

THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GRETNA TOWN COUNCIL WAS HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025 AT 6:30 PM WITH MAYOR R. KEITH MOTLEY PRESIDING.

The following were present for the meeting:

R. Keith Motley, Mayor	Michael G. Turner, Attorney	Crystal Grubbs, Clerk/Treasurer
Chief Hewitt, GPD	Jesse Haley, Maint. Supervisor	Brandon Grubbs, WTP, OIC
Gary Shields, WWTP, OIC	Stacy Hedrick, Asst. Clerk/Treasurer	
Chris Faris, GYS	Janice Wood	

Council Members Present:

Riverra Jackson	James Gilbert	Mike Bond
Deborah Moran		

Council Members Absent:

Dianne Jennings	Mike Burnette
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Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM

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 May 13, 2025.

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

4. **Invoice Review** – Council reviewed and discussed the invoice list – no longer required for approval. Invoices paid \$24,863.10.
5. **Council Agenda**

Police report – Keith Motley stated that Chief Hewitt was here tonight to give the monthly police report. Chief Hewitt thanked Jesse Haley and his crew for their help in blocking off the roads so the fire department could concentrate on the fire at Jacks. Chief informed Council that the Danville Regional Foundation is fully funding the National Night Out event that is scheduled for August 5, 2025 from 5-9 PM. Chief gave the report, discussed the laptops for the vehicles, rotating the vehicles out each month.

Fire at Jacks – Keith Motley informed Council that the Town staff were on hand to help the family and do whatever was needed to assist. Mr. Motley gave his appreciation to the staff.

Maintenance Department report – Keith Motley asked Jesse Haley for any updates with the maintenance. Mr. Haley stated that there are some trees in the cemetery that need trimming back on the side where Mike Burnette lives. There was discussion about getting with JED's Lawn Care and trimming the limbs.

Water Treatment Plant – Keith Motley asked Brandon Grubbs for any updates with the department. Mr. Grubbs stated that the finish pump burnt up; we are waiting for quotes. Council asked how old this pump was. Mr. Grubbs stated that the one we are currently using is 20 years old. Mike Bond asked about rebuilding the pump. Mr. Grubbs stated that it was recommended not to rebuild it as there would be no warranty on it and there is no guarantee that it would work for a long time; this pump is 30 years old. We will look at the pump to see if it would be worth fixing. Mr. Bond informed Crystal Grubbs, Clerk/Treasurer, that when this pump is paid for, it should come out of the water contingency fund. Mrs. Grubbs stated that when the quotes came in, we would get with Council for a vote and appropriate the funds at that time. Mr. Bond asked if this would be done by phone. Mr. Motley stated that Council will meet again on June 19th for the public hearing on the budget. Riverra Jackson asked what time would Council need to be here? After some discussion, Council will meet at 6:30 PM and the public hearing will start at 7:00 PM.

Waste Water Treatment Plant – Keith Motley asked Gary Shields for any updates at the Sewer Plant. Gary Shield informed Council that we need a Flow Meter for the influent coming in. The last one that was put in was in November of 2023. Bill and I have discussed it, and we recommend going to a better type of meter which is called a Mag Meter. I have a quote for everything and a quote for just the meter, with someone else installing it. We believe going with the quote for \$10,000 turnkey would be the better way to go. This includes the meter and installation. Mr. Shields mentioned that we would have to get Hodnett Septic to keep water pumped out while the meter is being installed. That will be estimated at \$1500.00. Mr. Motley stated that if you can get something by the 19th where we can appropriate the funds to cover the cost. Mike Bond asked which meter this was. Mr. Shields stated that this is for the first pumpstation coming from the town. Mr. Bond asked about a warranty on the meter. Mr. Shields stated that it expired last year. Council requested that Mr. Shields get information on any warranty.

Gretna Youth Sports – Keith Motley stated that Chris Faris from the Gretna Youth Sports is here to address Council. Chris Faris informed Council that GYS would be having a fund raiser for Owen Roach & family on June 21st starting at 8:00 AM and would like to request that the police department ride by the high school.

Cemetery – Janice Wood mentioned that people are drinking in the cemetery and throwing their trash down and someone took a dinosaur statue. Chief Hewitt asked if the statue was on a grave site. Ms. Wood stated no, it was sitting at the side of the cemetery. Chief stated that if the statue had been removed from a grave, then they could investigate it but since it was on public property, it could belong to anyone.

Budget Public Hearing – Keith Motley reminded Council that there will be a public hearing on June 19, 2025 concerning the proposed FY 25-26 budget. Mr. Motley stated that Bill would like all of Council to be present as we need to go into closed session prior to the public hearing. Meeting starts at 6:30 PM.

