

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
Minutes
April 12, 2010

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on April 12, 2010 at 7:30 pm.

Mayor Mitchell recognized and presented City Council resolutions for the following three GHS Wrestlers; Mr. Edu Rojas, VHSL 2009 State Champion Wrestler, 119 lbs., Mr. Jose Rojas, VHSL 2010 State Champion Wrestler, 125 lbs., and Mr. Darian Sizemore, VHSL 2010 State Champion Wrestler, 145 lbs.

Mayor Mitchell recognized Boy Scout Troop 188 for attending the City Council Meeting as one of their merit badge requirements. Councilman Garner presented council and guests with a document regarding the first troop to meet in Galax.

At 7:40 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.

Councilwoman Plichta prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Davis motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on March 22, 2010. Councilwoman Plichta 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, and Councilman Davis-yea.

Superintendent Bill Sturgill presented council with a copy of the draft budget for the Galax City Public Schools. Council was asked to set April 26, 2010 as the advertised date for the public hearing on the school budget, which then can be adopted and appropriate the budget at its May 10 meeting. Councilman Webb made note his appreciation for the hard work, leadership, and dedication that went into preparing the budget. He noted that not many localities are able to present a balanced budget with the current economic struggles. Councilman Webb motioned to advertise for the public hearing to be held on April 26, 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, and Councilman Davis-yea.

Councilman Lazo, on behalf of Theresa Lazo, gave a brief reminder of the grand opening ceremonies at the Chestnut Creek School of the Arts on April 16 and April 17.

Dr. Charles White, of Wytheville Community College gave an update on the current programs and activities at the college.

Keith Barker informed Council that Galax has two appointments to the Crooked Road Board of Directors. He is filling one slot and asked City Council to appoint Ray Kohl, Visitor Center Director, to fill the other slot. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to appoint Mr. Kohl. 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, and Councilman Davis-yea.

Keith Barker explained that a resolution is required by USDA to fulfill a grant application by the Galax Volunteer Fire Department. The grant is for \$50,000 and will be used to outfit the newest vehicle purchased by the department. The match for the grant is the vehicle purchase itself. Councilman Davis motioned to adopt the resolution. Councilman Garner 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, and Councilman Davis-yea.

Council was presented with information regarding the Virginia Juvenile Crime Community Control Act. A program update and resolution was included in the information provided by Susan Hodges. Keith Barker explained that this program acts to provide alternative means of dealing with troubled youth rather than incarceration. There is no local match required, however funding for the program was reduced with the upcoming state budget. He explained that he is working with Carroll and Grayson Counties to maintain the program in its current form rather than reduce services. This may require a small match locally of approximately \$6000 in the upcoming budget year, however funding is anticipated to come from the current budget in the Juvenile Probation allocation. Also included was a resolution that must be adopted by Galax in order to accept the state funds that are available and that we are agreeing to continue the program in cooperation with Carroll and Grayson Counties. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to adopt the resolution. 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, and Councilman Davis-yea.

Information from the Virginia Municipal League was presented to council asking for nominations to the various policy committees they have. Council members were asked if they were interested in serving on one of the committees. Council Webb stated he was interested in serving on the General Laws Committee, and Vice-Mayor Greene stated he would like to serve on the Human Development & Education Committee. Councilman Davis motioned to appoint Councilman Webb and Vice-Mayor Greene to the noted committees. Councilman Garner 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, and Councilman Davis-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that Susie Garner's term on the IDA expired in February 2010. She has expressed interest in being reappointed to the authority. This is a 4-year term; however council may consider the appointment to end in June 2013 so it coincides with other expiring terms and is in the off year of a council election. Councilman Davis motioned to reappoint Mrs. Garner to the IDA Board with the term ending June 30, 2013. Councilman Webb seconded the motion as it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea,

Councilman Plichta-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, and Councilman Davis-yea. Councilman Garner abstained from the vote.

Keith Barker informed council that Councilman Green currently services on the Galax Social Services Advisory Board and the Virginia Department of Social Services Advisory Board. He stated that he has been notified that Councilman Green cannot actually service on both boards at the same time. Councilman Green has notified us that he would prefer to keep his state board appointment. City Council will need to appoint a council representative for the remainder of his term, which expires in 2012. This council appointee would then be eligible to be reappointed for 2 additional full terms. The appointee must be a member of City Council. He stated that the board meets every other month on the 3rd Tuesday at 5:00 and the next meeting is in May. Councilman Davis motioned to appoint Councilwoman Plichta to the Board. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, and Councilman Davis-yea.

Keith Barker explained that the City of Galax has been asked to appoint a representative to the Ninth District Development Financing Board of Directors. This is a revolving loan fund set up by Congressman Boucher and managed by People Incorporated. It is for tourism related businesses only, excluding restaurants and hotels (bed and breakfasts are eligible however). The fund has been in place approximately 5 years however Galax has never had a representative. The fund has approximately \$800,000 in available funds.. This is a 2-year appointment. Councilman Davis expressed his interest in serving on the board. Councilman Webb motioned to appoint Councilman Davis to the board. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, and Vice Mayor Greene-yea

Council was given a letter from Twin County Airport Manager Dave Ritter inviting council members to a groundbreaking ceremony on April 23 at 11:00 AM. Councilman Davis stated that he supports the airport and how they give back to the community. He stated that he is proud of what is happening at the airport as well.

Council was reminded that those who are running for re-election need to notify Brenda Stamey if they intend to participate in the Community Forum at Crossroads on April 28 at 7:00 PM.

At 8:40 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Davis to enter into closed session under §2.2-3711 A.3 of the *Code of Virginia*.

At 8:45 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.

Mayor

Clerk