

Galax City Council
Minutes
October 9, 2000

The Galax City Council convened in regular session in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building on October 9, 2000 at 7:30 p.m. The meeting was called to order by the mayor with all councilmen being present and they are as listed: C.M. Mitchell, Glenn Wilson, Odell Hamden, Van McCarter, Bill Dickerson, Willie Greene and Johnny Lemons.

Councilman Wilson motioned to dispense with reading the minutes of the last meeting and to approve them as distributed. Councilman McCarter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

This was the date and time duly advertised for a joint public hearing of City Council and the Planning Commission. The purpose of the hearing was to receive public comments on the rezoning of the Life Center property and the Irene Wood/Helen Puckett property on Painter Street from R-2 to B-3. This would allow for the house to be converted to administrative offices and the construction of a parking lot behind the house.

The legal representative for the Life Center, Marty Parks, addressed the reasons for the request.

Mr. Catron, chairman for the Planning Commission called for comments from the public with the following Planning Commission members present: Ron Catron, C. M. Mitchell, Ray Kohl, Anne Vaughan, Jim Adams, Roger Martin and Dan Rector.

One resident from the area asked if the alley behind the Life Center could be made one way and he also asked for clarification on the parking lot.

Brian Reavis, a Painter Street resident, asked that the request be denied stating several reasons but particularly the traffic congestion.

Tonia Reavis who lives on Painter Street addressed the parking and traffic concerns.

Tina Bullins from the Life Center stated that there are no plans to change the exterior of the house. Because they are very cramped for office space, the administrative offices would be moved into the house and the parking lot constructed for staff parking.

Doris Morris who lives at 115 Painter Street, and directly in front of the Life Center, stated that she opposes any change. She is concerned with the number of patients at the Center and the trash and debris that is created by the patients. She also expressed concern that if the zoning is changed they will expand

their program which will bring more problems into the area.

Irene Puckett, owner of the house, asked that the zoning change be made.

Mrs. Morris related that her residence had been broken into by one of the patients.

Councilman Lemons asked if there would be an increase in patients if the offices were moved to the house and if the Center is staffed 24 hours a day.

Councilman Hamden called for a show of hands from the area homeowners who opposed the change.

Imogene Frye stated that she can't move her car because of the congestion and heavy traffic.

Mrs. Poff echoed her concerns with the traffic and patients.

Whitfield Combs expressed his observations on the impact that the congestion and traffic has on the neighborhood.

A question was also raised if the change were granted would this create spot zoning?

Mr. Catron closed the public hearing and advised that the Planning Commission would meet and bring a recommendation to Council's next regularly scheduled meeting.

This was the date and time duly advertised for a public hearing to receive public input on the Electric Consumers Tax Ordinance. This ordinance addresses rate changes that are required to comply with changes made to Section 58.1-3814 of the Code of Virginia. City Manager Campbell opened the public hearing. Councilman Hamden questioned the current penalty for not paying the fees. No other comments were received and the hearing was closed.

Councilman Lemons motioned that this be the first and only reading of said ordinance. Councilman Wilson seconded the motion. Councilmen Wilson, McCarter, Mitchell, and Lemons each tendered yea votes. Councilmen Hamden and Dickerson voted nay and Councilman Greene abstained. The ordinance was passed on an emergency basis due to submission requirements to AEP.

Following a discussion of the regional water study, Councilman Lemons motioned that the City not participate in the development of a regional water system. Councilman McCarter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Mitchell recognized Boy Scout Troop 188 who was attending tonight's meeting.

Dr. Snyder, president of Wytheville Community College, was

present at tonight's meeting. He congratulated City Manager Campbell on his Regional Service Award and gave an update on numbers and programs at the college.

Mr. Cook, superintendent of city schools, addressed council with a request to reappropriate \$259,184.00 for school use and to approve a resolution that would establish an escrow account in the amount of \$93,172.00 for a Non-Recurring Expense Fund.

Councilman Hamden motioned to approve the request to reappropriate \$259,184.00. Councilman McCarter seconded the motion. Councilman Greene asked for clarification on an item. Mr. Cook answered his question and the motion was unanimously approved.

Councilman Hamden motioned to adopt the resolution which calls for the establishment of an escrow fund. Councilman Dickerson seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Campbell recommended that Council approve an agreement with American Electric Power Company. This agreement contains the new rates and terms that were negotiated by VML. Councilman Wilson motioned to approve the agreement. Councilman McCarter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Wilson motioned that an appointment to the Airport Commission be carried over. Councilman McCarter made a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

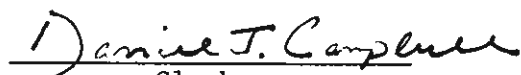
City Manager Campbell gave an update on the Country Club Lane traffic signal project and also advised that leaf pickup has been scheduled for the week of November 13.

Doug Robinson, a downtown merchant, appeared before Council to ask for permission to designate a walking path through the downtown area. The path would be marked with footprints on the sidewalk. Councilman Lemons motioned to grant the request. Councilman McCarter seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Members of Council received an update on the use of the Recycling Center. Councilman Hamden expressed his thoughts that not enough local residents were utilizing the service and that the counties were using it without compensating the city for the service. No changes to the recycling operation were approved.

Councilman Hamden extended appreciation to the Planning Commission for its endeavors.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:05 p.m.


Clerk


Mayor

