

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
Minutes
November 9, 2009

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on November 9, 2009 at 7:30 pm.

Mayor Mitchell recognized Carlene Poole who retired from the Galax-Carroll Regional Library effective November 1, 2009. Carlene has been with the library since January 1975. Mayor Mitchell presented her with a plaque and gift in appreciation for her service to the citizens of Galax.

Mayor Mitchell administered the oath of the City to Officer Adam Newman of the Galax Police Department. Officer Newman has been training with Officer Jody Poole since September 1, 2009. Chief Rick Clark and Officer Jody Poole were also present.

At 7:35 Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order with the following councilpersons present and they are as listed: Councilman Lazo, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta, Mayor Mitchell, Councilman Greene, Councilman Davis and Councilman Webb.

Mayor Mitchell prayed the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on October 12, 2009. Councilman Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

A public hearing was held to receive public comment on a revision to the Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled ordinance. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comment. After no comment was made, he declared the public hearing concluded. Councilman Garner motioned to approve the revisions to the ordinance. Councilman Davis seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

A public hearing was held to receive public comment on a revision to the City's Sign Ordinance to include adding "mural" to the definition of a sign and further define "mural" itself. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comment. After no comment was made, he declared the public hearing concluded. Councilman Webb motioned to approve the revisions to the ordinance. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

A public hearing was held to receive public comment on a revision to the City Code regarding vehicle license decals. These changes will require City decals to be purchased in 2010, excluding the requirement for trailers, campers, etc. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comment. After one comment was made from the public, Mayor Mitchell declared the public hearing concluded. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the revisions to the ordinance. Councilman Webb seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-no, and Councilman Webb-yea.

A public hearing was held to receive public comment on the Community Development Block Grant. This is a standard public hearing required by DHCD for any possible grants we would apply for within the next 12 months. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comment. After no comment was made, he declared the public hearing concluded. No action was taken by Council, as only the public hearing was required at this time.

A public hearing was held to receive public comment on the possible abandonment of portions of Railroad Avenue and Depot Street to accommodate possible future growth of an industry. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comment. One business owner spoke to council on his concern of the effect it would have on his business. Mayor Mitchell declared the public hearing concluded. No action was required or taken by council at this time.

Keith Barker presented Council with a letter of interest from Mr. Wilbert Chandler for appointment as a Minority Representative to the Mount Rogers Planning District Commission (MRPDC). As requested at the October 12 Council meeting, an ad was run soliciting interest in the minority representative to the MRPDC Board of Directors for a term from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2014. Councilman Greene motioned to approve the appointment. Councilman Webb seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker reminded Council that the next Galax City Council meeting will be held at the Legislative Dinner at Crossroads on November 23, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.

Councilman Davis read a proclamation honoring Harold Mitchell.

Chief Ron Passmore with the Galax Grayson EMS (GGEMS) informed Council that they (GGEMS) recently became insured independently through the Virginia Municipal League (VML) for their workers compensation insurance. In working through this change, VML has requested a copy of the formal agreement that was developed to create the GGEMS. While there are references to the beginning of the service, there is no document we are able to distinguish as the formal document creating the GGEMS. Council was provided with a joint serves agreement developed by the City Attorney that we are asking Council to adopt. This agreement was approved at the last GGEMS Board Meeting and will be taken under consideration for approval at the next Grayson County Board of Supervisors Meeting. Council was also asked to reaffirm the appointments of Keith Barker and John Garner to the GGEMS Board. Councilman Webb

motioned to approve the joint services agreement along with the appointments of Keith Barker and John Garner. Councilman Davis seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed Council that Mrs. Margaret Thomason of the Museum Board is requesting that Council appoint the following individuals to 3-year terms for the museum board as required by the museum board by-laws. The prospective board members are: Jim Baxley, Lona Cox, Marcus Edwards, John Nunn and Joyce Spencer. Current board members are Derrick Davis, Jane Michael Fletcher, Dr. Tom Littrell, Mrs. Thomason and Bob Thomason. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the appointments. Councilman Greene seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed Council that Rooftop CAP is requesting that they appoint a new representative to the Rooftop IPR Board. This board considers applications and bids for households that qualify under the Indoor Plumbing Program to have repairs or new homes built. The board meets 3 to 4 times per year and the next meeting is November 12 at 8:00 AM. Mr. Barker said Council can appoint a representative or he had spoken to Justin Barnard, GIS/CMOM Coordinator, and he has agreed to sit on the board. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the appointment. Councilman Greene seconded the motion, and it was approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed Council of upcoming appointments to the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. – The terms of Anne Vaughan, Planning Commission (January 1, 2010); Dorothy Lovelady, BZA (November 1, 2009); and Doug Williams, BZA (January 1, 2010) are set to expire. With Council's agreement, he asked to run an ad soliciting interest in the appointments and bring recommendations back to the December 14 meeting. As with other appointments, he also asked that they be appointed with terms ending on June 30 of a year that is opposite of Council elections. As these are typically 4-year terms, the new appointments will be until June 30, 2013. Council agreed on running the ad. No other action was taken at this time.

At 8:18 p.m., motion was made by Councilman Webb to enter into closed session under Virginia Code 2.2-3711 a(7) for the purpose of §2.2-3711 A.1 of the *Code of Virginia* (Personnel Matter) seconded by Councilman Greene.

At 8:40p.m., Council reconvened in open session. Mayor Mitchell certified that no items other than those allowed under the cited Virginia Code section was discussed and no action taken, with the following affirmation: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-

yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Davis-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

W. E. Sed
Clerk

W. T. Greene
Mayor