

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GRETNA TOWN COUNCIL WAS HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2025 AT 6:30 PM WITH MAYOR R. KEITH MOTLEY PRESIDING.

The following were present for the meeting:

R. Keith Motley, Mayor
Chief Hewitt, GPD
Brandon Grubbs, WTP, OIC

Bill Gillespie, Interim Town Manager
Crystal Grubbs, Clerk/Treasurer

Michael G. Turner, Town Attorney
Stacy Hedrick, Asst. Clerk/Treasurer

Council Members Present:

Riverra Jackson
Dianne Jennings

James Gilbert
Mike Burnette

Mike Bond
Deborah Moran

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

A motion was made Mike Bond seconded by James Gilbert to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting August 12, 2025.

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

Quarterly report – Mike Bond asked about the quarterly report. Stacy Hedrick stated that the auditors have not closed out last fiscal year yet and the new fiscal year has not been entered into the software, therefore we cannot print out a quarterly report.

4. **Invoice Review** – Council reviewed and discussed the invoice list – no longer required for approval. Invoices paid \$24,684.57.

Contingency funds – Crystal Grubbs asked about reimbursing the contingency funds; how much did Council want to move into each fund and how often. There was also discussion on possibly moving certain accounts to different banks. This item was tabled until the next meeting so the Clerk/Treasurer could find out interest rates from both banks.

5. **Council Agenda**

Police report – Keith Motley informed Council that Chief Hewitt is here tonight to give the monthly police report. Chief Hewitt gave the report. There was discussion of the block party that is scheduled for Friday, October 17th and the Old Timer's Jubilee for Saturday, October 18th. The Christmas parade is scheduled for December 14th. Mr. Motley mentioned the National Night Out and how successful it was. Mr. Motley also mentioned that RGG is getting ready to have the flagpole placed in the Saponi Garden and they are planning on having a ceremony on Veterans Day at 7 PM but they were not sure if they needed to get in touch with the police department to let you all know what is going on.

Water Treatment Plant – Keith Motley mentioned that Brandon Grubbs, WTP, OIC was here tonight to make a request. Brandon Grubbs stated that before the request, I would like to mention that things are doing okay as far as inside the plant. We had an inspection from VDH (Virginia Department of Health) and that went well. Mr. Grubbs stated that as far as my request goes, the WTP department needs another truck. The current vehicle is rusting and it's really not big enough for what we need. After much searching, I have found a full-size truck with around 27,000 miles at DNX Motors in Forest; it's a 2019 Chevrolet base model work truck, 4-wheel drive. The dealer is asking around \$27,000. Mr. Grubbs passed around a bill of sale/proposal for Council's review. After some discussion, Council agreed to purchase the 2019 Chevrolet work truck.

A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by Mike Burnette to purchase the 2019 Chevrolet work truck for \$28,000 to come out of the general fund and with inspection of a mechanic.

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

Maintenance Department – Keith Motley stated that he spoke with Jesse, and they have taken down the flower baskets and getting ready for leaf pick up. They will be getting pumpkins and straw in the next couple of weeks, they have checked the lights on the Halloween displays, and everything is good.

Overnight parking issue – Keith Motley stated that the signs prohibiting overnight parking in the Market Square was here. Chief Hewitt stated that the signs have already been placed, and we no longer have an overnight guest.

Danville Regional Foundation – Bill Gillespie asked about meeting with Joshua Hearne from the Danville Regional Foundation. Riverra Jackson stated that they have not set up a meeting with Mr. Hearne yet. There was discussion about setting up a meeting with Mr. Hearne.

WPPDC – Bill Gillespie mentioned that West Piedmont Planning District Commission has a \$25 Million dollar grant through the General Assembly appropriated for infrastructure across the state. I was contacted at 4:30 on Friday, August 29th, asking for an application that needed to be turned in on Monday, September 1st, which was a holiday. However, I sent a letter, and they accepted the letter as the application for the grant. Our application for the Health Department will be used as a base for the General Assembly. With this application, the Health Department and USDA applications, we now have an opportunity at 3 possible grants to go towards the new water plant.

Trailer removal – Bill Gillespie stated that he is working on the bid to take down the trailer on Music Street to make room for new cemetery plots. However, there are some major drainage issues and it's not a good place for a cemetery without doing some major work. We can move forward on getting the timber cut and then do a TOPO survey to see how the property is currently draining. Mike Bond stated that while we have someone there cutting the trees on Music Street, get them to look near the cul-de-sac to expand the cemetery.

6. Unfinished Business

Quarterly Report – Mike Bond requested a quarterly report for the next meeting. Crystal Grubbs stated that the auditors have not finished out the last fiscal year so we cannot enter the new fiscal year information yet. Mr. Bond requested that Mrs. Grubbs contact the auditors about finishing up.

Trees on Franklin Blvd. – Mike Burnette mentioned that he would like to thank the Maintenance Department for cutting the trees back on Franklin Blvd., it's a lot better.

Meeting with Hurt & Proffitt – Deborah Moran asked about meeting with Hurt & Proffitt. Bill Gillespie asked Deborah and Riverra for their notes from the community meetings so he can touch base with Hurt & Proffitt before we have a meeting with them.

7. New Business

Foul odor – James Gilbert mentioned that a couple of weeks ago, there was a foul odor in the air, several citizens complained to him about it. It was mentioned that the farmers in the area are spraying their fields and that is what the odor is.

Water discoloration – James Gilbert also mentioned that there was discoloration to the water. Keith Motley stated that he spoke with Brandon and Jesse about it a couple of weeks ago, and they had been flushing the fire hydrants.

Trunk or Treat – Riverra Jackson suggested the Town sponsor a trunk or treat event for the kids and get the businesses involved also. Deborah Moran stated that the merchants in Town already do this from 3-5.

Grass letters – Keith Motley stated that the Town had to cut a yard, and they will be billed for that. There are a couple that we have to keep sending letters to.

Chickens on Vaden – Bill Gillespie stated that the owner of the chickens on Vaden have been notified a couple of times now about the chickens roaming around and we are turning everything over to the attorney.

7:46 PM

Closed Session

A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by Dianne Jennings 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

James Gilbert – yes

Mike Bond – yes

Dianne Jennings – yes

Mike Burnette – yes

Deborah Moran – yes

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

8:14PM

Meeting Reconvened

A motion was made by Mike Bond 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
Dianne Jennings – yes

James Gilbert – yes
Mike Burnette - yes

Mike Bond – yes
Deborah Moran – yes

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

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

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM

R. Keith Motley, Mayor

Crystal Grubbs, Clerk/Treasurer