

GALAX CITY COUNCIL  
Minutes  
February 22, 2010

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on February 22, 2010 at 7:30 pm.

At 7:35 Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order with the following council persons present and they are as listed: Councilman Lazo, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Greene, Councilman Davis and Councilman Webb.

Vice-Mayor Greene prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 8, 2010. Councilman Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Chief Rick Clark of the Galax Police Department presented the 2009 Annual Report. He reported on the police department and activities for this past year. He recognized employees for their individual accomplishments, and thanked them for a job well done. Mayor Mitchell and Councilman Davis acknowledged their hard work and also thanked them for their dedication.

A public hearing was held to receive comment on a zoning request from C.M. and Linda Mitchell. This is a request to rezone their property at 308 S. Main Street from R-2 Medium Density Residential to B-2 General Business in order to be in compliance with the comprehensive plan and to more accurately reflect the structure's past use. The Galax Planning Commission met prior to the City Council Meeting recommended the rezoning request be approved by City Council. Vice-Mayor Greene opened the floor for comment. After no comment was received Vice-Mayor Greene closed the public hearing. Councilman Webb motioned to approve the zoning request. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea. Mayor Mitchell abstained from the vote.

A public hearing was held to receive comment from any citizen interested in an appointment to the Galax School Board. Public notices were made and a deadline of February 18 was made for interested persons to submit letters of interest to the city manager's office. The following citizens submitted letters of interest and each gave a brief introduction during the public hearing. Dr. Jim Adams – Dr. Adams is requesting appointment to a third term. He recognized the great relationship with the current staff and administration, he was involved in the hiring of the new superintendent, and with the new current budget issues feels his experience is invaluable. Stew Merdian – Mr. Merdian is requesting appointment to a second term. He has found the last few years most challenging with the construction at the high school. He has lived in Galax 9

years, has 2 children, and stated that the school system was the number one priority in deciding to move to the area. He mentioned that the current board members work well together, and he would like to continue to serve and looks forward to meeting the future challenges.

Patricia Weaver- Ms. Weaver has not served as a school board member. She stated she has lived in Galax for eight years. She has served as a school administrator, and has taught all grades except first grade. She has three children, and one grandchild. She would like to be appointed to the school board and feels her experience in education would be valuable to the school system. Mayor Mitchell thanked each of the candidates for their willingness to serve on the school board and asked that they stay and meet individually with Council during closed session.

A public hearing was held for consideration of an amendment to the FY10 Galax City Budget - The primary purpose of the amendment is to remove pass through revenue and expenditures from the General Fund budget and to adjust Utility Fund revenue and expenditures for updated projections. Judy Taylor-Gallimore explained the proposed changes. Keith Barker explained that the Utility side changes are being made as part the recent VRA loan, and as council will recall, part of the requirement of the loan was for the City to consider adjustments to the Utility Fund budget through the year. Councilman Garner questioned if these adjustments were a result of comingling, or just budget cuts. Keith Barker stated that most of the adjustments were a result of comingling, or removing line items from the budget that did not need to be shown. The amount of \$483,609 was cuts. Councilman Garner motioned to approve the budget amendment. Councilman Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Superintendent Bill Sturgill presented information to council concerning the current FY 2010 school budget and revisions they are asking council to make. The School Board revised the 2009-10 budget to \$13,670,138, which represents an increase in revenue and expenditures of \$228,015, an amount which equals 1.70% of the original budget. Expenditures were revised to account for actual location of expenditures in accordance with accounting requirements of the Virginia Department of Education, reallocation of Federal funds, and areas of need where budgeted funds would be insufficient for the programs. Some of the larger amounts transferred within the budget were for accounting purposes. Virginia Department of Education accounting purposes require the school board to allocate funds in the actual place used. Councilman Webb motioned to approve the budget amendment and the appropriation of funds. Councilman Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker presented Council with a memo regarding he and Vice-Mayor Greene's recent attendance at Legislative Day in Richmond on February 11, 2010. Councilman Garner thanked them both for attending this event.

Chuck Riedhammer spoke to Council and thanked for the opportunity to work for the City of Galax. Chuck will be resigning his position effective March 4, 2010.

At 8:52 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Lazo to enter into closed session under Virginia Code 2.2-3711 a(7) for the purpose of §2.2-3711 A.5 of the *Code of Virginia (Business and Industry)* and §2.2-3711 A.1 of the *Code of Virginia (Personnel Matter)* seconded by Councilman Garner.

At 9:30 p.m. Council reconvened in open session. Mayor Mitchell certified that no items other than those allowed under the cited Virginia Code section was discussed and no action taken, with the following affirmation: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

At 9:35 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Davis to enter into closed session under Virginia Code §2.2-3711 A.5 of the *Code of Virginia* – Prospective or expansion of business or industry where no previous public announcement has been made. Seconded by Councilman Garner.

At 9:45 p.m., Council reconvened in open session. Mayor Mitchell certified that no items other than those allowed under the cited Virginia Code section were discussed and no action taken, with the following affirmation: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

At 9:46 p.m., the Council meeting adjourned.

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Mayor

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Clerk