REGULAR MEETING OF THE KEYSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON April 13, 2026

The regular meeting of the Keysville Town Council was held on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Keysville Town Office. Mayor Robert J. Schaefer presided, with Vice Mayor Anthony Ferranto and Council Members Wendy Gallion, Scotty Jackson, Rachael Clark, and Rhonda Benn in attendance. Council Member Tom Fisher was absent. Staff present included Sherry Marker, Town Clerk. The guest present was Dawn Santello. The guest speaker was Steve Morris.

Mayor Schaefer called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.

Council Member Gallion offered the invocation.

Public Comments:
Mr. Morris spoke on behalf of Blue-Sky Properties regarding a proposed development project, which includes the construction of three townhouse buildings, each containing six units, for a total of eighteen units. The Town Council requested additional information about the project, particularly concerning the consolidation of two lots into one, and advised that a zoning permit application be submitted. Mr. Morris also requested that the Council consider allocating an additional $60,000 in the upcoming budget for water and sewer line extensions to support the project.

Minutes:
Motion to approve the March 9, 2026, minutes was made by Council Member Jackson and seconded by Council Member Gallion. Motion was carried unanimously.

Financials:
Motion was made by Council Member Benn and seconded by Council Member Jackson to approve the March 2026 financials and pay the bills. Motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor Schaefer informed the Council that an error had been made in billing Ontario Hardwood, resulting in an improper sewer charge. He stated that the overcharged amount had been identified and a refund had been issued.

Committees

Street and Library
VDOT – Handrails
Council Member Gallion said she had received information from VDOT about the handrails at Subway. VDOT initially said it was the Town's responsibility, but it was later found that the wrong

street had been entered into the system. Council Member Gallion stated she would resubmit the request with the correct street name.

Street Lighting Concern
Council Member Benn reported that a pole light was out at Modern Automotive. She also noted that while walking on King Street, from the corner of I Street up to Rachael Clark's house, the area was poorly lit. The Town Clerk stated she would review the town's pole map and submit service requests for both issues.

Water
Nothing to report.

Wastewater

Old Business

Zoning Ordinance Review
Council Members said they needed additional time to review the zoning ordinance, and it will be discussed at next month's meeting.

Water and Sewer Rate Increase
The water and sewer rate increase was discussed, and it was decided that the rates would be increased. A public hearing will be held before the increase.

New Business

Mayor's Report

- **Health Insurance**
  Combining coverage for married employees, instead of maintaining separate individual plans, saves the town approximately $2,400 per year.

- **Playground Repairs**
  Repairs at Tower Park have begun. The see-saw and chain climb have been replaced.

- **Town Manager Position**

- **Tree -War Memorial**
  The tree has been removed, with costs covered by the American Legion. The town is responsible for clearing the remaining debris.

- **Auger Monster Grinder – Wastewater Plant**
  Potential Funding with the Department of Agriculture

- **Water Heater – Office**
  The water heater has been replaced at the town office with a 2.5-gallon heater.

- **Litter Grant**
  Money was received for the Litter Grant. Town garbage cans with bonnet lids and trash bags will be ordered.

- **Wastewater Plant Rotor Repairs**
  Mayor Schaefer reported that repairs were needed on Rotor A at the wastewater plant, and Lewis Welding submitted an estimate of $4,600 for the work.

  A motion was made by Vice Mayor Ferranto and seconded by Council Member Benn to proceed with the repairs at the quoted cost. The motion carried unanimously.

- **FEMA Generator Funding Application**
  The application for the generator for the wastewater plant was chosen to advance to FEMA for consideration of funding.

- **Alley – One-Way Street Request (Main Street to Tower Park)**
  Mayor Schaefer stated that concerns had been raised about pedestrian safety on the alley (Main Street), along with requests to designate the alleyway between King Street and Tower Alley as a one-way street heading north, with parking permitted along the buildings on the east side.

  A motion was made by Vice Mayor Ferranto and seconded by Council Member Gallion to proceed with the one-way street. Motion was carried unanimously.

- **VDH Notice – No Issues with Town Water**
  VDH contacted the town regarding a recent medical case at Wayland Nursing Home. The town water has tested normal, and the medical case appears to be confined to the Wayland Nursing Home.

- **Fluoride removal from Drinking Water**
  Mayor Schaefer reported that he received a recommendation from Clay Samples of Samples Monitoring Service to remove fluoride from the town's drinking water. He noted that other towns in Virginia, including Charlotte Court House, have taken similar action.

  A motion was made by Vice Mayor Ferranto and seconded by Council Member Clark to remove the fluoride from the town's drinking water. Motion was carried unanimously.

- **Elected Officials Training Requirement**
  Mayor Schaefer stated that it had been brought to his attention that training for elected officials is supposed to be done within two months of being elected. This can be in-person or online. The link will be provided to the council members.

- **FY 2026-2027 Budget Schedule**
  The FY 2026-2027 Budget session will be on May 19, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. The public hearing will be at the June 8th meeting.

- **Trash Collection Fee**
  Mayor Schaefer said that we may need to start charging for a trash pickup fee.

- **Online Payment Portal**
  Mayor Schaefer reported that the Town's agreement with Paymentus will expire on December 31, 2026. He stated that he and the Town Clerk met with Publiq Software to discuss their Xpress Bill Pay service, which has a start-up cost of $3,000. A motion was made by Council Member Benn and seconded by Council Member Jackson to proceed with Xpress Bill Pay through Publiq Software. Motion was carried unanimously.

- **Community Event – Lions Club Car Show**
  On May 23rd, the Lions Club will hold a car show from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Adjournment:
Motion was made by Council Member Jackson and seconded by Council Member Gallion to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Sherry L. Marker, Clerk/Treasurer

Robert J. Schaefer, Mayor