

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
Minutes
September 8, 2003

The Galax City Council convened in regular session on September 8, 2003 at 7:30pm in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building. After calling the meeting to order, the mayor prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following councilmen were present for the meeting and they are as listed: Odell Hamden, C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene, George Valdez and Johnny Lemons. Councilpersons McCarter and Plichta were absent from the meeting.

Chief of Police Clark was present and introduced the four recently hired police officers who are as listed: Brian Felts, Shawnee Jones, Jody Poole and Darrin Alley. He stated that all four had graduated from the Police Academy before being employed by the City and that all four of them had passed the Police Certification Test. He recognized Officer Felts for going beyond the call of duty in his work with drug trafficking.

Councilman Hamden motioned to dispense with reading the minutes of the August 11 and August 26 meetings and to approve them as written. Councilman Lemons offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

This was the date and time advertised for the first reading of the Transient Room Rental Tax ordinance. Councilman Lemons motioned to approve the first reading of said ordinance. Councilman Hamden seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

This was the date and time set for the first reading on the Cell Phone Tax ordinance. This ordinance would allow for a \$0.75 tax to be added to each cell phone account in the City of Galax. Councilman Lemons motioned to set the tax at \$1.50. Following a discussion and clarification of the tax, he withdrew his motion. It was explained that the state already collects \$0.75 from each cell phone account so if the City assesses a \$0.75 charge that would total \$1.50. Councilman Lemons motioned to accept the first reading of the proposed cell phone tax ordinance. Councilman Hamden seconded the motion. Following a discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

City Manager Campbell presented the proposed Dogs and Other Animals ordinance for its first reading. Councilman Hamden motioned to approve the first reading of said ordinance. Councilman Lemons offered a second and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Mitchell presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Galax Garden Club for its many years of beautification projects in the city and particularly the gazebo park on Main Street.

Carol Morris was present at tonight's meeting to accept the Certificate.

Wally Cline from the Mt. Rogers Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services Board was present at tonight's meeting to discuss the Board's activities and to request approval of its Performance Contract with the state. Following Mr. Cline's report, Councilman Lemons motioned to approve the Performance Contract. Councilman Greene offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Zack Kyle was present at tonight's meeting to give an update on the TEA-21 Trail Project.

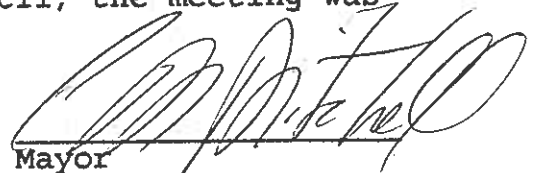
Dave Nelson attended tonight's Council meeting to outline the Community Center project. He discussed the schedule for the project and also the staff and sports programs relocation sites.

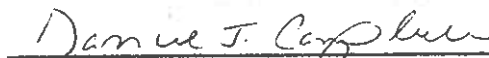
City Manager Campbell discussed Bridge #1800 Engineering Contract. He explained that the bridge on Rt 58 at the TG Vaughan plant needs extensive maintenance and repair. He stated that Schwartz & Associates will oversee the project. He requested that Council approve a contract with Schwartz & Associates for the design, contract administration and inspection. The contract calls for \$22,900 for the design, bidding and negotiating phases and \$42,048 for inspection services. Councilman Hamden motioned to authorize the expenses for the engineering contract for Bridge #1800. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Lemons led a discussion on the need to change the four hour parking in the downtown area back to two hours. He cited abuse of a few of the business owners and their employees as the main reason for this consideration. It was decided to make downtown parking an agenda item for the next meeting.

Councilman Hamden expressed gratitude to the City Manager and staff for their persistence in removing the Wonderknit Building eyesore. City Manager Campbell has worked on this project for the last ten years.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:40pm.


Mayor


City Manager / Clerk