

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

June 13, 2005

The Galax City Council convened in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building on June 13, 2005 at 7:30pm. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mitchell with the following councilpersons present and they are as listed: Robert Lazo, Robert Kirby, Sharon Plichta, C. M. Mitchell, and Willie Greene. Helen Kyle* and George Valdez were absent from the meeting.

Councilman Lazo prayed the opening prayer, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Mitchell administered the Oath of Honor to Police Officer Kevin Hall. Officer Hall recently graduated from Wytheville Community College and the Police Academy simultaneously .

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

* Helen Kyle arrived at 7:40pm.

This was the date and time duly advertised for a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed Water Rate Increase. Mayor Mitchell declared the hearing open. No comments were heard and the hearing was declared closed. Mayor Mitchell advised that the proposed increase would be approved at Council's July meeting.

Mayor Mitchell read the following tax rates for 2005-06 and advised that they did not change from last year. Real Estate - \$0.70 per \$100 based on 100% of assessment; Personal Property \$1.42 per \$100 based on 100% of assessment; Machinery & Tools \$1.42 per \$100 based on 50% of assessment; Bank Stock 80% of the state rate of franchise tax. Councilman Greene motioned to approve the tax rates as read. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Greene motioned to adopt the proposed 2005-06 City Budget. The total amount is \$14,624,977. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Harold Nelson, Bernie Rector and Susie Garner had expressed an interest in serving on the Wytheville Community College Board. Councilwoman Plichta nominated Susie Garner. Councilman Kirby motioned that the nominations be closed. Councilman Lazo seconded Councilwoman Plichta's motion and Mrs. Garner was unanimously appointed to serve a term on the WCC Board.

Keith Barker reported that the Planning Commission had met and unanimously approved a Conditional Use Permit for Mr. Ararat Church. Councilman Lazo motioned to accept and endorse the Planning Commission's recommendation. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Judy Brannock from the Chamber of Commerce and Ron Passmore from the Smokehouse were present at tonight's meeting to give Council an update on the BBQ competition to be held in the City in July. Mrs Brannock also asked that Council address the problem of parking tour buses and oversized vehicles in the downtown area. Following discussion, Mr. Campbell advised that if the Chamber would call, city administration would make parking arrangements for oversized vehicles.

Eddie Hines, E-911 Coordinator, appeared before Council to request its approval of a \$.50 increase in the Regional E-911 surcharge which would make a total fee of \$2.00 per month. Following a discussion, Councilman Lazo motioned to go forward with the request. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

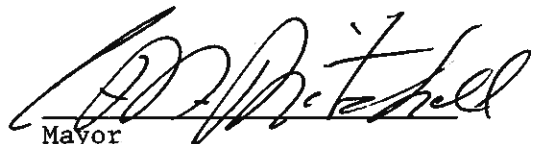
David Hankley, Fire Chief, discussed making an application to FEMA for funding relating to recruitment and retention of members. If awarded the grant will require some local funding based on the amount of the grant award. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the submission of the grant but if local funding is not available the grant monies will be returned. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

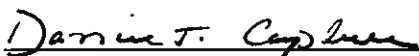
Councilman Greene motioned to approve and appropriate the Galax Department of Social Services budget in the amount of \$1,316,437 with \$174,938 coming from local funds. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Greene motioned to approve and appropriate The Comprehensive Services Act for the City of Galax Department of Social Services. The total budget amount is \$279,268 and of that amount \$87,858 will come from local funds. Councilwoman Plichta offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

City Manager Campbell discussed a VDOT Revenue Sharing Application. The monies would be used to mill, repair, pave and stripe East Stuart Drive from Main Street to the city limits. The estimated cost of this work is between \$900,000 and \$1,000,000. The application would be for 50% of the total cost and the other 50% would have to come from locally generated city funds. Councilman Greene motioned to approve the application resolution. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

On a unanimously approved motion by Councilman Greene, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm.


Mayor


Clerk