

REGULAR MONTHLY Meeting of the Gate City Town Council was held on Tuesday, March 14, 2006 at 6:00 pm at the Gate City Town Hall.

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

ABSENT: Mayor Mark Jenkins

OTHERS PRESENT: Ross and Michelle Jenkins, Tommy and Lois Quillin, Debbie Kindle, Chuck Newton, Pat Loggans, John Shepard, Lisa McCarty, Roger A. Brooks, Randall Hurt, Delta Purkey, Roger Carrico, Richard Hubbard, Theresa Newton, Carl Muncey Sr.

Vice-Mayor Rita Tipton called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Invocation was provided by John Shepard.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Chuck Newton.

Upon a motion by Frances Perry and duly seconded by Tommy Herron, members voted to approve the minutes from the February 2006 regular monthly meeting with the correction of typo errors. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, and Steve Williams. Absent from the vote and meeting was Mayor Mark Jenkins.

Vice-Mayor Rita Tipton opened the floor for public comment at this time.

Tommy Quillin spoke to the council about his feelings regarding the condemned apartment buildings on McConnell Street. Mr. Quillin spoke the council about six points. (1) The Quillin's feel that they are being singled out among business and property owners of Gate City who have already had property condemned or who will have property condemned. (2) They feel that they have received unfair publicity. (3) The Quillin's feel that there is a lack of communication between the council and their intent to comply with the requested changes. (4) They feel the Freedom of Information Act has been violated. (5) The Quillin's feel the discussions of the council meetings should be taped. (6) The Quillin's wish to go on record to say, "it is felt that no one should serve the public such as the Gate City council or mayor who have personal grudges and/or prior vendettas against property owners within the corporate limits.

Frances Perry asks if the council minutes were official if they were not approved.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico spoke about the town council minutes and notes.

Frances Perry spoke to Tommy Quillin about some of the statements he made.

Tommy Quillin discussed a building located across from town hall.

Frances Perry publicly apologized to Tommy Quillin if she had made a statement that offended him.

The council discussed the progress of Mr. Quillen's apartment buildings.

Vice-Mayor Rita Tipton welcomed Mr. Quillen to return to the council meetings to update the council on his progress.

Debbie Kindle spoke about the town council minutes not being an accurate account of the meetings because "sarcastic" comments were not mentioned.

Debbie Kindle spoke about the cost of tearing down the buildings.

The council discussed with Mrs. Kindle what they are trying to do to help business owners.

Pat Loggans discussed a letter received from the town regarding the building that Broadwater Drug tore down.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico discussed the insurance the contractor should have to repair the damages to the police department.

Pat Loggans discussed an agreement made with the old town manager that the building would be repaired by the town in exchange for two parking spaces for the police department.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico discussed that the contractor needs to be contacted about repairing the police department building.

Tommy Quillen suggested that the town council form a committee to help Mr. Loggans and Broadwater Drug with the repair needs.

Upon a motion by Frances Perry and duly seconded by Tommy Herron, members voted to ask Mr. Loggans to work with Town Attorney Mike Carrico to repair the police department building. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, and Steve Williams. Absent from the vote and meeting was Mayor Mark Jenkins.

Vice-Mayor Rita Tipton closed the public comment section at this time.

Town Manager Jason Stewart updated the council on the new sound system for the meeting room.

Upon a motion by Steve Williams and duly seconded by Tommy Herron, members voted to purchase a sound system at the lowest bid out of the three bids. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, and Steve Williams. Absent from the vote and meeting was Mayor Mark Jenkins.

Tommy Quillen asked about the bids to tear down the condemned buildings.

Frances Perry asks about crosswalks painted and signs posted for pedestrians. She requested that Town Manager Jason Stewart contact V-DOT about this problem.

Community Fellowship approached the town about the town's contribution for the 4th of July Block Party.

Upon a motion by Frances Perry and duly seconded by Jack Anderson, members voted to contribute \$500 to Community Fellowship for the 4th of July Block Party. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, and Steve Williams. Absent from the vote and meeting was Mayor Mark Jenkins.

Roger Cassell spoke to the council about bringing the circus back to town. He is requesting the use of the Flea Market parking for the circus. The circus would be held on April 13, 2006.

Upon a motion by Jack Anderson and duly seconded by Frances Perry, members voted to allow the fire department to use the Flea Market parking lot on April 13, 2006 for the circus. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, and Steve Williams. Absent from the vote and meeting was Mayor Mark Jenkins.

Frances Perry asks if another carnival would be able to come to Gate City.

The council discussed the carnival that was here last year.

