

Galax City Council
Minutes
September 12, 2005

The Galax City Council convened in regular session on September 12, 2005 at 7:30pm. The mayor called the meeting to order in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building with all council members being present and they are Robert Lazo, Robert Kirby, Sharon Plichta, C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene, George Valdez and Helen Kyle.

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

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

This was the date and time advertised for a public hearing to receive comments on the City's acquisition of the Galax Country Club. Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing and heard from the following people.

James Atwood: He stated that he is concerned about taxes and fuel and is concerned about how the golf course will make money for the City if the Country Club is so in debt. He stated that it might be a good deal for the City but not for the stockholders or the taxpayers.

Johnny Lemons: He is in favor of the City accepting ownership of the golf course. He said years ago Felts Park was a privately owned park and the City bought it which was a great addition to the Recreation Department. He is totally in favor of the acquisition.

Douglas Vaught: He is in favor of transfer of ownership. It is a very good price and he is strongly in favor.

Mrs. Haga: She questioned where the city would get \$350,000 to pay for the Country Club. She visualizes the property being used for an assisted living center.

Robert Turbyfill: He is a city resident in favor of the acquisition. He is a young resident with three small children and hopes to be a life long resident of the City and use the golf course and his children will have a nice place to play golf in the city. He also wants it kept as a green space and that it will be a great addition to the Parks and Recreation Department.

Steve Hazelwood: He is the manager and golf pro at the Galax Country Club. He advised that the club has been self sufficient for the last few months. Most players are not members of the club and many come from out of town. The course is in good shape. 22 young golfers from the high school use it as their practice field. He believes various programs can be developed, that the building can be utilized as a meeting place, and other resources can be developed all of which would be sources of revenue.

Sam Kinzer: He believes the stockholders want their money back. What has caused the \$350,000 debt? He stated that he is not a city resident.

A discussion ensued.

Scarlet Rucker: She is employed at Twin County Regional Hospital and is very much in favor of the city operating the golf course. She stated it is a drawing card for new physicians and other staff who are interested in coming to Galax. The hospital sponsors tournaments regularly. That the city has done its homework and has a fine recreation director. The City will do a fine job.

James Atwood: Again, he questioned not paying the stockholders for their shares.

Robert Turbyfill: Stated that there was a quorum at the meeting where the stock holders voted 479 to 77 to transfer ownership of the Galax Country Club to the City. He stated that all information was well represented and nothing was hidden.

James Atwood again addressed the group; however, Mayor Mitchell advised him that his subject was not relevant to the public hearing or to City Council.

The public hearing was declared closed at 8pm by Mayor Mitchell.

City Manager Campbell stated that if Council approves assumption of the Galax Country Club, the City will proceed with a Phase I environmental assessment and other legal matters associated with the acquisition.

Mayor Mitchell advised that this project was presented to the City in January 2005 and the City had done due diligence in examining the property and the condition of the golf course. The building is in good repair and will be a useful site for numerous functions. It is important to keep the idea of green space in the City and will add significant function to the Recreation Department. The golf course will be a public course and there will be no restrictions to any group that would like to use it.

Councilwoman Plichta stated that it will draw people to the city and it will be valuable to the high school golf team and used by a large populace. It is a very positive thing for the City.

Dr Lazo stated that it will be good for the City and will enrich everyone's life.

Councilman Greene stated that it is a great opportunity for everybody. He has talked with a lot of people and only one person ~~has~~ been against the acquisition. He is in support of the project.

Councilman Valdez is in support of the acquisition. It will be good for the schools and hospital. He had examined the worksheet and the numbers were good – a good thing for the City to do.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to proceed with the assumption of the Galax Country Club property including the building and equipment. Councilman Lazo offered a second to the motion. Attorney Cornwell interjected subject to environmental evaluation. The motion was unanimously approved.

City Attorney Cornwell discussed the second reading of the Delinquent Taxes Ordinance. Councilman Kirby motioned to accept the second reading and approve Section 57-1. This ordinance will allow the City to assess administrative fees against delinquent taxes of the City. Councilman Valdez offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

City Manager Campbell presented a street-paving bid from Adams Construction Company for approval. Councilman Greene motioned to approve the street-paving bid. Councilman Valdez seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The bid price was \$269,642 for the street paving. The unpaved area around the Recreation Center will also be paved at a cost of \$30,683.40.

Mayor Mitchell called for a public hearing to receive comments on an emergency ordinance to Regulate Sexually Oriented Businesses. Keith Barker stated that the City had received a very vague e-mail inquiring about opening a Gentlemen's Club in Galax.

Sam Kinzer: Wants the ordinance real closely watched for any loop holes and think real hard about it.

City Attorney Cornwell believes it is as restrictive as it can be and not be subject to a challenge. That the proposed ordinance does give the City the protection it needs.

A discussion ensued.

No other comments were received and the hearing was closed.

Councilman Lazo motioned to adopt the **Regulation and Permitting of Sexually Oriented Businesses** ordinance as an emergency ordinance to take effect immediately. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Mitchell read a proclamation setting September 17-23, 2005 as Constitution Week. Councilman Kirby motioned to accept the Proclamation as presented. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to appoint City Manager Campbell to a two-year term on the SREC Board. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Kyle motioned to appoint Bill Davis to a four-year term on the SREC Board. Councilman Lazo offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to appoint Councilman Greene as the voting delegate to the VML Conference. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Kirby motioned to appoint City Manager Campbell as the alternate for the voting delegate to the VML. Councilman Greene offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Councilman Kirby motioned to set November 14-18, 2005 as the week for Fall Leaf Collection. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Greene motioned to appoint Councilman Kirby and Assistant City Manager Barker to a term on the Transportation Safety Committee. Councilwoman Kyle seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

Councilman Kirby motioned to continue this meeting until 7:30pm on September 20, 2005. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Plichta and unanimously approved. This meeting will resume in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building.

At 7:30pm on September 20, 2005 Galax City Council reconvened in the courtroom of WHS Public Safety Building. The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mitchell and all councilpersons were present.

The purpose of continuing the meeting was to receive information concerning a proposed downtown Cultural Arts District and a resolution for filing an application to apply for ARC Grant Funds to purchase the First National Bank Building.

Ken Poore, K. W. Poore Consulting Firm, was present at tonight's meeting to give an overview of the project. He explained that the project would be done in three phases. The first phase would be to purchase the First National Bank Building to lease to the Chestnut Creek School of the Arts for housing the traditional and visual arts.

The ARC application is for \$400,000. Phase I of the project would also call for approximately \$589,050 for non-ARC funds, which would make the total cost of Phase I approximately \$989,050.

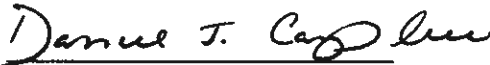
Councilwoman Plichta motioned to adopt the resolution as presented. Councilman Lazo ~~seconded~~ seconded the motion. A discussion ensued.

Councilpersons Lazo, Kirby, Plichta, Mitchell, Greene and Valdez each offered a ye
~~vote~~ to approve the resolution. Councilwoman Kyle voted nay. The resolution was
approved.

On a motion by Councilman Greene and a second by Councilman Kirby the meeting was
unanimously adjourned at 7:52pm.



Mayor



Daniel J. Caplan

City Manager

