

TOWN OF IRON GATE
P. O. BOX 199
401 Commerce Avenue
IRON GATE, VA 24448
Telephone No. (540) 862-0770

The Iron Gate Town Council held a Work Session on January 13th, 2025 at 7 pm.

The meeting officially began at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilperson Jennifer Tyree, Councilperson Brandon Marshall, Mayor Kawahna Persinger, and Councilperson Neil Hardesty

Absent: Town Clerk/Treasurer Ashley Prior

In Attendance: Jimmy Jeffries, Randy Unroe, and Norvella Burrell

Mayor Persinger asked for a motion to go into closed session under legal VA Code 2.2-3711 Item 7 and 2.2-3711 Item 4 to discuss legal and personnel issues. A motion was made by Councilperson Marshall, and seconded by Councilperson Hardesty. A roll call vote was taken.

Councilperson Tyree – “Yes”
Councilperson Marshall– “Yes”
Councilperson Hardesty – “Yes”

The motion carries unanimously.

Mayor Persinger introduced new Councilperson Neil Hardesty. Mayor Persinger moved onto cigarette stamps. The town has four rolls left, and there are two ways to order more. If council approves for half a case the cost will be \$1,309.50, and if council would choose a fourth of a case the cost will be \$ 654.75. The company we purchase from will not give a discount if we buy in bulk or otherwise. Councilperson Marshall asked how long it will take for the town to get through the quarter of case. Mayor Persinger said the town bought them last year and we still have four rolls left. Councilperson Marshall asked how the town normally purchases them. Mayor Persinger said the town normally buys them in half a case, which is 18 rolls. Councilperson Marshall asked what the town purchased last year. Mayor Persinger said the town purchased half a case and we still have four rolls left.

Councilperson Marshall said while we’re on the topic of taxes, is everyone current on meals tax. Mayor Persinger said yes, we are. Mayor Persinger moved onto the next topic regarding a bus

located behind the home of John and Stability Rose. Mr. and Mrs. Rose are living in a converted school bus behind the house, and the house itself has no water running to it at all. Councilperson Tyree asked why does the house not have water, the water was on when Mrs. Lockhart lived there. Mayor Persinger said the young lady said they were having trouble with the plumbing and after getting several quotes from different plumbers, she never said anything else regarding the plumbers. The only thing Public Works is doing is trash pickup at that address. Councilperson Marshall asked what are they doing with the sewer. Mayor Persinger replied good question. Council will need to decide how they would like to proceed. Mayor Persinger continued, I do know that Mr. and Mrs. Rose questioned council for giving Mr. Friend permission to park and stay in his camper and not them. Councilperson Marshall said he would at least like to speak with them and see what their plans are moving forward. Mayor Persinger stated I can certainly check on that, and Ashley can give you all a report at the end of the month. Councilperson Marshall said maybe we can get a letter to them, or set up a meeting with them. Council continued discussing the matter. Mayor Persinger mentioned the flag lowering procedure regarding the American flag. In the past the town has always lowered both flags when someone in the town has passed. Some residents have complained and said the American flag can only be lowered when the governor or president declares it.

Mayor Persinger presented a letter from Alleghany County regarding the True Up agreement. This year the town has an outstanding debt of five thousand one hundred and twenty-six dollars and nineteen cents (5,126.19). That amount will be divided by six months and a portion will be added to monthly bill each month for six months. Councilperson Tyree stated she finds it remarkable with as dry as it has been that will owe that much. Mayor Persinger said I think that ESS has gone up on their prices. Councilperson Marshall asked how much will we be paying monthly. Mayor Persinger stated around seventeen thousand dollars a month right now, so we will add eight hundred and fifty-five dollars to that. If Ashley was here, she could tell you the exact figure. Mr. Unroe commented on the town adding in a sewer meter on Tannery Rd, everyone has a meter but Iron Gate, and before we went to this system, we had a meter over there. I have asked and asked where that meter has gone. Councilperson Marshall states so we don't know what were paying for, we are just paying what they tell us. Mr. Unroe stated that's right. Councilperson Hardesty stated exactly. Council continued deliberating.

