

GALAX CITY COUNCIL  
Minutes  
August 15, 2011

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on August 15, 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 Garner, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilman Lazo, Councilwoman Plichta and Councilman Webb. Vice-Mayor Greene was absent.

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

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on July 11, 2011. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes:, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse – yea and Councilman Lazo – yea.

Edwin Ward, City Engineer presented council with a request to adopt a Regional Drought Ordinance. He explained that as a result of the 1999-2002 drought period, the State Water Control Board authorized the development of local and regional water supply planning regulations. In 2005 the State of Virginia approved these regulations requiring all localities to develop and adopt a water supply plan focused on demand management and drought response. The region localities and MRPDC staff agreed to participate in the development of a regional plan as the most cost effective way of complying with the regulations. MRPDC is asking that the city adopt a drought ordinance and drought plan at this time. Mr. Ward provided an overview of the plan and when circumstances would require the city to declare a Drought Watch, Drought Warning and Drought Emergency. It was recommended that Council set September 12 as the date for the public hearing on this plan and ordinance. Councilman Garner motioned to set the public hearing for the September 12 as requested. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes:, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse – yea and Councilman Lazo – yea.

Keith Barker informed council of information regarding the FY2012 Aid to Locality budget reductions being imposed on the city due to the state budget cuts made by the Governor. The city is required to respond to the state by August 30, 2011 on how it would address these cuts, either through accepting the reductions within each line item or electing to reimburse the state with a check at the end of the fiscal year. VML and VACO sent a letter to the Governor on each locality's behalf asking that these funds be re-appropriated based on his declaration of a state surplus; however he elected to take no action. Mr. Barker anticipates a portion of these cuts within the city's budget, others council agreed to cover through the budget and others may not impact the city depending on spending within that category. He asked council to approve the reductions of \$33,425 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 as presented. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes:, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse – yea and Councilman Lazo – yea

Jolena Young, Regional E-911 Coordinator was introduced as the E911 Regional Coordinator. She has been working for Galax since March and has been making progress in updating reporting and tracking systems as well as updates to hardware/software. Mrs. Young presented an overview of the E911 System and the reporting for FY2011.

Keith Barker informed council that Andy Kegley, Executive Director for Helping Overcome Poverty's Existence, Inc. (HOPE) is applying for a grant from DHCD to assist homeless individuals in Bland, Carroll, Grayson, Galax, Smyth and Wythe who meet the definition of homeless with an accompanying disability. The intent will be to lease housing units in Galax, Wytheville, Marion and Hillsville to assist 15 individuals or family members in obtaining permanent housing. Case management and referrals to other services will be provided by HOPE. There is no match from the city, however individuals obtaining services through other agencies such as the Galax Department of Social Services may create additional costs through those department programs. Mr. Kegley asked in his correspondence that Council approve the Local Government Certification for the pre-application to DHCD. Councilman Garner motioned to approve the certification as requested. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes:, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse – yea and Councilman Lazo – yea

Brenda Marrah, Grant Administrator requested that council set September 12, 2011 as the public hearings for the following grant funding requests from USDA:

- Police Cruisers – this funding would provide the second year of the three year lease payments for the new Galax Police Department cruisers. The first year and third year payments are anticipated to come from drug asset forfeiture funds.
- Recreation Center Activities Bus – This funding request is to replace the current activities bus at the Galax Recreation Center. To date approximately \$16,000 has been raised through donations for the purchase of this \$60,000 vehicle. The request is for matching funds for the purchase.
- Air Conditioning Units for the Rex Theater – this funding request is for \$15,000 to add air conditioning to the balcony level of the Rex Theater.

Councilwoman Plichta motioned to set September 12 as the date for the public hearings. Councilwoman Margo seconded the motion and it was and it was unanimously approved by the following votes:, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse – yea and Councilman Lazo – yea.


Keith Barker informed council that Edwin Ward, City Engineer, and Brenda Marrah, Grants Administrator, would like to pursue two planning and design grant applications to the Virginia Department of Health. The 2007 Water System Improvements Preliminary Engineering Report for increasing the effective storage volume of the City Water Distribution System recommended the construction of 1,600 linear feet of 6" water line along Glendale Road from Country Club Lane to Glen Ridge Road. The purpose of this improvement is to allow the Glen Ridge Road area to be served from the Taylorwood Reservoir instead of the Hanes Reservoir. This grant application would be for the design work and securing VDH approval. The second application would be for water loss evaluation equipment and training for the purpose of locating underground water leaks from the City water distribution system. A required resolution from Council is requested for the grant applications. Councilman Webb motioned to adopt the resolution as requested. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following

votes:, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse – yea and Councilman Lazo – yea.

Keith Barker informed council that The Virginia State Parks have asked that they adopt a resolution that congratulates the Virginia State Parks on their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the New River Trail State Park. Councilman Garner motioned to adopt the resolution as requested. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes:, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse – yea and Councilman Lazo – yea.

At 8:50p.m., a motion was made by Councilwoman Crouse to enter into closed session under **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. Councilman Garner seconded the motion.

At p.m. 9:13 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 Garner-yea, Mayor Mitchell-yea, Councilwoman Crouse-yea, and Councilman Webb-yea.

  
Clerk

  
Mayor