

**GALAX CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes**

**November 13, 2006**

Galax City Council convened in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building on November 13, 2006. The meeting was called to order by the mayor at 7:30pm with all council members present and they are as listed: C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene, Robert Lazo, Robert Kirby, John Garner, Derrick Davis and Helen Kyle.

Councilman Garner prayed the opening prayer, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Garner motioned to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2006 meeting and to dispense with the reading of said minutes. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Mitchell advised that this was the date and time set for a public hearing to receive comments on the request from Maurice Vaughan to rezone the property at 610 Glendale Road from R-2 to B-2. Mr. Vaughan is constructing a funeral home and needs the said property for additional parking. Mr. Mitchell also advised that the Planning Commission recommends that the request be granted. Following his overview of the request, Mayor Mitchell declared the public hearing open. No comments were received and the hearing was closed.

Councilman Garner motioned to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation and rezone the property at 610 Glendale Road to B-2. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The Planning Commission had also received a Conditional Use request from Larry Conner to construct two (2) upstairs apartments at 108 and 110 E. Oldtown Street. The property is zoned B-2 which allows for upstairs apartments if they do not front on designated streets. Council was advised that the Planning Commission recommends that a Conditional Use Permit be approved.

Councilman Greene motioned to approve the Conditional Use as requested. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Kirby motioned to approve a resolution from Rural Development. This resolution authorizes Chief Clark to use Rural Development grant funds to purchase police cars. Councilwoman Kyle seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mrs. Rose Smythers of 312 Parkwood addressed Council with her concerns about the growing deer problems in the City and in her neighborhood especially. Following discussion, Mayor Mitchell appointed a committee to study the problem and develop a plan to help control the deer population in her neighborhood. Those on the committee

will be Mayor Mitchell, Mrs. Smythers, Acting City Manager Barker, Chief of Police Clark, a game biologist and Councilman Garner.

Susan Clark, Director of the city's Department of Social Services, was at tonight's meeting to discuss Long Term Care Services and request that the Galax Department of Social Services be designated as the lead agency for the City of Galax Long Term Care Services. Following a discussion, Councilman Garner motioned to designate the Galax City Department of Social Services as the lead agency for Long Term Care Services in the City of Galax. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mayor Mitchell discussed an Economic Restructuring Grant. Jointly, Galax, Carroll and Grayson Counties are eligible to receive \$40,000 through DHCD with a \$5,000 match from each of the three localities. This funding would be used to hire a staff person to work with the area localities in promoting economic development. Mr. Mitchell also advised that there is money in this year's budget that could be used for the match. Councilman Garner motioned to appropriate the local match of \$5,000. Councilman Greene offered a second to the motion. A discussion ensued as to the importance of our area having someone to work with our existing industries and also promoting the area to new prospects. The motion was unanimously approved.

Nikki Shank, Director of Finance, discussed the revised rates for the city employee health insurance. The new rates reflect an 11% increase, which will be passed on to the employees.

Mrs. Shank advised that changes are being made to the city employee leave policy. The current policy states that an employee must take sick leave or vacation leave in four (4) hour increments and that it is being changed to one (1) hour increments.

Acting City Manager Barker discussed minor changes being made to the Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance. These changes are made so that our policy incorporates changes that have been made to the state ordinance.

Councilman Garner motioned to appoint Acting City Manager Barker as the Emergency Management Director. Councilwoman Kyle seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

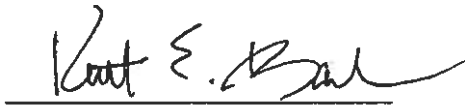
Councilman Kirby motioned to appoint Councilwoman Kyle to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Councilman Garner offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Greene was unanimously appointed to the Rooftop Board on a motion by Councilman Garner and a second by Councilman Kirby.

After a discussion, on the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays schedule, Councilman Lazo motioned to observe the same schedule as the state schedule. Councilwoman Kyle

seconded the motion. Councilpersons Lazo, Mitchell, Greene, Davis and Kyle each tendered a yea vote. Councilmen Kirby and Garner each tendered a nay vote.

With no further business to come before Council the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:58pm.



Kurt E. Sal

Clerk



Mayor

