

REGULAR MONTHLY Meeting of the Gate City Town Council was held on Tuesday, January 10, 2006 at 6:00 pm at the Gate City Town Hall.

PRESENT: Mayor Mark Jenkins, Vice-Mayor Rita Tipton, Frances Perry, Steve Williams, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, Town Attorney Mike Carrico, Town Manager Jason Stewart, Recorder Heather Kiser

ABSENT: NONE

OTHERS PRESENT: Ken Ray, Beverly Robinette, Faye Sanders, Allen Ison, Richard Hubbard, Robert Barker, Delta Purkey, Debbie Kindle, Jan Jenkins, Jason Cox, Roger Brooks, Juanita and Bill Robinson

Mayor Mark Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Invocation was provided by Frances Perry.

Mayor Mark Jenkins led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chuck Newton was unable to attend the meeting.

Upon a motion by Steve Williams and duly seconded by Tommy Herron, members voted to approve the minutes from the December 2005 Regular Monthly Meeting. Voting in favor of this motion was Steve Williams, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, Frances Perry, and Rita Tipton. There were no opposing votes.

The public hearing scheduled for this meeting has been rescheduled until January 24, 2006.

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

Robert Barker spoke to the council about the boundaries of the town on Red Hill Road.

People residing on Red Hill Road have been asking Mr. Barker if they are going to be receiving water from the town although they are not in the town limits. Mr. Barker also asks about the yellow strips on the corner of Woodland Street and Jackson Street. Vehicles have been parking in the yellow strips and it is difficult to see to pull out onto Jackson Street.

The town will find out what steps need to be taken to enforce the no parking zones.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico responded to Debbie Kindle's question about parking on residential streets.

Ken Ray spoke about the “Jerry Kilgore” sign coming into the town. Mr. Ray asks about the first man that served as Attorney General that also resided in the town. He would like to know what the board is planning to do to correct the sign since Mr. Kilgore is no longer Attorney General.

The land that the sign is on is not owned by the town. The “Welcome to Gate City” sign was donated by Gate City High School. The “Jerry Kilgore” sign was purchased by private donations.

Richard Hubbard discussed the sign ordinance drafted by the Planning Commission and approved by the Town Council.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico told Mr. Ray that the sign is not on town property and the sign was put up before the new sign ordinance was in place.

Frances Perry discussed the reasoning of why the sign was placed where it is.

The main objection that the audience has regarding the sign is that the sign is incorrect.

Delta Purkey asks if anything is going to be done about the angling of the parking on Jackson Street.

Mayor Mark Jenkins responded that V-DOT would not repair Jackson Street because of the extremely high expense of the project.

Ms. Purkey also asks why the reading dates on the new water bills were varying so much.

Ken Ray spoke about posting pedestrian crossing signs at the sidewalk crossings in town. A sign is desperately needed at the courthouse.

Mayor Mark Jenkins will set up a meeting with V-DOT to discuss this problem.

Beverly Robinette spoke about the sidewalks being repaired especially on Cleveland Street.

Richard Hubbard spoke about a policy being put in place regarding the updating the town’s website.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico suggested that the town’s website should be the responsibility of the town manager.

Richard Hubbard will show Town Manager Jason Stewart how to update the town’s website.

Delta Purkey spoke about posting meetings each month in the Kingsport Times News.

Allen Ison spoke about the man hole covers on Moccasin Avenue. Riser rings need to be installed in the man holes.

Mayor Mark Jenkins told Mr. Ison that he will have Randall to take care of the man hole problems

Beverly Robinette spoke about the dilapidated buildings.

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

There was no unfinished business.

Faye Sanders questioned the council about when she was incorporated into the town.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico responded that incorporation was finalized in March of 2005.

Mrs. Sanders wants to know why her real estate taxes were not pro-rated and why she was not informed of the annexation.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico replied that the annexation was part of Gate City, Weber City, and Scott County. Public hearings were held about the annexation.

Frances Perry discussed the boundary adjustment with Mrs. Sanders.

Mrs. Sanders would not mind being in the town if the town could offer her services.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico informed Mrs. Sanders that land located near her could be developed.

Mrs. Sanders asked if there is anything she can do to be taken out of the town limits.

Frances Perry explained to Mrs. Sanders that the boundary adjustment took place before this council was elected.

Mrs. Sanders asks about the town's \$0.28 per \$100 tax rate.

Frances Perry asks Mrs. Sanders if she would like police protection.