The council discussed auctioning off surplus equipment.

Town Manager Jason Stewart discussed the old garbage truck that the town owned that could be auctioned off.

Randall Hurt discussed some of the old police cars and the old Lumina that could also be auctioned off.

The council discussed the process of auctioning off the old vehicles.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico suggested that the town hold an auction this spring.

Frances Perry discussed the parking lot on Cleveland Street. The building located in front of the parking lot has three back doors that vehicles are blocking. Kim Jenkins is requesting that the town post some “NO PARKING” signs to put on the post to keep people from parking and blocking the back of the dance studio and the jewelry store.

Vice-Mayor Rita Tipton asks Randall to check about the problem and post the “NO PARKING” signs.

Frances Perry asks about the house of Ron Baker’s that fell on East Jackson Street.

Tommy Herron asks about the old Chapman’s store building.

Roger Cassell discussed with the council about the Chapman’s store building. The house fire is under arson investigation.

Foreman Randall Hurt discussed the public works monthly report.

Tommy Herron discussed sending letters to business owners about putting trash out on the weekends.

Frances Perry discussed putting trash cans behind store buildings for businesses on the weekends. She also asks Randall about the sewer line on Tucker Coleman’s property.

Vice-Mayor Rita Tipton discussed the trash in the parking lot beside of Thriftway.

Town Manager Jason Stewart discussed his monthly report.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico discussed a letter he received from the owner’s of Scott Motel’s lawyer. The property is said to be in V-DOT’s future plans.

Frances Perry asks about the vandalism at Grogan Park. A part time officer may be needed at the park this spring and summer.

Vice-Mayor Rita Tipton is still reviewing the list of streets to be paved.

Tommy Herron asks about paving the road going to the pump station in Moccasin Hills.

The Planning Commission recommended that the following statement, with changes by the Town Attorney, and specific wording approved by the Town Council replacing that portion IN ALL CAPS, be inserted at the beginning of that Gate City Zoning Ordinance:

Nothing in this article shall be construed as giving to any person any kind of right, interest or easement in any street, alley, sidewalk or public way of the town for any sign, awning or other encroachment of any type whatsoever, whether the same be erected prior to or subsequent to the adoption of this article, whether the same be attached to the street, alley, sidewalk or public way or is hanging over the same or is a portable or temporary display. It is expressly understood and provided that the owner, lessee or custodian of such sign, awning or other encroachment is a mere licensee and subject to the will of the council and that the sign, awning or other encroachment in question shall be removed at any time upon receipt the owner, lessee or custodian in ten (10) days' written notice from the town council ordering the removal of same. Should the recipient of such notice fail to comply therewith, he or she shall BE LIABLE FOR (PUNISHMENT DETERMINED BY TOWN COUNCIL), and the town manager shall forthwith remove the sign, awning or encroachment at the expense of the owner. *General authority of town relative to streets and sidewalks, Code of Virginia, §§ 15.1-14, 15.1-363--15.1-462, 15.1-888 et seq.*

The Planning Commission also recommended that a joint public hearing be held by the Town of Gate City and the Planning Commission to consider the insertion of the above statement into the Gate City Zoning Ordinance at the same time as a public hearing to consider amending Section 24.9. Signage Regulations, of the Gate City Zoning Ordinance. The Gate City Planning Commission recommended that the Town of Gate City and the Gate City Planning Commission advertise for and hold a joint public hearing in April to consider amending in its entirety Section 24.9, Signage Regulations, of the Gate City Zoning Ordinance. The joint public hearing would be held at 6 p.m., preceding the regular meeting of the Gate City Town Council. The Planning Commission also recommended, that in addition to required legal advertising, the Town Manager make a courtesy attempt to notify business owners of these proposed changes, and that a draft of the proposed changes be made available for viewing at Town Hall during regular business hours.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico discussed the awnings in town.

Michelle Jenkins discussed the intent of the first recommendation regarding the awnings.

Upon a motion by Tommy Herron and duly seconded by Jack Anderson, members requested that Town Attorney Mike Carrico to review the recommendation from the Planning Commission. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, and Steve Williams. Absent from the vote and meeting was Mayor Mark Jenkins.

There were no recommendations from the Sanitation Authority.

Letters have been sent to EDRC members to hold a meeting to reorganize.

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

Upon a motion by Steve Williams and duly seconded by Jack Anderson, member voted to adjourn the meeting with no further business. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, and Steve Williams. Absent from the vote and meeting was Mayor Mark Jenkins.

VICE-MAYOR

RECORDER
