

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
Minutes
October 11, 2010

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on October 11, 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 Greene, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Webb. Councilman Garner was absent from the meeting.

Councilwoman Crouse prayed the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on September 13, 2010. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

OLD BUSINESS

Chris Shackelford, Director of the Chestnut Creek School of the Arts presented the VML Presidents Award that Galax received at the 2010 VML Conference in Hampton. Galax was selected from 60 submittals in the Community Achievement Awards as the winner in our population category (5,000 to 10,000 pop.) and as the overall best community project. This project is featured in the most recent edition of the VML Town and City Magazine. Mayor Mitchell stated that this award showed the dedication by the work of the board, and the volunteers at the school. Councilman Lazo questioned where the award will be placed in the city. Chris stated there is a location inside the vestibule at the school that may be appropriate.

Mayor Mitchell also noted that Councilwoman Crouse was nominated and elected to the City Section of the Virginia Municipal League. She will serve on the Executive Board of VML.

Keith Barker noted that he is currently working with Dr. McBride concerning the follow-up to the City Council Planning Session held earlier. He will schedule the session for a Monday that council does not normally meet.

Keith Barker updated council on the funding request from Crossroads Institute. At the last City Council meeting it was agreed to hold any action concerning the funding request from Crossroads Institute to fund a portion of a new HVAC control system. Since then, the Carroll Galax Grayson Solid Waste Authority met on September 24 and representatives from that board considered this request on behalf of all three jurisdictions. The CGGSWA agreed to provide \$15,000 to each participating jurisdiction with the request that this be provided to Crossroads Institute to assist with their funding request. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the funding request. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker stated that he has had discussions with Mount Rogers Planning District Commission in regards to assisting with a comprehensive plan update. He presented council with a MOU that

addresses how MRPDC will begin the process and work that will be accomplished during 2011. The intent at this time is to wait until all census data is complete and available. Funds have been budgeted for this work and council was asked to approve the MOU. Councilman Webb motioned to approve the MOU. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker asked council to adopt a resolution for the Courtroom Security Equipment Grant in which Chief Clark applied for and received \$17,000 for Courtroom security enhancements. Council was asked to adopt the resolution so that he could be permitted to sign the appropriate documents with USDA. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to adopt the resolution. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

NEW BUSINESS

Keith Barker informed council that he has been working with Grayson County Administrator Jonathan Sweet in regards to the Hampton property project and the need to develop a participation agreement similar to the one that was adopted for the Wildwood Project. Council was asked to review a draft version of the agreement. He stated he will present the agreement to BRCEDA at their next meeting also and hope to have a final agreement for council in the next few months. No action is required at this time.

Council was asked to set November 15 as the beginning date for fall leaf cleanup. This follows the same dates council set last year and should allow sufficient time to have the majority of all leaves collected prior to Thanksgiving. Councilman Lazo motioned to set the date for the cleanup as the week of November 15. Vice-Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that he has met with Public Works Director Charlie Joyce regarding snow removal in our downtown area. As council is aware, due to the heavy snows the city experienced this past year and the number of pieces of equipment that the city has that is used for snow removal, it is limited in how fast snow could be removed snow from certain areas in the downtown area. Mr. Joyce has met with 2 contractors that have the ability to load and haul snow. The plan at this time is that public works will push snow to the center of the streets as in the past and then call the contractor we are working with to load and haul the snow from Main, Oldtown, Grayson and Center Streets. The city will reserve judgment as to whether snow will be removed during the day or at night and we will work with the contractor to block off areas where removal is occurring. Neither contractor carries a VDOT contract so this allows them to respond to us relatively quick. No action was needed.

Council was asked to adopt a proclamation recognizing October 18 – 23, 2010 as GED and Career Pathways Week. This was formerly the GED & Lifelong Learning Awareness Week. Vice-Mayor Greene motioned to adopt the proclamation. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker stated he had met with VDOT representatives on September 14 to discuss updates on various projects we have within the City. A memorandum outlining the meeting and stages of each project was presented to council.

Keith Barker informed council that Senator Roscoe Reynolds has requested that City Council adopt a resolution asking Governor McDonnell to allocate a portion of the unspent \$800M in VDOT project funds to the Rt. 58 project between Hillsville and Stuart. A resolution was presented for consideration and approval. Councilman Lazo motioned to adopt the resolution as requested by Senator Reynolds. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilman Plichta-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

At 8:40 p.m., the Council meeting adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk