

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
November 22, 2004
Minutes

The Galax City Council convened in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building on November 22, 2004 at 7:30pm. The meeting was called to order by the mayor with all council members being present and they are as listed: C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene, Robert Lazo, Robert Kirby, Sharon Plichta, George Valdez and Helen Kyle.

Sharon Plichta prayed the opening prayer and then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to accept the minutes as written and to dispense with the reading of said minutes. Councilman Greene offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

This was the date and time that Council had advertised a public hearing to receive comments on the recently proposed changes to the Galax Zoning Ordinance. The changes would add two (2) new districts, R-5 and B-4. Mayor Mitchell opened the hearing and called for comments. No comments were received and the hearing was declared closed.

Following a discussion of the Twin County Airport Commission's Bylaws and the formula that is used in assessing each locality's contribution to the airport, Councilman Greene motioned to request that the airport commission clarify what the term **general budget** means. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

After discussing the Painter Street parking request, Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the original request, which allows residential parking only on one side of the street from Oldtown Street to Murphy Street. Councilman Greene seconded the motion. Councilpersons Lazo, Kirby, Plichta, Mitchell, Greene and Valdez each offered a yea vote. Councilwoman Kyle did not vote.

All members of council plan to attend the Inter-Governmental Meeting to be held on December 2, 2004.

Joe Brigandi discussed the Wildfire Hazard Reduction Plan for our area. He stated that the city would receive benefits from the study particularly when applying for grants. Dr. Lazo motioned to accept the Plan as presented to enhance future grant writing. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

The Galax Downtown Association has proposed that the City of Galax assume ownership of the Rex Theatre. Thus the City would commit to improving the building and provide other opportunities for use of the facility. Galax Downtown President Tony Truitt discussed the Downtown's reasons for the proposal citing that the Association isn't

financially able to keep the building maintained and to promote the potential that the theater has. City Manager Campbell discussed the proposal and requested that members of Council review the Memorandum of Understanding so that the transition can be finalized at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. He also advised that the Theatre Guild had submitted information that relates to their contract with the Rex Theater. He gave each councilperson a copy of the document and requested that council members review the information as provided.

Penny Moseley from the proposed Chestnut Creek School of the Arts was present at tonight's meeting to request that the Arts Council be allowed to use the Vaughan Memorial Building for office space and class offerings and that the City be a co-applicant for an application to the governor's office for funds to operate the proposed school. Councilwoman Plichta motioned that the City be a co-applicant for funding from the governor's office in the amount of \$100,000.00. Councilman Greene offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to allow the Arts Council to use the Vaughan Memorial Building for office, planning and exhibit space for one year. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

On a motion by Councilman Greene and a second by Councilman Valdez, Ron Catron was unanimously appointed to serve another term on the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission.

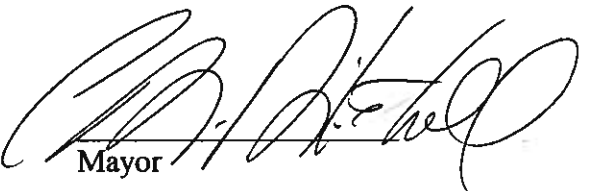
City Manager Campbell advised members of Council that Tommy Dotson's term on the Board of Zoning Appeals expires at the end of November. No action was taken.

At 7:55pm, Mayor Mitchell called for an Executive Session as authorized by the Code of Virginia in Section 22-371(A)(1) Discussion of Appointment of City Attorney. Mayor Mitchell requested that City Attorney Ward attend the session. On a motion by Councilman Greene and a second by Councilwoman Plichta and unanimous approval, Council convened in an executive session.

On a motion by Councilperson Lazo, a second by Councilperson Plichta and unanimous approval, the Executive Session was closed and members of Council returned to regular session.

The Certification of Executive Session is made a part of these minutes.

Upon a motion by Councilman Greene and a second by Councilman Lazo the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8.45pm.


Mayor

Daniel J. Campbell
Clerk