6. Unfinished Business

Advertise the budget – Mike Bond asked if we need to do a motion to advertise the budget. Crystal Grubbs stated that it has already been advertised. Keith Motley stated that it was in last weeks paper.

Proposed Park upgrade – Riverra Jackson informed Council that the Park Committee met with citizens last week and we have decided on a plan for the layout of the park. Council reviewed the conceptual site plan for the proposed park upgrade. Ms. Jackson stated that now we will get back with Hurt & Profit and move forward with this site plan to submit to DRF. There was discussion about having ball fields that could be used for other sports other than football. There was discussion about the drainage that will have to be looked at further.

Road repairs – Keith Motley stated that the road repairs started last week but they still have a couple more places to fix. Jesse Haley stated that they should have everything completed by tomorrow. Mr. Motley stated that everything looked good, and the road is very smooth. Mr. Motley mentioned that VDOT has been working some on Vaden Drive, but it appears that they are not finished.

Jack’s building – Keith Motley stated that he noticed that they have boarded up the building, but I do not know what they are going to do. Stacy Hedrick stated that Shirley came in today, they are not going to build it back. They are going to tear down the building, but they do not know when that will occur.

Grass letters – Keith Motley mentioned that the office staff have sent out grass letters. We are trying to stay on top of that. Mr. Motley stated that we could put an article in the paper about keeping the grass mowed and trimmed. James Gilbert suggested putting it on the water bills. Mr. Motley stated that we’ve thought about that but we’re not sure who actually would read it.

Streetlights – Keith Motley asked for an update on the streetlights. Stacy Hedrick stated that some of those that were turned in were private security lights. Mrs. Hedrick stated that if the light shines on the street, it’s a streetlight. If the light shines on someone’s driveway, it’s a private security light and that is the homeowner’s responsibility. Crystal Grubbs stated that we called Dominion because some of them kept coming back and Dominion told us that those lights were not streetlights. Riverra Jackson asked if Dominion had fixed those lights that were turned in. Mrs. Hedrick stated that Dominion schedules those repairs so we do not know when they are fixed.

Caboose update – Keith Motley stated that the contractor to paint the caboose was in touch with Crystal and stated that he was behind but would be here in July to paint the caboose.

7. New Business

Love sign update – Mike Bond asked for an update on the Love sign. Keith Motley stated that they are waiting for it to be moved. Riverra Jackson stated that the sign can’t be painted until it’s set up in place. There was discussion of the foundation and getting the sign moved.

Leftwich Street – Deborah Moran mentioned that a citizen had reached out to her concerning no sidewalk on part of Leftwich Street and people come through there kind of fast. Chief Hewitt stated that everyone is out running radar and stopping vehicles when they see them. Keith Motley mentioned that several years ago the Town had discussed extending the sidewalk but there was issue with water drainage and costs associated with a new sidewalk.

Street cleaning – Keith Motley mentioned that the Town used to partner with Altavista to do some street sweeping but that service is no longer available. Mr. Motley asked the Maintenance Supervisor if the maintenance guys could spray some weeds. Jesse Haley stated that they sprayed some of the sidewalks on Friday and today. Mr. Motley mentioned some areas that need weed eating. Mr. Haley stated that they would work on it.

Update on Taxes and Water bills – Keith Motley asked for an update on the taxes and water bills. Stacy Hedrick stated that the taxes will go out in November, and I am currently working on those files. The tax files have to be adjusted for our system. Once I get the files fixed, I will send them to our software company, and they will import the file into our system so we can bill them out. Mrs. Hedrick stated that in a couple of weeks we will be reading meters for the July bill. Mr. Motley asked about delinquencies. Crystal Grubbs stated they weren't bad. Mike Bond mentioned that the County bills out twice a year. Mrs. Hedrick stated that our issue would be that the County does not send us our tax files early enough. I just received the tax files a couple of weeks ago and I have to have time to fix the files and get them sent to the software people.

New water plant – Mike Bond asked if there is any information concerning what the payments would be. Crystal Grubbs stated that information is not known right now because we do not know if VDH will grant us the funds because of everything going on in the government. Mr. Bond asked if that money didn't come through, then the water plant doesn't come through. Mrs. Grubbs stated correct. Riverra Jackson stated that Bill mentioned that if these funds do not come through, there is no plan B.

Budget packet – Keith Motley reminded Council to review their budget packet before the public hearing. Mr. Motley stated that if you have any questions, you can call Bill or Crystal.

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

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 PM

R. Keith Motley, Mayor

Crystal Grubbs, Clerk/Treasurer