

**REGULAR MONTHLY** Meeting of the Gate City Town Council was held on Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at 6:00 pm.

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

**ABSENT:** Mayor Mark Jenkins and Chuck Newton

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Paul Argoe, Richard Hubbard, Roger A. Brooks, Jason Cox, Cindy Coates, Joe McMurray, Margaret Bradshaw, Alice Begley, Louis Quillin

Vice-Mayor Rita Tipton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

Invocation was provided by Paul Argoe.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Police Chief Jason Cox.

Upon a motion by Frances Perry and duly seconded by Tommy Herron, members voted to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2006 regular monthly meeting. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, and Steve Williams. There were no opposing votes. Absent from the vote and meeting was Mayor Mark Jenkins.

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

With no public comment, Vice-Mayor Rita Tipton closed the floor for public comment.

The council discussed the dilapidated buildings at this time.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico met with Jeff Hamilton regarding the old Scott Motel. Jeff Hamilton is the attorney representing the owners of the old Scott Motel. Mr. Hamilton is waiting to see if V-DOT is going to buy the motel building. Town Attorney Mike Carrico is waiting to hear from Jeff Hamilton regarding this matter.

Tommy Herron asks how long the town is going to wait to hear from Mr. Hamilton.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico suggested that the town go ahead and tear the building down and put a lean on the property and pay the lean off if V-DOT buys the property. He also suggested that we give Mr. Hamilton at least two weeks to contact the town on V-DOT's plans before we tear the building down.

Frances Perry suggested that we send Mr. Hamilton a letter giving them a time limit.

A letter needs to be sent to Ronnie Lane with the highway department regarding V-DOT'S plans for the old Scott Motel.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico discussed options regarding what to do with the old Scott Motel.

The council discussed what to do with the Scott Motel. The time limit to tear the building down has run out.

Upon a motion by Tommy Herron and duly seconded by Frances Perry, members voted to tear down the old Scott Motel in 30 days if no word is received from V-DOT. Voting in favor of this motion was Tommy Herron, Frances Perry, and Steve Williams. Jack voted against the motion. Absent from the vote and meeting was Mayor Mark Jenkins.

An asbestos report will have to be done before the motel can be torn down.

Town Manager Jason Stewart informed the council that he has not received a third bid on the demolition of the theatre building.

Town Manager Jason Stewart suggested that Robert Mullins attend a meeting to discuss the dilapidated buildings with the council.

The council discussed a new welcome committee for the Town of Gate City.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico discussed what the Town of Weber City did for new businesses.

The council discussed the Economic Redevelopment Committee serving as the welcome committee for new businesses that move into town.

Applications need to be taken to fill the vacant positions on the economic redevelopment committee.

Police Chief Jason Cox presented his report to the council at this time. He discussed events that are taking place and events that are going to take place within the next month.

Frances Perry questioned the K-9 activity report.

The council is requesting for a report of what revenue is coming in for the K-9.

Vice-Mayor Rita Tipton commented on how will the bike rally went. She also commended Jason on his work.

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

Jack Anderson commented on all the work the public works crew is doing.

Frances Perry asks if the public works crew is going to mow the state right-of-ways. She discussed some property in Quillen Heights that need to be mowed to prevent an accident because the weeds are preventing vehicles from seeing oncoming traffic.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico asks the council to review the resolutions that they requested for him to draft for the non-profit performing arts center and the request to the county to waive the tipping fees.

Town Manager Jason Stewart discussed his monthly report with the council at this time. He discussed past events that have taken place and upcoming events.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico informed the council that a public hearing will have to be held regarding the 2006-2007 Budget. An advertisement for the public hearing will have to be advertised for two weeks prior to the date of the public hearing.

The public hearing will be held during the June regular monthly meeting.

Vice-Mayor Rita Tipton asks about the number of businesses in the Town of Gate City.

Cindy Coates informed the council that the town has roughly 250 businesses.

Vice-Mayor Rita Tipton presented a list of the streets in need to paving.

Frances Perry asks about the street beside of Chris' Department Store.

The Planning Commission does not meet until Monday, May 16, 2006.

The Sanitation Authority did not have any recommendations for the council. Town Manager Jason Stewart informed the council that the bids for the new waste water treatment plant will be opened tomorrow at the county offices.

Economic Redevelopment Committee's meeting will be rescheduled.

Frances Perry asks if anything has been done to clean-up the property on East Jackson Street where the tree and the house fell.

Upon a motion by Tommy Herron and duly seconded by Frances Perry, members voted to go into closed session to discuss possible litigation. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, and Steve Williams. There were no opposing votes. Absent from the vote and meeting was Mayor Mark Jenkins.

### **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:**            Rita Tipton, Frances Perry, Tommy Herron, Steve Williams, Jack Anderson

**NAYS:**            NONE

**ABSENT:**        Mark Jenkins

Upon a motion by Tommy Herron and duly seconded by Steve Williams, members voted to go back into regular session. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, and Steve Williams. There were no opposing votes. Absent from the vote and meeting was Mayor Mark Jenkins.

Vice-Mayor Rita Tipton recognized Joe McMurray as a town employee to discuss a grant for the expansion of Grogan Park. He discussed a resolution that was passed to apply for a grant to help fund the expansion of Grogan Park but the resolution was never signed by the former mayor. He also informed the council that the time on the meeting for the CDBG is a 6:30 pm on Monday. He also recommended that the town look into charging a vacant tax on vacant buildings in the town.

Upon a motion by Frances Perry and duly seconded by Tommy Herron, members voted to draft a resolution to support the grant for the expansion of Grogan Park. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, and Steve Williams. There were no opposing votes. Absent from the vote and meeting was Mayor Mark Jenkins.

Upon a motion by Tommy Herron and duly seconded by Jack Anderson, members voted to pay the bills. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, and Steve Williams. There were no opposing votes. Absent from the vote and meeting was Mayor Mark Jenkins.

Margaret Bradshaw discussed a drain located on Ravine Street near her house. The drain stops up when it rains and it causes all the water to run into her yard.

Town Attorney Mike Carrico suggested that the town needs to contact V-DOT because Ravine Street is possibly a state street.

Frances Perry discussed a drain on Highland Street that is also stopped up and causing the water to stand in a puddle.

Town Manager Jason Stewart told the council that he would have Randall look into the drain on Ravine Street and Highland Street.

Upon a motion by Jack Anderson and duly seconded by Tommy Herron, members voted to adjourn at 6:57 pm. Voting in favor of this motion was Frances Perry, Tommy Herron, Jack Anderson, and Steve Williams. There were no opposing votes. Absent from the vote and meeting was Mayor Mark Jenkins.

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**VICE-MAYOR**

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**RECORDER**

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