

TOWN OF IRON GATE  
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The regular monthly Work Session of the Iron Gate Town Council was held on Monday, June 12, 2023 at 7pm, at Town Hall.

Present for the meeting were Mayor Craig, Councilpersons Debbie Harris, Jennifer Tyree, Kawahna Persinger; Vice Mayor Councilperson Richard Erskine and Town Clerk/Treasurer Wendy Biggs. The only resident for the work session was Jimmy Jeffries. Councilpersons G.W. Reynolds and Brandon Marshall were absent.

Mayor Craig asked Richard Erskine to present the invocation.

The following items were discussed:

Mayor Craig explained that we have received the first Task Order from the Thrasher Group; it has been signed and returned to them. We will be receiving also in the near future plans for the storm water line located on the Simpson property. The Thrasher Group is looking to begin putting out ads for RFP's (requests for proposals) near the end of summer for the water project. Mayor Craig also stated that according to the timeline, he believes that the water and hopefully the storm water projects will be done in the summer of 2024. Councilperson Harris questioned of each stage needs to be checked before moving into the next stage on the water project; Mayor Craig explained that it does and Mike Jeffries from T & L will be the one to sign off on the project as we move along. Councilperson Tyree explained concern over the pressure once the valve is put in; Mayor Craig explained that the amount of pressure can be regulated so that there is still enough pressure to do daily things, but not too much like what we have now.

Also to be noted, we are working with the Thrasher Group on getting the storm water line rerouted from the Simpson property. Zach Wright is working on grants to assist with that project and hopefully we can have Jared look over that proposal soon. Once Jared has looked it over and it's all good, we can proceed with that project as well. It is important to note that if we have to open up a ditch for the storm water line to run, that hopefully we will have a water line in that same area, which will save us some money. According to code, the lines have to be so far apart, but they can still run in the same ditch if there is enough room.

The trash truck has been repaired. Mayor Craig spoke with Mike from Seibel's this afternoon and he said that the truck was fixed and ready to go. They also had it inspected and they had to replace some of the lights for it to pass, but it's now inspected. While it's still there, Seibel's will also do the maintenance on the truck for us as well. Allegheny County has paid for the replacement part and labor on the trash truck as well as the maintenance costs. They have had issues with their fleet of trash trucks and have been very good to work with and we hope to continue that good working relationship.

The Sheriff's Department has been here twice this past week for two, four hour shifts and wrote about 5 or 6 tickets, most for speeding. While here they also checked the River Park, playground and patrolled the businesses and side streets. There are some deputies that are really wanting to out in some extra hours here and for that we're thankful.

There have been a few cats caught recently and sent to the Humane Society in Low Moor. We can put out a trap and take one cat per week up there as long as there is an open spot and currently all of the spots are filled. Jimmy Jeffries noted how aggravating it was to have spent time and money planting a garden only to have the neighborhood cat(s) come and use it as a litter pan. While Council understands, there is no ordinance about requiring cats to be on a leash or to have them be only kept inside.

Mayor Craig then asked if there was anything else to be discussed. Councilperson Persinger noted that there has been quite a bit of activity at the hydrant on 10<sup>th</sup> Street recently by the Iron Gate Volunteer Fire Department. She continued to state that she has seen the pumper truck about six times at the hydrant; Mayor Craig says that he doesn't believe they were there six times in one day and that he would know if they were. Councilperson Persinger replied that it wasn't six times on one day, but rather they would come to the hydrant, fill up and leave and then come back the next day. Mayor Craig insisted that he was sure that they weren't there that often and that as an officer of the fire department, he would know if they were. He did state that they were there recently a couple of times that he knew of, but not as many as she thought. Councilperson Persinger explained that maybe she was mistaken, but they were there quite a few days in a row. Mayor Craig went on to explain that Mrs. Biggs knew on Friday that the fire department was going to be there to get water to fill a swimming pool and the billing amount was discussed for the water. At this time, the fire department has taken three loads of water to fill family pools. They make a donation to the fire department and the fire department will then pay the Town of Iron Gate for the water that was used to fill the pool. It has been explained to the family as well that if there is a water restriction and if there is a fire, the fire department has the right to come and use that water to fight the fire if need be. Mrs. Biggs responded to state that she will double check the Water Ordinance, but she felt that it did say that the water was to be metered and a bill sent to the fire department for the water used, at a bulk rate for water.

Councilperson Persinger then inquired about golf carts running around Iron Gate. Mayor Craig explained that the Sheriff's Department had been previously called about this and they explained that unless it was over 49cc's then there was nothing that could be done about it. Councilperson Persinger questioned the safety aspect of the golf cart since they usually do not have seat belts and what if they were in an accident. Mayor Craig noted that he understood, but it was explained to him that anything less than 49cc's is able to be driven as it is. It really is no different than folks riding their mowers or even tractors.

Councilperson Harris asked for confirmation that the next Council meeting was June 29<sup>th</sup>; it was confirmed for that date.

Councilperson Tyree questioned about possibly getting a grant for a new trash truck since we seem to be having issues with ours. Mayor Craig explained that the cylinder replacement was likely more of a maintenance issue than an age issue. He will discuss with the Town crew about making sure everything that needs to be greased on the trash truck, is greased at least once a month.

Mrs. Biggs reminded everyone that there are four (4) Planning Commission seats that will expire on August 1<sup>st</sup>. Since our Council meetings are at the end of the month, Council will need to vote on reinstating those serving on the Planning Commission for another four years at the next Council meeting.

Councilperson Tyree questioned about the grass ordinance and Council voting on the amendment for the cost to be charged to the landowner if the Town had to mow the grass. Mayor Craig explained that we were waiting on Jared to check about who could issue the letters for the grass violation, since the Clifton Forge Ordinance states "Code Enforcement Officer or Code Enforcement Administrator". We obviously do not have someone with that title, so Jared was going to check the Code of Virginia and see what it said.

Mayor Craig did state that he would tell the guys at the fire department to go to the hydrant at either 7<sup>th</sup> Street or 10<sup>th</sup> Street to get water for training and that sort of thing since Mr. Balsler is having so many issues with his water. We have learned that he is calling a relative of Junior's to get him to come and flush his line whenever there seems to be an issue with his water. However, Mayor Craig understands that it was voted on and determined by Council a few years ago, that if a resident has such an issue, they are to go through a proper procedure. That procedure is to call the non-emergency number to the Sheriff's Department and they will contact the Mayor, who will then contact Junior about the problem. Mayor Craig has requested that Mrs. Biggs send a letter to Mr. Balsler about this procedure; if he fails to follow it, then Mr. Balsler could be liable to pay for Junior's time to come and take care of the problem.

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned at 7:39 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary A. Craig", written over a horizontal line.

Gary A. Craig, Mayor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wendy S. Biggs", written over a horizontal line.

Wendy S. Biggs, Clerk