

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GRETNA TOWN COUNCIL WAS HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, MAY 13, 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
Chief Hewitt, GPD	Crystal Grubbs, Clerk/Treasurer	Stacy Hedrick, Asst. Clerk/Treasurer
Brandon Grubbs, WTP, OIC	Johnna Weatherford	

Council Members Present:

Riverra Jackson	James Gilbert (7 PM)	Mike Bond
Dianne Jennings	Mike Burnette	Deborah Moran

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM

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

A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by Dianne Jennings to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting April 8, 2025.

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous.

4. **Invoice Review** – Council reviewed and discussed the invoice list – no longer required for approval. Invoices paid \$35,711.87.
5. **Council Agenda**

Police report – Keith Motley informed Council that Chief Hewitt was here tonight to give the monthly police report. Chief Hewitt gave the report, discussed National Night Out being held on Tuesday, August 5th from 5 – 9 pm. This will be a free event for the public at Elba Park. Mr. Motley asked if there was anything else. Chief Hewitt stated that Sgt. Tompkins went for “gang” training. And she has found out some great information that she’s sharing with the rest of us. Mike Bond asked about the computers. Chief Hewitt stated that we are still waiting on Scott Budd to allow the Town on the County’s network. We have offered to give the computers to the County with an agreement that any repairs to the computers, the Town would be responsible, and that Mr. Budd refuses to allow us on the network. Chief Hewitt stated that it is disappointing; we’ve had all of this training to use this system and are now being refused to be allowed on the network with the Sheriff’s Department. Council commended the police department for doing a great job.

TTHM Violation Notices – Keith Motley asked Brandon Grubbs if he could speak a little bit about the violation notices that we are sending out concerning the water. Mr. Motley mentioned that Carrie Perkins had asked about these violations but since she is not here, can you clarify these violations for Council. Brandon Grubbs stated that there are many factors that go into these notices. For instance, the temperature changes, the amount of organics coming into the water, the amount of Chlorine that is fed into it; the only thing that we can control is the amount of Chlorine. Chlorine is a disinfection byproduct that mixes with the organics that are in the water. TTHM's is a byproduct from Chlorine mixing with these organics. Mr. Grubbs stated that this only happens during certain times of the year. Mr. Grubbs stated that the Health Department takes an average of four months to figure out if we are complying or not. If we're not, then we have to send the notices out. If one number is high, it throws everything off. The Health Department came in and looked at things with our permit and realized that we have a baffle system which allows more CT (contact time) of Chlorine in the water. This was not figured in the permit years ago. So, going forward we shouldn't have this issue again. Council thanked Mr. Grubbs for his explanation of these notices.

West Piedmont Planning District Commission Resolution – Bill Gillespie explained that this resolution is for a planning grant that allows for a regional study of all water sources in the local area. This resolution states that the Town of Gretna agrees to participate with the regional planning commission in the development of a regional water supply plan that will comply with mandated regulations. Mr. Gillespie stated that the Town's representative is the Clerk/Treasurer, Crystal Grubbs, who will learn all about the water when this is done.

A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by Mike Burnette to approve the Local and Regional Water Supply Planning Grant Resolution.

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

Road repairs – Mike Bond asked when the potholes from waterline repairs would be fixed? Bill Gillespie stated that around the second week of June, Whites Construction should be starting on those road repairs. Keith Motley mentioned that the other potholes on Vaden Drive have been marked for repairs and will be repaired by VDOT. Mr. Motley also mentioned the street sign for Toney Street had been knocked down and that we need to contact the County to have it put back up.

6. Unfinished Business

Search for Town Manager – James Gilbert mentioned looking for a Town Manager. Keith Motley stated that things are being worked out.

Streetlights – Riverra Jackson mentioned that she spoke to Michael Davis about the streetlight repairs. And Mr. Davis stated that the lights had not been repaired yet. After some discussion, Chief Hewitt stated that one of the officers could write down the pole numbers and addresses and turn the list into the office staff.

Fire Department request – Riverra Jackson asked about the fire departments budget request. Keith Motley stated that it will be looked at when we do the budget.

Merchants letter about festival – Keith Motley stated that the Town needs to send the Merchants Association a letter, thanking them for making the Strawberry & Wine Festival such a success.

