

June 9, 2025

A work session of the Town Council of the Town of Grottoes was held on Monday, June 9, 2025, at the Grottoes Town Hall, Grottoes, Virginia.

Mayor Plaster called the work session of June 9, 2025, of the Grottoes Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m.

Mayor Plaster turned the meeting over to Town Manager Kyle O'Brien who spoke about the FY 2025-26 proposed budget. He stated that tonight's meeting should bring the final adoption of the budget after discussion concludes.

Council member Chittum asked about the previously proposed rate drop for refuse services. Town Manager O'Brien explained that it is just a couple of dollars per billing cycle. Council member Taylor recommended protecting residents from rate shock in two years. Council member Justis asked what the costs would drop to. Taylor reminded all that the tipping fees would be increasing. Town Manager O'Brien retrieved documentation and stated that our current rate with Waste Management is \$35.56. The town's cost under Meridian would be \$25.40 for the first two years, plus the tipping fees.

Council member Raynes asked about shelter rentals, as he noted Grand Caverns mentioned in the budget but not John E. Painter Park shelters. It was pointed out that those are under the facility fee schedule. Parks & Tourism Director Austin Shank stated that there was no proposed change in fees from last fiscal year to this one. Council member Kohl asked for more clarification on weddings with the cave. Director Shank explained that the addition of another Park Ranger II will allow more special events.

Town Manager O'Brien also spoke of the Comprehensive Plan and the Planning Commission update. He stated that the commission has taken comments and feedback and it has been edited and drafted several times. It was noted that the Comprehensive Plan is not up for adoption at this meeting as final edits will not be ready until July. Mayor Plaster asked CSPDC to submit it to Council at least a week in advance of the next meeting so everyone has plenty of time to review and make any final changes. Elizabeth Goodloe from the CSPDC was in attendance to answer questions.

Town Manager O'Brien also spoke about the recent upgrades to the town's website and how much information residents can now easily find. Council members agreed that it is much improved.

At 6:13 p.m. Mayor Plaster adjourned the work session.