

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GRETNA TOWN COUNCIL WAS HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2025 AT 6:30 PM WITH MAYOR R. KEITH MOTLEY PRESIDING.

The following were present for the meeting:

R. Keith Motley, Mayor	Bill Gillespie, Interim Town Manager	Michael G. Turner, Attorney
Virginia Clark	Carrie Schneider	Rich Armstrong
Shannon Kelly, Star Tribune	Chief Hewitt, GPD	Crystal Grubbs, Clerk/Treasurer
Stacy Hedrick, Asst. Clerk/Treasurer		

Council Members Present:

Riverra Jackson	James Gilbert	Mike Bond
Dianne Jennings	Deborah Moran	

Council Members Absent:

Mike Burnette

1. Prayer
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. **Approval of Minutes:**

A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by Deborah Moran to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting July 8, 2025.

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

4. **Invoice Review** – Council reviewed and discussed the invoice list – no longer required for approval. Invoices paid \$65,391.74.

Quarterly report – Mike Bond asked if they could get a copy of the quarterly report for next month’s meeting. Crystal Grubbs stated yes.

5. **Council Agenda**

Police Report – Keith Motley stated that Chief Hewitt is here tonight to give the monthly police report. Chief Hewitt gave the report and discussed the National Night event. Chief stated that they could have done better with the advertising of the event but all in all it turned out well and would like to continue this event annually. There was discussion of the murder that happened at Carter’s gas station. Chief commended Officer Fazzio for his role in the shooting at Carter’s gas station and keeping his cool while working the scene. Chief mentioned that he was also invited to Washington DC to tour the White House and Capital building.

Rich Armstrong – Keith Motley informed Council that Mr. Armstrong would like to address Council. Mr. Armstrong mentioned a permit for apartments in the old Gretna Little Theatre building. Michael Turner stated that this issue has been taken care of and would speak with Mr. Armstrong concerning this later.

Rich Armstrong - Drainage issue – Rich Armstrong informed Council that he is having drainage issues again during extreme rainfall. This water is flowing from Center Street down the Towns parking lot and into his building. Mr. Armstrong asked Council if they could help with the cost of repairs for better drainage. Michael Turner asked about a cost estimate. Mr. Armstrong stated that he received a quote from Lewis Compton for \$14,000 that covers materials and labor. Mr. Armstrong asked if the Town would be willing to pay half of the cost and plus the paving of the parking lot. Keith Motley asked Mr. Armstrong to continue working with Bill on this.

Carrie (Perkins) Schneider – Keith Motley stated that Carrie Schneider would like to address Council. Carrie Schneider stated that she had previously asked about purchasing land in the industrial park but never heard anything back from the Town. Mrs. Schneider stated that she would like to revive the proposal to purchase 5-10 acres in the industrial park near her family's property. Keith Motley stated that there are some things going on with the industrial park right now that the Town cannot discuss at this time. Please give the Town about a week and then get in touch with Bill.

Carrie Schneider – Empty buildings – Carrie Schneider stated that she is very concerned about the empty buildings in Town and remembered a time when Gretna was a busy place. Mrs. Schneider stated that the Town needs to do something to get business' in Town. And the Town needs to make property owners do something with these empty buildings.

Carrie Schneider – Full Time Town Manager – Carrie Schneider asked Council when the Town was going to hire a full-time Town Manager. Keith Motley stated that we are looking but we have not been able to find what the town needs and what the town can afford to pay the person.

Update on Elba Park – Bill Gillespie asked if all of the public meetings were done on Elba Park. Riverra Jackson stated that they are done and are ready to meet with Hurt & Proffitt. Mr. Gillespie stated that we need to come up with some dates to meet with Hurt & Proffitt.

Amthor update – Keith Motley asked if there was any update on Amthor. Bill Gillespie stated that the Amthor project is moving forward.

New water plant update - Bill Gillespie stated that we are still waiting for the Health Department to let us know about the funding. They are waiting until the fall of the year to let us know how much the Town will be eligible to receive if any. Mr. Gillespie asked about the Danville Regional Foundation helping with the water plant grant. Riverra Jackson stated that they didn't know if that would be something they would fund because the Town would be generating revenue from it. This is to be discussed with DRF.

Carrie Schneider – commercial buildings – Carrie Schneider asked Council if they could come up with some type of ordinance to make property owners do something. Michael Turner stated that there is no legal authority anywhere to force people to do something with these buildings.

6. Unfinished Business

Update on potholes – Deborah Moran asked if all the potholes had been repaired. Keith Motley stated that he needs to get in touch with Kirk Gibson from VDOT.

Maintenance Department – Keith Motley stated that he spoke with Jesse concerning the grass, brush and the mowers. Mr. Motley stated that we have one mower being maintenance.

7. New Business

Visitor staying at the Market Square – Dianne Jennings mentioned that someone was living in their truck at the Market Square. It was mentioned that sometimes he stays in the Food Lion parking lot. Is there anything that can be done. Chief Hewitt stated that there is no signage at the Market Square stating no overnight parking without permission. After some discussion, Council wants to order 2 signs that say no overnight parking unless approved by the Town.

Pedestrian sign – James Gilbert mentioned that the Pedestrian sign on Main Street is down. Chief Hewitt stated that it got knocked down. There was discussion of how it is possibly getting knocked down.

Downed tree in the cemetery – Mike Bond stated that there is a tree down in the cemetery. Keith Motley stated that Jesse had mentioned to him that they had cleaned up two trees in the cemetery and was keeping an eye on another one that is leaning.

Meals Tax issue – Mike Bond stated that there was an issue with the meals tax rate, has that been corrected. Riverra Jackson stated that there was a typo in the newspaper with the incorrect rate. It was fixed.

Paper shredder – Riverra Jackson asked about having a paper shredder for the council room. After some discussion, it was suggested to order one for the council room.

Dead tree – Keith Motley informed Council that there is a dead tree on the Creasy property across from The Pod that needs to be addressed with Cecil Creasy.

Street cleaning – Keith Motley mentioned that he was going to contact someone about street cleaning.

Possible new gravesites – Deborah Moran mentioned that the funeral home has spoken with her concerning possibly adding about 90 graves and would like for Rich Armstrong to lay it off. There was some discussion of where these plots could go. Keith Motley mentioned that the cemetery needs heavy seeding again.

7:50 PM

Closed Session

A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by James Gilbert to go into closed session pursuant to **Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 A, Subsection 3** dealing with the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 A, Subsection 8 dealing with consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

Roll Call Vote:

Riverra Jackson – yes
Dianne Jennings – yes

James Gilbert – yes
Deborah Moran – yes

Mike Bond – yes

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

8:30PM

Meeting Reconvened

A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by James Gilbert to end closed session. Under **Virginia Code Section 2.2-3712 D** a roll call vote was taken, certifying that to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the Town Council. Any member of the Town Council who believes that there was a departure from the requirements shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his/her judgment, has taken place.

Roll Call Vote:

Riverra Jackson – yes
Dianne Jennings – yes

James Gilbert – yes
Deborah Moran – yes

Mike Bond – yes

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

Adjournment – A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by Dianne Jennings to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM

R. Keith Motley, Mayor

Stacy Hedrick, Assistant Clerk/Treasurer