

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
Minutes
November 8, 2010

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on November 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, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Garner, Vice-Mayor Greene, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Webb.

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

Mayor Mitchell administered the Oath of Honor to Officers Drew Burnette and Terry Woods. He thanked them and the other members of the Galax Police Department for their service to the City.

Mayor Mitchell read a proclamation and recognized the Galax High School Golf Team for their VHSL Group A Golf Team title. Councilman Webb motioned to approve the proclamation. Vice Mayor 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on September 13, 2010. 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that he has put out a request to department heads for any staff interested in serving on the Indoor Plumbing and Rehab Board through Rooftop of VA CAP. He requested that City Council hold this over until a future meeting when he can bring a possible appointment for consideration. Councilman Garner motioned to hold this appointment until the next council meeting. Councilman Lazo 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that as part of the most recent permit for the Carroll-Grayson-Galax Solid Waste Authority, DEQ is requiring that the financial assurance element of the permit be addressed by all three member jurisdictions. In the past, the financial assurance was addressed through the Carroll County audit; however that is no longer permitted. Council was provided a resolution that was written by Sands Anderson and has been approved by the auditors. Carroll County also adopted this resolution at their last board meeting. The current CGGSWA Participation Agreement calls out that all three member jurisdictions are responsible for the financial assurance and any incurred debt beyond the ability of the authority to pay. City Council was asked to consider and adopt the Resolution. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to adopt the resolution. Councilwoman Crouse 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Council was provided a letter from Travis Jackson regarding the USDA Grant Application for a replacement fire truck. Galax was not approved for the last round of stimulus funding so this application is being held over until the beginning of 2011. It is not expected however that there will be any grant funds equal to this application. Keith Barker asked council to consider leaving this application in place; however alternate funding sources can be researched during upcoming budget meetings.

Superintendent Bill Sturgill and School Board Chairman Ray Kohl of the Galax City Public Schools addressed council in regards to some recent accreditation standards the Galax City Public Schools met. Ray Kohl read a proclamation that was received by the GCPS. Mayor Mitchell noted that the community is very fortunate to have the leadership it has in the school system and police department.

Kim Brown w/ TurnKey Associates and Judy Brannock made a presentation to council regarding the Smart Beginnings Grant Award. This is a planning grant that targets children 0 to 5 years of age and better prepares them for entering schools. The grant is a planning grant only at this time and may lead to a 7-year project with an investment of up to \$650,000 by the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation. The planning grant is for \$50,000 and a cash match of 25% (\$12,500). To date there have been 3 contributions towards the cash match portion of the grant. They requested that the City of Galax contribute \$4000.00 towards the match. Mrs. Brown stated that this is the first stage of the assessment and asked for support and partnership with the program. Councilwoman Plichta asked if this grant would require an annual match, which Mrs. Brown stated yes. She also asked if there would be incentives for local day care providers to take part in this program. Mrs. Brown stated that those incentives are part of the planning process and that hopefully there will be some to offer. Mayor Mitchell inquired as to how the match will be met. Mrs. Brown replied that the match will be raised through fundraisers. Keith Barker requested that council hold this decision until discussions can take place regarding how this would affect the budget.

Randy Campbell with US Army Corps of Engineers presented information regarding the Section 205 Flood Damage Reduction Projects and how Galax might make use of these funds to plan a possible project and assist in the construction. He met with City staff approximately 2 years ago, along with representatives of Vaughan Bassett, Cong. Boucher's office and the Corps of Engineers in regards to possible maintenance of Chestnut Creek. He asked that city council provide a letter of intent to take part in the project. Vice-Mayor Greene motioned to submit the letter of intent. 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea

The Galax Downtown Association has informed the City of the following upcoming events. The Christmas Parade will be on December 3 at 7:00 PM., and on Saturday November 27 from 5 to 7 PM, there will be carriage rides and carolers in downtown. The GDA has also requested that Grayson Street be closed during November 26 and 27. The intent is to allow individual vendors and churches to sell crafts, baked goods, etc. Keith Barker stated that if Council wishes for the street to remain open, staff can block off the Grayson Street Stage and allow vendors to sell within that area or we can allow the farmers market to be used during the requested times. Councilwoman Crouse expressed a concern regarding the closing the street, which would have a negative effect on merchants. Councilman Lazo agreed and requested that just the stage area or Farmer's market area be used for the event. A letter will be sent to the GDA to inform them of council's decision.

Vice-Mayor Greene expressed his concern regarding the left turn lane from Route 58 West to Main Street. He stated that he has witnessed motorists drive straight thru the turn lane and continue west on Route 58. Keith Barker will be contact Charlie Joyce, Public Works Director about possible signage and lane stripping in the area.

At 8:45 p.m., a motion was made by Vice-Mayor Greene to enter into closed session under **Business and Industry Development, §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 and **Personnel Matter § 2.2-3711 A.1 of the Code of Virginia** - Candidates for employment; the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, discipline, salaries, compensation, or resignation of employees.

At 9:15p.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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

City Manager Keith Barker addresses City Council regarding a water/sewer billing matter with Vaughan Bassett. Vaughan Bassett has installed a new humidification system to assist with their new hardwood furniture lines. This is a high water use system, however very little water is returned to the sanitary sewer system. Our current sewer use ordinance provides a sewer metering method that can be installed by the owner in order to calculate actual sewer use, however in discussions with Edwin Ward, City Engineer, it is believed that another alternative may be to install additional water meters and make adjustments to the sewer charges. As the current sewer use ordinance does not provide for this remedy, the City Manager asked that council allow City staff to treat this an a trial program. Councilman Garner made the motion to allow a trial period for water metering with Vaughan Bassett based on the City Managers recommendation and for staff to present the findings and possible ordinance revisions in 6 months. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Plichta and approved by the following vote: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea

Mayor

Clerk