

PUBLIC HEARING & SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30TH, 2007
156 E. JACKSON ST.
6:00 PM

PRESENT: Council Cassell
Council Hurt
Vice-Mayor Tipton
Mayor Jenkins

ABSENT: Council Perry
Council Herron

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Jenkins called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

*Mayor Jenkins opened the Public Comment session.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. ANDY MILES (Allen & Hoshall)

The Council received a communication from Andy Miles regarding the 2008 VDOT Enhancement Grant. He explained the sidewalk improvement project for East Jackson St. He explained how the town would be responsible for a 20% match, which would not have to be a financial one. Time and use of equipment and personnel would qualify as a match. Andy Miles handed out a “conservative” budget. He explained that the sidewalk project would be initiated in the 2008/2009 fiscal year, and that the prices for supplies will go up over the next 2 years. He mentioned having looked at a 1940s’ highway map regarding the right-of-way and that acquiring the right-of-way should not be an expense. He mentioned the possibility of having to reset water meters and sewer laterals. He said there is approximately 500 ft. of construction.

Andy Miles also discussed an area where a stone wall has broken loose close to where a house burned down. He suggested that the sidewalk would have to come out at least 2 ft. from the wall. He also suggested preserving the historic value of the wall.

Council Hurt asked about the steps coming down from the wall. Andy Miles explained that the steps would either be rebuilt or replaced. He also suggested considering a refurbishment because the current sidewalk is not ADA compliant.

Council Cassell asked about street light location. Andy Miles suggested moving every other street light from downtown Gate City out towards the E. Jackson St. project. He approximated the cost to be \$3500 per light, however, the expense

would fluctuate in relation to employee expense. Council Cassell asked if the light relocation was worth the cost. Council Tipton said it was. Mayor Jenkins said the light relocation would be the town's primary labor effort for the project. Andy Miles explained that the sidewalk project will require more labor than it would if the area were flat.

Council Hurt asked if potential leftover funds could be used to fix sidewalks in other areas of Gate City. Andy Miles suggested that extra funds could be applied to the second phase (blue line on map) of the original project. He said to treat the project as if no extra funds were available. He mentioned that the funding would not even be available until 2009/2010. He suggested budgeting for half of the project this year and half of the project next year or budgeting for the entire project next year. Council Tipton asked when the town would know if the grant were awarded. Andy Miles explained that advanced authorization would be necessary before work commences. Council Hurt noted that other areas of town needed work also.

B. Wallace W. Ross Jr.

The Council received a communication from Wallace W. Ross Jr. regarding the sidewalk project. He commented that the sidewalks on Manville Rd., Cleveland St. and the whole west end of town are in poor shape. He asked why the town would not apply extra funding to those areas as opposed to phase 2 of the sidewalk project. He wanted to know why E. Jackson St. is a priority. Mayor Jenkins explained that the proposed sidewalk project is an extension of the walking trail from Grogan Park. He explained that it is easier to achieve grant funding for the main street.

Wallace W. Ross Jr. asked about having 3 public hearings when the issue regards financial concerns. Mayor Jenkins explained that the meeting had been advertised for 2 weeks in a row, in advance. He said the proceedings followed legal guidelines. Wallace W. Ross Jr. said the meeting was last-minute. Mayor Jenkins explained that he is acting as the Town Manager and that the Town Manager does not vote. He explained that the meeting was a legal forum and was advertised for accordingly. Council Tipton stated that this project has been in the works since 2004. Council Hurt mentioned that the grant funding had not been awarded yet. Mayor Jenkins explained that the project will come back down Courthouse Hill ?. Wallace W. Ross Jr. suggested that the whole town needed to be worked on. Mayor Jenkins explained that the grant writer determines how much funding will be allocated to each item. Wallace W. Ross Jr. explained why he asks so many questions and that he wants to understand how the Town of Gate City functions. Mayor Jenkins explained how he wants the sidewalk to go from one end of town to the other. He said all the sidewalks need to be done sooner or later and the main streets are the easiest to get funded. Wallace W. Ross Jr. said that town labor will take away from the rest of the town. Mayor Jenkins said the town will try to recruit convict labor.

C. Beverly Robinette

The Council received a communication from Beverly Robinette regarding Cleveland St. She explained that the sidewalk on Cleveland St. is responsible for 2 of her knee surgeries. She suggested the funding be allocated to fix Cleveland St. and for the town to help the poor people of Gate City.

Council Hurt asked about the money being applied for and if we would get the entire \$392, 273.85. Andy Miles said a Board of 5 people make the decision and there is no guarantee the town will receive the amount being applied for, if any at all. He said there is no limit to the number of applications.

Wallace W. Ross Jr. asked if the zoning would change. Mayor Jenkins explained that the zoning would not change.

*Mayor Jenkins closed the Public Hearing session

<i>SPECIAL CALLED MEETING</i>

MOTION: Motion by Tipton, Seconded by Cassell
To apply for the 2008 Enhancement Grant.

VOTE: Yeas, 3
 Nays, None
 Absent, Council Perry
 Council Herron

MOTION: Motion by Hurt, Seconded by Tipton
Resolved to approve application for 2008 Enhancement Grant.

VOTE: Yeas, 3
 Nays, None
 Absent, Council Perry
 Council Herron

MOTION: Motion by Hurt, Seconded by Tipton
To adjourn the meeting.

VOTE: Yeas, 3
 Nays, None
 Absent, Council Perry
 Council Herron