Mrs. Sanders asks why Williams Mill was not taken into the town because of the tax revenue the town would receive.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico discussed the benefits of being in the town limits.

Mrs. Sanders discussed her complaints about being taken into the town limits. Her complaints were not being notified about the annexation, the pro-ration of her taxes, and not being offered any services from the town.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico spoke about Mrs. Sanders' property being close to existing water and sewer lines.

Mayor Mark Jenkins spoke about the due date of the town taxes.

The tax ticket states that the deadline is December 20 with 10% penalty added after the 20th.

A policy needs to be in place to vote on, regarding the real estate taxes.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico suggested that the deadline for town real estate taxes be extended until January 1, 2006 but just for this year.

Upon a motion by Tommy Herron and duly seconded by Frances Perry, members voted to extend the due date for this year's real estate taxes until January 1, 2006. Voting in favor of this motion was Steve Williams, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, Frances Perry, and Rita Tipton. There were no opposing votes.

The council discussed advertising bids for the demolition of dilapidated buildings at this time.

The theater building has past its deadline to be repaired.

Building Inspector Robert Mullins sent a list of possible contractors to demolish the buildings.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico suggests that the demolition be deferred until the January 24th meeting.

Police Chief Jason Cox handed out his monthly report.

Jason discussed the recent use of the town's K-9 dog. He also discussed with the council what has taken place since the December 14th meeting and upcoming events.

Tommy Herron asks who requests the drug searches.

The police department notifies the school to schedule a certain date and a round about time they can search the school.

Mayor Mark Jenkins asks about the incident that took place at the vocational school.

Mayor Mark Jenkins commends Jason on his work.

Steve Williams comments on an item on Jason's report.

Tommy Herron asks about the new police cruisers that were ordered.

Jason has ordered the police cruisers and they should be arriving soon.

Steve Williams asks about any agreements that we have with other agencies in the county.

Jack Anderson asks about the animal calls listed on the police report.

Jason informed the council that most of the accidents listed on the report were non-reportable and that is why the accident numbers are so high.

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

The turbidity meters have been installed at the water plant.

Tommy Herron asks about the overflowing of the Elliot Tank.

An alarm is present at the water plant that is supposed to go off if the tanks overflow.

Mayor Mark Jenkins commends the work that Randall has done.

A cell phone is going to be provided for Randall and the office in case of emergencies that occur after regular business hours.

The treasurer's report was left for the council to review.

Town Manager Jason Stewart spoke about the bids on a new phone system for the office.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico discussed the new personnel manual and a new water policy that need to be put in place by the January 24th meeting.

Steve Williams discussed his concern with page 7 1.A. of the new personnel manual.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico asks the council to make suggestions and comments about the new personnel manual and submit them to the town manager before the January 24th meeting.

Town Manager Jason Stewart discussed his monthly report with this council at this time.

Upon a motion by Frances Perry and duly seconded by Rita Tipton, members voted to draft a letter signed by the mayor and town manager, requesting access to the south side of the Clinch Mountain on Highway 23. Voting in favor of this motion was Steve Williams, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, Frances Perry, and Rita Tipton. There were no opposing votes.

Tommy Herron asks about Wallen's Ridge purchasing water.

They did not purchase any water from the town.

The street committee is still reviewing the list of streets in need of paving.

The planning commission did not meet this month.

The Sanitation Authority did not have any recommendations for the council.

EDRC has not met.

The council needs to thank Joe McMurray for all the work he has done for the town.

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

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: Frances Perry, Jack Anderson, Rita Tipton, Steve Williams, Tommy Herron, and Mark Jenkins

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: NONE

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

Upon a motion by Frances Perry and duly seconded by Jack Anderson, members voted to give employee #10 a raise of 3% and to retroact the employees raise as of July 1, 2005. Voting in favor of this was Steve Williams, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, Frances Perry, and Rita Tipton. There were no opposing votes.

Upon a motion by Tommy Herron and duly seconded by Rita Tipton, members voted to pay the bills. Voting in favor of this motion was Steve Williams, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, Frances Perry, and Rita Tipton. There were no opposing votes.

Upon a motion by Frances Perry and duly seconded by Rita Tipton, members voted to adjourn the meeting until January 24th at 6:00 pm. Voting in favor of this motion was Steve Williams, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, Frances Perry, and Rita Tipton. There were no opposing votes.

MAYOR

RECORDER
