

Galax City Council
Minutes
October 13, 2008

The Galax City Council was called to order in regular session in Council Chambers on October 13, 2008 at 7:30 pm. The following councilpersons were present and they are as listed: Sharon Plichta, John Garner, C. M. Mitchell, Willie Greene, Derrick Davis and Bill Webb. Robert Lazo was absent from the meeting.

Mayor Mitchell read a proclamation recognizing Alex Pyles for her success on *America's Got Talent*. Alex and her family and friends were present for the recognition. Councilman Greene motioned that the proclamation be adopted. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Police Chief Clark introduced Darren Dixon who was recently hired as a city police officer. Mayor Mitchell administered the **Oath of Honor** to Officer Dixon.

Councilwoman Plichta prayed the opening prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance followed the prayer.

Councilman Webb motioned to accept the minutes as written and to dispense with 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 citizen input on the proposed changes to VDOT's Six Year Plan for the City. City Manager Holland outlined the changes. Following his discussion, Mayor Mitchell declared the floor open for public comments. None were received and he declared the hearing closed. Councilman Davis motioned to adopt the recommendations as discussed and to authorize the City Manager to submit these changes to VDOT. The revised plan is made a part of these minutes.

Councilman Greene motioned to approve a proclamation setting GED Day as October 15. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Tom Jones from the Twin County Airport presented a resolution *Requesting an Amendment to Acts of Assembly Establishing the Twin County Airport Commission*. Following discussion, Councilman Greene motioned to approve the resolution as presented. Councilman Davis offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Assistant City Manager Barker discussed in depth the Wired Road Authority and its need for broadband fiber capabilities. He advised that the hospital needs the service now and that the Authority does not have the money to finance the broadband fiber project. And due to time constraints in applying for grants and the time it takes to receive the monies if a grant is awarded, he requested that the City finance the project. He advised that once the project is constructed and users are in place the Authority could repay the city.

Following discussion, Councilwoman Plichta motioned to declare an emergency and authorize the City Manager to procure funds and appropriate said funds to begin construction for the broadband fiber project for Twin County Regional Hospital and other sites in the City. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

Chris Shackelford, director of the Chestnut Creek School of the Arts, appeared before Council to request permission to lease a building at 110 E. Oldtown Street for a pottery studio and a co-op. Following a discussion, Councilman Garner motioned to accept the lease as presented. Councilman Davis offered a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

City Manager Holland discussed the proposed Twin County Veterans Memorial and requested that it be placed on the north side of the Galax Public Library. Councilman Webb motioned to accept the city manager's recommendation. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

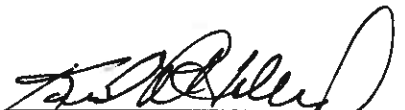
Councilman Garner motioned to appoint Scott Alouf and Jill Bartlett to a one-year term on the Parks and Recreation Board. Councilman Davis seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

At 8:40 pm, Councilman Greene motioned to go into executive session as authorized in the Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711 A.5 – Business and Industry Development and Section 2.2-3711 A. 1 – Personnel Matter.

At 9:35 pm Council returned to regular session. The Certification of Executive Session is made a part of these minutes.

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.



Mayor

Clerk

CERTIFICATION RESOLUTION
CLOSED MEETING

WHEREAS, this Board convened in a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote on the motion to close the meeting Section 2.2-3711A.5 - Business and Industry Development and Section 2.2-3711 A.1 – Personnel Matter.

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the City Council that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, therefore be it resolved that City Council hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were heard, discussed or considered in the closed meeting to which this certification applies; and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting to which this certification applies.

Upon motion by Councilmember Greene seconded by Councilmember Webb

Before a vote is taken on this resolution, is there any member who believes that there was a departure from the requirements of number (1) or Number (2)? If so, identify yourself and state the substance of the matter and why in your judgment it was a departure.

Subject matter N/A

Departure N/A

Hearing no statement or statements, I call the question.

Ayes: Councilpersons Plichta, Garner, Mitchell, Greene, Davis and Webb

Nays: None

This Certification Resolution was adopted October 13, 2008.



Clerk/City Manager



11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25
 26
 27
 28
 29
 30
 31
 32
 33
 34
 35
 36
 37
 38
 39
 40
 41
 42
 43
 44
 45
 46
 47
 48
 49
 50
 51
 52
 53
 54
 55
 56
 57
 58
 59
 60
 61
 62
 63
 64
 65
 66
 67
 68
 69
 70
 71
 72
 73
 74
 75
 76
 77
 78
 79
 80
 81
 82
 83
 84
 85
 86
 87
 88
 89
 90
 91
 92
 93
 94
 95
 96
 97
 98
 99
 100



101
 102
 103
 104
 105
 106
 107
 108
 109
 110
 111
 112
 113
 114
 115
 116
 117
 118
 119
 120
 121
 122
 123
 124
 125
 126
 127
 128
 129
 130
 131
 132
 133
 134
 135
 136
 137
 138
 139
 140
 141
 142
 143
 144
 145
 146
 147
 148
 149
 150
 151
 152
 153
 154
 155
 156
 157
 158
 159
 160
 161
 162
 163
 164
 165
 166
 167
 168
 169
 170
 171
 172
 173
 174
 175
 176
 177
 178
 179
 180
 181
 182
 183
 184
 185
 186
 187
 188
 189
 190
 191
 192
 193
 194
 195
 196
 197
 198
 199
 200



