

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

December 12, 2005

The Galax City Council convened in regular session on December 12, 2005, in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building. The meeting was called to order by the mayor at 7:30pm. Councilpersons present were Robert Lazo, Robert Kirby, Sharon Plichta, C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene and George Valdez. Helen Kyle was absent from the meeting.

Dr. Lazo prayed the opening prayer which was followed by 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 advertised for a public hearing to receive comments on the **Personal Property Tax Relief Act**. Mayor Mitchell opened the hearing. No comments were received and the hearing was declared closed. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the second reading of said ordinance and to set the effective date as January 1, 2006. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Patrick Butler was present at tonight's meeting representing a group comprised of businesses, parents, lawyers, teachers and doctors. He presented Council with a letter outlining some of the grave concerns that are associated with the proposed Blue Ridge Mountain Rescue Mission on Main Street. The group is not opposing the establishment of a mission but it is very much opposed to a downtown location. Following his statements and a question about zoning, Keith Barker stated that there would probably be more issues with the building codes than with zoning compliance. Councilman Lazo suggested that the group consider the services of an attorney.

Derrick Davis addressed Council with his concerns about the mission - especially the safety of his five-year-old child and that of other children in the area. He furthered stated that he has done volunteer work in a mission and that it was a scary place to be; and the the area around the mission was a scary place and he doesn't want this to come to downtown Galax.

Penny Moseley, a business owner stated that she wants what is best for the community and that a mission is not in the best interest of the community.

Councilman Greene questioned the status of any application in getting the mission established.

City Manager Campbell advised that no contact had been made relating to permits.

A discussion ensued.

Assistant City Manager/Zoning Administrator Barker presented a proposed fee revision for zoning and building fees. He stated that it has been many years since the fees have been adjusted and this update brings the City's fees more in line with the adjoining areas. Following a discussion, Mr. Barker was authorized to proceed with the new fee adoption process.

Mr. Barker discussed a proposed housing program using funding available, approximately \$57,000, to rehab two or three houses per year. The loans would be interest free and be paid back in ten years. The monies to be loaned accrued from loans that were taken out during the North Central Rehab program several years ago. Following a discussion, Vice Mayor Greene motioned to approve the rehab program. Councilman Valdez offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Lazo motioned to cancel December's second Council meeting. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

City Manager Campbell reminded Council that the **Statement of Economic Interest** is due January 15, 2006.

Councilman Lazo requested that the City Attorney be asked to review the information that has been received from Mr. Patton and Mr. Evans in regards to the rescue mission on Main Street.

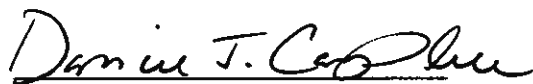
Mr. Campbell advised members of Council that they can receive the Legislative Bulletin if they choose to.

Council was presented the signed document declaring Galax as the official barbecue site in Virginia.

Members of Council were given a copy of a community survey that was done by the Police Department.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:55pm on a motion by Councilman Greene and a second by Councilman Valdez.


Mayor


Clerk