

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES
August 8, 2005

The Galax City Council convened in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building on August 8, 2005. The meeting was called to order by the mayor at 7:40pm with all councilpersons being present and they are as listed: Robert Lazo, Robert Kirby, Sharon Plichta, C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene, George Valdez and Helen Kyle.

Councilwoman Plichta prayed the opening prayer, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Mitchell administered the Oath of Honor to the city's new police officer Mark Burnette. Police Chief Clark stated that Officer Burnette comes into the department with fifteen years of experience and will be an attribute to the city.

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

Councilman Greene motioned to accept the second and final reading of **Chapter 26, Galax Animal Control Ordinance**. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion which was unanimously approved. The motion will become effective thirty days from this date.

Councilman Greene motioned to approve the second and final reading of the **E-911 Tax Ordinance**. Councilwoman Plichta offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved. This ordinance will increase the surcharge on landline phones from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per month.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the second and final reading of the amendment to increase the water rates and to change the billing cycle to every two months with the new rates going into effect September 1, 2005. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. Council was advised that the new billing cycle would begin on October 1, 2005.

Councilman Greene motioned to accept the second and final reading on the Ordinance of Vacation for an unconstructed street on Painter Street. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Ron Passmore with the "Smoke on the Mountain" festival reviewed the success of this year's festival and asks for permission to host the festival again next year, July 14-26, 2006. A discussion ensued with very positive comments being made about the festival. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the dates for the festival to be held next year in Galax. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Harvey Neff addressed Council with his plans for a Veterans Memorial to be built on city library property. He introduced John Adams whom he had employed to design the layout for the proposed project. Mr. Adams explained the site Mr. Neff had selected for the project and how the project would be constructed. Following Mr. Adams address a discussion ensued.

Councilwoman Plichta asked what the estimated cost of site prep would be. Mr. Adams stated that he thought it could be done for \$20-25,000.

Councilman Lazo stated that he believed the space was very limited and too near the street and parking lot. He also stated that the memorial is a wonderful idea but maybe not for the site Mr. Neff has selected.

Todd Price from Price Sign Works had been asked to design the proposed project for the area around the existing flag poles. Mr. Price presented detailed drawings and explanations of his interpretations of what the memorial would represent.

Mr. Neff stated that the project should be placed at the site in front of the library and that the city should go forward with Mr. Adams plans.

City Attorney Cornwell and Mr. Neff disagreed on the interpretation of the contract, which relates to the construction and location of the memorial. City Manager Campbell stated that he believes it appropriate for the city attorney to further review the contract; and, it was decided that Council would visit the site to determine the best location for the proposed veterans memorial.

Ms. Bryant, city librarian, stated that the new library facility was designed with the solemn nature of the memorial being taken into consideration. The location of the flag poles was chosen so that the memorial could be designed for the area around the flag poles.

Council members will visit the library property on Monday, August 22, 2005 to consider a site location for the proposed memorial.

Councilman Greene motioned to adopt the **Hazard Mitigation Plan** as proposed by the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the annual service contract between the Mount Rogers Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services Board and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Councilman Kirby offered a seconded to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

City Attorney Cornwell discussed an **Ordinance to Enact Section 57-1 of the Code of the City of Galax, Virginia to Impose Administrative and Collection Fees Upon Delinquent Accounts**. Councilman Kirby motioned to accept the ordinance as

discussed. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Following a discussion on the municipal golf course project, Dave Nelson, Director of Parks and Recreation, discussed some ideas that can be developed that will be a great opportunity for the city and provide additional services to the people of our area. Councilman Greene motioned to authorize Mr. Campbell to advertise for a public hearing to receive citizen comments on the City's acquisition of the Galax Golf Course facility. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

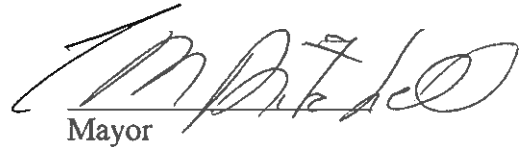
City Attorney Cornwell advised that the city should conduct a title search, do a Phase One Environmental Walkover and have an inventory of property before actually assuming the responsibility of the property.

Councilman Greene motioned to appoint Derrick Davis and Tony Burcham to the Museum Board. Councilman Valdez offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

City Manager Campbell reviewed the fall paving schedule.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:15pm.

Daniel J. Campbell
Clerk


Mayor

