

# GALAX CITY COUNCIL

## Minutes

February 13, 2012

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on February 13, 2012 at 7:30 pm.

At 7:35 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, Councilman Garner, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Plichta and Councilwoman Crouse. Councilman Lazo was absent.

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

Councilman Webb motioned to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on January 23, 2012. 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 Plichta-yea, and Councilwoman Crouse-yea.

Keith Barker updated council on his meeting with Randy Campbell, United States Corps of Engineers following the last City Council meeting. He explained Mr. Campbell gave him an update on the proposed project. Federal funding has not been released to pursue the full design, however survey work along Chestnut Creek in the City (the original 1950's project) has been completed. Based on the surveys and Mr. Campbell's review, the original project has been impacted approximately 6% to 8% in the 50 years since its construction. This is a very well maintained project in his estimation, perhaps one the best in their system of projects completed during that period. Once funding is released at the federal level, he can begin design on the overall project.

Chief Rick Clark, Galax Police Department addressed City Council and presented his yearly update on the Galax Police Department.

City Council was asked to adopt a resolution which is a requirement for the Galax Police Department to seek recertification as a Certified Crime Prevention Community. Vice Mayor Greene motioned to adopt the resolution as presented. 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 Plichta- yea, and Councilwoman Crouse-yea.

Councilman Bill Webb addressed City Council in regards to the Virginia Employment Commission in Galax.

Judy Taylor-Gallimore, Director of Finance notified council that in order to recognize grants as staff receive them within our budget, she will bring budget amendments monthly (typically the first meeting) to City Council. Staff is currently receiving and spending some grants, however they have not amended the budget accordingly. She state she has verified with the city attorney that this is a proper way to address this issue.

Keith Barker informed council that as part of the Albany Industries - Galax, LLC incentives, the city has submitted an application to VDOT to upgrade the truck entrance off of Creekview Road to a secondary road with entrances to the properties bordering the road. This project is estimated to

cost \$416,000 with all but \$15,500 being covered by VDOT (easements and utility relocations are not covered by this funding). In order to proceed with the application to the Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board, City Council was asked to adopt a resolution as required. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to adopt the resolution. 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 Plichta- yea, and Councilwoman Crouse-yea.

Brenda Marrah, Grants Administrator informed council that the City of Galax has received notice of a \$405,100 grant award for the Safe Routes to School infrastructure application. The award is for pedestrian safety improvement at drop off/pick up area at Galax Elementary School, new sidewalks and crosswalks at Front Street, Maroon Tide Drive, Circle Drive, Swanson Street and McArthur Street; and secure bicycle parking. This should include the demolition and re-construction of about 1,760 feet of sidewalk along one side of Front Street and on Circle Drive. Additionally, there will be about 1,660 feet of new sidewalk on Maroon Tide Drive, McArthur Street and Swanson Street. She has not yet received the project agreement from VDOT outlining award conditions. There is no match on this award.

Brenda Marrah, Grants Administrator informed council that the City of Galax has received an \$11,000 allocation from the Virginia Department of Emergency Management on a second request for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) funding. The award requires no match. A Galax Citizen Corps Council meets regularly to prepare for the CERT training classes scheduled to begin in March and in May. There is no match on this award. She requested council's approval to accept the allocation for funding from VDEM for this purpose and allow the City to be a conduit for these grant funds for the Galax Citizen Corps Council. Vice Mayor Greene motioned to accept the allocation as presented. Councilman Webb 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 Plichta- yea, and Councilwoman Crouse-yea.

Brenda Marrah, Grants Administrator informed council that the City of Galax was the applicant on a \$1.57 million dollar regional interoperable communications project seeking Homeland Security funding. Virginia Department of Emergency Management has allocated the full amount of the request. The County of Washington is the designated fiscal agent. This award brings COMLINC, the Commonwealth's Link to Interoperable Communications, to all of Southwest Virginia through their 911/Public Safety Answering Points. Three mobile gateway units will be furnished, one to Virginia Department of Emergency Management regional coordinator for Southwest Virginia, and two more portable radio gateways to the Twin Counties. The mobile units are a plug and play solution, allowing radios on a number of different frequency bands and signaling platforms from different agencies to be able to talk with each other. There is no match on this award. She requested council's approval to accept the portable radio gateway equipment from the award and authorize Chief Clark to enter into agreements as necessary for the equipment. Councilman Garner motioned to accept the award and authorize Chief Clark to enter into agreements for the equipment. Councilwoman Crouse seconded the motion and it was and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene -yea, Councilman Garner -yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilwoman Crouse-yea.

Keith Barker informed council that the Arts & Cultural Council of the Twin Counties has asked that Galax City Council adopt March 28, 2012 as Empty Bowls Day in Galax. Last year over \$2000 was raised to support the efforts of the Backpack Buddies program. The hope is to raise additional funds

this year to support Backpack Buddies and the Woods River Chapter of the American Red Cross food pantry. Vice Mayor Greene motioned to accept the resolution as presented. 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 Plichta- yea, and Councilwoman Crouse–yea.

Keith Barker informed council that the Rooftop of Virginia Board of Directors has asked Galax to appoint another elected official or their designee to the Board of Directors. Judy Taylor-Gallimore currently sits on the board and Keith Barker, City Manager, is an alternate. Councilman Garner has agreed to be appointed to the board. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to appoint Councilman Garner to the Rooftop Board of Directors. 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 Plichta- yea, and Councilwoman Crouse–yea.

Keith Barker informed council that staff met with Kelly Miller of DCR in regards to new regulations that will go into effect in July 2014. There are federal requirements from EPA that are requiring the state to adopt these storm water regulations and the state is giving localities the option to adopt their own program which will review plans, approve permits and perform inspections for storm water projects. If we elect not to pursue to the program, DCR will perform these tasks but with their limited staff he anticipates the city would see great delays in any projects. Projects that qualify under the regulations are typically grading projects that disturb over 1 acre of land (Galax had 4 of these the last 2 years). While the cost for these permits is now \$500, the new state mandated permit cost will be \$2700 with DCR receiving 28% of this cost (\$756). While DCR will not be performing any of the actual work in the program, the fee looks to be a revenue stream for this state agency. The city is not allowed to reduce the fee at the local level in any manner and \$2700 is the minimum fee allowed to be charged. Fees for houses in subdivisions will be \$290. The new fee structure does not go into place until July 2014.

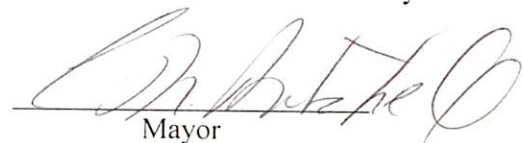
Keith Barker asked that council approve large item spring cleanup for March 12 through March 16. If additional days are needed, staff will work into the following week. It is requested that in the case of inclement weather the cleanup be moved to the following week. Councilwoman Crouse motioned to approve the week of March 12-16 for large item spring cleanup, with a weather date of the following week. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice-Mayor Greene –yea, Councilman Garner –yea, Councilman Webb, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, and Councilwoman Crouse–yea.

Mayor Mitchell presented letters written to legislators in support of the opening of the prison in Grayson County. He asked that council adopt a motion to support the opening and to send the letters to the legislators asking for their support. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to send the letters and to support the opening of the prison. Councilman Webb 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 Plichta- yea, and Councilwoman Crouse–yea.

At 9:15 p.m. Councilman Garner motioned to adjourn.



Clerk

  
Mayor