THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GRETNA TOWN COUNCIL WAS HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS, JUNE 9, 2026 AT 6:30 PM WITH MAYOR R. KEITH MOTLEY PRESIDING.

The following were present for the meeting:

R. Keith Motley, Mayor — Bill Gillespie, Interim Town Manager — Michael G. Turner, Attorney
John Hewitt, Chief, GPD — Crystal Grubbs, Clerk/Treasurer — Stacy Hedrick, Asst. Clerk/Treasurer
Gary Shield, 6:55 PM

Council Present:

Riverra Jackson	James Gilbert	Mike Bond
Dianne Jennings	Mike Burnette	Deborah Moran

Meeting called to order 6:35 PM

1. Prayer
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. **Approval of Minutes:**

   A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by Deborah Moran to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting May 11, 2026

   Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

4. **Invoice Review** – Council reviewed and discussed the invoice list – no longer required for approval. Invoices paid $58,123.28.
5. **Council Agenda**

Police Report – Keith Motley mentioned that Chief Hewitt is here to give the monthly police report. Chief Hewitt mentioned the National Night Out Grant and that they received $7,000 this time. Hewitt stated that they had Coffee with a Cop this morning at the Pod along with the Sheriff's Office. The Older Timer's Jubilee will be on October 10th from 12-5. Chief also mentioned that the police department will be making some changes to the schedule due to some issues at Gretna Village Apartments. After discussion of the situation, Council gave their approval for the department to do what is necessary.

Budget discussion – Bill Gillespie mentioned that real estate, personal property taxes, business license tax, meals and lodging taxes would not be increasing in the next fiscal year. However, due to the VRA loan and the new water plant, utility rates will be increased by up to 7%. The Town has no choice but to make increases in utility rates in order for the Town to get grants and loans for the new plant. Mr. Gillespie suggested Council look at increasing some of the other taxes that you have. Some of them have not increased in years. There was discussion of the proposed water plant grants. The public hearing on the proposed budget will be June 18, 2026 at 12 Noon.

Market Square lot – Bill Gillespie stated that he had someone contact him about the building Kell Stone owns and the Market Square lot. This person is interested in getting a few parking spaces near the old building Mr. Stone owns. After some discussion, the Market Square lot belongs to Carter Bank & Trust, so this person would have to get in touch with the owner of the lot.

WWTP Penalty from DEQ – Bill Gillespie informed Council that the Wastewater Treatment Plant has been fined by DEQ for the ammonia levels being so high for the last five months. Gary Shields, WWTP Operator informed Council of the issue. After some discussion of the issue, penalty and the length of time this occurred before DEQ said anything, and treatment of the ammonia levels. Mr. Gillespie stated that we have been penalized for an estimated $9,000 for the last six months. Mr. Gillespie stated that we need to hire Hurt & Proffitt to assist in locating the cause of the ammonia levels increasing. The cost to hire Hurt & Proffitt is $17,000. We need to decide where to pull the funds from. The amount of funds needed to pull will be an estimated $26,100.00.

A motion was made by James Gilbert seconded by Deborah Moran to approve taking $9,100 plus $17,000 from the Sewer Contingency Fund.

Roll Call Vote:

Riverra Jackson – yes	James Gilbert – yes	Mike Bond – abstain
Dianne Jennings – yes	Mike Burnette – yes	Deborah Moran – yes

Motion carried/Vote was 5 – yes / 1 – abstain

6. **Unfinished Business**

Bank Accounts – Mike Bond asked about the bank accounts. Crystal Grubbs mentioned that we moved money from General Fund into the Water/Sewer Contingency Funds. After some discussion, Crystal will review the accounts and bring information back to Council.

Kopczenski property – Keith Motley stated that he's been by Heidi's house, but it looks as if no one is living there. I will try again to contact her.

Cutting grass letters – Keith Motley mentioned that he would like to put the cutting grass notice on the back of the water bills again. Individual letters have been mailed out as well.

Cigarette Tax – Michael Turner informed Council that he had to redo some of the language in the cigarette tax ordinance. Mr. Turner stated that vaping cannot be included in the ordinance at this time due to the General Assembly bill being pulled off the table.

New Sewer Jet – Keith Motley asked about the new sewer jet. Bill Gillespie stated that it has been ordered.

New trees on the Bobcat Trail – Dianne Jennings mentioned that the newly transplanted trees on the Bobcat Trail look good and has made a huge difference in the view when you come across the railroad tracks.

7. **New Business**

Work being done on Main Street – James Gillbert asked about the work being done on Main Street and Henry Street. Keith Motley stated that it was Richard Armstrong who was having the work done on the old Little Theatre building. He's making it into an apartment building and he's connecting to the water and sewer lines.

250th Celebration of the USA – Keith Motley stated that we are getting ready for the 250th Celebration. The decorations have been placed.

Cyprus Trees in the cemetery – Keith Motley mentioned that the Cyprus Trees in the cemetery are dead and need to be removed.

Drainage ditch in cemetery – Keith Motley informed Council that the drainage ditch in the Colbert-Moran cemetery is overflowing when it rains really heavy. The Maintenance guys are going to clean it out.

Reservoir update – Mike Bond asked how the reservoir was holding up. Keith Motley stated that he spoke with Brandon about it, and he said we are okay. Bill Gillespie stated that it's okay right now.

White Thorn Creek permit update – Mike Bond asked about the withdrawal permit for White Thorn Creek. Bill Gillespie stated that it is in process.

8:14 PM
Closed Session

A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by James Gilbert to go into closed session pursuant to **Virginia Code Section 2.2-3711 A, Subsection 8** dealing with consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

Roll Call Vote:

Riverra Jackson – yes	James Gilbert – yes	Mike Bond – yes
Dianne Jennings – yes	Mike Burnette – yes	Deborah Moran – yes

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

8:20PM
Meeting Reconvened

A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by James Gilbert to end closed session. Under **Virginia Code Section 2.2-3712 D** a roll call vote was taken, certifying that to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered in the meeting by the Town Council. Any member of the Town Council who believes that there was a departure from the requirements shall so state prior to the vote, indicating the substance of the departure that, in his/her judgment, has taken place.

Roll Call Vote:

Riverra Jackson – yes	James Gilbert – yes	Mike Bond – yes
Dianne Jennings – yes	Mike Burnette – yes	Deborah Moran – yes

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

Adjournment – A motion was made by Mike Bond seconded by James Gilbert to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried/Vote was unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 8:22 PM

R. Keith Motley, Mayor

Crystal Grubbs, Clerk/Treasurer