

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
Minutes
March 8, 2010

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on March 8, 2010 at 7:30 pm.

At 7:30 p.m. 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.

Mayor Mitchell prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 22, 2010. Councilman Greene 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.

With no objections, Mayor Mitchell changed the order of agenda to discuss new business first.

Keith Barker asked Council to consider suspending the yearly large item cleanup due to revenue shortfalls. He explained that this event costs the City approximately \$5000 in tipping fees alone. He recommended council to consider approving a Spring Brush Cleanup instead to assist homeowners by picking up winter debris. These items can be mulched by our equipment and we would not incur tipping fees. Councilman Garner stated that the idea of a brush pickup is a good idea. He has noticed a lot of downed limbs due to the harsh winter storms we have had during the last three months. He did question if the City could arrange for a central collection point for citizens to take large items to, as he knows from personal experience that some people will dump it somewhere else, illegally. Keith Barker mentioned that the City does rent dumpsters and dump trucks to citizens for personal use. Councilman Lazo mentioned that a dump truck could be placed Felts Park for people to bring items to. Vice-Mayor Greene questioned when the spring pick-up was usually held, which Keith Barker answered that it is usually around Easter. Mayor Mitchell recommended that we go forward with the brush pickup and discuss a large item pickup in the future. Keith Barker recommended that we better advertise the dumpster and dump truck fees as well. Councilman Garner motioned to schedule the brush and small yard debris cleanup. Vice Mayor Greene 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.

Kim Brown, Turnkey KB & Associates LLC, presented information regarding a Drug Free Community Application. The program is similar to a planning grant in regards to bringing participants to the table to develop a comprehensive strategy to combat drugs in our communities. This would be a regional program and the funding would provide training to a

representative of the managing entity. The potential funding is \$125,000 per year, with continuing grants of \$125,000 each year after that. There is no match required from the City other than participation with the coalition, however there is the possibility that the City could partner with a coalition and seek funding for the City itself in other years. Councilman Lazo commented to Mrs. Brown that it must be challenging deciding which particular area of need to focus on. Mrs. Brown stated that the goal is to saturate the area with family settings and to focus on a couple of specific topics. Councilman Garner recommended that council review the agreement within the year. Mrs. Brown said she planned on updating Council bi-annually for feedback. Councilman Garner motioned to participate in the program and that it be subject to periodic review. Vice Mayor Greene 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.

Following presentation of a proclamation declaring March 8-14 Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week, Councilman Davis motioned to approve said proclamation 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.

At 8:10 p.m., motion was made by Councilwoman Plichta to enter into closed session under §2.2-3711 A.1 of the *Code of Virginia* (Personnel Matter).

At 8:20 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.

Back in open session, Mayor Mitchell stated that Council was tasked to appoint two individuals to each serve a term on the Galax City School Board. Three individuals had made known their interest in the seats at a previous public hearing, two being current seat holders. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to nominate Dr. James Adams and Mr. Stew Merdian. Councilman Webb 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.

At 8:24 p.m., the Council meeting adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk