

On Monday, May 13, 2024 the council meeting for the Town of Gay was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Walker. At roll call all members except council member Pritchett were present and it was determined a quorum did exist. Council member Pritchett arrived just after roll call.

The First item was approval of the Agenda. Council member Watts motioned to approve the agenda, seconded by council member Keith. The vote in favor was unanimous.

After the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a brief mention of the Rules of Decorum, the next item was approval of prior meeting minutes.

Council meeting – April 8, 2024:

Motion to approve, council member Watts; second council member Keith and vote in favor unanimous.

Public Hearing – Water/Trash Rate Increases:

Motion to approve, council member Keith; second council member Askvig and vote in favor unanimous.

The first item on the agenda was Kenneth Knox, who is running for the position of sheriff in Meriwether County.

The next item on the agenda was the increase in rates for water and trash. At the public hearing on April 22, the question was raised as to whether it would be possible to discontinue charging water fees to those customers who actually use no water, but opted to continue using personal wells. Council member Watts stated she and assistant clerk had spent considerable time researching and found that we are still bound by a 1990 Ordinance, which was a requirement for the town to obtain a grant and low interest loan to establish a water system.

Council member Watts motioned to approve the water and trash pick-up rates as discussed at the public hearing on April 22, 2024. The motion was seconded by council member Keith and the vote in favor was unanimous. All customers will be advised by mail and email that the rates will be effective when June bills are prepared.

The next item on the agenda was Amended Budgets. The need for amended budgets was explained by council member Watts. The Fair Security amount has changed, because we are only requiring 5 deputies now. In anticipation of an increase in trash pick-up, any revenue over the billed amount cannot be placed in the water account but must be deposited into the general fund.

Council member Askvig motioned to approve the amended budgets as presented, seconded by council member Keith. The vote in favor was unanimous.

The next item on the agenda was security for city hall and the community building. Copies of information relating to an outside camera system were presented to each council member. There have been no problems but it is felt we need something since the buildings are fairly isolated. Discussion will continue when council has an opportunity to compare costs, services, and any other options.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion of our current C.D.'s and rates. They are due to mature on June 4, 2024 and the interest rate will drop from 4.25% to 1.5% if no changes are made. Assistant Clerk prepared a comparison of rates between two banks we currently use and a money market account with Edward Jones Investments. After discussion, council member Watts motioned to allow Mayor Walker to withdraw all but one C.D. (required for the water system Sinking Fund) and establish a money market account with Edward Jones Investments. The motion was seconded by council member Keith and the vote in favor was unanimous.

At this time, Mayor Walker thanked council members who had helped establish and later remove fencing designed to help keep visitors at the arts and crafts fairs from wandering into traffic.

The last item on the agenda was financial documents. After discussion and some questions, council member Watts motioned to accept the documents as presented, seconded by council member Askvig. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Mayor and each council member received a copy of a letter from our attorney giving an update on the ordinances we submitted to him. There was no discussion at this time as it was received just prior to the meeting and nobody had time to read it prior to the meeting.

As there was no more business to discuss, council member Watts motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by council member Keith and the vote in favor was unanimous.

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Christopher J. Walker – Mayor

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Sharon Richmond - Clerk