Mayor Persinger presented the invoice for Hammond-Mitchel regarding construction fees. This will come out of the ARPA funds. The invoice is for fourteen thousand two hundred and fifty-six dollars (14,256.00). We also received an invoice from Thrasher in the amount of forty thousand dollars, (40,000.00), for the engineering fee. Council continued deliberating.

Mayor Persinger said in the past, council has always presented the previous mayor with a plaque for their service. I don't know how council and the residents feel about a plaque for the previous mayor, Gary Craig. Richard Erskine has twenty-seven years of service on the Iron Gate Town Council.

Mayor Persinger moved onto the vacant council seats. An ad has been posted in the media for them stating we have one vacant expired council seat and two vacant unexpired council seats. The expired council seat is for previous Councilperson G.W. Reynolds, and the unexpired council seats are for previous Councilperson Erskine, and Councilperson Persinger. Whoever fills previous Councilperson G.W. Reynolds seat will serve a four-year term. Whoever fills previous Councilperson Erskine and Councilperson Persinger's seat will serve until December 31st, 2026. There was also a Public Notice sent to the media regarding moving the Work Session. There are

still four available seats on the BZA, (Board of Zoning Appeals), and one available seat on the Planning Commission.

Mayor Persinger spoke briefly regarding those who had one write in vote each for council after the election.

Mayor Persinger stated, Ashley has a return stamp with the town information, when she uses that only half of the address is showing. She has been hand writing the return address on all the envelopes since the printers do not print envelopes. I want to see if council will be okay with ordering a new stamp.

Mayor Persinger spoke briefly regarding the first snow and ice. The town was able to have Wayne Campbell and Richard Neal plow the roads that VDOT does not clean up, and clean up Town Hall. Mayor Persinger spoke briefly on sending letters out for those who owe taxes and briefly on letter that were sent to renew business licenses.

Mayor Persinger spoke briefly regarding customers signing a release form for Public Works to come on the customers' property for any reason due to liabilities.

Mayor Persinger spoke briefly on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the training that Clifton Forge will be allowing Iron Gate to participate in.

Mayor Persinger spoke briefly on the Fire Department Funds.

Mayor Persinger spoke briefly on a grant that previous Mayor Gary Craig stated he applied for.

Mayor Persinger said Councilperson Marshall and Councilperson Hardesty both discussed possibly switching the water bill portion to a tier process, something like Clifton Forge has. We will speak with Clifton and see if that will benefit our town. Councilperson Tyree said to her knowledge she doesn't ever remember her mentioning a tier. Councilperson Marshall said the tier system is for the bulk rate. Mayor Persinger said I misunderstood and I apologize. Councilperson Tyree stated I agree, that will be a good idea.

Mayor Persinger said Ashley has been diligently working on and calling the IRS. They owe us a reimbursement of two thousand one hundred eighty-four dollars and twenty-five cents from an over payment (2,184.25).

Mayor Persinger said the last thing I have before we go into closed session is B & D Locks will be here Tuesday the 21st at 10 am to rekey the three doors at Town Hall.

Mayor Persinger asked for a motion to go into closed session under legal VA Code 2.2-3711 Item 7 and 2.2-3711 Item 4. A motion was made by Councilperson Marshall, and seconded by Councilperson Hardesty. A roll call vote was taken.

Councilperson Tyree – “Yes”

Councilperson Persinger – “Yes”

Councilperson Marshall – “Yes”

The motion carries unanimously.

Mayor Persinger asked for a motion to come out of closed session and I would like to get on record that we discussed nothing but legal and personnel matters. A motion was made by Councilperson Hardesty, and seconded by Hardesty. A roll call vote was taken.

Councilperson Tyree – “Yes”

Councilperson Persinger – “Yes”

Councilperson Marshall – “Yes”

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Tyree, and seconded by Councilperson Hardesty. A roll call vote was taken.

Councilperson Tyree – “Yes”

Councilperson Persinger – “Yes”

Councilperson Marshall – “Yes”

Having no further business to discuss, the Work Session concluded at 9:06 pm. Council will meet again on January 30th, 2025 at 7:00pm.

Kawahna C Persinger, Mayor

Ashley C Prior, Clerk