

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

October 9, 2006

The Galax City Council convened in regular session on October 9, 2006. The meeting was called to order by the mayor in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building courtroom at 7:30pm. All councilpersons were present and they are as listed: C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene, Robert Lazo, Robert Kirby, John Garner, Derrick Davis and Helen Kyle.

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

Councilman Garner motioned to accept the minutes of the September 11 and 21 meetings and to dispense with the reading of said minutes. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

This was the date and time duly advertised for a public hearing to receive comments on the rezoning of a certain piece of property on Larkspur Lane from R-1 Single Family Residential to B-2 General Business. This property is owned by the Galax Elks Lodge and is located behind their present building.

Keith Barker, Zoning Administrator, discussed the rezoning request and stated that interest has been shown in purchasing the present Elks Lodge. The Elks Lodge would like to build a new facility on its property behind and adjoining its current location - thus, the rezoning request. He also advised that a proffer has been set that if construction isn't started within two years the said property will revert back to the R-1 zoning.

Mr. Barker advised that the Planning Commission recommends that the rezoning request be approved.

Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing. Dr. Lazo asked that Mr. Barker summarize any concerns he had received in regard to the rezoning. He stated that Doug Bryant, an adjoining property owner, was concerned about what could be done with B-2 property. A discussion ensued.

James Jordan, an adjoining property owner, was complimentary of the community services that the Elks do but he also had concerns as to whether or he could walk his dogs and children, debris in the parking lot and traffic. He stated that due to the traffic light location at the Elks Lodge it is nearly impossible to make a left turn from Country Club Lane onto East Stuart Drive. He also delivered two letters from adjoining property owners. These letters were not read aloud.

Dr. Lazo stated that it would be a big change for the corner if a Walgreen's locates there.

Montie Largin from the Elks Lodge stated that they do not know what will be located there. He said that they are working with a construction firm and a real estate developer and that they have not been told what the property will be used for.

With no further comments or questions, Mayor Mitchell declared the Public Hearing closed.

Zoning Administrator Barker advised that the Planning Commission recommends that a Conditional Use Permit be issued to Lee Kegley so that he can construct two apartments over his business at 109 South Main Street and a Conditional Use Permit to Travis and Boni Haynes so that they can construct an apartment on the second floor of a building at 123 West Grayson Street.

Councilman Greene motioned to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation as presented. Councilman Davis offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Greene motioned to appoint Councilman Davis to fill the unexpired term of Sharon Plichta on the Planning Commission. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. The term will expire June, 2008.

Dr. Charles White, President of Wytheville Community College, attended tonight's meeting. He stated that he desires to enhance the connection between the college and the community and increase college services to outlying areas for the college service area. Mayor Mitchell stated that the college serves our community well.

David Hankley, Commissioner of the Revenue, discussed the Personal Property Tax Relief Act (PPTRA). He stated that vehicle owners will have to pay more personal property tax this year due to the General Assembly Act of 2005.

Councilman Garner motioned to appoint Keith Barker as acting City Manager and Clerk of Council commencing October 24, 2006. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

On a motion by Councilman Garner and a second by Councilman Greene and unanimous approval, Keith Barker was appointed to serve on the following Boards and they are as listed:

Regional Solid Waste Authority
Galax-Grayson Emergency Medical Services
Officer-in Charge- Galax Department of Social Services
Twin County E-911 Commission
Virginia's A-Corridor Executive Committee

Councilman Greene motioned to appoint Councilman Kirby to serve on the Southwest Regional Enterprise Center (Incubator) Board. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Greene motioned to appoint Keith Barker to the Life Long Learning Committee of the Crossroads Institute Board of Directors. Councilman Lazo offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Mitchell presented a proclamation declaring the week of October 22-28 as Respiratory Care Week. Councilman Kirby motioned to approve the proclamation by affirmation and Councilman Davis seconded the motion.

Councilman Kirby motioned to approve the Homeland Security Resolution designating Chief of Police Clark as the representative for Homeland Security funding. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Fall Leaf Pickup was set for the week of November 13-17 on a motion by Councilman Davis, a second by Councilman Kirby and unanimous approval.

City Manager Campbell confirmed that Council's Planning Retreat will be October 21 at the City Municipal Golf Course. This retreat and the VML Conference will serve as Council's second meeting for October.

Councilman Lazo expressed his feelings of loss as City Manager Campbell leaves our area.

City Manager Campbell stated that he had received far more from the City than he has given.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:40pm.



Mayor



Clerk

