

June 9, 2025

A regular session of the Town Council of the Town of Grottoes was held on Monday, June 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at the Grottoes Town Hall, Grottoes, Virginia.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Plaster called the regular session of June 9, 2025, Grottoes Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Mayor Plaster asked for a roll call.

ATTENDANCE: Members present: Eddie Chittum, Jim Justis, Mayor Jo Plaster, Vice Mayor David Raynes, Michael Kohl, Maite Taylor. ABSENT - Joshua Bailey

Other Town Officials present: Town Manager Kyle O'Brien, Treasurer Rhonda Danner, Deputy Clerk Crystal Ortiz, Accounting Technician Melissa Alger, Parks & Tourism Director Austin Shank, Public Works Director Nicky Workman, Police Chief Jason Sullivan.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion by Council member Raynes, seconded by Council member Kohl. Motion carried by a vote of 5-0, voting recorded as follows: CHITTUM – AYE; JUSTIS – AYE; RAYNES – AYE; KOHL – AYE; TAYLOR – AYE; the Council approved the minutes for the meetings held on May 12, 2025 and the Special Called Meeting on May 29, 2025

### **SPECIAL PRESENTATION – GROTTUES CHAPEL PLAQUE**

Kevin Ratliff, the former Minister at the Grottoes Chapel presented the Town with a plaque made from the American Chestnut threshold of the church. With him was Gary Lam, a board member of the church, and Stanley Morris, the carpenter who helped lead the restoration of the 1892 building at the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Street & Elm Avenue. The plaque includes the history and story of the work put into the building since it began in 2017. Mayor Plaster thanked them and asked the Council to gather for a photo for historical records.

### **PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND CLAIMS (PUBLIC COMMENT)**

Gleamer Sullivan spoke about the Comprehensive Plan and that even after it had been tabled by the Planning Commission, it was still sent to Council without final edits being approved. She implored Council to read it thoroughly before they approve in July.

Scott Sacra asked that Council to not approve the budget as presented. He requested a larger decrease in trash collection fees paid by the residents.

Mary Alice Robertson wished Mayor Plaster a belated happy birthday; she then stated that notice of brush pickup wasn't adequate for the May 27<sup>th</sup> date, and also has concerns that Meridian wants all refuse

bagged before being placed in containers and that yard waste is not allowed in toters. She has concerns that it will make it harder for her and her husband.

## **REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEE:**

**FINANCE** – On a motion by Council member Raynes, seconded by Council member Justis and carried by a vote of 5-0, voting recorded as follows: CHITTUM – AYE; JUSTIS-AYE; RAYNES - AYE; KOHL – AYE; TAYLOR – AYE, to approve the financial reports for the month of May 2025.

Council member Raynes motioned, seconded by Council member Taylor to approve the FY 2025-2026 budget and fee schedule. While the motion was on the table, Council member Chittum moved, seconded by Council member Justis to change the trash fee to \$29.00 bi-monthly. Mayor Plaster explained that the primary motion was already on the table and his motion could not be entertained, and called for a vote to approve the FY 2025-2026 budget and fee schedule and was carried by a vote of 3-2, voting recorded as follows: CHITTUM – NO; JUSTIS-NO; RAYNES - AYE; KOHL – AYE; TAYLOR – AYE, to approve the FY 25-26 Budget and Fee Schedule.

**WATER AND SEWER** – No report.

**ORDINANCE, HEALTH, AND PROPERTY** – No report.

**STREET AND STREET LIGHTS** – No report.

**PARKS, RECREATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES** – No report.

**SPECIAL EVENTS** – Council Member Maite Taylor shared that Party in the Park will be Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at John E. Painter Park, and all proceeds go to Parks & Tourism.

**PERSONNEL, FIRE AND POLICE PROTECTION** – On a motion by Council member Justis, seconded by Council member Taylor and carried by a vote of 5-0, voting recorded as follows: CHITTUM – AYE; JUSTIS-AYE; RAYNES - AYE; KOHL – AYE; TAYLOR – AYE, to appoint Melissa Alger as the Clerk of Council.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

TOWN MANAGER. A written report was provided.

ATTORNEY. Nothing to report.

TREASURER. A written report was provided.

ASSISTANT TOWN MANAGER. A written report was provided.

POLICE CHIEF. A written report was provided

PUBLIC WORK DIRECTOR. A written report was provided.

RECREATION AND TOURISM DIRECTOR. A written report was provided.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTION NAMING THE STAGE AT JOHN E. PAINTER PARK AFTER CHIEF WILLIAM “BILL” DAVIES**

On a motion by Council member Justis, seconded by Council member Taylor and carried by a vote of 5-0, voting recorded as follows: CHITTUM – AYE; JUSTIS-AYE; RAYNES - AYE; KOHL – AYE; TAYLOR – AYE, to adopt the resolution naming the stage at John E. Painter Park after Chief William ‘Bill’ Davies. July 11<sup>th</sup> will be the first night of Bluegrass in the Park and the dedication of the stage will happen then.

### **CONSIDERATION OF GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT PROCEDURES**

On a motion by Council member Kohl, seconded by Council member Justis and carried by a vote of 5-0, voting recorded as follows: CHITTUM – AYE; JUSTIS-AYE; RAYNES - AYE; KOHL – AYE; TAYLOR – AYE, to approve the guidelines for public comment procedures.

Council Member Chittum made a motion to use all excess funds from the trash collection changeover and invest in live streaming equipment for Council meetings; the motion was seconded by Council member Justis. The motion failed by a vote of 1-4, voting recorded as follows: CHITTUM – AYE; JUSTIS-NO; RAYNES - NO; KOHL – NO; TAYLOR – NO, to use funds from the savings on trash collection for audio/video equipment and video storage.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mayor Plaster declared the meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

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Mayor

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Deputy Clerk