

GALAX CITY COUNCIL
Minutes
December 13, 2010

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on December 13, 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, Vice-Mayor Greene, Councilwoman Crouse, and Councilman Webb.

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

Councilman Garner motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 22, 2010. 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

With no objection, the order of the agenda was changed to allow John Aldridge of Brown Edwards to review the FY 2010 Audit.

John Aldridge of Brown Edwards presented an overview of the City of Galax FY 2010 Audit. He explained that the audit was filed on time and given an unqualified opinion, which in the highest rating given. He commended the staff for the work and helping to make the audit a success. Mayor Mitchell congratulated Judy, Keith and the staff for their work. Councilman Lazo asked if there were any recommendations for improvement. Mr. Aldridge explained that there was a management letter included with the audit report that explained any improvements that need to be made. Mayor Mitchell thanked Mr. Aldridge and his staff for their time and effort in making the audit a success.

Keith Barker reviewed with City Council that a draft copy of operational procedures for council was provided at the last meeting. Council was to review the document and consider adoption at this meeting, pending any revisions. He asked that Council review Section 3.3 which asks Council to appoint a deputy clerk. This would be someone to act in the absence of the City Manager at a council meeting. Councilwoman Plichta asked if there were any other changes other than appointing a deputy clerk. Councilman Garner stated that by adopting operational procedures it guarantees a degree of discipline among council. Mayor Mitchell pointed out that most of the procedures are taken directly from the City Charter. Councilman Garner moved to adopt the rules and procedures. 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker updated Council on the Smart Beginnings Grant. A copy of the Smart Beginnings Grant Application was included for review. Mr. Barker explained that members of the grant executive committee are reviewing the grant and possible funding sources to make up the needed match, in addition to the planned outcomes of the grant, makeup of the overall board, etc. While Galax was asked to provide a portion of the required match funding, he asked that no action be taken at this time until the executive committee of Smart Beginnings has had an opportunity to fully review the documents. He did state that Grayson County did not approve the funding, and that Carroll County was contingent on Grayson's approval. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to table the

item until January. Councilman Lazo 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Council was provided a resolution in Support of Opening the State Correctional Facility in Grayson County, which asked the state to fund the operational costs of the state prison in Grayson County. Keith Barker explained that it would be forwarded to the Governor's office and our representatives upon adoption by Council. Councilman Lazo motioned to adopt the resolution as written. 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

NEW BUSINESS

Keith Barker informed council that we have essentially completed our Downtown Revitalization Project. He has spoken to Craig Wilson of Community Planning Partners concerning upcoming CDBG Funding Opportunities through DHCD or other funding agencies. With Council's permission, he stated he would like to pursue the following three opportunities:

- a. Givens St. Area – staff would like to submit a Prospectus Letter to DHCD for possible work in the Givens/Shaw/Barger Street area. Work could include housing, infrastructure (storm drainage) and economic development. If the Prospectus Letter is approved, DHCD will provide \$3000 to do research on a possible planning grant for the project. A Planning Grant would then allow a more thorough study of a potential project including a more comprehensive review of needs, community meetings, additional and/or phased planning, etc. This does not commit the City to any project or funding unless we continue to proceed through each step of the process.
- b. Chestnut Creek School, Oldtown Street Property – the recent submittal to USDA for funding of a study on this project was denied. The study would have addressed planning of the facility and property to house woodworking and luthier facilities. I would like to submit an application to the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission for a planning grant for the project. VTIC funded the original planning grant for the Chestnut Creek School of the Arts, which led to a construction grant from the Appalachian Regional Commission.
- c. Galax Grayson Industrial Park – as we are nearing completion of the revenue sharing agreement with Grayson County, staff felt it worthwhile to begin searching for grant funds for continued development of this property. Any project would be regional in nature with all costs shared. Any grant applications would be approved by both jurisdictions prior to submittal.

Councilwoman Plichta stated that she appreciated Mr. Barker being proactive and a face lift in the area would help. Councilman Webb motioned to accept the recommendation of the city manager. 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that the VDOT Project that will install new traffic signals at 2 downtown intersections and which will provide the Opticom Signalization has been bid and the

Notice to Proceed awarded. He is awaiting confirmation from VDOT as to when the project will actually begin construction. No action is required from Council at this time. Councilwoman Crouse inquired as to when the Glendale Road project will begin. Mr. Barker stated it would be sometime after the New Year. Councilman Garner requested a traffic study be done at the intersections of Lafayette and Oldtown Streets and Center and Lafayette. He stated he would like to see a 4-way stop there instead of stop lights. Councilman Lazo agreed that a study should be performed. It was asked of Chief Clark that a study be done in the areas noted.

Keith Barker stated that the December 27 meeting is on the Monday after Christmas. Council has typically canceled this meeting in the past. There is no pressing action for this date if Council wishes to cancel this meeting. There were no objections from council, therefore, the December 27 meeting was cancelled.

At 8:15 p.m., a motion was made by Councilwoman Plitcha moved to enter into closed session under

CLOSED SESSION –

1. **Business and Industry Development, §2.2-3711 A.5 of the Code of Virginia** - Prospective or expansion of business or industry where no previous public announcement has been made.
2. **Acquisition of 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.
3. **Personnel Matter § 2.2-3711 A.1 of the Code of Virginia** - Candidates for employment; the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, discipline, salaries, compensation, or resignation of employees.

At 9:00 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, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

Mayor

Clerk