

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
Minutes
March 22, 2004

The Galax City Council convened in regular session on March 22, 2004, in the WHS Public Safety Building. The meeting was called to order by the mayor at 7:35pm with the following councilpersons being present and they are as listed: Odell Hamden, Sharon Plichta, C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene, George Valdez, and Johnny Lemons. Van McCarter was absent from the meeting.

Mayor Mitchell prayed the opening prayer and then he led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Lemons motioned to dispense with reading the minutes of the last meeting and to approve them as written. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to accept the 2003 Audit as presented. Councilman Hamden offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Cook, Galax Schools Superintendent, attended this meeting to present the proposed 2004-05 school budget. Following his presentation a discussion ensued.

The owner of the Branding Iron Restaurant and Saloon, Teresa Bobbitt, was present to request that the City Code be amended as it relates to dance hall regulations. This would allow them to sell alcoholic beverages until 2:00am. Following a discussion, Councilman Hamden motioned to authorize City Manager Campbell to investigate the background of the section of the Code that relates to established fire districts and what needs to be done in order for this request to be granted. Councilman Lemons seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

A very interesting Hotel Market Analysis presentation was given by Virginia Tech student Melissa Carroll. This study was completed through Virginia Tech's Business Technology Center. Following the presentation, Director of Tourism Debbie Robinson stated that this project would provide the tool that the City needs to attract a hotel.

Mrs. Robinson also reminded Council of the cultural programs that will be performed locally within the next two weeks.

City Manager Campbell discussed the proposed contract with Robinson, Farmer, Cox Associates for city auditing services for the next three years. The proposed fee is \$22,500 with a three (3) percent increase each year. Councilman Lemons motioned to accept the contract as presented. Councilman Greene tendered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

City Manager Campbell outlined the schedule for major repair work

to be done to Bridge 1800. This bridge is located at the TG Vaughan Plant and the cost of the project could be as much as \$440,000. Next year's street paving may be limited by the cost of the bridge project.

Mr. Campbell reminded members of Council of the Intergovernmental Meeting to be held on Monday, April 19th.

City Manager Campbell called attention to information, that had been included in the packets, which related to the Chapter 11 proceedings for Adelpia Cable Company.

After discussing an appointment to the Workforce Investment Board, it was decided that the appointment would be considered at a later date.

Mayor Mitchell informed Council that the CREI Board had completed the purchase of the old Lowe's Building and construction will begin soon on this very exciting project.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:43pm.


Mayor

Daniel J. Campbell
Clerk