Clean up – Keith Motley informed Council that the Maintenance Department is working on cleaning up areas and getting up brush and things of that nature.

Grass letters – Keith Motley mentioned that several grass letters have gone out to residents in town; some have responded to the notices.

Flower baskets – Keith Motley stated that the flower baskets have been placed throughout the town and RGG is on board with helping with some of the costs. Mr. Motley informed Council that all of the baskets had to be replaced due to rusting and breakage.

Cemetery Stone – Mike Bond asked if we were able to get the stone set back up. Keith Motley stated that Jesse spoke to the people that dig the graves, and they want \$800 to set the stone back into place. There was discussion about the location of the stone.

Elba Park update – Bill Gillespie reminded the Park Committee that they needed to get together with the public and get their input on the layout of the proposed park.

Love sign update – Mike Bond asked about the Love sign. Keith Motley stated that the sign is ready, but they need somewhere to store it until it can be set up. However, the sign still needs to be painted.

Water plant update – Mike Bond asked for an update on the water plant. Bill Gillespie stated that the USDA offered the town a grant and VDH says that the town needs what is called a business plan and also put a budget together. Council asked if this was a loan or grant. Mr. Gillespie stated that it would be a combination of the two. The Town will not know about the VDH loan/grant until the fall of the year.

7. New Business

Caboose painting – Keith Motley stated that the town received a bid from Ralph Farmer Painting concerning work to the caboose. Council reviewed the 2 options and decided to go with option 2, which would cover: scraping, sanding, spot priming and painting 3 sides of the caboose. Pressure-wash the back side of the caboose. Bid covers labor and materials for \$3,800.

A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by Deborah Moran to accept the quote from Ralph Farmer Painting, option #2 in the amount of \$3,800.00

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

Chairman for the Planning Commission – James Gilbert asked if Steve Scruggs was still the Chairman of the Planning Commission. Keith Motley stated that he was.

Leland Cyprus Trees in the Cemetery – Mike Burnette stated that the Leland Cyprus trees in the cemetery need trimming back, they are hanging over some of tomb stones. There was discussion of getting them trimmed off of the stones and trim then back further in the fall.

Old Timers Jubilee – Mike Bond asked if a date was set for the Old Timers Jubilee. Deborah Moran stated that the date has not been set yet.

Hollyberry Drive – Keith Motley informed Council that several residents had previously contacted him about a neighbor living at 106 Hollyberry Drive. Notifications were sent to the Town, Darrel Dalton, of the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors and the DMV. The residents say that the owners of 106 Hollyberry Drive, Travis & Brandy Mattox are opening up a transportation business and would be parking their business vehicles on the private road. Mr. Motley mentioned that the Mattox's went to the DMV and filled out the necessary forms and on the form, it asked for a mailing address which is 106 Hollyberry Drive. The newspaper ad mentioned the address and the residents of Hollyberry saw it and this is the outcome. Mr. Mattox discussed this with the residents of Hollyberry Drive, informing them that the business would be located in Martinsville and at that point, the residents were fine. Mr. Motley stated that he thought this issue was over until he received an email from some of the residents today. This email requested that the Town not allow this business to take place and to work with the County to ensure that it didn't go through. Mr. Motley stated that this address is not within town limits, and it is out of our hands, and I feel that the Town does not need to respond. Michael Turner stated that it is correct, there is no need to respond.

Colonial Ridge residents – Keith Motley mentioned that there are 2 residents from Colonial Ridge that keep sitting right on the edge of Music Street in the ditch and people are concerned that they will get hurt. Dianne Jennings stated that she talked to them about it, but they still sit there. Mrs. Jennings stated that there will be a meeting for the residents to discuss some issues, and this is one of those issues.

Proposed Matters of the Public paper - Michael Turner informed Council that provided at their seat, is a proposed paper called Matters of the Public. This is basically a list of how the public should do procedurally when they are speaking so that everyone gets a chance to speak and the meetings are not prolonged anymore than necessary. Mr. Turner mentioned that this paper has been reviewed by the Town Manager and Clerk/Treasurer, and they seem to think it is okay as it is written. Mr. Turner said that there was a recommendation from Bill that this should be provided for each person that attends the meetings. After some discussion, Council would like to review it.

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

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 PM

R. Keith Motley, Mayor

Crystal Grubbs, Clerk/Treasurer