

GALAX CITY COUNCIL

Minutes

January 9, 2012

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on January 9, 2012 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: Mayor Mitchell, Vice-Mayor Greene, Councilwoman Crouse, Councilman Garner, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Plichta and Councilman Lazo.

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

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on December 12, 2011. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene –yea, Councilman Garner –yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo –yea.

Keith Barker informed council that with the elimination of commercial dumpster service, staff is looking to revise the residential and hand pickup sanitation service to be more efficient. He explained that currently the truck must backtrack numerous routes because of how additional streets were added to the service over the years. Charlie Joyce, Director of Public Works presented two maps showing the current service and proposed service. Mr. Joyce explained that the revisions will even out the number of hand pickups to approximately the same each. Other items that are also being considered are making customers aware of the limitations on volume of household trash that can be picked up each week (96 gallons) and the container requirements (32 gallon maximum size unless a container approved through Public Works). Staff will do a mass mailing to customers and begin the new routes effective February 25. Others items staff will also look to address over the next number of months are some alleys and private roads where trucks have to back up a significant distance. Councilman Lazo mentioned the need to create a recycling service and how important recycling is to the community. Councilman Garner agreed but stated that this should be revisited on as a separate issue once the new trash routes are established and working well. Mayor Mitchell stated the importance of informing the public of these changes. He asked that letters be written, along with placing the information on the city's website as well as using social media. Councilman Garner motioned to approve the new sanitation routes as presented. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene –yea, Councilman Garner –yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse – yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo –yea.

Brenda Marrah, Grants Administrator, informed council that the City of Galax applied for and received a \$382,200 Industrial Revitalization Fund grant. Working with Andrews Farming LLC, the property owners, the award will be used as a loan to develop the former Sawyer Furniture manufacturing plant into seven new commercial tenant spaces. It is anticipated that the award will be a new revolving industrial revitalization loan fund for the City that will be managed through the IDA. She stated staff has not yet received a contract from the Department of Housing and Community Development outlining award conditions.

Brenda Marrah, Grants Administrator informed council that the City of Galax applied for and received a \$10,000 award from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) for a one-day mega shelter adoption event on March 31, 2012. This is a no match grant which would provide spay/neuter and all vaccinations for approximately 75 dogs and 10 cats. Working with area Humane Societies in mid-February volunteers will begin to spay/neuter and have vaccinations for candidate animals from the regional animal Shelter. The Humane Societies will groom and care for the animals until the mega adoption event at the Galax Recreation Center. The new pet sheltering trailer will provide 75 animal cages. She requested that Council approve to accept the award and hold the event to coincide with the Easter Egg Hunt at Felt's Park. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to accept the award and to hold the event with the Easter Egg Hunt. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo -yea.

Keith Barker informed council of the request from Ronnie Martin with the New River/ Mount Rogers Workforce Investment Area Consortium Board. The request is for council to appoint a representative and an alternate for the upcoming year. Currently Councilman Webb serves as the appointed representative for council and Keith Barker is the alternate. Mayor Mitchell suggested that Councilman Webb be appointed as alternate and appoint Councilman Garner as the city's representative. Vice Mayor Greene motioned to appoint Councilman Garner as the representative and Councilman Webb as the alternate. Councilman Lazo seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta-yea, and Councilman Lazo -yea.

Council was given information regarding allowable rate changes to the basic tier service for Comcast Cable. The basic tier service (channels 2-13) will change from \$ 10.50 to \$ 12.21. No action was required from council.

Keith Barker presented council with a draft budget calendar for FY2013. He stated that if council approves this calendar staff will begin the budget process this week. Staff has also begun a capital improvement plan and may insert dates for public hearings within the calendar, depending on budget projects. He stated he has not scheduled meeting dates on regular Council meeting nights in order to give staff more time to address questions between the budget meetings. This may require that the first and second meeting's be a bit longer, however staff has the ability to schedule an additional meeting at a later date. As was done last year, staff would ask that Council appoint Mayor Mitchell and Councilman Garner to act as a budget committee with the City Manager and Director of Finance throughout the budget process. He requested that Council approve the budget calendar as presented and that Mayor Mitchell and Councilman Garner be appointed to the budget committee. Councilman Lazo motioned to approve the budget calendar as presented and appoint Mayor Mitchell and Councilman Garner to the budget committee. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo -yea.

Keith Barker presented a memo from Ray Kohl, Tourism Director which denotes all proposed road closures for 2012. Ray has spoken to each sponsoring organization to confirm dates. Council was asked to approve the dates as provided and staff will then obtain the proof of insurance and indemnification agreement prior to each event. This would eliminate the need to bring each event to

City Council. The only new downtown event is the May 26, 2012 Car Show sponsored by the Twin County Antique Automobile Club and which has previously been held in Felts Park. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to approve the dates as presented. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and is was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo -yea.

Keith Barker requested that the following holidays called out in our handbook be approved.

Holiday	Date of Holiday	Date Observed
Martin Luther King Day	1/16/2012	1/16/2012
Presidents Day	2/20/2012	2/20/2012
Memorial Day	5/28/2012	5/28/2012
July 4th	7/4/2012	7/4/2012
Labor Day	9/3/2012	9/3/2012
Veterans Day	11/11/2012	11/12/2012
Thanksgiving	11/22/2012	11/22/12 & 11/23/12
Christmas	12/25/2012 (Tues)	12/24/12 & 12/25/12
New Years	1/1/2013 (Tues)	1/1/2013

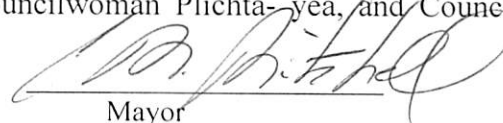
Councilwoman Crouse motioned to approve the holidays as requested. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and is was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo -yea.

Keith Barker requested that City Council declare approximately 137 dumpsters as surplus property for sale to the public or as scrap metal, depending on the condition as determined by the Public Works Director. The city has dumpsters that are from the commercial dumpster service and will offer them at \$400 for a 4 yard dumpster and \$600 for a 6 yard dumpster. Vice Mayor Greene motioned to approve the request to declare the dumpsters surplus. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo -yea.

At 8:19 p.m., a motion was made by Councilman Webb 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. Vice Mayor Greene seconded the motion.

At 8:35 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: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Crouse - yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilman Lazo -yea


Clerk


Mayor