201
 202
 203
 204
 205
 206
 207
 208
 209
 210
 211
 212
 213
 214
 215
 216
 217
 218
 219
 220
 221
 222
 223
 224
 225
 226
 227
 228
 229
 230
 231
 232
 233
 234
 235
 236
 237
 238
 239
 240
 241
 242
 243
 244
 245
 246
 247
 248
 249
 250
 251
 252
 253
 254
 255
 256
 257
 258
 259
 260
 261
 262
 263
 264
 265
 266
 267
 268
 269
 270
 271
 272
 273
 274
 275
 276
 277
 278
 279
 280
 281
 282
 283
 284
 285
 286
 287
 288
 289
 290
 291
 292
 293
 294
 295
 296
 297
 298
 299
 300



CITY OF GALAX

TELEPHONE & TDD
276-236-5773
FAX 276-236-2889

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor & Council

From: Keith Holland, City Manager *kh*

Date: October 8, 2008


Re: Amendment to VDOT Six Year Improvement Plan (SYIP)

During your meeting on August 10, Leo Rutledge of VDOT appeared before you to present alternatives to the Glendale Road project that had been requested by Council in 2007. As you may know, the original scope of the project was 2/3 mile in length (from 58 to Cliffview Road), with 4 lanes, curb and gutter, and realignment of Valley Street to access US 58 through vacant lot and abandon present Glendale/58 intersection. The current estimate on the original plan is \$10.6 million and had been pushed back to November 2017 by VDOT. Alternate 1 was to reduce the scope of the project to only a few hundred feet on either side of a realigned Valley Street, a realignment of Glendale onto 58 through the vacant lot, a new traffic signal and removal of the old signal, and removal of the west bound slip ramp. The cost of Alternate 1 was estimated by VDOT to be \$4,025,664 and would be completed in November 2012. Alternative 2 was scaled back even further to limit the project to improve the existing intersection of Glendale/US 58, remove west bound slip ramp and add dedicated right turn lane off Glendale, widen the turning radius to accommodate trucks, curb and gutter, a new retaining wall, and upgrade of existing traffic signal. The cost estimate of Alternate 2 is estimated at \$1,217,153 and could be completed by November 2011.

City Council showed preference to Alternate 2. This alternative would allow the city to seek an amendment to VDOT's SYIP and in doing so, use funds that have already been allocated to this project for other eligible transportation improvements. There is currently \$4,854,975 set aside for this project. This would allow the City to access over \$3.6 million for other eligible transportation projects. Below are a list of projects with descriptions of the scope of work that staff is recommending Council ask the Commonwealth Transportation Board to allow the use of the existing funds to amend our SYIP project listing.

Priority 1: Glendale Road Intersection Improvement

This would be the revised Alternative 2 as preferred by City Council.




Estimated costs: \$1,300,000
Estimated completion: 2011

Priority 2: Traffic Signal Improvements

This project would entail adding emergency override receivers to all traffic signals on US 58 and Main Street (Opticom type receivers); replace all lenses on lights on US 58, Main Street and Meadow Street with LED lenses for better visibility and lower operating costs; replace traffic signals and overhead span wires on signals at Main and Washington and Main and Webster with decorative poles as used elsewhere on Main Street; and possibly detection cameras or improved controllers on Main Street signals and improvements to signal controls on Jefferson Street.

Estimated costs: \$250,000
Estimated completion: 2009

Priority 3: Corridor Lighting and Pedestrian Safety Improvement on US 58




East Stuart Drive/US 58 is a high volume traffic corridor that lacks adequate street lighting which creates hazards for vehicles and pedestrians. Recommended improvements may be done in phases if funding is needed for other projects, but sections in order of preference are Main Street to Country Club Road, East Corporate Limits to Taylorwood Drive, and Taylorwood Drive to Country Club Road. The project would entail high-density street lighting per VDOT standards, flashing signs cautioning motorists to look out for pedestrians, and in-laid reflective lighting in the centerlines from east corporate limits to west corporate limits.

Estimated costs: \$500,000
Estimated completion: 2010

Priority 4: Cranberry Road Improvements

This project would provide some realignment and widening of Cranberry Road from the intersection of Glendale Road to US 58 to approximately the southern corporate limits. Cranberry Road has seen an increase in traffic over the years and there are sight distance problems in the curve past Elliot Davis CPA and poor alignment to Glendale Road at the Jack Guynn Industrial Park. The proposed project would provide some realignment and slope work to improve visibility and adding 2-3 feet of pavement if possible to East Stuart Drive. Another component of the project would be to add pavement width and curb and guttering if possible on Cranberry Road south of East Stuart Drive to accommodate increased traffic from Hampton Inn and a possible rear access to the Crossroads Institute.



Estimated costs: \$1,250,000
Estimated completion: 2011

Note: This project may not be eligible for SYIP funds since this street is classified as a collector street in the urban system as opposed to an arterial street



Priority 5: Bridge Repairs

Funds would be used to make repairs to various bridges throughout the city as recommended in current bridge inspection reports.

Estimated costs: \$1,500,000


Estimated completion: 2012

Priority 6: South Main Street Enhancements

This project may include application for use of Transportation Enhancement Grants and intended to improve pedestrian and bicycle accommodations and corridor aesthetic enhancements from Long Street to the corporate limits along Rt. 89. This is a main gateway to and from the Blue Ridge Parkway and downtown and could benefit greatly from a streetscape enhancement project. Not only would the addition of sidewalks, bike paths, and/or landscaping and street trees provide greater aesthetic appeal, it should also encourage private investment and economic opportunity along this corridor.

Estimated costs: \$2,500,000

Estimated completion: 2014



While the total project costs for all of these projects are \$7.3 million, these projects could be undertaken using a combination of SYIP, Enhancement Grants, and VDOT Revenue Sharing funds. The projects would be undertaken as priorities dictate, and likely to extend for longer than projected in the SYIP.

Council is ask to adopt these revisions and authorize the City Manager to submit these changes to VDOT. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will be meeting later in the year to consider this request.

