

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

May 10, 2010

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on May 10, 2010 at 7:30 pm.

At 7:30 p.m. Mayor Mitchell called the meeting to order with the following council persons present and they are as listed: Councilman Lazo, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Greene, Councilman Davis, and Councilman Webb.

Councilman Webb prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 26, 2010. Councilman Webb 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.

Councilman Webb motioned to adopt the proposed Galax City School Budget. Councilman Lazo asked Bill Sturgill, Superintendent of the Galax City Schools, if he had any thoughts on what next year's budget was going to look like. Mr. Sturgill stated that the school system will lose all of the stimulus funding, however they are preparing for that now. Mayor Mitchell noted that council has been very fortunate to be able to work with the school system during this budget year. Councilman Webb amended his motion to adopt the \$13,028,600 budget, which included the \$4,059,885 of the City's contribution. Vice-Mayor 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.

Keith Barker updated council on the Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement. At the April 26, 2010 council meeting, a draft copy of a franchise agreement between Comcast and the City of Galax was presented for consideration. There were questions regarding section 2.5.1 as it pertains to new video service providers. Mr. Barker stated that he did speak to Mr. Byrd with Comcast, and our city attorney regarding this provision. This section is applicable to any new video service provider, including one that may provide service over the Wired Road. The section does not prohibit any new provider but only requires that any agreement we have with the new provider be equal to the agreement with Comcast or that Comcast be allowed to renegotiate their agreement to the same conditions as the new provider. As Wired Road is not a provider, no agreement is necessary. Councilman Garner motioned to accept the franchise agreement. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, and Vice Mayor Greene-yea. Councilman Davis abstained from the vote.

Keith Barker stated he was recently contacted by Alan Caudell, attorney for the Lib Stanford Estate. Ms. Stanford was the sole keeper of a certificate of deposit for the bicentennial celebration in Galax. This cd has been automatically renewing for 20+ years. Mr. Caudell has expressed that he felt the intent of the funds were to benefit the City of Galax and he has accordingly turned this certificate of

deposit over to us. At the last meeting Council was asked to consider a possible use of these funds which total approximately \$10,000. A motion was made at the last meeting not to decide on the use of the funds at that time and bring back to council on this date. Councilman Webb motioned to use the money for the Veteran's Memorial. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion. Councilman Garner felt that the money going to the Veteran's Memorial will not affect the success and or progress of it. He felt it was going to be successful no matter what. He suggested that the money be used for another kind of celebration that they City normally does not do, and it should be used to promote the City. Councilman Webb stated that the money is not something we should use for a festival. Councilwoman Plichta stated that the money could be used in making the Veteran's Memorial a "lasting memorial." Councilman Lazo felt that both uses of the money were good ideas. He felt that the money would help boost donations to the Memorial, and could also help with a festival as well. Councilman Davis stated that he felt the intent of the money was for a celebration and that it could possibly be used toward the next bicentennial celebration. Mayor Mitchell questioned what the money would be used for if given to the memorial. He asked if it would be used for the actual bricks and mortar or for the unveiling event. Vice-Mayor Greene felt that either use of the money would be appropriate. The motion and second was approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, and Vice Mayor Greene-yea, and Councilman Davis- no, and Councilman Webb -yea. Councilman Garner did not vote.

Keith Barker informed Council of a possible grant opportunity for the Galax Volunteer Fire Department. In speaking with USDA, they have grant funds available through ARRA (stimulus funds) that can be used towards the purchase of a fire truck or similar equipment. The grant funds are to be committed by USDA by no later than October 2011, however an application would be required by June. The grants are a 55/45 match with a limit of \$200,000 per grant is available. Part of the capital plans for the GVFD include replacing the 1971 pumper/ladder truck (commonly called a "Quint") with a new or demo model truck for the same purpose. This is a short wheel based ladder truck that is mobile enough to respond to the downtown area and alley ways but has a ladder of up to 75' tall. The current truck is in need of a transmission, engine and other hydraulic repairs and it did not pass the annual aerial certification test. The costs to make the repairs to the truck are estimated cost of \$50,000; however it would still essentially be a 40 year old truck. Because of the above listed issues, the current truck is currently in a reserve emergency use only. To replace the truck with a new or demo model truck would be approximately \$500,000. He asked council to consider the submission an application to seek grant funds for a replacement truck. The intent would be to apply for the grant and if awarded, begin the process to order a new truck or seek out a demo truck for \$500,000 during FY11. The remaining balance past the loan (\$300,000) would be incurred as debt service with USDA or another source as required. Debt service of \$27,219 for 15 years would be incurred beginning in FY12 (one year after receipt of truck). Councilman Davis questioned if there was a use for the old truck or would it be made scrap? Chief David Hankley stated that it would most likely be scrap. Councilman Garner moved to submit the grant application. 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.

Keith Barker informed council that as part of the Galax Downtown Revitalization Project, the management team has looked into having directional signage for both the municipal parking lots and the new visitor's center. As part of the discussion, the team felt a sign installed at the corner of Main and E. Stuart Drive denoting the entrance to the downtown area was needed. He asked Todd Price of Signs Works to look at a design for a "Welcome To Historic Downtown Galax" sign. Council was provided a look at what members of the team agreed to be a final design. The sign is

proposed to represent different facets of Galax's history including the railway, textile, music, bike trail, etc. The sign will be similar to a carved appearance and painted as shown. Mr. Barker asked council to consider this design for approval. No council members objected the proposed sign design. No action was needed from council.

Keith Barker informed council that a Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Plan document is required for the Vaughan Bassett Expansion project. This document is a typical form required per DHCD. While there will be no actual relocation of residents, it is still required that council adopt this document. Councilman Webb moved to submit the required document as requested by DHCD. 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.

Keith Barker explained to council that as part of the closure requirements for the closed Bedsaul Landfill, the City is required to submit an audit report each year verifying the ability to address possible costs associated with the closure or maintenance of the landfill. The regional landfill is under the same obligation and that requirement has been handled by Carroll County since the inception of the regional solid waste authority. With the most permit for the landfill authority however, DEQ is no longer allowing a single locality to provide the assurance and is requiring each participating locality to provide assurance for the regional landfill. A final agreement will be drafted by Sands-Anderson for each member of the authority and the participating localities to approve, however the draft report needs to be sent to DEQ at this time. DEQ has approved this report and calculations. Councilman Garner motioned to submit the required paperwork. 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.

Keith Barker asked that council consider setting May 24, 2010 as the date for a public hearing on the City budget for FY11. Councilman Davis motioned to set the date as noted. 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.

Keith Barker explained that as noted in the information provided to council in the budget process, he does anticipate needing to acquire a tax anticipation note during FY11. There is the possibility that the City can make use of a local bank again for this note, or possible explore the use of VML/VACO as a loan source. He asked that council authorize the City Manager and Director of Finance to proceed with the necessary steps to secure the note. Final approval would be brought to City Council for consideration. Councilman Garner motioned to authorize the City Manager and Director of Finance to take the necessary steps to secure the note. 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.

At 8:40 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk