

THE CALLED MEETING OF THE GRETNA TOWN COUNCIL WAS HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 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
Crystal Grubbs, Clerk/Treasurer	Stacy Hedrick, Asst. Clerk/Treasurer	Shannon Kelly, Star Tribune
Sgt. Tompkins, GPD		

Council Members Present:

Riverra Jackson	James Gilbert	Mike Bond
Dianne Jennings	Mike Burnette	Deborah Moran

6:33 PM – Meeting called to order

6:34 PM – Closed Session

A motion was made by Dianne Jennings seconded by Mike Bond to go into closed session pursuant to **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	James Gilbert – yes	Mike Bond – yes
Dianne Jennings – yes	Mike Burnette – yes	Deborah Moran – yes

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

7:03 PM

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	James Gilbert – yes	Mike Bond – yes
Dianne Jennings – yes	Mike Burnette – yes	Deborah Moran – yes

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

7:05 PM – Public Hearing – Proposed FY 25-26 Budget - Open

Keith Motley opened the public hearing on the proposed FY 25-26 Budget and asked if there were any public comments. Michael Turner stated that by Virginia Law requirements, the proposed budget was advertised in the Star Tribune. Mr. Turner reminded Council that the public hearing is for public to make comments and comments from Council should be held until after the public hearing. Michael Bond asked Bill Gillespie if there are any major differences to the budget. Bill Gillespie stated no, there really weren't any major differences because the revenue is maintaining the same. We are trying to make this fit what we had last year. Mr. Bond asked about the solar revenue. Crystal Grubbs stated we are getting less because we received a lump sum in the beginning, and we will not receive those anymore, just the normal payments going forward. Mr. Turner stated that if there are no comments from the public, you can close the public hearing. Then you are free to have open discussion. No public comments were made. Public hearing was closed.

A motion was made by Mike Burnette seconded by Mike Bond to close the public hearing on the proposed FY 25-26 Budget.

Roll Call Vote:

Riverra Jackson – yes	James Gilbert – yes	Mike Bond – yes
Dianne Jennings – yes	Mike Burnette – yes	Deborah Moran – yes

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

7:10 PM – Public Hearing – Proposed FY 25-26 Budget – closed

Proposed budget discussion – Mike Bond stated that he was reviewing the proposed budget and seen where we budgeted for \$14,500 for solar revenue when we received \$44,000 before, but Crystal answered my question. Crystal Grubbs stated that amount is the normal payout for the year. Riverra Jackson asked if the Town allows for unexpected expenses. Bill Gillespie stated that there is no way for the staff to estimate what that might be. You do have a contingency fund that can be used. Ms. Jackson stated that the contingency fund is the emergency fund. Mr. Gillespie stated yes, and that we will talk more about building up the contingency funds later. There needs to be a policy stating the contingency funds must stay at a certain amount of money at all times.

Public Hearing Utility Rates - A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by James Gilbert to open the public hearing on the proposed FY 25-26 utility rates.

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

7:17 PM – Public Hearing – proposed Water, Sewer, Trash rates – Open

Keith Motley opened the public hearing on the proposed Water, Sewer, and Trash rates. Mr. Motley stated that the proposed water rate is going from \$65.92 to \$70.53, excess from \$6.52 to \$6.98; sewer rate is going from \$41.82 to \$44.75, excess from \$4.47 to \$4.78; trash is going from \$17.98 to \$19.24 – In Town. The proposed water rate out-of-town is going from \$131.83 to \$141.06, excess from \$10.10 to \$10.81 and sewer out-of-town is going from \$83.63 to \$89.48, excess from \$8.97 to \$9.60.

Mr. Motley asked if there were any public comments. No public comments were made. Public hearing was closed.

Close public hearing - A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by Deborah Moran to close the public hearing on the proposed FY 25-26 Utility Rates.

Roll Call Vote:

Riverra Jackson – yes
Dianne Jennings – yes

James Gilbert – yes
Mike Burnette – yes

Mike Bond – yes
Deborah Moran – yes

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

7:20 PM – Public Hearing – proposed Water, Sewer, Trash rates – closed

Proposed Utility Rate discussion – Mike Bond asked why the trash is going up. Crystal Grubbs stated that with the Virginia Resource Authority (VRA) loan, the trash is included in the water and therefore by the agreement, we have to increase it as well. Deborah Moran asked if this was the 7% increase that we are required to do. Keith Motley stated that it is what we agreed to with VRA to get us where we need to be in order to have the reserve funds. Mr. Motley mentioned that all of the localities have to increase due to the VRA agreements that they have. Bill Gillespie stated that the Health Department, USDA, and VRA are all requiring a 15% - 20% reserve. In the agreement that you all signed, you agreed that you would increase the rates in order to keep a reserve. There was discussion about paying off the VRA loan and getting out of having to have the reserve. It was mentioned that even if we pay the VRA loan off, we will still have to borrow money from them for the new water plant. Mr. Gillespie stated that the health department turned over all of their loans to VRA.

Public Hearing VA State Law - A motion was made by James Gilbert seconded by Deborah Moran to open the public hearing on Virginia State Law.

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

7:30 PM – Public Hearing – Virginia State Law – open

Keith Motley opened the public hearing on the update to the Virginia State Laws, Section 8-1-1, effective July 1, 2025. Michael Turner read the amendment to Council and stated that this is just to update the Towns' laws. Mr. Motley asked if there were any public comments. No public comments were made. Public hearing was closed.

Close public hearing - A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by James Gilbert to close the public hearing on Virginia State Law.

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

7:31 PM – Public Hearing – Virginia State Laws, Section 8-1-1 – closed

7:36 PM – Closed Session

A motion was made by Dianne Jennings seconded by Mike Bond to go into closed session pursuant to **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	James Gilbert – yes	Mike Bond – yes
Dianne Jennings – yes	Mike Burnette – yes	Deborah Moran – yes

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

8:08 PM - Meeting Reconvened

A motion was made by Riverra Jackson seconded by Deborah Moran 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	James Gilbert – yes	Mike Bond – yes
Dianne Jennings – yes	Mike Burnette – yes	Deborah Moran – yes

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

Leland Cyprus in cemetery – Mike Burnette mentioned that there are some trees that need to be trimmed back as the limbs are hanging over someone stone. Keith Motley stated that he has talked with Jesse about trimming the limbs back.

Adjournment – A motion was made by Mike Burnette seconded by James Gilbert to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM

R. Keith Motley, Mayor

Crystal Grubbs, Clerk/Treasurer