

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
Minutes
August 16, 2010

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on August 16, 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, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Garner, Councilman Greene, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Webb.

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

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 12, 2010. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Mayor Mitchell recognized and presented City Council resolutions to Kristen Osborne - FBLA State Champion – Business Presentation and R. Tyler Carpenter – FBLA State Champion, 2nd Place in National Competition – Help Desk.

Mr. Gary Boring and Dr. Jim Nuckolls from the New River Highlands Resource and Conservation District spoke to council about a joint alternative energy project they are proposing for the region. The final product will include reports on possible projects in our area and construction of alternative sustainable energy projects as examples at Matthews State Forest. They asked that Council for a letter of support as they apply for an ARC Alternative Energy Grant. Vice-Mayor Greene motioned that the City of Galax provide the letter of support needed to move forward with the grant application. Councilman Webb seconded the motion was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker provided a letter and information regarding the FY2011 Aid to Locality budget reductions being imposed on us due to the state budget issues. He explained that they City is required to respond to the state by August 30, 2010 on how it would address these cuts, either through accepting the reductions within each line item or elect to reimburse the state with a check at the end of the fiscal year. He anticipated a portion of these cuts within our budget, others were agreed to cover the reduction through the budget and others may not impact us depending on spending within that category. He asked council to approve the reductions of \$33,057 by the line items shown on the form titled “*State Reductions in Aid to Localities, City of Galax*”. Councilman Garner motioned to approve the reductions \$33,057 by the line items. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Ray Kohl, Visitors Center Director gave an update on the Visitors Center since its opening in April. He reported that more than 2,500 tourists from 32 states and 15 countries have come in the Visitors Center. Over the past few months Galax has been featured in dozens of magazines and newspapers as well.

Keith Barker informed council that Dorothy Lovelady has requested to be removed from the BZA due to her pending move from the area. This position is appointed by the circuit court based on City Council's recommendation. He recommended that an ad soliciting interest be placed for the appointment and bring back names at the September meeting. It was agreed to place the advertisement in the Gazette to run once a week for two weeks.

Keith Barker informed council that Justin Barnard serves as the Galax representative to the Rooftop IPR Board, however Justin is no longer employed with the City and resides in Carroll County. He has spoken with Justin and he will continue to serve on the board if Council wishes him to. If council wishes to make another appointment, they can do so at this meeting or the September meeting. The rooftop IPR Board currently meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 8:00 AM at Rooftop. Currently there are projects on-going in Carroll County and Grayson County and a possible project in Galax. Councilwoman Plichta stated that she would like a representative from Galax to serve on the board. Councilman Garner recommended that Justin Barnard continue to serve as the Galax representative until his vacant position is filled.

Keith Barker stated that while we have just finished our current fiscal year, he and Judy Taylor-Gallimore will begin looking at the FY2012 budget in a few months. He asked that council consider appointing the mayor and another council representative (Councilman Garner served in that role this past year) to again meet with him and Judy when they begin the process of developing the budget. He believes this process worked well this past year and allowed them to bring a clearer budget picture to council. Mayor Mitchell and Councilman Garner agreed to volunteer again. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to have Mayor Mitchell and Councilman Garner serve on the budget committee. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Funding was included in the City's budget to do revisions to the comprehensive plan this fiscal year. While the plan is dated through 2016, it should be addressed every 5 years. Keith has spoken to Mount Rogers Planning District Commission and they have expressed an interest in assisting with this process. With council's agreement, he will continue his discussions with MRPDC and begin working towards the update with the planning commission. Councilman Webb motioned that discussions continue with MRPDC. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker asked council to begin thinking about having a planning session to develop a set of goals that they can work towards. He explained that we are closing in on completing a number of projects (Galax Downtown Revitalization Project, Galax Visitors Center, Chestnut Creek School of the Arts, Felts Park Performance Center, etc.) and other efforts are still being pursued (Farmers Market Expansion, Wired Road, Galax-Grayson Industrial Park, Wildwood), however council may want to begin looking at other initiatives and goals council may have. Council agreed that a future date be planned. Keith will look into dates and locations for the session.

Keith Barker explained that National Patriotism Week is September 6 – 12 and City Council has been asked to adopt the enclosed proclamation from the Galax Elks Lodge #2212. Councilman Garner motioned to proclaim September 6-12 as National Patriotism Week. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

HEARING OF VISITORS

Raymond (Tuck) Sage and his wife Dawn appeared before Council. They stated they are owners of the Dairy Bar and the County Line Restaurant in Galax. There were some recent drainage issues at the Dairy Bar site on South Main St. that the City Public Works Department corrected. In question was a ditch line and drainage pipe that City staff felt Mr. Sage had improperly filled with mulch. After the work to remove the mulch and extend the drainage pipe was complete, Mr. Sage was mailed a bill, which he did not feel he should be responsible for paying. After discussion, the general consensus of council was to not charge Mr. Sage the amount due.

At 9:07 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Garner to enter into closed session under **Acquisition or Disposition of Publically Held Real Property, §2.2-3711 A.3 of the Code of Virginia** - Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body and **Consultation with Legal Counsel - , §2.2-3711 A.3 of the Code of Virginia-** consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

At 9:30 p.m., Council reconvened in open session. Mayor Mitchell certified that no items other than those allowed under the cited Virginia Code section were 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.

A discussion was held regarding the request by the Twin County Airport Commission for a car they could use for transporting pilots and guests. The City currently has a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria that can be given to them. They would be responsible for insurance and care of the vehicle. Councilman Garner motioned to surplus the 1999 Ford Crown Victoria and give to the Airport Commission. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

At 9:40 p.m., the Council meeting adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk