

Galax City Council
Minutes
March 12, 2007

The Galax City Council convened in regular session on March 12, 2007 at 7:30pm. Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order in the courtroom of the WHS Public Safety Building. All councilpersons were present and they are as listed: Robert Lazo, Robert Kirby, John Garner, C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene, Derrick Davis and Helen Kyle.

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

Mayor Mitchell recognized some members of Boy Scout Troop 284 who attended tonight's meeting as part of an Eagle Scout requirement.

Mayor Mitchell discussed the Downtown Planning Grant, the public hearing and resolution required for the grant application. He advised that the city's contribution to the project will be approximately \$300,000 which includes work that will be done by city crew and staff over a two year period.

Craig Wilson, K. W. Poore & Associates, was present to give an overview of the Downtown Planning Grant and to conduct the public hearing. He advised that this is the second public hearing with the first one being in December 2006. He explained that the grant is for storefront improvement with each owner being allowed approximately \$15,000 for façade improvement. He also advised of alley improvements in the project area and that while the work is being done in the alleys fiber optic cable will be installed. The grant application also includes monies for a visitor center in the project area. The total request for the grant through VHCD is \$700,000.

Councilmen Lazo, Mitchell and Garner entered a discussion with Mr. Wilson. No comments were received from the public and the hearing was declared closed.

Mayor Mitchell expressed his appreciation to all who have worked and participated in the project.

Councilman Greene motioned to approve the resolution, preparation and filing of the grant application. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion. Councilmen Lazo, Kirby, Garner, Mitchell and Greene each tendered a yea vote. Councilpersons Davis and Kyle each abstained citing business property ownership in the designated project area.

Councilman Garner motioned to repeal Section 46-16 of the Galax City Code. Councilman Greene offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved. This repeal allows related matters to be handled pursuant to Section 3.1-796.93:1 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended.

Councilman Davis motioned to appropriate the city budget amendment in the amount of \$159,827.00. Councilman Kirby offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Councilman Davis motioned to appropriate the Galax City Schools Budget Amendment in the amount of \$174,771. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The city's auditor Deanna Cox was present at tonight's meeting to discuss last year's audit. She advised that there were no major problems with the audit and that the city's fund level is at a very healthy level. She also discussed new mandates that will affect future auditing procedures. A discussion ensued.

City School Superintendent Mr. Cook discussed the Literary Loan application. The city will loan the school system five (5) million dollars which will be paid back with Literary Loan monies. Councilman Lazo motioned to approve the Literary Loan Resolution authorizing the Galax City School Board to apply for a \$5,000,000 loan. Councilman Greene offered a second to the motion which was followed by discussion and unanimous approval.

Councilman Garner motioned to appoint Keith Holland as Clerk of Council. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Mr. Holland began work as the City Manager on March 5, 2007.

Councilman Davis motioned to appoint City Manager Holland to the Galax Department of Social Services Board. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

City Manager Holland extended appreciation to Keith Barker for serving as the Acting City Manager. Councilman Greene also expressed his appreciation.

Two terms on the Galax City School will be expiring in June 2007. Dr. Adams has asked to be reappointed. Andy Messner did not seek reappointment due to travel requirements. Council received letters of interest from Dr. Adams, Stewert Merdian, Lulu Lopez and Roger Carpenter. Dr. Adams and Mr. Merdian each addressed Council with reasons for their interest in serving on the School Board. Mrs. Lopez and Mr. Carpenter were absent from the meeting.

Councilman Greene discussed searching for a grant to help fund equipment so that the fire department and emergency vehicle drivers could control signal lights when they are called to an emergency.

At 8:36pm, Councilman Greene motioned to go into executive session as authorized in the Code of Virginia under section 2.2-3711(A)(1) – Interviews of prospective candidates for school board appointments. At 10:15pm, Council returned to regular session on a motion by Councilman Garner, a second by Councilman Kirby and unanimous approval.

The Certification of Executive Session was affirmed on a motion by Councilwoman Kyle, a second by Councilman Davis and unanimous approval.

Back in regular session the following votes were tendered.

<u>James Adams</u>	<u>Stewart Merdian</u>	<u>LuLu Lopez</u>	<u>Roger Carpenter</u>
Robert Lazo	Derrick Davis	Helen Kyle	
Robert Kirby	Willie Greene	Robert Lazo	
John Garner	John Garner		
Willie Greene	Robert Kirby		
Derrick Davis	C. M. Mitchell		
Helen Kyle			
<u>C. M. Mitchell</u>			
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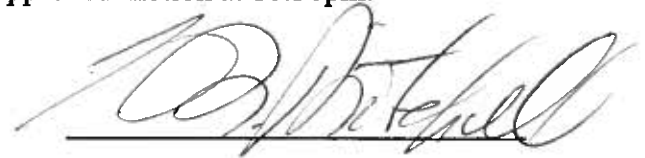
James Adams and Stewart Merdian were appointed to serve on the Galax City School Board beginning July 1, 2007.

At 10:20pm Councilman Garner motioned to go into Executive Session as authorized in the Code of Virginia Section 21.2-3711(A)(1) Employee Evaluation – Keith Barker. Councilman Kirby seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. On a unanimously approved motion, Council returned to regular session. The Certificate of Executive Session is made a part of these minutes.

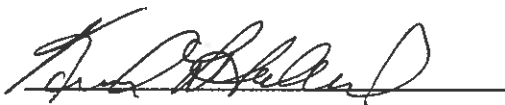
Back in regular session the following action was taken:

In recognition of Keith Barker's performance as the Acting City Manager, Councilman Davis motioned to award Mr. Barker a \$2,000 bonus and to allow the city manager to award additional vacation days at his discretion. Councilman Garner offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned on a unanimously approved motion at 10:30pm.



Mayor



Clerk

