

Town of Iron Gate

P.O. Box 199, 401 Commerce Avenue
Iron Gate, VA 24448
Office (540) 862-0770
April 27, 2023 Minutes

Invocation was given by Reverend David Hanks of the Iron Gate Baptist Church.

The Pledge of Allegiance

The regular Town Council meeting of Thursday, April 27, 2023 was called to order by Mayor Craig at 7:02 pm.

PRESENT: Mayor Gary Craig, Vice Mayor Council Member Richard Erskine, Council Members Jennifer Tyree, Kawahna Persinger, Brandon Marshall and G.W. Reynolds; Town Clerk & Treasurer Wendy Biggs and Town Attorney Jared Jenkins. Also present were Jerry Clark with the Alleghany Journal; Sergeant Chris Fisher with the Alleghany County Sheriff's Department; Jimmy Jeffries and Randy Unroe. Councilperson Debbie Harris was absent.

Mayor Craig began by asking for a motion to amend the agenda under New Business to include a Closed Executive Session under VA Code 2.2-3711, Item #7, legal. Vice Mayor Councilperson Erskine made the motion and Councilperson Persinger second the motion. All of those in favor say "I"; all five (5) Councilmembers in attendance stated "I". The motion was carried and approved.

Mayor Craig thanked then asked if there were any corrections to be made in the minutes for the regular monthly meeting held on Thursday, March 30, 2023 or for the work session held on April 17, 2023; there were none. Mayor Craig then asked for a motion to approve the minutes for the Council meeting and work session as presented. A motion was made by Councilperson Tyree to approve those minutes as presented and second by Vice Mayor Councilperson Erskine. With no further questions or comments, Mayor Craig asked for all of those in favor of approving the minutes as recorded to say "I". All five (5) Councilmembers in attendance stated "I". The motion was carried and approved.

Mayor Craig explained that there were two (2) new bills to be added since the packets were prepared. The first one is to Compton Office for the all in one machine for \$30.00 and the second is to Ace Hardware for \$42.27. Vice Mayor Erskine made the motion to add the bills for payment and it was second by Councilperson Reynolds. Mayor Craig then asked all those in favor to say "I"; all five (5) Councilmembers in attendance stated "I". The motion was carried and approved. Mayor Craig then asked for a motion to approve the receipts and disbursements of the bills as presented. Councilperson Tyree made the motion to approve the receipts and

disbursements as presented and Councilperson Persinger second the motion. Mayor Craig then asked all those in favor to say "I"; all five (5) Councilmembers in attendance stated "I". The motion was carried and approved. Mayor then requested a motion to pay the bills as presented. Councilperson Persinger made the motion to pay the bills as presented and Vice Mayor Councilperson Erskine second the motion. Mayor Craig then asked all those in favor to say "I"; all five (5) Councilmembers in attendance stated "I". The motion was carried and approved.

Mayor's Report:

A very nice donation of some basketball nets was received from the Community Services Board. They are definitely needed at the playground and Mayor Craig will get the Town crew to install them. A thank you not only to the Community Services Board, but also to Councilperson G.W. Reynolds.

The playground and the River Park are open, however, due to some water issues, the men's room at the playground is still closed. Mayor Craig noted that the sink should be fixed and open within a few days.

Mayor Craig also thanked a resident, Ronnie Dowd, for all of his hard work in trimming up the shrubs along Market Avenue/Rt. 220. They really look good and his help was very much appreciated.

A reminder that the weather is getting warmer and it's almost time for kids to out of school for the summer. People need to watch their speed and watch out for kids who may not be watching out for them. Sgt. Chris Fisher with the Alleghany County Sheriff's Department noted that there have been some deputies here over the last few weeks to help combat the speeding.

In May the Iron Gate Volunteer Fire Department will be going around for their annual fund drive. While most of the residents know the people in the fire department, there are some new residents and new members and this is just for residents to be aware. The funds help the fire department to pay for heat, air conditioning, equipment and water/sewer services. The Community building is widely used and they hope that the community will continue to support them.

Mayor Craig also thanked Town Attorney Jared Jenkins and Town Council for all of their support and their efforts to work towards providing a better Town for everyone to live in.

Committee Reports:

None.

Public Comments:

Randy Unroe commented on the lack of a donation from the Town for the YMCA After Prom and the Bike Rodeo; the missing fire hydrant at the corner of 8th Street and Market Avenue; the meter for sewer on our side of the river at Public Works and the request of a financial report on the Town.

Jerry Clark commented and asked questions about the Simpson case and the outcome of the hearing held at the Alleghany County Courthouse yesterday and today. It was explained that the court awarded Ms. Simpson around \$37,000.00 and how the legal fees are to be paid has yet to be heard in court.

Old Business:

Mayor Craig noted that the master agreement with the Thrasher Group has been signed and they will begin working on the water system project shortly.

Mayor Craig then asked if there was any other old business; with no other Old Business to be discussed, Mayor Craig moved into New Business.

New Business:

Mayor Craig stated that there was a request for an adjustment on a utility bill in the amount of \$88.60. The adjustment request was due to a water leak on the line from a meter to a house and no water therefore went into the sewer. He then asked for a motion to give an adjustment of \$88.60 on the sewer portion of the bill. Vice Mayor Councilperson Erskine made the motion to give an adjustment of \$88.60 on the sewer portion of the bill and Councilperson Marshall second the motion. A roll call vote was then taken:

Debbie Harris: Absent
Jennifer Tyree: Yes
Kawahna Persinger: Yes
Brandon Marshall: Yes
G.W. Reynolds: Yes
Richard Erskine: Yes

The motion was carried and approved.

Mayor Craig then explained that we had received the annual grant funds from Alleghany County in the amount of \$2,000.00 for the Iron Gate Parks & Recreation. He asked for a motion to disburse those funds to the Iron Gate Parks & Recreation. Vice Mayor Councilperson Erskine made the motion to disburse the \$2,000.00 to the Iron Gate Parks & Recreation and Councilperson Reynolds second the motion. With no further comments or questions, a roll call vote was taken:

Debbie Harris: Absent
Jennifer Tyree: Yes
Kawahna Persinger: Yes
Brandon Marshall: Yes
G.W. Reynolds: Yes
Richard Erskine: Yes

The motion was carried and approved.

Mayor Craig then noted that the next work session will be on May 15th at 7:00pm and the next Council Meeting will be May 25th at 7:00pm. Also to note that there will be a Public Hearing on May 25th at 7pm to present the budget for FY 2023-2024. The Town offices will all be closed on May 29th for Memorial Day and will reopen on May 30th. The next budget meeting will be on Thursday, May 4th at 6:30pm at Town Hall.

Mayor Craig then asked if there was any other new business to be discussed; there was none.

Mayor Craig then asked for a motion to go into a Closed Executive Session under VA Code 2.2-3711, Item #7, legal. Vice Mayor Councilperson Erskine made the motion to enter into a Closed Executive Session under VA Code 2.2-311, Item#7, legal and Councilperson Marshall second the motion. A roll call vote was then taken:

Debbie Harris: Absent
Jennifer Tyree: Yes
Kawahna Persinger: Yes
Brandon Marshall: Yes
G.W. Reynolds: Yes
Richard Erskine: Yes

The motion was carried and approved.

Mayor Craig asked for a motion to come out of the Closed Executive Session under VA Code 2.2-3711, Item #7 legal, where no other business was discussed. Vice Mayor Councilperson Erskine made the motion to come out of the Closed Executive Session under VA Code 2.2-3711, Item #7 for legal where no other business was discussed. Councilperson Persinger second the motion. A roll call vote was taken:

Debbie Harris: Absent
Jennifer Tyree: Yes
Kawahna Persinger: Yes
Brandon Marshall: Yes
G.W. Reynolds: Yes
Richard Erskine: Yes

The motion was carried and approved.

Mayor Craig then asked for a motion to enter back into the regular Council meeting from a Closed Executive Session under VA Code 2.2-3711, Item #7, legal and where no other business was discussed. Councilperson Persinger made the motion to enter back into the regular Council meeting from the Closed Executive Session under VA Code 2.2-3711, Item #7, legal where no other business was discussed. Vice Mayor Councilperson Erskine second the motion. A roll call vote was taken:

Debbie Harris: Absent
Jennifer Tyree: Yes
Kawahna Persinger: Yes
Brandon Marshall: Yes
G.W. Reynolds: Yes
Richard Erskine: Yes

The motion was carried and approved.

There being no further new business to be discussed, a motion to adjourn was made by Vice Mayor Councilperson Erskine and second by Councilperson Reynolds at 8:45pm. Mayor Craig then asked all of those in favor of the adjournment to say "I". All five (5) Councilmembers in attendance stated "I". The motion was carried and approved.



Gary A. Craig, Mayor



Wendy S. Biggs, Clerk