

TOWN OF IRON GATE
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The Iron Gate Town Council held a Work Session on February 18th, 2025 at 7 pm.
The meeting officially began at 7:00 pm

Present: Councilperson Jennifer Tyree, Councilperson Brandon Marshall, Mayor Kawahna Persinger, Councilperson Neil Hardesty, Councilperson Norvella Burrell, and Town Clerk/Treasurer Ashley Prior

In Attendance: Jimmy Jeffries, Michael Prior, Georgie Hardesty, and Jerry Clark of the Alleghany Journal

Mayor Persinger began by readdressing the letter of interest from Councilperson Burrell as well as the letter from Judge Stein appointing Mrs. Burrell. Mayor Persinger briefly mentioned the new nameplates.

Mayor Persinger spoke briefly on the invoices from the Thrasher Group (\$40,000) as well as Hammond-Mitchell (\$14,256.00 and \$37,509.48) for a total of \$91,765.48. Mayor Persinger stated that since we did not have enough quorum last month, we spoke to our town attorney and were advised to go ahead and pay them so we did not fall in default of our contracts.

The mayor mentioned that the town will need to hold a special election in November of this year due to the two appointed council seats for Councilperson Hardesty and Councilperson Burrell. Councilperson Marshall asked if the water project would still be finished by June. Mayor Persinger said weather permitting it should be over in the middle to the end of June.

Mayor Persinger spoke briefly regarding the two remaining council seats as well as the four remaining Board of Zoning Appeal seats.

Mayor Persinger stated that at the end of January we did not have a quorum, but I had all intentions of announcing that Councilperson Marshall has graciously accepted the Vice Mayor position. Mayor Persinger mentioned Western Virginia Water Authority replacing their meter and how the town will proceed. Council continued deliberating.

The mayor mentioned the Covington Women's Environmental Committee is pronouncing April as clean up month and there will be a proclamation signing, as well as a proclamation signing for

MS Awareness the same day. Mayor Persinger continued by saying that she will be going and offered members of council to join.

Mayor Persinger stated she spoke with Public Works supervisor Junior regarding the sewer lines on Tannery Road, and asked if the issue has been corrected. Mayor Persinger continued by saying Junior stated that he will need to check on the lines tomorrow since he would be busy with trash pickup today. Junior poured Sewer Aid (sizzle) in the manhole at each end of Tannery Road to make sure there are no blockages and everything is flowing. If there seems to be a blockage then we will ask Clifton if they will let us use their sewer cleaning truck. Clifton was gracious enough to lend us two of their five-gallon buckets of Sewer Aid (sizzle), so when Ashley ordered Iron Gate's, the mayor asked her to order two additional to replace Clifton's. As you can see on your agenda the Sewer Aid is \$229.65 per five-gallon bucket. I also had Ashley order Clear Path (Ice Melt) is \$95.00 per seventy-pound drum. Council deliberated.

Mayor Persinger said between April 1st and April 15th the town will be contacting Clifton Forge and see if the town can use Clifton Forge's bucket truck to assist in replacing the flags on Route 220.

Mayor Persinger mentioned being told by the real estate agent that the Homer Clark estate is a subdivision. There has never been a subdivision in Iron Gate, it's not large enough to be a subdivision. From the mayor's understanding, it's not a subdivision but a division of an alley, they subdivided an alley on the other side of Homer Clark's property. Council deliberated.

The mayor brought up starting the process to reduce the number of council seats from six down to four. It is like pulling teeth to get anyone to take a council seat. Council deliberated.

Mayor Persinger said the other thing I want to discuss that is not on the agenda is Ashley works Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. We have had customers that come in to make payments at quarter till three. The problem is, in order for Ashley to do her deposit, paperwork, etc., we have posted signs stating we no longer take payments after 2:00 pm. If this doesn't work, we will need to either close an hour earlier, or give her an extra hour every day to complete her deposit and paperwork. Council deliberated.

Mayor Persinger asked if anyone had any questions, comments, concerns. Councilperson Hardesty said he would like to circle back around to the sewer meter, where are we with that? Mayor Persinger said according to Junior there use to be a meter at the old pump station, but it is not compatible with the pump station we have now. Councilperson Hardesty asked if it is the towns responsibility to upgrade the meter or the County's. Mayor Persinger said it will probably be our responsibility to put another meter in so we will have two readings. Council deliberated.

The mayor mentioned reaching out to the Fire Department and possibly looking into using the Fire Department as an emergency center for the town. Mayor Persinger went on saying the town no longer has the robocall system and it is no longer compatible with our UBMax system. She did put a call into Chris Fisher and he was going to pass her message to someone else, I have yet to hear from anyone. However, they could have called when I was out of the office. We are working at things. The mayor asked Ashley if she had anything to add. Ashley then mentioned that councilperson Tyree asked her about the IRS reimbursement. Ashley then spoke briefly on the

matter. Mayor Persinger asked if anyone had anything to add. Councilperson Tyree said that she hates to see council decline from six members to four, but if the community does not want to serve like they use to then unfortunately it is necessary. Councilperson Tyree also mentioned adding a brief description of the Vice Mayor to the town charter. Council deliberated.

Having no further business to discuss, the Work Session concluded at 7:48 pm. Council will meet again on February 27th, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Kawahna C Persinger, Mayor

Ashley C Prior, Clerk