

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

July 9, 2012

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on July 9, 2012 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: Mayor Mitchell, Vice-Mayor Greene, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilwoman Plichta, and Councilman Lazo.

Councilman Webb prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Judge J.D. Bolt administered the oath to Sharon Plichta, Bill Webb and Robert Lazo. He also expressed his gratitude for the support that he receives from council.

City Manager Keith Barker called for nominations from council for the appointment of Mayor. Councilman Webb motioned that C.M. Mitchell be appointed to another term as Mayor. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea. Mayor Mitchell called for nominations from council for the appointment of Vice-Mayor. Councilman Webb motioned that Willie Greene be appointed to another term as Vice-Mayor. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Mayor Mitchell - yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Mayor Mitchell gave the Oath of Honor to Officer Silverio Gonzales, Jr. a recent graduate of the New River Justice Training Academy.

Mayor Mitchell recognized the retirement of Onita Black, E-911 Dispatcher, and presented her a plaque for her years of service.

Mayor Mitchell recognized the Galax High School Varsity Boys Baseball Team. A resolution recognizing the team was read. Vice-Mayor Greene motioned to adopt the resolution as presented. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on June 11, 2012. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilwoman Councilman Webb - yea, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

This is the date set for City Council to appropriate the City of Galax FY2013 Budget that was approved at the June 11, 2012 meeting. The FY2013 Budget amounts are:

General Fund -	\$ 18,841,823
Utility Fund -	\$ 2,709,400

Councilman Garner motioned to appropriate the City of Galax FY2013 Budget. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilwoman Councilman Webb - yea, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that the City of Galax has been awarded \$800,000 from the Department of Housing and Community Development as the first portion of the Community Development Block Grant - Bottom Area Project. The remaining \$600,000 will be made available once portions of the project have been completed. Staff will have the first meeting with DHCD staff on July 10 as part of the contract negotiations. The Governors press release and a letter from Bill Shelton with DHCD were presented to council.

Crime Prevention Re-Certification Presentation, Garth Wheeler, Director Department of Criminal Justice Services informed council that the City of Galax Police Department has been recertified by the DCJS to be certified as a Crime Prevention Community. This certification requires a locality comply with 12 core elements and 7 optional elements and also requires the local police department to be an accredited agency. Galax is one of 12 localities in Virginia to be certified. At the presentation of our effort at the May DCJS meeting, two of our data elements were recognized as a model for a "best practice" that will be shared with the other localities who may want to replicate them. The Galax Police Department has been re-certified twice as a Crime Prevention Community.

Chief Clark informed council that the Galax Police Department applied for and was awarded a grant through the Department of Criminal Justice Services. This grant will allow the police department to be more intelligence and data driven through the use of new equipment, software and training. This is an escalating match grant however the major cost is incurred in the first year with the equipment and software purchases. Funds are in the budget for this grant. Vice-Mayor Greene motioned to accept the grant as presented. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilwoman Councilman Webb - yea, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Chief Clark requested that Grayson St. from Main to Jefferson be closed on August 18, 2012 from 5:00 PM to 10:00 PM for a back to school youth party that will have an emphasis on crime prevention and life skills. This is part of the Youth Gang and Violence Prevention Grant received through the Court Services Unit. Vice-Mayor Greene motioned to approve the street closure. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilwoman Councilman Webb - yea, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

Director of Finance Judy Taylor-Gallimore requested City Council's permission to contact TACS Legal Services to assist with delinquent personal property tax collections. There would be no cost to the City for collection as the collector's fee is passed along to the delinquent taxpayer. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the agreement with TACS Legal Services for delinquent personal property tax collections. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilwoman Councilman Webb - yea, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

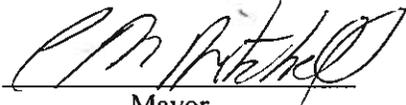
Keith Barker informed council that John Garner currently serves as a member of the Board of Commissioners for District Three. His term expired June 30, 2012 and District Three has asked that council reappoint Mr. Garner or make another appointment. They have also requested than an alternate be named should the member be unable to attend. Councilman Webb motioned to reappoint Councilman Garner to the Board of Commissioners. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilwoman Councilman Webb - yea, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to appoint Councilman Webb as an alternate to the board. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilwoman Councilman Webb - yea, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo-yea.

At 8:10 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Webb to enter into closed session under **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. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion.

At 8:30 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: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo -yea

Council adjourned at 8:30 p.m.


Clerk


Mayor

