

GALAX CITY COUNCIL  
Minutes  
November 26, 2012

Galax City Council convened in regular session in City Council Chambers on November 26, 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, Councilman Garner, Councilwoman Plichta, Councilman Webb, and Councilman Lazo. Councilwoman Crouse 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 November 12, 2012. 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, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilman Webb-yea, Councilman Lazo-yea. Councilwoman Crouse was absent.

This was the advertised date set for the Public Hearing to hear comments on the street closure request of John Garvey and Virgil Hancock on Parkwood Drive. Alan Caudell, Attorney, submitted a street abandonment request on behalf of Mr. Garvey and Mr. Hancock. The undeveloped street intersects Parkwood Drive between their two residences and was known as "Lundy Street". Mr. Garvey and Mr. Hancock have agreed to provide a sanitary sewer easement as part of the abandonment, and details of the easement were reviewed by the City Attorney. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comment. After hearing no comments he declared the public hearing closed. Councilman Webb motioned to adopt the ordinance as requested. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilman Webb-yea, Councilman Lazo-yea.

This was the advertised date set for public comment on the proposed SRTS Application being prepared by City staff. As noted at the November 12, 2012 City Council meeting, staff prepared a new application to Safe Routes to Schools for an additional round of funding and which no match is required for this round. The intent is to seek funding for both infrastructure and non-infrastructure to include:

- Infrastructure
  - Maroon Tide Drive and South Main Street pedestrian crossing: Our first Safe Routes to School award will bring new sidewalk from the schools to Main Street from both Maroon Tide Drive as well as along McArthur Street. We seek a designated crosswalk from Maroon Tide Drive across Main Street.
  - Improvements to the McArthur Street/Swanson Street/Circle Drive/Sunset Drive intersection traffic control signals and pedestrian crossings.
  - Sidewalk from Galax Elementary School on McArthur Street to Swanson Street.
  - Sidewalk from Galax Elementary School on McArthur Street between Front Street and Anderson Street and retaining wall.

- A brick paver crosswalk across Main Street at Academy Drive.
- Non-Infrastructure
  - SRTS Co-coordinator (part-time for 18 months) to assist in managing the project and coordinate development of walking/biking programs with the Galax Recreation Center and Galax School Systems.
  - Development of a “bike library” where students can check out and use a bike during the weekends.
  - Purchase of bikes and related safety equipment for the “bike library”.
  - Funding to hire a consultant to assist in developing a Galax School Zone Plan with a uniform traffic control plan. This would look at traffic around the school system, assist in defining safety issues, set speed limits, recommend locations of warning signs, etc.

The application to VDOT is for approximately \$500,000. In order to proceed with the application, a public comment period must be held for this grant application. Mayor Mitchell opened the floor for public comment. After hearing no comments he declared the public hearing closed. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to adopt the resolution as requested. 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, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilman Webb-yea, Councilman Lazo-yea.

Ray Kohl, Visitor Center Director gave an update to City Council on tourism initiatives in Galax. He informed council of two awards that the city has received. One was from the Blue Ridge Travel Association for the Government of the Year – 2012. This was in recognition of the city’s support of tourism as an economic development tool. The second was from the Southern Spring Home, Garden and Travel Show. The city received 3<sup>rd</sup> place for the best booth out of over 300 booths in our part of the show.

Keith Barker informed council that his appointment as the Galax At-Large rep to the MRPDC Board expires in December 2012. City Council was asked to re-appoint Mr. Barker or appoint another member from council. Councilman Webb motioned to reappoint Mr. Barker. Councilwoman Plichta seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilman Webb-yea, Councilman Lazo-yea.

Mr. Barker asked that City Council consider canceling the December 24, 2012 meeting. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to cancel the December 24, 2012 meeting. Councilman Webb seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilman Webb-yea, Councilman Lazo-yea.

Keith Barker reminded council that the Annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting will be at 6:30 and the parade at 7:00 on Friday, December 7.

Council was asked to recommend the appointment of Mr. David Stone to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Stone has shown interest in filling a vacant position on the board. Councilwoman Plichta motioned to recommend the appointment to the Grayson County Circuit Court. Councilman Garner seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by the following votes: Mayor

Mitchell-yea, Vice Mayor Greene-yea, Councilman Garner-yea, Councilwoman Plichta- yea, Councilman Webb-yea, Councilman Lazo-yea.

Council adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

---

Mayor

---

Clerk