motion was Tommy Herron, Rita Tipton, Roger Cassell, Frances Perry, and Carl Hurt. There were no opposing votes.

The Planning Commission did not meet this month.

Frances Perry asks if letters were sent the committee members that were reappointed.

Police Chief Jason Cox handed out his monthly report at this time.

Frances Perry thanked Jason for the K-9 monthly report.

Mayor Mark Jenkins congratulated Chris Kilgore on graduating from the police academy.

Police Chief Jason Cox discussed the changes to the police department's policy and procedure manual.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico suggested that members of the council be given a copy of the police department's policy and procedure manual to review.

The public works monthly report was left for the council. Foreman Randall Hurt was unable to attend the meeting.

Tommy Herron questioned the meter rereads.

Frances Perry discussed calls she had received from property owners in Manville regarding their property being messed up during the water project work.

Upon a motion by Frances Perry and duly seconded by Rita Tipton, members voted to hold the final payment to the construction company until the water committee is able to go to the job site and review the work performed. Voting in favor of this motion was Tommy Herron, Rita Tipton, Roger Cassell, Frances Perry, and Carl Hurt. There were no opposing votes.

Carl Hurt asks about the billing of residents living in Adkins's subdivision.

Loretta Cruby gave her water accountability report to the council at this time.

Roger Cassell discussed the bids for the water plant repairs. He suggested the town could possibly save 20% by going with manual equipment instead of electronic equipment.

There was no report from the sewer treatment plant.

Town Manager Jason Stewart discussed his manager's report at this time.

Brian Neeley was hired as the new water plant operator.

Town Manager Jason Stewart discussed the unpaid business licenses. He is asking for the town attorney's opinion regarding what the town should do about the unpaid business licenses.

The town has the right to shut the business down if the business license is not paid.

The town can also legally request financial reports from the businesses.

Upon a motion by Roger Cassell and duly seconded by Frances Perry, members voted for Town Attorney Mike Carrico to draft a letter to send to businesses with unpaid business license. Voting in favor of this motion was Tommy Herron, Rita Tipton, Roger Cassell, Frances Perry, and Carl Hurt. There were no opposing votes.

Town Manager Jason Stewart discussed the handheld meter readers. He also discussed the meeting with Arnette and Muldrow.

Rita Tipton spoke to the council regarding the list she put together of streets that need to be repaired.

Roger Cassell asks if there is money in the budget for paving.

The street between the floral shop and Chris' Department Store is in desperate need of paving.

Town Manager Jason Stewart suggested that the street committee review the T-21 grants to see if any money is available for street paving.

Tommy Herron asks Jason to put updates from the building inspector, Robert Mullins, on his monthly report.

Roger Cassell asks about the old Scott Motel. He also spoke about the conviction that has been made against the owner of the Chapman Store building.

The Sanitation Authority has not met this month.

EDRC is going to meet Monday at the Arnette and Muldrow meeting and set a meeting time for the new committee.

Carl Hurt spoke about the need for a new dump truck for the public works department. He also spoke about the need for metal tags to inventory the town's equipment and belongings.

Roger Cassell, Rita Tipton, and Frances Perry did not have anything to report.

Tommy Herron requested the report from Town Manager Jason Stewart regarding the properties that have been inspected by Robert Mullins.

Mayor Mark Jenkins and Frances Perry thanked the public works department for getting the Christmas decorations up and all their hard work.

Upon a motion by Rita Tipton and duly seconded by Frances Perry, members voted to go into closed session to discuss personal issues. Voting in favor of this motion was Tommy Herron, Rita Tipton, Roger Cassell, Frances Perry, and Carl Hurt. There were no opposing votes.

Upon a motion by Rita Tipton and duly seconded by Tommy Herron, members voted to go back into regular session. Voting in favor of this motion was Tommy Herron, Rita Tipton, Roger Cassell, Frances Perry, and Carl Hurt. There were no opposing votes.

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;

