

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

May 9, 2011

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on May 9, 2011 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, and Councilwoman Crouse. Councilman Webb was not in attendance.

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

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on April 25, 2011. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse-yea.

Council set this date as the public hearing for the proposed land swap. Council was asked to approve the proceeding with the land swap and project pending successful grant funding and approval of the FY 2012 budget. Mayor Mitchell opened the public hearing. Hearing no comment, the public hearing was closed. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the land swap and project pending grant funding. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that Mr. Nichols, owner of Sota Pops, is requesting that City Council consider amending the City Code and the definition of "Pool Hall" from more than 3 tables to more than 4 tables. Currently the City Code defines any facility with more than 3 tables as a "pool hall" and minors are not allowed in the premises unless accompanied by a parent or guardian. Mr. Nichols's business is based on service to youth mainly and while he would like to add the additional table, it would severely restrict his business to be defined as a "pool hall". At Council's direction, the City Manager has solicited information from other localities on how they handle "pool halls". The information was provided to council. Mr. Barker summarized the findings by saying that the vast majority of localities that responded (9 of 11) define a pool room or billiard hall as having more than 3 tables or they handle these businesses by special use permit only. Two of the responding localities prohibit minors from entering. The discussion among Council was whether or not 3 or 4 pool tables would make a difference in defining a pool room. Councilman Garner did not feel there was a difference and felt recommended the ordinance be amended as requested. Mayor Mitchell state that the establishment was opened to serve the youth of the area and he felt the request would help the owners in their purpose of having the business. Keith Barker informed council that they could recommend a conditional use permit or amend the ordinance. The conditional use permit would take longer to issue due to the process of meeting with the planning commission and then coming back to council. Councilwoman Crouse voiced her appreciation to Mr. Nichols for trying to make an impact in the community. Vice-Mayor Greene noted that it would make a difference since the business does not serve alcohol, in terms of the customers that would visit the business. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to schedule a public hearing on May 23, 2011, in regards to amending the ordinance from 3 to 4 pool tables. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea,

Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse-yea.

Mark Davis spoke on behalf of Brain Injury Services.

Susan Clark, Director of Galax Social Services presented information on Adult Protective Services. May is Adult Protective Services Month.

Keith Barker informed Council that the City of Galax has been asked to appoint a representative to the Ninth District Development Financing Board of Directors. This is a revolving loan fund set up by Congressman Boucher and managed by People Incorporated. It is for tourism related businesses only, excluding restaurants and hotels (bed and breakfasts are eligible however). The fund has been in place approximately 6 years however Galax has never had a representative until last year when Derrick Davis was appointed. The board meets in person 1 time per year and other meetings are done by conference call on an as need basis. The fund can provide loans with a below prime % rate. All applicants go through a business plan process and a prescreening committee. Information can be viewed at www.nddf.org. This is a 2-year appointment from June 2, 2011 to May 31, 2013. Derrick Davis was appointed in April 2010 to finish an unexpired term and is willing to serve again; however Council can appoint another representative if desired. Mr. Davis has participated in the conference calls. Councilman Garner motioned to reappoint Derrick Davis as the representative for Galax. He requested that Mr. Davis provide council with a report from each meeting that is held. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse-yea.

Brenda Marrah presented Council with a request to approve to apply for a COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) Hiring Program grant. The grant would provide 100 percent funding for an approved entry-level salary and fringe benefits of a full-time officer for 36 months of grant funding. The City would be undertaking an obligation to fund this position for 12 months after the three year grant. She explained that the purpose in applying for the grant would be to assist in working with our Hispanic population through recruitment and hiring of a bilingual officer. Vice-Mayor Greene motioned to approve the request to apply for the COPS Hiring Program Grant. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse-yea.

Brenda Marrah presented Council with a request to approve to apply for a Citizen Corps grant to start a Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) to help out in festivals, events and emergencies. The City will need to form a Citizen Corp Council, which prospective individuals have been approached to see if they are willing to serve. The City will also be a conduit for grant funds. The Galax Police Department wants to take the lead in training citizen volunteers and conducting the program. There is no match for this grant. Funding would provide for staff training, training of the volunteers and program materials, some equipment, etc. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the request to apply for the Citizen Corps Grant. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse-yea.

City Manager Keith Barker asked that council consider setting May 23, 2011 as the date for a public hearing on the City budget for FY12. Councilman Lazo motioned to set the public hearing for May 23, 2011. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse-yea.

City Manager Keith Barker asked that council consider setting May 23, 2011 as the public hearing for revisions to the commercial dumpster ordinance. During budget discussions, it was proposed to revise the sanitation ordinance to move to private haulers for commercial dumpster services. The City would still provide residential hand pickup and limited commercial hand pickup. Council was provided a draft version of the revised ordinance. Councilwoman Crouse motioned to set the public hearing for May 23, 2011. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Councilman Lazo-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse-yea.

At 8:45 p.m., the Council meeting adjourned.


Clerk


Mayor