

**GALAX CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes**

**July 11, 2005**

The Galax City Council convened in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building on July 11, 2005 at 7:30pm.

The meeting was called to order with the following councilpersons present and they are as listed: Robert Kirby, C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene, George Valdez and Helen Kyle. Councilpersons Robert Lazo and Sharon Plichta were absent from the meeting.

Following the opening prayer prayed by Councilman Kirby the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

This was the date and time advertised for a public hearing to receive input on a proposed amendment to Chapter 46, Galax Animal Control Ordinance. Mayor Mitchell discussed the proposed changes and then declared the public hearing open. No comments were received and the hearing was closed. Councilman Greene motioned that this be the first reading of the proposed ordinance. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

This was the date and time set for a public hearing to receive public input on the proposed \$.50 increase to the E-911 surcharge. The total amount per month would be \$2.00 per landline with all funds going to the regional E-911 system. The public hearing was declared open by Mayor Mitchell. No comments were received; and the mayor declared the hearing closed. Councilman Kirby motioned to receive the first reading of the ordinance. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Greene motioned to appropriate the Galax City School Budget in the amount of \$11,450,605. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Valdez motioned to appropriate the 2005-06 City Budget in the amount of \$14,624,977. Councilman Greene offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Greene motioned to accept the first reading of the amendment to Chapter 153 of the Code of the City of Galax entitled Water and Sewers to modify Article V detailing charges and fees of the water rate increase and to also approve the change in the billing cycle. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Following discussion of the vacation of the un-constructed street on Painter Street, Councilman Greene motioned to accept the first reading of the Ordinance of Abandonment. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Virgil Hancock had discussed with City Manager Campbell the request to abandon an unconstructed portion off Long Street. Mr. Hancock was not at tonight's meeting so following discussion of his request, Council suggested that Mr. Hancock be instructed that he can proceed with the legal procedures of the abandonment.

Councilman Kirby motioned to adopt under an emergency action Section 148-2 Amendment and to make it retroactive to July 1, 2005. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. This ordinance incorporates the various vehicle and traffic law changes enacted by the Virginia General Assembly during its last session.

City Manager Campbell advised that the city has changed its insurance carrier to Virginia Municipal Liability Pool thus requiring Council's approval of a resolution and agreement. This change was made due to cost reduction in premium costs. Councilman Greene motioned to approve the resolution "Authorizing Membership in the Virginia Municipal Liability Pool" and the agreement as presented. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

City Manager Campbell advised that Councilman Lazo's term on the District III Board has expired. Councilman Greene motioned to reappoint Councilman Lazo to another term on said Board and to appoint Keith Barker as the alternate. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Mitchell initiated a discussion on the transfer of Adelphia Cable Company to Comcast. Following this discussion, Attorney Cornwell recommended that the "Consent to Assignment and Change of Control" Resolution be approved and that notice of the upcoming franchise expiration (March 2006) be sent to Comcast. Councilman Greene motioned to adopt the Comcast Resolution as discussed. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Nikki Shank, City Director of Finance, was present at tonight's meeting to ask for a 2004-05 Budget Adjustment. She explained the necessary adjustments. The total adjustment to the budget presented by the Director of Finance was an increase of \$145,878. Councilman Greene motioned to approve said request. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

City Attorney Cornwell advised that his firm would be collecting delinquent taxes for the city.

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

The motion offered by Councilman Greene was unanimously approved to adjourn Council meeting at 8:20pm.

*Dennis J. Campbell*  
Clerk

  
Mayor