REGULAR MEETING OF THE KEYSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON March 9, 2026

The regular meeting of the Keysville Town Council was held on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at the Keysville Town Office. Present were Mayor Robert J. Schaefer, presiding, and Vice Mayor Anthony Ferranto and Council Members Wendy Gallion, Tom Fisher, and Rhonda Benn. Council Members Scotty Jackson and Rachael Clark were absent. Staff present included Sherry Marker, Town Clerk, and guests in attendance were Patrick Shay.

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

Council Member Benn offered the invocation.

Public Comments:

Mr. Shay, with the Charlotte County Youth Soccer Team, thanked the town for the donation they had sent. He said it was greatly appreciated.

Minutes:

A motion to approve February 9, 2026, minutes was made by Council Member Fisher and seconded by Council Member Rhonda. Motion was carried unanimously.

Financials:

A motion was made by Council Member Gallion and seconded by Council Member Fisher to approve the February 2026 financials and pay the bills. Motion was carried unanimously.

Committees

Street and Library

VDOT – Handrails

Council Member Benn said she had reached out to VDOT online regarding the handrails at Subway.

Water

Nothing to report.

Wastewater

Degritter Grinder Issue

Mayor Schaefer reported that the degritter grinder screen is not functioning adequately and is failing to screen out large debris. Mr. Robert Tolbert conducted a walkthrough and recommended installing an industrial grinder, commonly referred to as a "Muffin Monster," at an estimated cost of $150,000. CRC has not identified any available funding at this time.

Mayor Schaefer also noted that he researched potential funding opportunities and found that the U.S. Department of Agriculture offers grants for small municipalities related to wastewater systems. He plans to follow up with a representative.

Old Business

Updated Zoning Ordinance

Council Member Fisher reported that the updated zoning ordinance has been completed. Copies will be distributed at the meeting on Wednesday, February 18th, during interviews for the town manager's position.

New Business

Planning & Zoning Commission – Chairman Removal

Motion was made by Vice Mayor Ferranto and seconded by Council Member Fisher to remove Rick Jubb, Chairman, from the Planning and Zoning Commission. Motion was carried unanimously.

Mayor's Report

- **Holiday Decorations** – Christmas decorations (snowflakes) have been taken down.
- **Community Contribution** – The Keysville Volunteer Fire Department will contribute $7,500 toward the LED digital sign.
- **Council Motion – LED Sign** – Motion made by Council Member Fisher and seconded by Council Member Benn to proceed with the purchase of the LED digital sign.
- **Town Manager Hiring** – Resumes for the town manager's position were briefly discussed.
- **Water & Sewer Rates** – Rates will be discussed at next month's meeting; Mayor Schaefer recommended increasing the rates.
- **Wastewater Operations Quote** – Mayor Schaefer received a quote from Clay Samples for daily wastewater plant operations for $10,200/month with a six-month lead time; recommended hiring dual-role position.
- **Council Motion – Dual Position** – Motion made by Vice Mayor Ferranto and seconded by Council Member Benn to move forward with the dual-position role.
- **Hydrant Repair** – The hydrant at Genesis has been repaired.
- **Council Motion – Hydrant Replacement** – Motion made by Council Member Benn and seconded by Council Member Fisher to replace two fire hydrants at Heartland Industrial Park. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Wastewater Operator Overtime** – Wastewater operator has incurred overtime due to manually operating plant equipment.
- **Well Dedication** – Mayor Schaefer located a well dedication form that does not require a deed.

- **Council Motion – Tree Removal** – Motion made by Council Member Benn and seconded by Council Member Fisher to remove the tree at the War Memorial. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Council Motion – Wood Relocation** – Motion made by Council Member Fisher and seconded by Council Member Gallion to move the wood after the tree is cut. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Health Insurance Update** – Health insurance premiums increased by 14.5%; Mayor Schaefer will be reviewing the high-deductible plan option with potential savings.
- **Council Motion – Health Insurance** – Motion made by Vice Mayor Ferranto and seconded by Council Member Benn to proceed with health insurance. Motion carried unanimously.
- **Designated Growth Area** – The Designated Growth Area has been finalized.
- **Certificate of Appreciation Template** – Mayor Schaefer said he now has a template for Certificate of Appreciation if needed.

Adjournment:
Motion was made by Vice Mayor Ferranto and seconded by Council Member Fisher to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Sherry L. Marker, Clerk/Treasurer

Robert J. Schaefer, Mayor